

W A S H I N G T O N A N D L E E

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Are We Distorting Lee's Vision?

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SPECTATOR

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General Opinion

Sex, Drugs and Rock n' Roll, Courtesy of the LIFE Committee

It has come to the *Spectator's* attention that with each year's incoming freshman class, there is more emphasis on teaching these youngsters about the birds and the bees. The main reason is clear and simple: it puts smiles on the faces of the leftists who are always scowling and complaining about something. (The great irony is that the Panamanian Strongmen in Washington Hall taunt the freshmen intelligentsia every September.) "Washington and Lee is getting smarter! We

will be number nine next year," they cry. Yet, the confused leftists of the administration form committees to tell all these young go-getters (half of whom will probably be science majors) that when you put a man and a woman together you get a baby. For those of us who were admitted three or four years ago, when it was *so* much easier to gain admission to W&L, it was important for us to attend our committee group meetings because we were all under the impression that we were given life when two folks got together

one night after a keg party. Today's freshmen are much wiser, however, because MTV's "Sex in the 90's" teaches everything you need to know about sex, including all about "Heather's Two Mommies" and "Phil and Will Thrill — Different Dads".

For summary purposes, consider some of the more important concepts covered during LIFE meetings: one) Gals look out, because 99.6 percent of the men here are rapists — the rest are either independents or Baner; two) If you go to a "frat" there might be alcohol there and *remember*, the pimento cheese ball is for "brothers only;" three) Ladies, never let a guy get you a drink, he might spike it with alcohol or a floppy disk; four) If you partake in sexual activities make sure you wear a condom or a hidden camera; five) Only dopes use dope; six) There is no need to shoot heroin here because Calvin Klein is not visiting campus to find people to fit into his jeans or to just "be."

So, we are all the wiser thanks to Washington Hall's omniscient L(eftist)I(nfotryingto)F(ool)E(veryone) Committee. With any luck, our young geniuses in the dorms already know this and realize that it's just a waste of time.



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The Lexington Police Force: Nothing Better To Do?

Number one on the "Top Ten Reasons The Lexington Police Department Should Be Sued" is the utter incongruity of LPD priorities. Rather than snacking on doughnuts, reading *Playboy* and hiding from the chief, as any good police force should, the Lexington Police follow a strict policy of harassing W&L students. The over-funded, over-nourished police department treats alcohol consumption by clean cut, young go-getters as public enemy number one, when in fact, W&L students typically exhibit calm behavior. Most students here do not have prior arrest records, nor are they criminals. So why on the weekends does the LPD unveil the SWAT team with night vision goggles and armored mountain bicycles to hunt for that one minor in possession? The citizens of Lexington should feel cheated that their streets are safe from college students, wandering from party to party, but real crime continues unabated. The police department instead should focus on developing friendly relations with the students like W&L Security, rather than perse-

cuting students who have bright futures ahead of them. With an "us versus them" mentality, students are far less likely to cooperate. Instead, police should work to end the adversarial relationship they have fostered with the W&L students. Police might even want to consider giving a drunk student a ride home rather than incarcerating him in the LPD dungeon.

Lexington cops should be forced to intern in major metropolitan areas such as Newark, East Oakland, or Compton to realize how calm students of Lexington actually are. See how the residents of the aforementioned cities respond when issued a ticket for littering their front yards or when reprimanded for riding their bikes on the wrong side of the street. There are so many more fruitful things these police officers could be doing - like finishing the Krazy Krossword puzzle in the *Spectator's* next issue, defending Stop-In, decoding the secret map of the Kremlin, etc. Let the students of Washington and Lee frolic in their

drunken stupor; we can take care of ourselves!

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From *The Spectator NewsWire* . . .

Our solemn regrets to the gals of "Women in Leadership" upon your glorious downfall. Hopefully all other leftist organizations will follow your most welcomed lead.

Want to rebuild the Exxon Valdez? How about helping a needy Contra with his CIA-sponsored pension? Send money to W&L Spectator!

Request for Executive Committee....before allocating money to sorority housing please consider a coal/CFC powered Lincoln Grand Marquis taxi service between Davidson Park and Red Square on party nights.

Dear Environmental Awareness Committee: Do we have an environment? I'm confused, what are all these trees and whatnot around campus?

Interested in pesticides? The DDT club will be meeting at the Co-op tonight to spray all fruits and members of the environmental awareness committee.

Rockbridge County Kids (ages 7-15)!! Be sure to check in at Joe Camel's Halloween Bash! Smokey the Bear will be there with matches and lighters in hand! Gaines Gatehouse Wednesday 7pm

Selected Excerpts from the *New York Times* #1 Bestseller,
"Top 1000 Changes for W&L in the Gay Nineties"

- + Warner Center re-named "Michelle Richardson 'Warlord of Fun' Center"
- + All parking lots on campus are dug up and converted into organic gardens
- + Board of Trustees abolished, replaced with "The Council of Three"
- + Administration finally creates the "Committee to Oversee the Coalition Regarding the Task Force on Violence against the Football Team"
- + GHQ re-named Bistro 2000
- + No tobacco-product sales in the "Alternative Nutrition/Student Assimilation Center," formerly known as the Co-Op
- + Vomiting from alcohol deemed an honor violation by the new Student Judicial Committee
- + Phrases such as the "C-School" and "Co-op" are banned
- + Popular W&L keychain "George Washington gave here" changed to "This AIDS ribbon courtesy of Jorge Washington"
- + Men' s locker-room converted into G&L Playpen
- + Spike Lee Chapel
- + Seniors forced to live in luxurious, newly built, money wasting dorms
- + Fingerprint and semen sample required to gain entrance into freshmen dorms

Letters

To the Freshmen,

As I confront my own future in the upcoming months, I will undoubtedly spend time thinking about how Washington and Lee has prepared me for the years to come, and, I would like to share some of these thoughts with you. As a senior I cannot profess to understand W&L any better than another student, but my own experiences may offer some valuable insight to you who are beginning your time here.

By the time this letter is published you should be well established at Washington and Lee. You have conquered your anxiety, carved a niche in the community, and passed your first exam. If your first six weeks here have at all resembled mine, they probably felt more like a few days and left you wondering where all your time has gone. I'll warn you now that time does not slow down in the years to come.

I am a senior, and ready or not, events are preparing to send me into a vast unknown era for the first time in what has previously been a very scheduled academic existence. For the first time in seventeen years, I am not returning to school in the fall. Although I originally expected to be more apprehensive than I currently am, I am now aware that W&L has eased that anxiety. For three years I have studied here, and during my stay I have developed a deep appreciation for Washington and Lee and its traditions; traditions that have solidified my commitment to a value system instilled in me by my parents, and confirmed by our university.

Washington and Lee teaches more than simply a college curriculum. Students here universally consider the notions of honor, civility, and truth in an effort to understand themselves and their world. The Honor System and Speaking Tradition, among other aspects of W&L's heritage, envelop the community in a bond of common purpose unlike other institutions. The school's ultimate victory lies in this ability to nurture a community conducive to truth. Unlike other liberal arts colleges today, Washington and Lee continues to encourage us to read factual history, study politics openly, and confront the truth in all disciplines as it reveals itself to those who seek it. In doing so, we graduate from W&L fully aware of the success of honor and truth in a real community. We learn to revere truth, not to contort it to smooth societal wounds. This affirmation of virtuous behavior will serve us well in a world that too often forgets that only through truth will we mend the tears in society's fabric.

Will we as W&L graduates mend society's ills? Yes, for Washington and Lee does not guarantee success or happiness, but offers life to us for the taking. As life itself guarantees little, so should a college. To date, our school has largely resisted the contemporary urge to confer special status upon minority groups in an attempt to produce equity. Instead, it sponsors a community that challenges us all as individuals to achieve success as we define it. This may be W&L's enduring gift to us, and it is surely what makes this school unique in today's myriad of politically correct institutions. Washington and Lee will return to you what you put into it, and if you require the most of yourself, it will give you your identity and reinforce in you the values that come with character.

Take time over the next four years to consider the gifts that Washington and Lee offers. One of my greatest concerns for my future stems from the fear that I will never again have so much time and such an opportunity to question truth. As one who longs for the opportunity to explore his values, his identity, and his school all over again, I implore you to take time to consider the non-academic lessons W&L also teaches, and to defend fiercely the values that allow these lessons to be taught.

Sincerely,



Marcus Rayner

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Campus Issues

Selling Out To Statistics

BY TIM JENKINS

If one certainty exists in this country's obsession with collegiate athletic polls. As you read this article, rest assured that someone, somewhere, is debating the AP's college football rankings. The upcoming presidential election constitutes another prime example. How do politicians and ordinary citizens alike gauge each candidate's strength?

Yet another incredulous statistical instrument—polls.

Sadly, W&L too has fallen under the sway of statistical judgments. Like a pagan medieval ritual, each year much of W&L's administration and faculty pay homage to the *U.S. News and World Report* gods. The "America's Best Colleges" rankings should, at most, amuse the university community with a highly speculative measure of W&L's collegiate quality. Much of the administration and faculty, however, interpret the statistic far too literally. Instead of recognizing the figure's trivial value, numerical obsession develops. Throughout campus corridors the pervasive questions become: how do we move further up? What changes can we implement to achieve the rank this school obviously deserves? This fervent and consuming desire to master *U.S. News'* statistical charade ignores two key issues: the questionable methodology *U.S. News* employs to calculate their rankings and the many intangible assets W&L possesses.

First, methodology. *U.S. News* allots 25 percent of each school's ranking to "academic reputation," a measure the magazine determines by surveying college presidents, deans and ad-



missions directors. In the survey, these individuals are "asked to rate by quartile all schools in the same categories as their own." Although *U.S. News* avoids disclosing the questionnaires' contents, it is reasonable to assume they include highly qualitative assessments. In other words, another college administrator's *opinion* solely determines the fate of W&L's "academic reputation." Now, consider some of the illustrious institutions that evaluate W&L: Swarthmore, Amherst, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr, and Vassar (schools noted for their revisionist curriculums, featuring such greats as the "womyn's studies" major.) The value judgments and liberal prejudices that guide these college administrators' assessments diametrically oppose the W&L culture, and, will likely impact their critiques of the university. Not surprisingly, W&L fared poorly in terms of "academic reputation" against its liberal competitors in the top twenty-five -- this round we ranked twenty-fifth.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, the *U.S. News* rankings simply fail to reflect W&L's true strengths. More than any other institution listed among the top twenty-five national liberal arts colleges, W&L nurtures a unique character. Washington's monetary support and Lee's leadership and integrity transformed a tiny school in Lexington, Virginia into a brilliant example of the colle-

giate ideal. The W&L community enjoys an unrivaled academic experience. While the honor system ensures trust and accountability, the speaking tradition promotes a friendly, cohesive student body. Intangible assets like these markedly distinguish W&L. Unfortunately, *U.S. News* cannot statistically measure the heritage and traditions that invigorate W&L.

Because the liberal biases W&L undoubtedly encounters further denigrate the university's numerical position, the ranking which the magazine assigns should be, and is, meaningless. Yet much of W&L's administration and faculty does not accept the figure as unimportant. They argue instead that the *U.S. News*

quote carries crucial significance, particularly in terms of collegiate recruiting and national reputation. Consequently, the administration and faculty desire to improve W&L's ranking. Here's the rub: unless *U.S. News* radically changes its evaluation methodology (it won't), W&L will be forced to ingratiate itself to its liberal colleagues in the top twenty-five, thereby compromising the very traditions and conservative heritage that have gradually built the school into the remarkable institution it is today. Against this surprisingly real threat, the W&L community must stand firm, because trading 250 years of W&L history for a statistic is unacceptable.

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Campus Issues

Codifying Honor and Shunning Responsibility: The New SJC

BY GLENN F. MILLER WITH ADAM BRANSON

When the Executive Committee considers revisions to the Honor System every three years, it relies on careful and prudent deliberation that solicits the input of the student body and is consistent with the time-honored tenets of honor articulated by Robert E. Lee. The result of this open and forthright process is the strongest and most revered university honor system in the nation.

When the Student Conduct Committee recently considered revisions to the SCC it resorted to irresponsible and arrogant demagoguery that ignored student body input and demonstrated contempt for the principles Lee espoused. The result of this furtive and disingenuous process was the newly formed Student Judicial Council, which is structurally flawed and inconsistent with the notion of honor embraced by W&L.

Section V of the 1996-97 version of the Student Handbook states: *The Student Conduct Committee was created by faculty to exercise its responsibility to control student conduct. The SCC investigates and acts upon complaints of alleged student misconduct except for violations of The Honor System or cases which fall under the jurisdiction of the Student Faculty Hearing Board.* This provision of the old system erected a fire wall that prevented

the SCC from interfering with the EC's enforcement and stewardship of the Honor System.

The statement of purpose contained in the new SJC "blue book," on the other hand, blurs the line that delineates between the EC and the SJC's jurisdiction. Section I, Paragraph 2 of the newly proposed SJC blue book reads: *The SJC investigates and acts upon complaints of alleged student misconduct except for dishonorable acts that involve lying, cheating or stealing which are under the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee and matters of sexual misconduct which are under the jurisdiction of the Student Faculty Hearing Board.* This language truncates the EC's authority by limiting its jurisdiction to only three areas of dishonorable conduct: lying, cheating, and stealing. In other words, the authors of the proposed SJC blue book have conspired to replace W&L's honor system with an honor code. Aside from committing an honor violation, no act is more egregious and lamentable than trying to suppress the Honor System through codification.

While constriction of the Honor System is reason enough to block the SJC proposal, it is not the only reason to oppose it. The language of the SJC blue book is infested with internal contradictions, making many of the pro-

posed provisions unintelligible; the SJC blue book is wrought with loopholes, promoting and allowing for inconsistent and capricious punishment of student misconduct; the SJC blue book is full of illogical reasoning, rendering implementation of the system implausible; and the SJC blue book is conspicuously silent on many of the most salient questions and concerns that students have raised about the SCC, hinting that the SJC does more to conceal the logistical problems that have plagued the SCC than it does to fix them.

The following is an abbreviated list of the many problems that a close reading of the SJC blue book will reveal:

- The chair of the former SCC only voted in the event of a tie. The SJC Chair, however, would be granted full voting privileges. This is problematic because the SJC Chair is the member who conducts the initial investigation into alleged misconduct. He, therefore, carries a bias into each vote.
- The SJC blue book requires that the Head Dorm Counselor, the Head Resident Assistant, the Interfraternity President, and the Panhellenic President serve as permanent advisors to the SJC. These student leaders already have a

formidable work load and they assume enough responsibility. It is not fair to mandate that they involve themselves with adjudicating allegations of student misconduct beyond the role they already play in such matters.

In the event that an SJC justice is unable to execute his duties, the SJC Chair is instructed to appoint a replacement. This introduces an unnecessary element of risk to the adjudication process. Replacement justices should be elected by the student body. Otherwise, a student in whom the student body has not officially placed confidence may assume the responsibility of deciding guilt or innocence with respect to misconduct allegations. It is not surprising that this provision has been included, however. After all, Paul Saboe, the Secretary of the SCC and the architect of the SJC blue book, was never elected to the SCC. In fact, he was appointed by SCC Chair Robert Covington. Mr. Saboe has been unsuccessful in every one of the legion number of bids he has made for an elected office while at W&L, for the sole reason that he repre-

sents the antithesis of what the majority of students on this campus endorse and respect. It is wrong to include a patronage provision that would allow for a person like Mr. Saboe, who in the past publicly argued that underage drinking on this campus constitutes an honor violation, to receive a seat on the committee that investigates allegations of misconduct by W&L students.

We do not need an SJC; we need a more healthy SCC. If the problem with the SCC is that the elected class officers who sit on the SCC are too timid and pusillanimous to enforce misconduct penalties against their friends, or if the class officers are not enlightened enough to oversee a system under which each alleged transgression is evaluated

independently from any past infraction and under which penalties are not etched in stone but adjusted to meet mitigating circumstances, then we need to fill the SCC with more qualified justices either elected directly by the student body or appointed by the EC.

It remains the student body's responsibility to voice opposition to the risky SJC scheme. A failure to do so will be considered an endorsement of the SJC and all the perverse ideas it embodies. A failure to stop the SJC will also represent a capitulation to all those who want to destroy the concept of honor that permeates this campus, giving further momentum to a tectonic movement that seems to be replacing tradition with iconoclasm, the same movement that brought us winter rush and G&L's first an-



Local News

There Goes The Neighborhood: VMI Yields To Coeducation

BY DAVE FOSTER

The very idea that once seemed unthinkable has become reality: after 157 years, the Virginia Military Institute has announced that next year it will admit women. In many ways, it is amazing how long VMI has withstood the changing social climate that eventually forced this radical change. It has now been two decades since the nation's service academies were forced to open their doors to women, and two years since Shannon Faulkner briefly graced the Citadel. VMI held its ground until the bitter end; only a 9-8 Board of Trustees vote following this summer's Supreme Court mandate that the school admit women or forfeit state funding finally compelled the change. Unfortunately, and to VMI's detriment, those who have led the fight for coeducation have failed to recognize the virtues of single sex education and the negative effects of introducing women to VMI. More importantly, the coeducation ad-

vocates have not adequately considered how transforming the "VMI experience" will impact the cadets--past, present



and future. By ignoring these ramifications, those who battled against VMI have cost Virginia, and indeed an entire country, a valuable asset.

Over the past 157 years, VMI has perfected a system of educating young men to become successful military and civilian professionals. At the center of this system lies the all male corps of cadets. Such things as the "rat line," "sweat parties," and "rat challenge" are activities that involve both taxing physical activity and intense camaraderie, all aimed at promoting unity and discipline among the cadets. Whether or not the female rats will be able to meet the current physical requirements remains to be seen. Although VMI has committed to maintaining the same physical requirements for both sexes, history shows this to be impossible. All the service academies and the Citadel were ultimately forced to lower their requirements to accommodate women.

The more salient issue, however, relates to the interac-

tion between male and female cadets, especially as regards female rats. It is difficult to imagine the upperclassmen treating the female rats as they themselves were actually treated, or as they treat other male rats. The current social climate that severely scrutinizes anything even remotely resembling sexual harassment and sexual discrimination will amplify this effect. Upperclassmen charged with the responsibility of "hazing" the rats will be constantly forced to evaluate their behavior in terms of these issues. The rat line, although demeaning to rats, serves an integral role in converting young men into tough and disciplined VMI graduates. Compelling a male to demean a female rat through physical exercise or verbal abuse, however, places him in the unenviable position of walking the thin line between what may be considered acceptable and what may be deemed illegal.

These examples illustrate how the females will be held to a different standard, and how the male members of the corps will suffer the consequences. Not only will this promote contempt and disunity within the corps, it will also devalue what was once the standard "VMI experience." Those who graduate from VMI are held in high regard, particularly in Virginia. There is great appreciation for what a VMI

graduate has endured and the values and discipline he has cultivated. To diminish this by creating disparate standards is unfair to a century and a half of VMI cadets.

Single sex education has worked successfully in Virginia for a great many years. Schools like Sweet Briar, Hollins and Hampden-Sydney, although private institutions, have consistently produced well-educated and well-rounded graduates. Even UVA practiced single sex admissions well into the twentieth century. Clearly, the single

sex tradition is both a viable and productive academic concept. As such, VMI's public status should not disqualify the state from providing this educational alternative. Unfortunately, co-education advocates fail to recognize the virtue associated with the long and proud history of the "VMI experience." This sense of tragic loss was plainly articulated by one cadet, who said after hearing the Board of Trustee's decision: "They don't know what we've lost."



National Politics

Election '96: Bob's Campaign Dole-Drums

BY LEE MILLER

With only a matter of days until the 1996 presidential election, everyone from Greenpeace to the NRA knows that Bob Dole doesn't stand a chance of defeating Bill Clinton. What no one can explain, however, is how a glorified used car salesman best known for his shady deals, his shadier character, and his frequent marital transgressions leads a veteran war hero who has served his country in the Senate for the better part of four decades. How can it be that Bill Clinton is on track to stay in the White House for the next four years?

1. *THE GENDER GAP*

In 1992, George Bush held a double-digit lead over Bill Clinton among women voters, in no small part because of the Gennifer Flowers incident and rumors about his voracious womanizing. In 1996, Clinton has, quite ironically, turned the tables and now has a commanding lead over Dole in that same category. What can explain this? Perhaps women voters have excused Clinton for his dubious past and finally taken a liking to his smooth-talking, or, maybe Dole has just turned women off with his dour disposition. Whatever way you look at it, Dole's inability to attract the female vote doesn't bode well in November, unless you know of another group to counter it that comprises almost 60% of the population

and is gung-ho Dole. No? Didn't think so.

2. *INEPT CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATION*

In 1992, George Bush's campaign organization was the butt of every joke, the poster-child for incompetence. Yet, somehow Bob Dole has managed to one-up the former president. The fact that Dole's grass root organization was so strong during the primary season makes this even more startling. At the top level, advisors are leading the Republican candidate in circles, while at the bottom, unorganized and unmotivated volunteers fail to take their man's case to the people. Ask yourself this: two weeks before the election, how many Bob Dole posters do you see proudly displayed on a daily basis? The country wants leaders that inspire. Unfortunately, Bob Dole simply cannot excite anyone.

3. *NO FOCUS ON HIS OWN STRENGTHS*

Instead of standing proudly behind his grandiose plan for an across-the-board tax cut and heralding his vision for a more disciplined and more restrained federal government, Dole has allowed himself to be characterized as a bitter old man. He constantly berates Clinton's character, but is unable to articulate a clear, concise vision for our nation's future. Making

headlines instead was his tactless handling of the abortion issue in his party's plank, upsetting both factions within the Republican ranks. The result was a highly publicized and ill-timed flip-flop that left everyone dismayed. Most inexcusable of all is Dole's inability to convince the American people that his programs would be more effective than Clinton's. If the polls claiming that almost three-fourths of Americans "don't trust the President" are even close to accurate, what does it say about Dole's failure to muster up even a slim majority? Actually, I think it says a lot.

4. *WRONG FOCUS ON CLINTON'S WEAKNESSES*

You would think that convincing people that Bill Clinton cannot be trusted would be a task even Bob Dole couldn't screw up. Wrong again. Instead of attacking Clinton's poll-driven politics, Dole has chosen to passionately sermonize about the evils of the Hollywood elite or tirelessly lambaste Clinton's character. As stated before, people know Clinton can't be trusted, and for some reason or another, don't care. What they do care about (oddly) are the issues. While Dole has correctly chided the president publicly for his foreign policy follies, from Haiti to North Korea to the current

situation in Iraq, you have to wonder why Clinton remains so popular if Dole was really getting his message out. Everyone was convinced Dukakis was out of his league once Bush pictured his grinning face in that famous tank commercial in 1988. Why is that not true of Clinton? (Granted, he doesn't have those eyebrows...)

5. **DIMINISHED EXPECTATIONS**

Perhaps the most disturbing theory concerning why Bob Dole trails Bill Clinton is that the country no longer holds its leaders up to strict moral scrutiny. Sadly, it seems that the public has grudgingly accepted (or perhaps realized) that all politicians are inherently scandalous and that the only criterion for picking our leaders must be whether or not they deliver. With the suspicious Filegate mystery, the on-

going Whitewater investigation, the travails of Clinton aide Dick Morris, and Bill and Hillary's own string of personal problems, it's hard to see how the nation wouldn't prefer plain, old, boring Bob Dole. (Maybe it's a conspiracy by the tabloids, all worried that without the Clintons in the Oval Office, news will be hard to manufacture.)

Luckily for Dole, the age issue hasn't seem to hurt too much; his reputation for meanness has, however, and when coupled with his often monotone delivery, candidate Dole simply isn't perceived as "presidential." The public nowadays seems to demand a president that will make them feel good, even if they know deep down in their heart that he is lying through his teeth. (Mr. Reagan: "I'm sure Ollie is telling the truth, I just can't recall...") True, Dole tried to improve his image during

his October 6 debate with Clinton, showcasing a newfound sense of humor to complement his traditional attack-dog demeanor, and appeared to emerge triumphant. The question is, will it be too little too late? And an even more pressing issue, has Dole already used up his monthly allowance of smiles?

Even if Dole had played his cards right the whole way through, Clinton still might be leading the race. After all, many believe this whole contest was Clinton's to lose anyway. You have to wonder though how good ol' Bob could have put such a lack-luster effort into what would have been the crowning achievement of an impressive life of service. As Kenny Rogers once told us, "If you're gonna play the game, boy, you've got to learn to play it right." Such a shame. Maybe Bob Dole ought to just tuck his tail between his legs and follow Toto back to Kansas.

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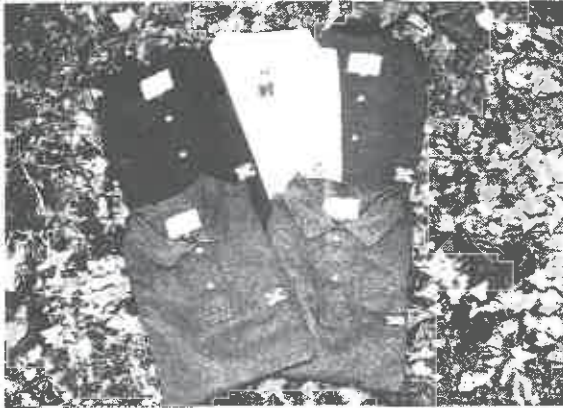
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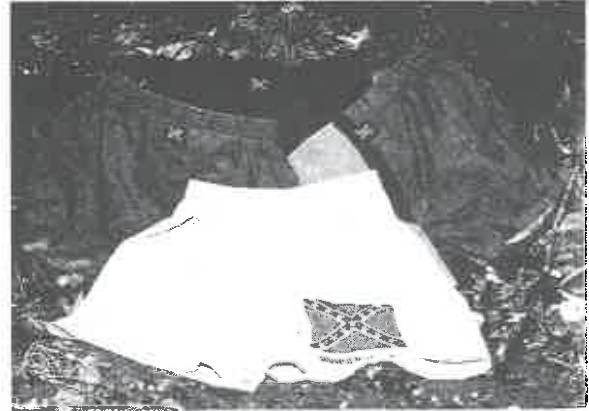
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