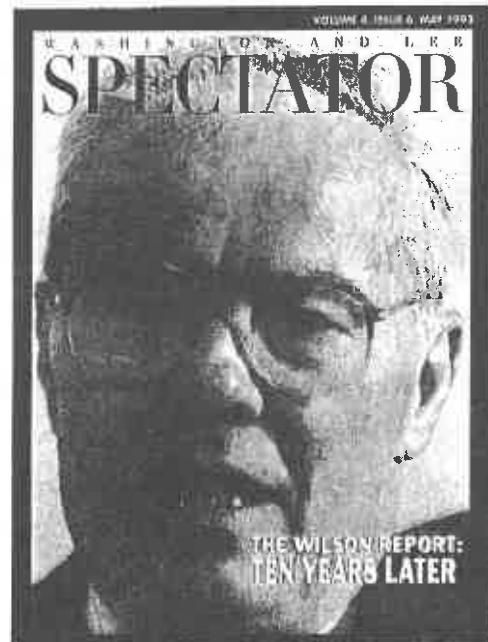
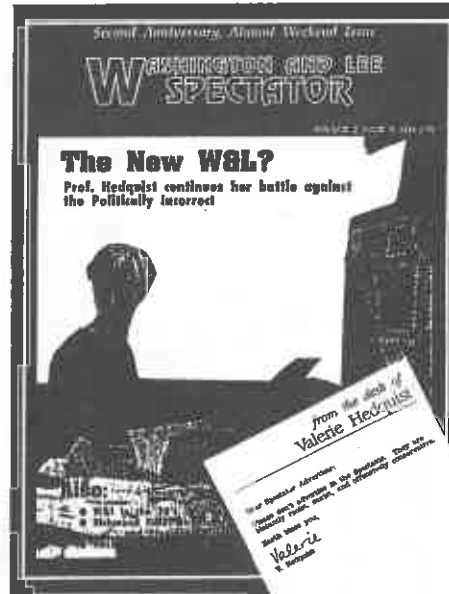


WASHINGTON AND LEE
SPECTATOR

May 1994

Volume 5, Issue 3



Fifth Anniversary Issue

WASHINGTON AND LEE
SPECTATOR
5000 AV. BOTSWICK



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FROM THE EDITOR

Many have criticized the *Spectator* for being offensive and closed-minded. We do have definite opinions, opinions that should be heard. If you have an opinion that you feel should be heard, you should find or start a vehicle to express your opinion. The criticisms that we received have renewed my dedication to the *Spectator* and are the very reasons why I am involved. Everyone has the right to express their opinion, and we are fighting to express ours. Luckily many students, faculty members, and alumni agree with us and have given their time, money, and support.

One of the greatest leaders of this century, Martin Luther King, Jr., said the most severe tragedy of our time was not the overt actions of the bad people but the appalling silence of the good. The *Spectator* was organized six years ago to preserve the traditions and uniqueness of W&L. Many of the ideals and values that we fight for are not particularly popular in the politically correct 1990s; nevertheless, the ideas for which we stand are well worth the fight. Winston Churchill once said, "Do not let your spacious plans for a new world divert your energies from saving what is left of the old." Churchill's statement makes a wonderful compliment to our university's motto "Not Unmindful of the Future," a compliment that the entire

community should note.

We welcome back all of the returning alumni and hope that all of you have a pleasant stay. Keep in touch.

A number of people have asked how they can get involved with the *Spectator*. There is always an opening for people who want to work. If you want to write, sell ads, edit (we need the help), or anything else, please contact any of the staff. Occasional contributors are always welcome too, and I would like to thank Jimmy Kull and Cottie Miles for contributing to this issue.

Washington and Lee alumnus Hugh Newton was kind enough to share a letter he received from his friend Bill Buckley. In the letter Mr. Buckley writes, "No, I didn't know you were graduated from that distinguished college. You will be horrified to know that the student newspaper [*Spectator*] proposed me as the next President! If I am drafted into that office, the first thing I will do is give you an honorary degree...It was a pleasant experience and the natives were friendly..." For what it's worth. Enjoy!

Wright Marshall

Wright Marshall



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Treemont totals 11.82 PRIME ACRES located close to W&L, VMI, and only minutes from the Virginia Horse Center. This impeccably remodeled early 1900 Virginia farm house is enhanced by a fully equipped, gourmet kitchen with solid cherry cabinetry, a deck off the master bedroom on the upper level, and offers the ultimate in summer entertaining on the terraced patio and large screened-in porch at the rear of the home. A two bedroom cottage on the property is perfect for a tenant house, guest house, or office. A three level, completely renovated Bank Barn with heat, central air, and kitchen facilities is situated at the top of the hill affording sweeping views of the mountains and countryside. A nearby 20' x 40' in-ground pool with pool house, complete with kitchen and changing rooms, provides all the conveniences for a relaxing day. The property is totally fenced, including an electronic gate entrance, and the grounds are professionally landscaped. This unique property exudes "potential" as a fabulous B&B, retreat, horse facility, business venture, or affords the "best" as a country home.

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Dear *Spectator*,

I here by pledge that I will not give any more money to Washington & Lee U. as long as they espouse political correctness and other extreme liberal philosophies. I consider political correctness to be and infringement on our constitutional rights and certainly not the grand tradition of W&L.

Many of us believe as you do so keep up the fight.

Charles R. Crisp
Americus, Georgia

Dear *Spectator*,

Regretably, on May 12th I'll be in Ft. Myers, Fla for a meeting. I am not sure I would have come anyway because I believe that is around the time of my 50th reunion and I am boycotting that!

But I am interested in the *Spectator* and plan to send a contribution.

Now, really, as much as I like and admire Buckley, he is too old and would not accept. There must be an alumnus who is a traditionalist that the Board can choose. I deplore what is happening at the school.

Sincerely,
Bob Moore '44
Bluefield, West Virginia

Spectators-

-Just make sure I stay on the active mailing list, and try not to take yourselves so seriously.

Alan J. Prater '73; '80L

Spectator Staff,

I can't make it up to Lexington this year, but please keep up the good work.

Good Luck,
Maury Purnell, '90

Gentlemen:

I recently (4-24-94) read a story on

political correctness in the *Dallas Morning News*. I was appalled to see W&L listed as 1 of 6 schools nationwide which was singled out as being excessively "P.C."

Go get'em.
Thomas A. Swann '74

To: W&L *Spectator*

Elrod and McCardell are two disasters. Aren't there any minds on the selection committee who have conservative leanings who would know and push some academics worth having as Pres??

Good luck.
Hugh Newton

Wright:

I have just this past weekend received the most current issue of the beloved *Spectator*, and congratulations are in order both for you personally on your ascension to the helm, and collectively for an excellent issue. Bill Buckley for president, indeed. I'd settle for Bill Bennet. Despite the usual niggling copy errors, the spring issue is most commendable for the long-awaited return of effortery and humor to the pages of the *Spectator*. It would appear that you have already grasped the fact that the *Spectator* is not, nor should it be, a learned treatise. It is a student publication and should therefore reflect the issues germane to life at W&L filtered through a piquant student perspective: i.e., more P. J. O'Rourke, less R. Emmett Tyrell.

Keep up the good work, give my best to the rest of the staff who know me, and I look forward to seeing you all at Alumni Weekend.

Very truly yours,
Richard C. Burke '93

Top Ten Bill Clinton Pickup Lines

10. What's a nice intern like you doing in a place like this?

9. Do you need a federal appointment?

8. We can go for a ride on Air Force One and I'll show you the cockpit.

7. Don't worry, my wife won't mind. She's with Janet and Donna tonight.

6. I know a nice little place on Pennsylvania Avenue...

5. Would you like to see Lincoln's bedroom?

4. So you want to work in government?

3. No, it won't be on tape.

2. So, you're due for a promotion?

1. Hi, I'm Bill Clinton. Teddy Kennedy gave me your number.

GENERAL

"Gay and Lesbian Issues in Lewis Hall

On February 28, 1994 the Student Bar Association recognized and funded the creation of a Committee on Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues. Unlike the undergraduate Executive Committee, the SBA funds politically motivated groups. Due to this policy the SBA cannot refuse to fund any group that demonstrates even minimal support. Consequently, the SBA's funding policy has become so politicized it they cannot deny funding to illegitimate groups such as this one.

Although a discussion of legal implications of the gay and lesbian movement would be very germane for the Law School, the committee's focus does not seem to be so benign. Instead of discussing only the legal issues, "The committee also seeks to increase awareness of gay and lesbian legal issues throughout the Washington and Lee community and to foster an atmosphere of acceptance and appreciation of

gay men and lesbians based on mutual respect and dignity" (*The News Gazette*). This is a perfect example of one small minority trying to force acceptance and recognition of its aberrant lifestyle.

In America each citizen has the right to pursue his own individual lifestyle as long as it does not infringe on another's rights. Americans also have the right not to be required to morally accept and financially support the abnormal activities or lifestyles of others, but this is not the case at most of the country's colleges and universities. If a significant number of law students want to form this group, they have every right to do so with their own money. The Committee on Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues has no right to force the Student Bar Association and the student body of the Law School to fund and accept its political and social agendas. Unfortunately, there is a national trend among educational institutions to give additional rights and funds to every vocal minority, perverting the Bill of Rights upon which the country was founded.

Washington and Lee should not let its educational mission be clouded by the political agendas of groups such as the Committee on Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues.

AWM

No Flowers for Sunday's Child

Student's Shoplifting Affects the Honor Code

Recently, a Washington and Lee student was convicted of shoplifting from a local store. The student is appealing the decision based on the claim that due process was violated, citing the fact



OPINION

that the store employees had to look through pictures to identify her. Apparently, the store received an anonymous call from a W&L student who had witnessed the incident and identified the accused. If such a student exists, the honorable thing to do would be to come forward and testify in court. Unfortunately, this has yet to occur so the court must rely on the testimony of others who did not witness the crime.

The accused claims that she was sick in bed all day, and her roommates have testified to this fact. The problem with their testimony lies in the fact that both students were absent from the suite for several hours while they took their final exams. The *Ring-tum Phi* quickly jumped on the idea that the court does not respect the words of these students, and therefore, the Honor Code has "taken a serious and upsetting blow." The *Phi* challenges anyone who believes in the integrity of the Honor Code to believe the three students. What the *Phi* fails to recognize is that two of the student witnesses claim that the student was sick in bed because that is what they witnessed while they were home. They both admit to being gone from the room at times during the day; consequently, the court has every right to question the validity of their testimony. The court does not have to believe that they lied, it only has to recognize that their testimony is not absolute.

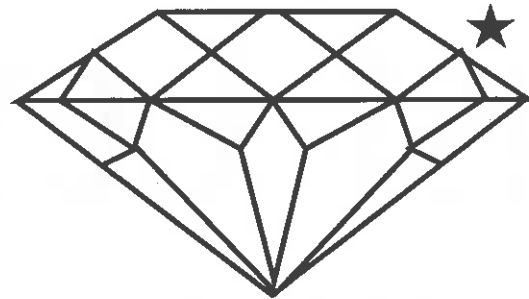
At W&L the Honor System is held in highest regard, yet in a court of law we cannot expect the judges to rely on the honor of every single W&L student. People do lie; they do cheat; and they do steal. As much as we would like to think that no one in our community does these deplorable acts, W&L students are not perfect. The numerous Honor Violations that occur each year testify to the fact that not every student lives by W&L's code. What makes our school unique is not that no one lies,

cheats, or steals, but those that do are caught and can no longer remain a part of our community.

When faced with a charge of stealing, one may lie to get acquitted. This is by no means to say that this particular student did so, but to say that we must let the court do its job. We cannot feel as though Lee's honor has been dealt a serious blow as the *Phi* states. We must understand the duty of the State to pursue justice regardless of our sensitive feelings regarding the Honor Code.

The Executive Committee has presumably waited to investigate the situation due to the ongoing appeals process. This is unfortunate seeing as how the appeal date is May twenty-fifth. By the time this date rolls around it will be too late in the school year to investigate. The E.C. will

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"It is very fortunate that the case came under the jurisdiction of someone...who can fully appreciate the merits of an all-male school."

push it back until fall, more than ten months after the alleged incident. It seems ludicrous that someone potentially guilty of an Honor Violation could remain a part of the W&L community for almost a year following the H.V.

Unfortunately there is no real precedent for such a situation, but whether innocent or guilty in the eyes of the law the student should be investigated by the E.C. If the pursuing investigation finds her innocent, both Flowers and the W&L community will benefit. If on the other hand, she is convicted in a closed hearing, we must ask ourselves why it took so long. Either way, the E.C. should find a more expeditious and efficient way to handle similar

situations in the future. - SEA

Hip, Hip, Hooray

Congratulations are in Order for VMI

Congratulations are in order for our friends at the Virginia Military Institute, who just recently won their latest battle in their effort to remain an all-male military college by receiving a federal judge's approval to establish an all-female leadership program at Mary Baldwin College.

U.S. Federal Judge Jackson L. Kiser, a 1952 Washington and Lee graduate, ruled that the planned Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin College will serve as a suitable alternative, allowing the state supported VMI to remain all-male. The Mary Baldwin plan gives women the option of military experience similar to that offered at VMI in the state of Virginia. Hopefully, this will end the long legal battle started in 1990 by the U.S. Justice Department in a suit charging that VMI's admission policy was sexually discriminatory.

The Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership will be in a comparable military setting as the cadets at VMI, living together in structured housing, taking advanced math and science courses, and taking part in a rigorous physical fitness program. Women will take ROTC classes from VMI instructors and be allowed to use VMI's training facilities. They will receive their degree from Mary Baldwin College, but they will be included with the VMI cadets and Virginia Tech ROTC students in the Virginia Corps of Cadets. The program is scheduled to be open for the fall of next year.

Judge Kiser's decision extends the great hope that VMI will be allowed to continue doing its excellent job of educating men in a military atmosphere. It is very fortunate that the case came under the jurisdiction of someone such as Judge Kiser who attended a single sex college and who can fully appreciate the merits of an all-male school. -CJM

That's Just Not Right

The Honor System is Abused

Earlier this spring, a Washington and Lee freshman was convicted of an honor violation in

East Lex

East Lexington Store

"Still a W & L Tradition!"

Welcome Back Alumni!

a closed hearing. After being found guilty, she withdrew from the University. Unfortunately, this is not the last that W&L saw of the student. Apparently, she had second thoughts and decided to challenge her conviction in an open trial. The Executive Committee made the necessary arrangements, spending considerable amounts of both time and money preparing for the trial. The White Book requires the E.C. to lay a tremendous amount of groundwork for every open trial, including the transcription of the closed hearing at a cost of about \$2000.

Four days before the trial was set to take place, the student withdrew from the University and left town. Furthermore, it is rumored that she only returned long enough to initiate into her sorority, an event that took place the day before her withdrawal. Her scheme allows her to not have to go through Rush at her new school.

The Executive Committee spent countless hours and many dollars to allow the freshman to attempt to continue to be a part of the W&L community. Law school E.C. members had their exam studies interrupted, and seventy-five W&L students had to be a part of the unpleasant jury selection process. The former student abused the honor system and owes an apology to all those inconvenienced and the W&L community as a whole. Additionally, it would not be out of line for her to offer to repay the E.C. the \$2000 of student money that she wasted. -SEA

Schroer-Lamont's New Segregation

New Activities of the Dean of Student's
Office Divide the W&L Community

Since the introduction of coeducation, W&L has been trying to create an atmosphere where women feel that they are an equal part of the community. However, in a misguided attempt to improve gender relations, Associate Dean of Students Anne Schroer-Lamont is reversing what progress has been made. In three recent situations, Schroer-Lamont has attempted to re-segregate the student body.

On March thirtieth before William F. Buckley's speech, Schroer-Lamont staged a women's leadership conference, urging the female campus leaders to take up arms and



Photo: Darran Winslow

organize themselves into a political force on campus. In an attempt to show these female leaders the plight of women at W&L, Schroer-Lamont missed several points. These female students were examples of women who had succeeded and become leaders on campus, showing that there is no need to create artificial divisions within the community.

Next, Schroer-Lamont set up a fly-fishing class just for women. Apparently, Professor McDaniel's fly-fishing class for the entire student body was not good enough for the women of W&L. Instead of getting the sexes together in a relaxed group atmosphere, Schroer-Lamont created an additional barrier that the undergraduates must overcome. Why can the money and expertise of both classes not be put together into a single, comprehensive class?

After getting little support from her leaders group, Schroer-Lamont decided that prompting and training would be necessary for W&L women to unite and rise up against the male-dominated system. Therefore, an assertiveness training program just for women was created. The assertiveness training program was designed to help women "Choose what is right without guilt," "Deal with patronizing and condescending people," "Turn down an unwanted request," "Respond to inappropriate interview questions," and "Request emotional support from a friend/lover." Why would W&L men not benefit from such a program? Does

Dean Howison need to get up his own little group just for men.⁹

Creating these single-sex groups is unnecessary. Instead of trying to bring both the male and female students together, Schroer-Lamont is reinstituting segregation on the basis of sex, creating additional barriers between the sexes that must be overcome. One of the special characteristics of W&L is its sense of community, and the interaction between students is one of the most important aspects of the college experience. In developing new programs to help students, Anne Schroer-Lamont should try to encourage that sense of community instead of hindering it. -AWM

W&L's New Dean of Pleasure and Leisure

W&L's Sixth Dean of Student Life

The Hill has recently announced that it will hire a new Student Activities Director in August to assist the Student Activities Board. According to the Dean of Students, David Howison, the new dean will be "an energetic and creative individual to help plan and implement a comprehensive program of social, cultural and recreational activities for the Washington and Lee community. The coordinator, who is expected to have a masters degree in student personnel or a related field, will work with Dean Atkins and a coalition of students, faculty and staff" (*Trident*). Sounds pretty neat, huh, kids?⁹

John Kleckley, the outgoing president of the SAB, felt that the Student Activities Board could use the help of a full-time person to organize new social activities. Despite the Board's optimism, many students are wary of an additional administrator to tell students how to have a good time. Some members of the community feel that one of the five current deans of student life could do the job and that the money could be better spent on an additional professor or other program. Another student concern is that the new dean of pleasure will be out of touch with the students, much like several of the five existing deans of student life. Only one of the five deans, Dennis Manning, teaches a class and has any normal contact with students. Unless a student gets in trouble or has

a special concern, he has no need to interact with the other four administrators.

Perhaps the more alarming issue behind the creation of the Student Activities Director is the administration's desire to alter W&L's social atmosphere. If students wanted to attend a large university that offered every social opportunity for every student, then they would not have come to W&L. There is only so much a school of sixteen hundred students and a town of six thousand residents can offer. Washington and Lee has been fortunate to have a thriving fraternity system which has been successful in providing the most active social scene of any of W&L's peer institutions. The administration would do a greater service to the students by leaving them alone while using some of the university's funds to alleviate the tremendous financial burden that Renaissance has placed on the individual fraternities.

Although it would be nice to have a wider variety of social opportunities in Lexington, the students and local businesses have done a good job of providing enough alternatives on their own. Students are perfectly able of finding a way to have a good time. The social options, such as a coffee house, a comedy club, and an expanded film program, that Howison and other administrators are advocating have already failed in the private market, and these options will only survive if the university subsidizes them. The coffee house which opened on Main Street in 1993 did not last a year. The Bone met the same fate, and the Raven and Crown is apparently struggling. Also, dismal student support forced the SAB to discontinue its film program in the Troubadour Theatre and its Wednesday night bands in the Pit. Lexington and W&L have all of the entertainment opportunities that they can sustain.

Why then does the Hill insist on continuing programs that the students will not support? Why are the university administrators trying to undermine the importance of fraternities whose popularity is near an all time high? The new Student Activities Director will have his work cut out for him, and we can only wish for the best. However, the deans of the schools should realize that it is not their responsibility to tell the students how to have a good time. The W&L and Lexington communities will create any new social options that they deem necessary.

What are alumni saying about the *Spectator*?

"Thanks for giving me the real scoop as to what's going on at W&L. I hope we can all work together to straighten some of this nonsense out."

--Class of '86

"I regret that your magazine is necessary, but I have felt for some time that something was missing at W&L. I really loved my old school."

--Class of '33

"I cannot help but think that the behavior of the school over tht past years has not affected alumni support. I know it has mine."

--Class of '71

"Keep up the good work. I enjoyed the complimentary issue. Please send more. I love W&L as you do."

--Class of '66

"I am at odds with some of the apparent underlying political premises on which the *W&L Spectator* seems to be founded; however, I am troubled by some of the institutional thoughtlessness of W&L. Your magazine transcends your political agenda."

--Class of '73

"How refreshing to read the *Spectator*. It certainly clears away much of the fog and provides information never to be seen in the *Alumni Magazine*. The *Alumni Magazine* should be exploring topics similar to those in the *Spectator*, but one only gets the party line instead. You are providing a valuable and long overdue information service."

--Class of '45

"We were shocked and greatly disappointed that W&L is into PC, feminist malarkey, etc. How tragic and degrading for a university of such quality and uniqueness. May your independent student journal be successful and fruitful!"

--Class of '37

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Four Years Later...

By James F. Kull

“To know her was to love her.” These words from Samuel Roger’s *Jacqueline* embody the traditional sentiment expressed by students, faculty and friends of Washing-

ton and Lee University. I fear this sentiment of love, however, may quickly fade into nostalgia as the University changes so rapidly without heed to her valued traditions.

Contrary to Jonathan Van Dyke’s commentary in the *Traveller*, a tradition is not a placard of “unthinking conservatism.” Tradition is, instead, “the distilled essence of accumulated experience. From it people extract what they find most useful and valuable.” These words, recently written by a former W&L professor, Marshall Fishwick enlighten us as to the wealth of our ancestry. Rather than blindly dismissing this past, I think



we should warmly embrace it. This is not to say that W&L cannot and should not change. I am simply asserting that our adaptations should be confined to fundamental parameters as dictated by our heritage—namely a Southern, conservative, liberal-arts school which seeks and promotes well-roundedness among its student body.

Over the past four years, I have been frustrated by the changes I have seen in the student body—both in the overall character of incoming students and in their development once they become part of the W&L community. The cause of the former is related to the changing makeup of the student body; the cause of the latter correlates with the change of the administration’s attitude toward student autonomy.

Washington and Lee has traditionally been proud of her parochialism—in the sense that the Admissions Office actually valued well-roundedness, honor, Southern tradition, and an understanding of an individual’s role within the community. As a freshman, I was impressed with the upperclassmen who shared these beliefs and, likewise, I have since been impressed with the many alumni I have met who also share these same values.

With each incoming class, however, there are fewer fresh-

men who exhibit these qualities because the Admissions Office has placed too much effort into increasing the quantitative rankings of W&L. The result is twofold. First, the qualitative attributes of the school’s student body has made the school less attractive to prospective students whose background suggests that they would fit in at W&L. Second, W&L is competing for the Ivy League’s pool of applicants. Those applicants exhibit first, and foremost, a high academic performance. The effect of seeking these students is that it creates a well-rounded

class, not a class of well-rounded individuals. Along with many students and alumni, I would prefer that W&L terminate its courting of Ivy League students because that candi-

“I am simply asserting that our adaptations should be confined to fundamental parameters as dictated by our heritage—namely a Southern, conservative, liberal-arts school which seeks and promotes well-roundedness among its student body.”

date pool consists largely of individuals who have excelled in (or perfected) only one or two activities.

We must once again focus on attracting the best among the culture from which we have traditionally drawn. My impression of many recent prospective students is, unfortunately, that they have more in common with Ivy League students than with the traditional W&L student. Do you recall the statement that, until recently, served as a qualifier when describing W&L? It simply stated that "W&L is not for everybody." Well, it is not mere coincidence that this simple statement has been



replaced by an admissions policy that actively pursues diversity as the end-all and be-all. Simply put, today's W&L is for anybody. The ramifications of this policy, however, are causing factionalization and disenchantment among the student body. The administration is apparently "clueless" as to its fault in the anti-system phenomenon that is enveloping our campus. Instead of attempting to correct its flawed admissions requirements, the administration chooses to satisfy every group's demands. What results is a proliferation of deans and bureaucracy that would even make Bill Clinton blush. Consider the most recent tally of deans' titles: minority affairs, Greek life, students (5), C-school (2), the college (2), international student affairs, financial aid, admissions, tall people, short people, smart people, dumb people, rich kids and poor kids.... And what about the new position of Student Activities Coordinator? This latest bureaucratic expansion was completely unnecessary because various student organizations already fulfill the purpose of this job. I am sure, however, that we all are comforted by the requirement of the administration that this new bureaucrat has a masters in Student Activity training.

The rationale for these deans is that the minority factions on this campus are tyrannized by a malicious and homogeneous majority. We must, according to the argument, categorize and separate the students. The administration, therefore, creates a hall in the freshmen dorms for environmental students. They offer a fly-fishing course for womyn despite

the pre-existence of a class that does not discriminate according to sex and is instructed by an acclaimed fly-fisherman. And the administration offers leadership seminars for W&L womyn and then uses these opportunities to chastise them for not recognizing and combating the many prejudices of the despicable W&L majority.

One of the most appealing and valuable attributes of W&L, which will hopefully be retained, is its sense of community. This sense of community results from the valuing of honor, well-rounded individuals, and tradition. The Honor System serves as a valuable tool by which to establish a sense of community within the school, but, by itself, it is not enough to maintain the unique character of our university. A student body consisting of well rounded individuals is needed to preserve the W&L community. At other schools which have well-rounded student bodies but not well-rounded students, individuals who excel in only one or two particular spheres will limit themselves to those spheres. The university will consequently fail to provide the basis for a sense of community. W&L traditionally has maintained a student body of well-rounded individuals whose sense of community is broadened by every additional activity in which they regularly participate. This involvement ultimately results in students recognizing W&L as the true basis for their sense of community.

For W&L to continue to provide an experience that is as meaningful as it has been in the past, she must become more

fundamental parameters as dictated by our heritage--namely a Southern, promotes well-roundness among its student body."

"W&L traditionally has maintained a student body of well-rounded individuals whose sense of community is broadened by every additional activity in which they regularly participate."

dedicated to her tradition and attract individuals who will do the same. In order to sustain the fraternity system, into which the University has invested \$13 million, the University must attract male students who will respect the roles of fraternities. Four years ago I had little appreciation for the fraternities' importance, and I often wondered about the rationale for such strong alumni support. Now that I have experienced four years within the system, however, I truly understand the significance of fraternities' influence on the development of individuals. Also, I have increasingly become an advocate of alumni representation on (and access to) issues of "significant impact." In this category I would include, among other things, the presidential search, the Greek system's role, and the basic guidelines for accepting prospective students.

There is another alarming trend which will, if allowed to continue, greatly harm the character of W&L. Over the last four years student autonomy has fallen victim to the administration's bureaucracy. As a house officer this past year in my

fraternity, I experienced first-hand the frustration with which every house officer has been presented since Renaissance effectively began in the Fall of 1991. Those who are actively involved in the direction of their fraternity certainly better understand the workings of their own fraternity than an outsider; but the administration fails to heed this argument. For instance, I know that my fraternity does not need to spend \$1500 on mandatory janitorial services every month; I recognize that some affairs are better handled by our treasurer than the University-hired accountant to whom we pay a \$400 monthly fee; and I believe that the detailed workings of W&L's rush are best understood by those who have direct contact with the system. Also, I believe that the IFC should govern the fraternity system and that this power should be better respected by the administration. It concerns me that the most important decisions regarding fraternities are often forwarded to a joint committee whose membership includes professors whose anti-Greek sentiments are exasperated by

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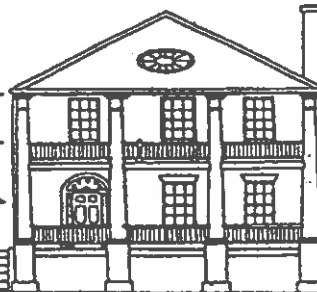
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I am not ungrateful to the University for its \$13 million commitment to fraternities, but, in hindsight, I am uncertain if fraternities understood the ramifications of ceding autonomy to Washington Hall. Needless to say, it is too late for fraternities to alter decisions that were solidified nearly a decade ago, but I earnestly recommend that the sororities think twice before following the same path. I realize that some women are adamant about the construction of sorority houses, but I am not sure if the sororities should resign their fate to the University. Although the structures that the school will promise to build will tempt W&L women, these structures will come only at a significant cost. I fear that the loss of student autonomy might prove to be too expensive for a hollow structure made of bricks.

We are all well aware of General Lee's contribution to this school's tradition of honor. We must not forget, however, that Lee also abolished needless faculty supervision and visitation of the dormitories. "As a general principle," Lee told a young professor, "you should not force young men to do their duty, but let them do it voluntarily and thereby develop their characters."¹ "Make no needless rules" was another piece of advice Lee offered to the faculty.

Hopefully, our new president will recognize the applicability of Lee's advice—despite the 130 years of elapsed time. Hopefully, our new president will embrace our honor, our heritage, and our tradition.

¹Douglas Southall Freeman *R.E. Lee* volume IV, 278.

James Kull is a senior from Dallas, Texas. He was this year's Vice-President of

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Raising Cane

The case of Michael Fay, an American teenager who was caned last week for spray painting cars in Singapore, has ignited a debate here in the United States about crime and punishment. Although Fay, eighteen, of Dayton, Ohio, confessed to the crimes in court, the United States Government and a horde of journalists argue that canning is a cruel punishment for vandalism. Some editorials in *The New York Times* suggest that the United States should impose sanctions on Singapore for what the paper believes to be a human rights violation. However, the very groups that demanded leniency for Fay are responsible for the current state of American justice.

Today, crime infests America. Current statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that the problem is much worse than once believed. The FBI claims that since

1960 total crime has risen 300% and violent crimes have skyrocketed almost 550%. The most recent years have been the worst, with twice as many people murdered since 1990 than died in the Vietnam War. These numbers are having an adverse effect on the public. A recent CNN/*Time* magazine poll revealed that eight out of ten Americans believe that violent crime will strike them during their lifetime.

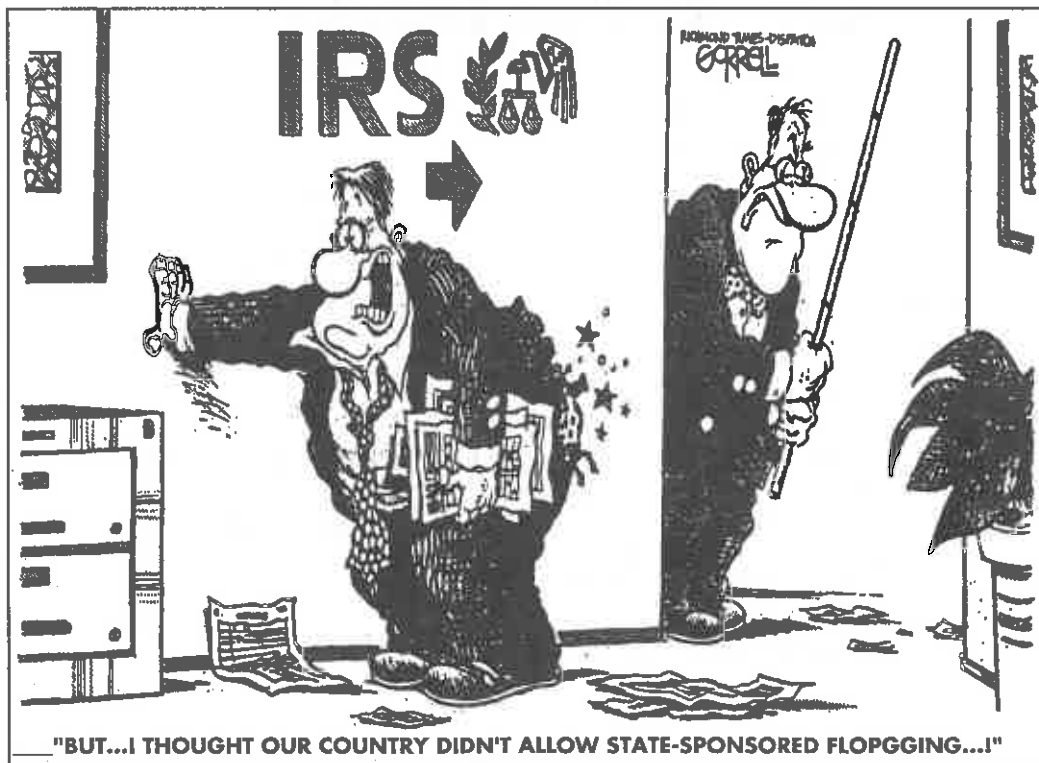
America's crime problem forces us to speculate upon its causes. If we compare the judicial systems of Singapore and America, we may understand the merits of punishment better. We may also begin to understand why Singapore claims one of the world's lowest crime rates. For his crimes (yes, there was more than one), Fay was originally sentenced to receive six strokes on his bare buttocks with a four-foot-long, half-inch-wide rattan cane. This was

reduced to four strokes as a gesture of Singapore's good will to the US. His four months in prison and a \$2,230 fine were also substantially lowered following pressure from President Clinton. Even then, Fay will spend longer in prison than the average American who commits rape (60 days)! Singapore's punishment is so severe that it deters many potential criminals from wrongdoing. If America adopted stronger policies, would sixty-three percent of released prisoners commit another felony within three years? Furthermore, would ninety-three percent of all prisoners be repeat offenders? Would prisoners in California's SHU prison (built for criminals who commit violent crimes while in prison) be suing for sensory deprivation? The answer is an emphatic "no."

Michael Fay received a sentence consistent with the laws and customs of the country in which he committed the crimes. He faced forty-five separate charges of vandalism and confessed to eighteen of them in a court of law while his attorney was present. He probably expected a sentence similar to one that he might have received in the US, but he failed to realize that Singapore believes in

punishing criminals, not reforming them. The court sentenced him under the assumptions that strong punishments deter crime and that many criminals begin with minor offenses. It is only a matter of time before petty criminals, such as car thieves and drug pushers, move to more violent crimes. Stiff prison sentences and penalties send strong messages to small-time criminals before they become repeat or violent offenders.

Critics of Singapore claim that it is a police state. This is a ludicrous statement. Singapore is a republic with a parliament, Prime Minister, and free elections. Its judicial system has its



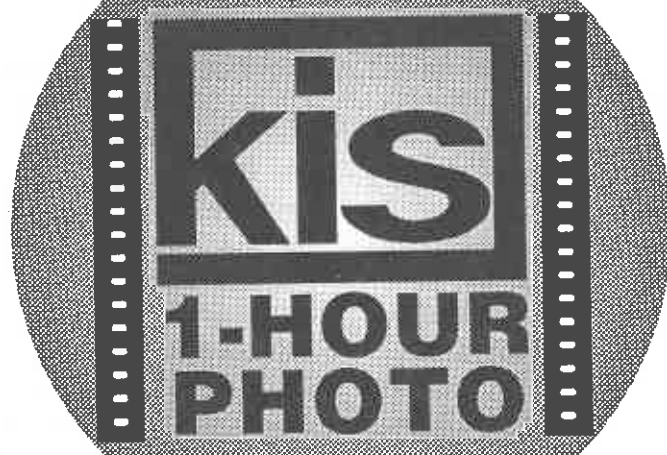
roots in English common law, as does our own. The people of Singapore, however, understand that some so-called freedoms are not permissible. Vandalism is not a tolerable form of self-expression. It is illegal and deserves punishment. Singapore's judicial system rests on the understanding that all criminal behavior must be met with penalties, otherwise laws serve no purpose but to waste paper.

Over one hundred and sixty years ago a foreigner, Alexis de Tocqueville, came to America and described what he saw, providing insights on American society. Today, if we look at what foreigners say about America, we may not like what we hear. Singapore's ambassador Kishore Mahbubani rebuked America for placing the rights of victims below those of criminals. In the wake of the past year's car-jacking murders, Germany and Japan both publicly reprimanded America for its crime problem. Americans see the problem, too. Pulitzer Prize winner Haynes Johnson writes in *Divided We Fall*, "more than any issue, including jobs and education, the growing specter of violence leads people to think that there is something fundamental that has been broken in America."

Stanley Brubaker of Colgate University notes that punishment is the opposite of praise. Punishment strikes at those things that the public abhors and what we as a people wish to do without. In the past fifty years, our society has too often emphasized rehabilitation and minimized punishment, fostering a high crime rate. America should realize that severe sentences have a positive correlation with low crime rates when penalties are strictly and universally enforced, and by doing so our country might reclaim some of the social order that we have lost. If you doubt punishment's practical benefit, just ask yourself this question: Do you think Michael Fay will again vandalize property in Singapore?

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Fraternity Renaissance II

"Thank you, sir. May I have another?"

The Washington and Lee administration and faculty are determined to introduce Winter Rush at Washington and Lee University. The pitfalls of Fall Rush according to the Hill are numerous. They claim that Fall Rush destroys class unity while simultaneously creating small homogeneous groups that exhibit little interest outside their fraternities. Fall Rush, according to some faculty members, hinders the ability of the students to pursue academic interests. Proponents of Winter Rush also claim that because Fall Rush forces students to choose their social group for the next four years during the first month of school, it creates isolationism among the student body, essentially eroding the speaking tradition. While we may disagree with some of these claims,

we recognize, however, their validity. Valid or not, Winter Rush is inevitable. The handwriting is on the wall that within the next five years, Fall Rush will be another tradition of the past like wearing ties to Dr. Futch's class. Thus, despite the fact that the majority of students are opposed to Winter Rush, the administration as well as the majority of the faculty are determined to force Winter Rush upon the student body in a fashion similar to coeducation. Therefore, the question of "what is to be done?" about Winter Rush is now upon us. It is imperative that the leadership of the Washington and Lee student body design a plan for Winter Rush that will be controlled by the student body, particularly the IFC, rather than the W&L Faculty and Administration. When the funda-

mental question of "What is to be done?" must be answered, it must be answered by the fraternities of Washington and Lee rather than by the Hill.

Here is a possible solution. Winter Rush, if conducted properly, could return W&L to its former preeminence as the social school of the South. To achieve this goal the Interfraternity Council would have to exert its true strength. First, the IFC should increase the rush fee from twenty dollars to two hundred dollars which multiplied by 320 freshman participating in Rush would generate 64,000 dollars in revenue. The 64,000 dollars would then be divided evenly among the sixteen fraternities adding 4,000 dollars to each house treasury for rush purposes. This money, in addition to the funds already appro-

propriated for Rush, would enable each fraternity to pay for three band parties during the fall. Assuming twelve weekends during the fall and four bands each weekend (two Friday, two Saturday) this would create a possibility of forty-eight potential bands during the fall. Divided equally among the sixteen fraternities, this would reduce the financial obligation for each house to paying for only three bands. In addition, the money raised would allow "smaller" houses to compete financially during the fall and the freshmen would be able to enjoy a full weekend of excitement for an average of sixteen



dollars (\$200/12 weekends).

In order to ensure fairness and eliminate rush violations, the IFC would randomly choose the weekends that each house would be allowed to have a band. Homecoming Weekend activities would be left up to the individual houses as well as the decision whether or not to have a non-band party on those weekend nights designated for other houses to have band

parties. The end result would be that W&L would have a minimum of four band parties each weekend in addition to those parties thrown by houses which choose to have additional non band parties. Thus, the IFC rather than the administration would dictate our social lives.

Conducted properly, Winter Rush would revive rather than destroy old traditions. The implementation of Winter Rush would resuscitate not only W&L's social scene which is presently asphyxiated by the draconian edicts the Hill forces upon the IFC, and more importantly, the ladies from Hollins, Sweet Briar, Randolph-Macon, Mary Baldwin, and UVA could return to W&L in hordes. The fact remains that what brings girls from either W&L or other institutions to fraternity parties are band parties. The proposed increase in band parties would provide the necessary incentive for W&L girls to leave the Leyburn Library and for road school girls to return from Hampden-Sydney. Winter Rush would allow, as mentioned previously, four bands every weekend, and thus it would create an irresistible social calendar for women as well as men. Unlike the present system which forces us to cancel fraternity parties because the SAB sponsors some "wise guy" cracking jokes in the pit or worse, invites They Might Be Dorks to "jam" in the pavilion, Winter Rush would allow students

greater autonomy.

In addition to adding female diversity to the fraternal scene and preserving dying traditions, the goals of the administration would also be

those concerning open contact, would be eliminated. Since the fall parties would not technically occur during Rush, alcohol consumption would not be limited by either school policy

or national IFC policy. Unfortunately, next year's rush will be completely dry and violations will result in the loss of all rush privileges, including the usual 1500 dollar fine.

Compare next

year's hard line policy to the relaxed scenario that we offer. First, freshmen would be encouraged to spend the night at fraternity houses with other freshman friends on the weekends and fraternities would be encouraged to invite freshmen to their houses to eat dinner and drink beer. This would allow pledge class cohesion to form naturally. In addi-

"Thus, despite the fact that the majority of students are opposed to winter Rush, the administration as well as the majority of the faculty are determined to force it upon us."

achieved through Winter Rush as well. First, dirty rush would be eliminated because the only rule enforced by the IFC would be that no freshman would be permitted in the Fraternity houses after 10:30 PM on weeknights (with the exception of Monday Night Football). The IFC's obsession with ridiculous and inane rules that plague Fall Rush, especially

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tion, it would be impossible for a single house to "hotbox" a freshman or a group of freshmen during the entire rush period. Likewise, neither houses nor the freshmen themselves would be forced to make frantic decisions or accept bids they would later regret. "Face man" tactics by both the brothers and the rushees would be greatly reduced over the span of a semester because both freshmen and actives would see each other openly and honestly. Consequently, rush would be a win-win situation for everyone involved including the Hill.

It has been argued that behind the administration's push for Winter Rush is the perception that there is no class unity at W&L. According to the Administration and the Alumni Office, this lack of cohesion results in

W&L's dismal alumni contributions. Only 36% of W&L alumni donate funds to their alma mater; an embarrassingly low number compared to other liberal arts colleges comparable

**"There is a possible solution.
Winter Rush, if conducted properly,
could return W&L to its former
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the South."**

to W&L in size. Therefore, the administration believes that if rush were moved to the winter, freshmen would be allowed one semester rather than one month to intermingle and form stronger bonds. Forming stronger bonds would also have the benefit of enhancing our speaking

tradition because each class would know each other better. It is argued that the administration perceives that these bonds would have a direct correlation to increased future financial gifts to the university.

The elimination of Fall Rush would also eliminate the winter doldrums that we experience at W&L because under our plan we would have a one week rush. The week long rush would be held during the first week of Winter Term and would essentially be a week of Bacchanalian delights. Since it would be

the first week of the term, it would refute the claims of the Administration that rush hinders students academically. In addition, brothers of fraternities would be able to be more relaxed because the "core" of the pledge class would have already formed during the fall. This is just more evidence of the "win-win" solution that we are offering, not the Administration.

Winter Rush is inevitable. Once that conclusion is realized, a sensible plan for Winter Rush can be initiated. We cannot continue to dismiss the inescapable. We have purposely outlined in broad strokes some of the possibilities for Winter Rush in order to stimulate debate. Winter Rush must not be dictated by the Administration, but rather from the IFC and the fraternities. Such a drastic change in campus policy, cannot come from the administration. We must determine our own fate. Let us plan our future.



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Doctor, Doctor Give me the news...

Recently, President Clinton pushed the issue of health care reform onto the center stage of the American political scene. Since his declaration of a "health care crisis," the debate has swirled around the following questions: what benefits should be included in the basic package, how much will the plan cost, and who will pay for the plan? Unfortunately, however, all these questions miss the most fundamental and important issue. The Clinton Health Care Plan represents a fundamental shift in American values as to the role government should play in the lives of individuals and private markets. We should, therefore, be asking questions about the ideological underpinnings of the Clinton plan rather than simply inquiring as to the plan's specifics.

What happens if we change the nature of our questioning? We might find ourselves asking the following types of questions: do we truly believe that government has the right to mandate universal coverage, do we all have rights to equal health care coverage given differences in personal health choices, and should we all be expected to share the costs equally (or as Clinton intends - based proportionately on income)? We believe that the traditional American answer to all these questions is an unequivocal "No." Therefore, we support only those governmental actions on health care that increase the individual's incentives to spend his personal dollars on health care. We also oppose any plan which seeks to impose mandates or force savings (taxes) for health care.

The Clinton Health Care Plan limits individual choice because it predetermines the form of employee wage payment plans. Clinton's plan would mandate that businesses pay 80% of the costs for the governmentally designed basic health care package. The problem, however, is that in the long run it is actually the workers who will pay for the increase in employer health costs through reduced wages (disappearance of future wage increases). This, in essence, means that employees will have less take home pay (disposable income) to spend on other items (i.e. entertainment, housing, etc.). One health-policy research firm recently suggested that wages "could fall by about \$189 ... as employers shift costs of the Clinton plan onto their workers" (*Wall Street Journal*). Furthermore, "[w]ages at firms that don't currently offer coverage could drop by as much as \$1,243, or 6.1%" (*WSJ*). This decrease in disposable income limits individual choice because it predetermines where individuals are to spend their dollars (health care), and thus consumers have less disposable income to spend in other sectors of the economy. In other words, government mandates or taxes on businesses represent forced savings and spending on health care. Market theory, however, teaches us that if consumers truly desired increased health benefits they would actively search for employment with those companies offering better benefits and lower wages.

While many older workers may actually desire this forced increase in health benefits at the expense of disposal income, many younger, risk

adverse individuals may not. The young, healthy, entrepreneurially minded individual may prefer higher wages at the expense of health security. An individual ought to be expected to pay according to the level of risk (lack of insurance) he is willing to accept. He should not be forced to pay for a governmental package he may not want. Thus the government ought only to formulate policies which enable or encourage individuals to provide for their own insurance. This can be accomplished by changing the tax codes so that savings (insurance payments) for catastrophic illness, child care, etc. are tax deductible. Under such a system, all wages (or at least most) would be in the form of cash, and thus individuals would then be allowed to "save" and spend on health care according to their personal needs and desires. Furthermore, in such a system, health care coverage would not be tied to employment.

Though many do not like the sound of the high wage/few health benefits payment structure, it was common in America until World War II. During that time, "[e]mployers competing for scarce labor offered health coverage as a substitute for pay to boost compensation packages without running afoul of wartime wage controls" (*WSJ*). Unfortunately, the IRS "later endorsed this practice, ruling that employer-provided health benefits-unlike virtually all other forms of compensation-could be excluded from the taxable income of employees" (*WSJ*).

If we returned to a high wage/few benefits payment structure, an individual could then switch jobs without fear of losing his health benefits since he would be self insured if he so desired. In addition, "[r]eforming the tax treatment of insurance would not change employers' incentives to continue providing insurance" (*WSJ*). A worker, however, might be "able to shop for another plan that better suits her needs. She might join a group organized by her church, professional

organization, union or employee association" (*WSJ*). In essence, by making individuals rather than businesses directly responsible for health care coverage people would become more costs conscious. Thus, "in shopping for their own coverage and making medical purchases, they would reward the efficient and cost-effective providers and punish the inefficient and overpriced providers" (*WSJ*).

Critics of tax reform based health policies argue that such plans still leave many Americans uninsured.

We recognize this fact, but we counter that we should accommodate these individuals through normal transfer programs rather than attempting to totally restructure the entire health care market (1/7 of the entire economy). Moreover, we argue that other policies, if used in connection with tax

reform, could reduce costs so that health insurance would be more affordable. For example, absent from the current health care debate is the issue of tort reform. Furthermore, taxes on cigarettes and alcohol could be set so as to discourage consumption rather than increase revenue to pay for new programs. Also, as previously noted, as individuals become directly responsible for their health care coverage they would become more cost conscious and would abuse the system less. They may even decide to live healthier lives.

The Clinton proposal also creates "perverse incentives" for businesses with its increased payroll taxes. In order to assess a payroll tax, it is necessary for the government to categorize businesses according to size. This, however, creates problems because the government tax rate "operate[s] at average, rather than marginal levels." Consequently,

"when a company crosses into a higher category, it is responsible for paying a higher percentage of its payroll on health costs for all its employees, not just the additional hire" (*WSJ*). As a result, "cost spikes" are created at certain intervals, and thus companies nearing a spike may hesitate to hire new employees (hindering investment and expansion), fire marginal employees in order to fall into a lower tax category, or split into several smaller companies. The Clinton plan, however,

more" than the estimated \$130 billion (*WSJ*). Given the historical effectiveness of price controls in the United States the outlook is not good. As CBO Director Robert Reischauer admitted, "the real issue is whether the institutional and political structure of the nation can withstand those pressures (to lift caps). And we have no ability to judge that" (*WSJ*).

In the end, we believe that there are viable solutions to the health care problems of the day that are more consistent with the traditional American

belief in market forces than the current Clinton plan. Namely, we argue that a restructuring of the tax codes can decrease costs by structuring the health insurance market around individuals rather than corporations (increase competition by increasing the number of market players). In

addition, a restructuring of the tax codes would allow more individual choice in determining the nature or level of direct pay (disposable income). The Clinton plan on the other hand, relies on the faulty assumption that the government is capable of increasing competition through a restructuring of the insurance market into "regional alliances" while simultaneously enforcing controls on drug prices and insurance premiums. Moreover, the Clinton plan fails to mention other important areas of health care reform (tort reform). Finally, we recognize that tax reform plans still leave many chronically unemployed or under-individuals without insurance, but these individuals could be provided for through programs more consistent with the American's unique cultural and political identity.



proposes to help small business through the use of subsidies, but as Americans we must ask ourselves if we truly want a larger percentage of American businesses to become dependent upon, or at least highly interested in protecting, government subsidies. We, therefore, agree with Craig Richardson's conclusion that

"instituting a complicated set of regulations that create perverse incentives for small businesses is not the path we should take. In doing so, we make an expensive proposition even costlier, in terms of lost jobs, lower output and wages, and more time spent by business owners on outmaneuvering the government's illogical regulations" (*WSJ*).

The Clinton proposal also runs contrary to American values because it plans to achieve cost reductions through the use of governmental controls on drug prices and insurance premiums. If these controls fail "the cost to taxpayers will be substantially

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