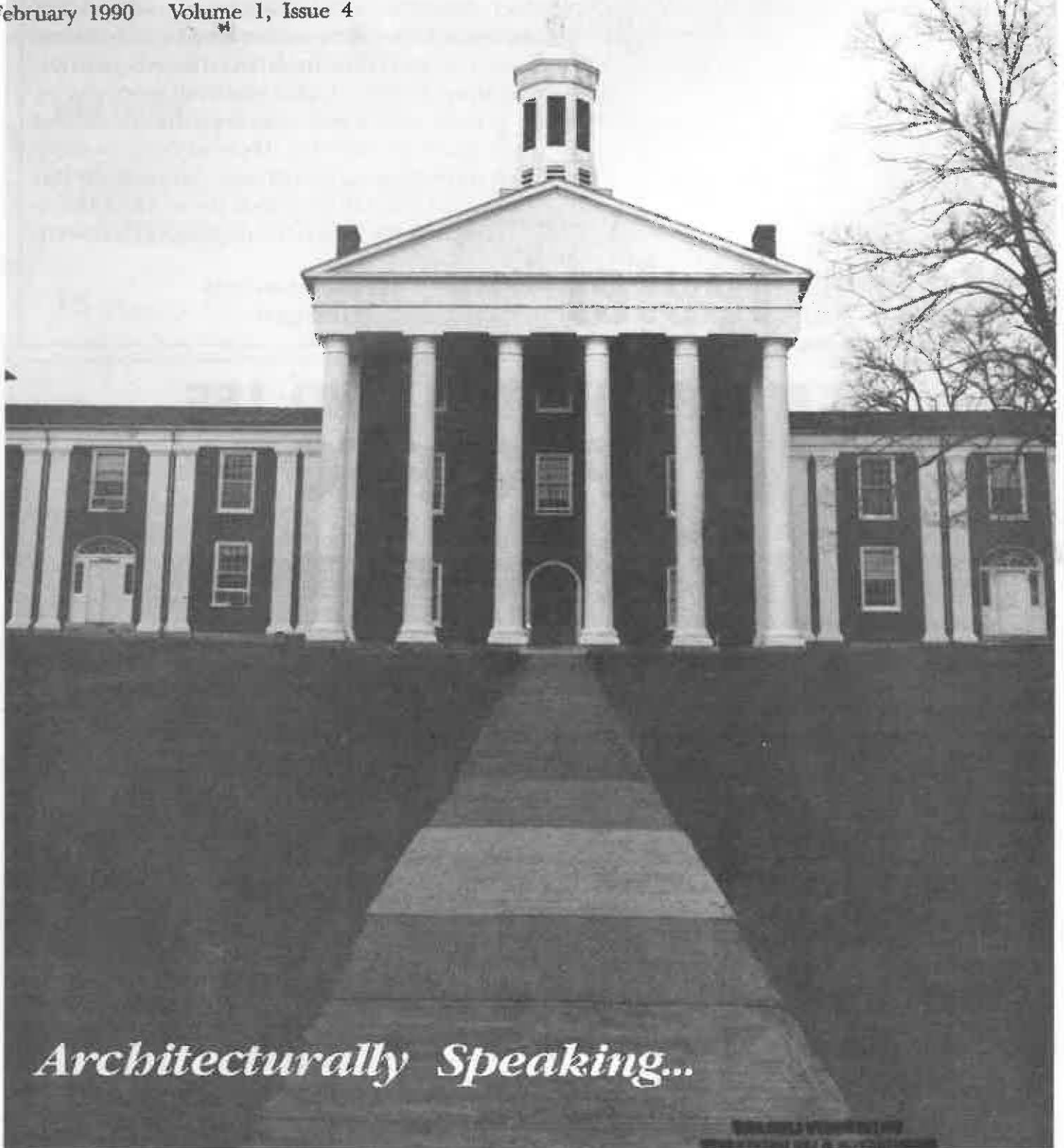




WASHINGTON AND LEE SPECTATOR



February 1990 Volume 1, Issue 4



Architecturally Speaking...

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WASHINGTON AND LEE SPECTATOR

February 1990

The W&L Student Journal of Fact and Opinion

Vol. 1, No. 4

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Editor

Paul Lagarde

Publisher

Ray Welder

Production Manager

Marc Short

Managing Editor

Elise Bryant

Layout and Design

J. Cameron Humphries

Business Manager

John Ebner

Advertising

Trey Hayden

Will Thomas

Photography Editor

Matt French

Contributors

Evan Balmer, Tom Brubaker, Cullins Carriker, Gary Giles, Greg Golden, Richard Hill, Scott Kinkead, Charles Kranich, Reid Manley, Scott McCoy, William Morrow, George Nomikos, Tracy Norman, Tom O'Brien, Erick Rock, Jennifer Spreng, Brian Tanis, Richard Tompkins, Claude Williams

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IN THIS ISSUE

Most students recognize the simple beauty of most of the buildings on this campus, yet they are unaware of the architectural traditions that make them so. This month's feature article is on this school's classic architecture and the mistakes that we have made in the past twenty years.

George Nomikos explains the architectural errors with the University Library, Gaines Hall, and the plans for the new Lenfest Center. The article details the problems with modern architecture, and charts out a better course for

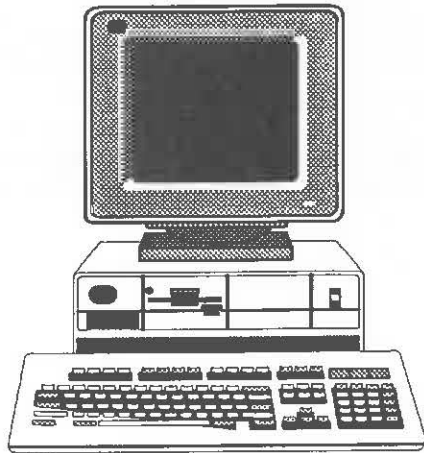


This month George Nomikos explores the "architecture" of W&L

future expansion.

In other articles, Tom Spurgeon, Junior class president, writes about the reality of student input in the Long Range Plan. Jennifer Spreng interviews political commentator Fred Barnes, a senior editor of *The New Republic*. Ray Welder exposes the flaws in the feminists' arguments for women's combat roles. Finally, Dartmouth professor, Jeffery Hart, a senior editor at *National Review*, writes about a new sort of mind control being found on many campuses.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editor:

As I read, with the greatest amusement, my recent interview, I had a sudden flashback of how "fathers help their sons into college." Therefore, I would appreciate the opportunity to add more to this unique period in Washington and Lee history for fear my story could be misunderstood when judged against contemporary procedures.

The entering class of '46 was considerably smaller than the freshman class of say, 1989. Likewise, the university was more compact in those days. It had a student body in 1946 of 1,003, as opposed to 2,007 students today.

World War II, in which I served toward the end as a sailor, had recently ended, and Washington & Lee, like universities and colleges across America, gave the warmest of welcomes to returning veterans. There was an incredible "can-do" spirit in America which I have never witnessed since.

In those more informal times, it was quite the custom for fathers to take an active role in the admission of sons while they were away in the military service. Particularly old grads -- my dad was W&L 1903.

A contemporary of mine, Charles McDowell of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, was reminiscing with me recently about how his dad played a role in his admission.

In any event, my Washington & Lee years were exceedingly happy ones, and I value my relationship with the university to this day. Although there was no admission test for veterans, the classroom competition was as tough as today and I had to work hard to make the Dean's List in my first semester.

I thoroughly enjoyed being interviewed by The Specator, and I wish you the best of luck with your endeavor.

Sincerely,

John Warner '49



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a University
which "hazes"
its
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GENERAL OPINION

WAHOO WILSON?

On January 19, President John Wilson delivered the Founders' Day address in Lee Chapel. While his praise of previous presidents was quite laudable, before long he might be turning his attention from Lee's academic endeavors to those of Jefferson. A recent article in Charlottesville's *Daily Progress* identified President Wilson as one of three university presidents regarded as likely successors to Robert O'Neil, who resigned as president of the University of Virginia. As of January 6, several applicants were under consideration; the secrecy of the selection process makes it impossible to know who is still in the running. The prospect of losing Dr. Wilson compels Washington and Lee to anticipate making important choices in the near future. It may be time for a new committee.



HONOR SYSTEM: 101

D. Ross Patterson's concern that "In contrast to Lee's simple, unwritten rule, the Honor System is currently presented in a 15 page booklet" is one of a number of important issues raised in his January 18, 1990 letter to the *Ring-tum Phi*. He fears, and rightly so, that in attempting to explain the obligations that go with the title "gentleman," the White Book may diminish the force of General Lee's one rule, which enjoins all W&L students to act as honorable men and women. Although the Whitebook may tend to unduly formalize our concept of honor, it certainly does not systematize it the way a recent memo from the President of the Executive Committee did.

The memo, which laudably attempted to remind the students of their responsibilities during the stressful exam week, listed the eight "most important points of the system." Are there really any points that are more important than others? Or is it appropriate to enumerate the standards of gentlemanly behavior at all? The answer to both questions is, of course, no.

Not only is the enumerating of points of honor inappropriate, but what is of more fundamental concern is the lack of trust that the memo seems to convey. Advising students to space one desk between each other, and then admonishing them to "keep [their] eyes on [their] own papers!" is utterly absurd for W&L students. More importantly, it is completely inconsistent with the philosophy of our system. Such "points" truly should go without saying.



SEX-ESTEEM

On January 18, 1990 in Lee Chapel, Dr. Richard Keeling brought his touchy--feely AIDS message to Washington & Lee. He stated that there is a grave problem with today's students. Even after a six year campaign to encourage the appropriate use of prophylactics and lubrication, some young people amazingly still don't "protect themselves." According to undoubtedly reliable college sex surveys, upwards of fifty percent of students enter the situation unprepared.

He said that we need a "personal behavior change," a modification which depends mostly on our own "self esteem." Huh! According to Keeling, you women must determine your own fate. Demand that your partner always use a condom. Be assertive -- learn to talk about condoms on first dates. (Perhaps you could give him one as an icebreaker when he gives you a box of candy). Men, on the other hand: you already have "power." "Share this power" with your partners. Make sure that you put your condom on correctly. Neophytes should consider practicing before the big moment comes. Finally, it is most important that neither partner drink alcoholic beverages before having sex. If these steps are taken, then we can all have sex with self-esteem, that is, if we throw morality out of the bedroom window. Oh yeah, don't forget the fifteen students who died of AIDS. As Keeling says, they "were guilty of nothing but growing up."



RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

The New York Times, which constantly lashes out at prejudice of all sorts, has recently engaged in a little bigotry of its own: anti-Catholicism. Shortly after successfully agitating for the re-funding of a crude AIDS exhibit which openly preached hatred of Cardinal John O'Connor, and called for the death penalty for His Eminence for "committing crimes against humanity, i.e., fascism," the *Times* went on to denounce Catholic Bishop Leo Maher for denying Communion to a leading pro-abortion legislator.

According to America's Paper of Record, Bishop Maher's action "threaten[ed] the truce of tolerance by which Americans maintain civility and enlarge religious liberty." Further, the *Times* warned ominously that such actions may cause non-Catholic Americans to "withhold their trust from Catholic candidates." As a result of such statements, the Lutheran Pastor Richard John Neuhaus charged the *Times* with "reviving the anti-Catholic

Bush in Beeville

Animal rights activists from the big city of Houston descended upon the town of Beeville, Texas to protest President Bush's murdering of birds. (The President participates in an annual quail hunt in the area.) The militants presented their message at the front gate of the South Texas ranch for all the press to photograph. Unfortunately for the President, he brought the incident upon himself. Last year, as the President-elect was on his way to Texas, the northern media belligerently asked him how he could actually shoot a "poor, helpless bird." Instead of doing a Reagan and simply saying, "Well, I just pull the trigger," Bush stumbled and replied that our founding fathers shot birds and, well, "I wouldn't shoot a deer, though." The animal rights activists know a wounded bird when they see one; consequently, this year, they flocked to Beeville.

Our Beeville correspondent reports that the local residents responded to the protesters in various ways. One group plans to counter-protest the event next year. Others were simply embarrassed and worried about Beeville's image. On the whole, though, most Beeville residents were not too upset over the city slickers invading their territory. In the words of the local sheriff: "I just hope they stay around long enough to spend some of their money."

bigotry that many thought had been laid to rest in the last several decades."

In a related matter, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) recently stirred up controversy by invading St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York during Cardinal O'Connor's Sunday Mass. One hundred and eleven homosexual rights activists chained themselves to the pews, waved their fists in the air, and angrily shouted offensive slogans. They tossed condoms throughout the church, and some even threw Holy Communion to the floor. Outside, over four thousand demonstrators carried signs reading, "Keep Your Church out of My Crotch," "Curb your Dogma," and "Eternal Life to Cardinal O'Connor, NOW!"

While religious leaders of all denominations immediately rose to denounce the sacrilege, the *Times*, not so subtly, only gently rebuked the militant gay crusaders for taking "honorable dissent" a bit too far. While the event made many other newspapers around the country, and was the subject of a stinging editorial for the *New York Post*, the *Times* assigned its article to page three, local news.

Could it be that liberal Senator Daniel Moynihan was correct when he said, "anti-Catholicism is one form of bigotry which liberalism curiously seems to tolerate?"



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While an increased interest in fraternal organizations is occurring across this nation, College and University administrators do their best to keep control over these, mostly conservative, students.

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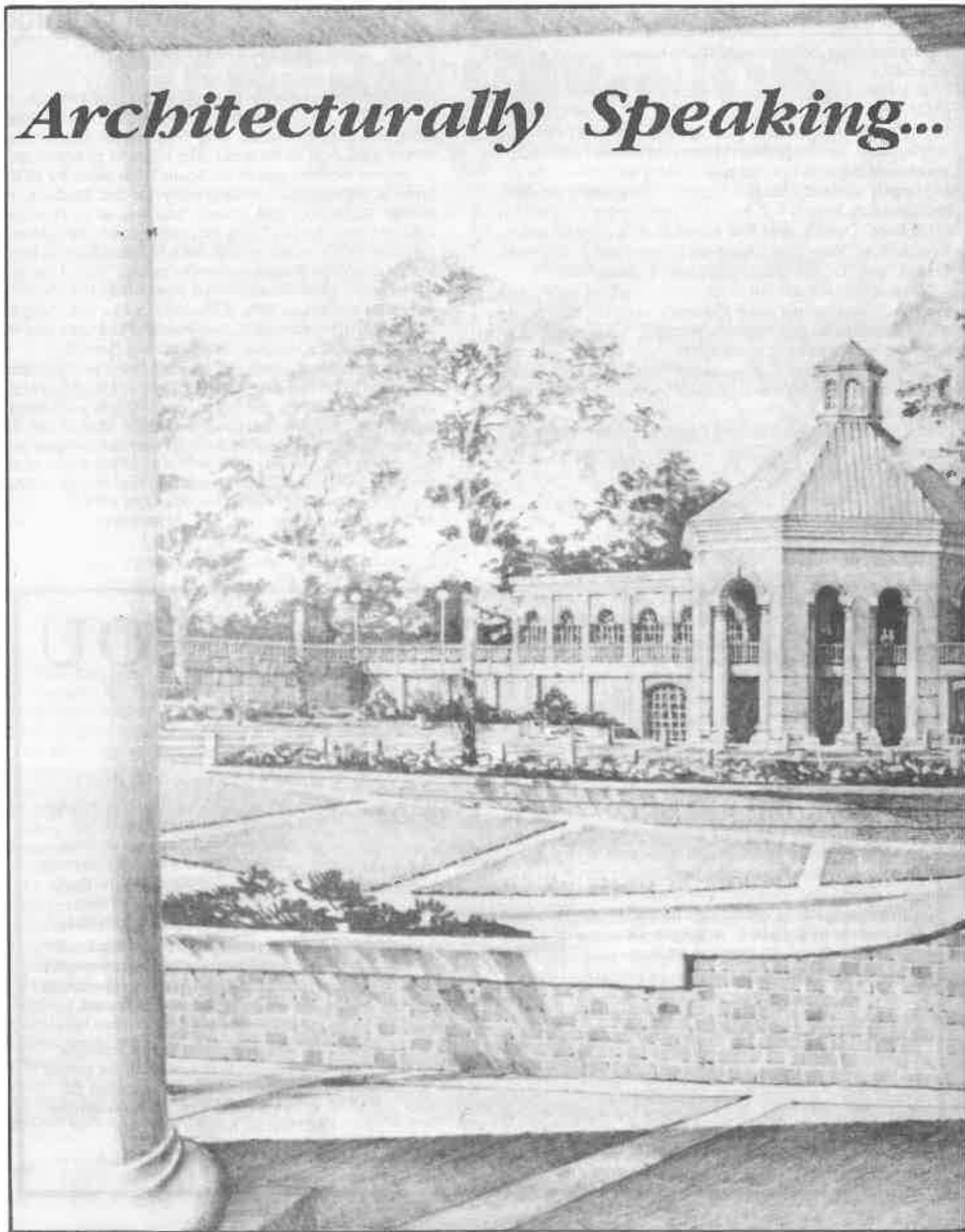
Consider these facts:

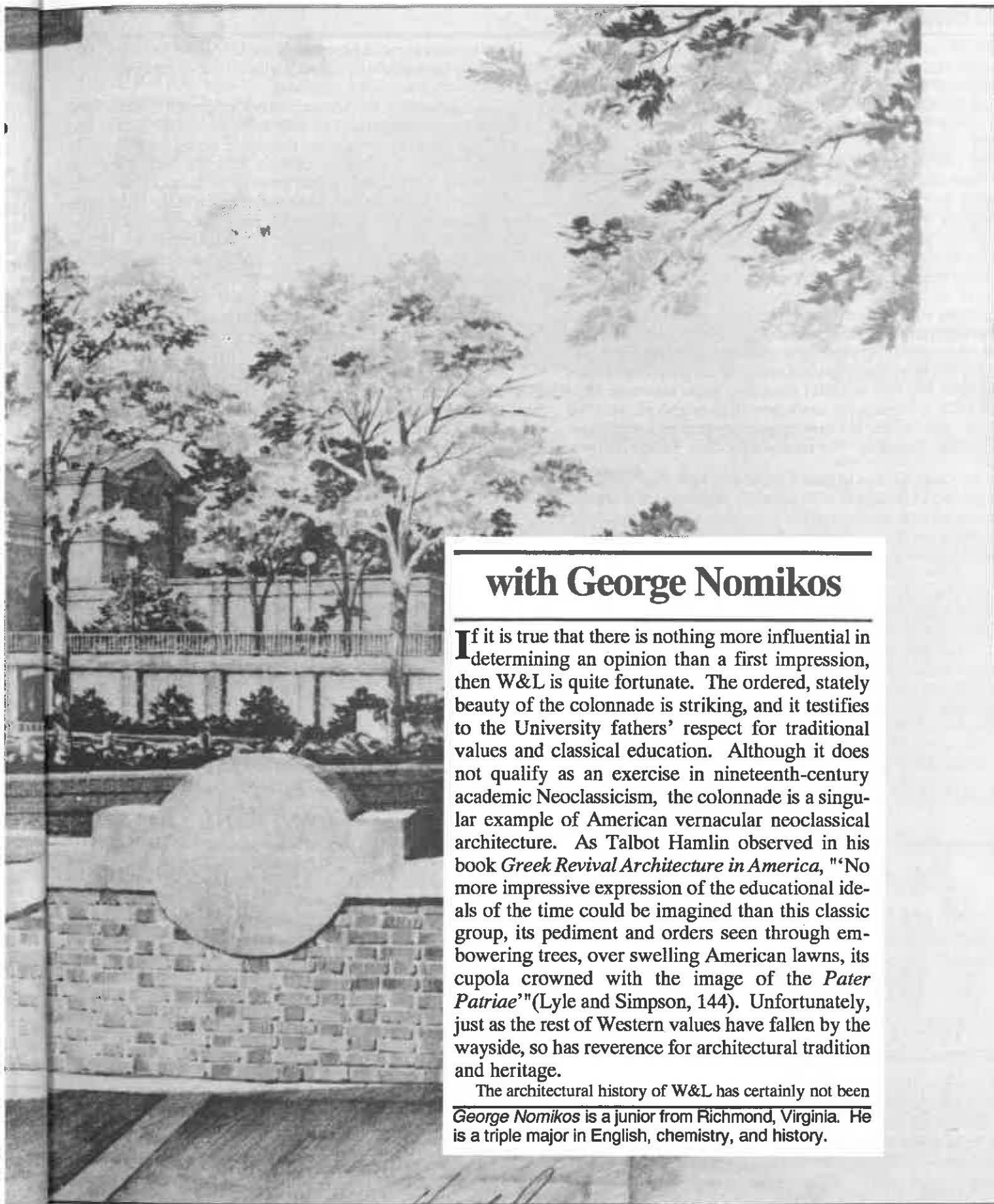
- *Fraternities are to W&L "today's frequent embarrassments."*
--- Frank Parsons
- *"One look inside a frat house merely places the frats in the vanguard of the heathens."*
--- Patrick Hinely

This is what we're doing about it:

- We are allowing fraternity self-disciplinary committees to exist but they are, we assure you, de facto defunct. In the words of University ruler Mr. Touchton, "We really do want the I.F.C. do govern themselves, but we will be demanding."
- We are paying for enlightened advertisements in student newspapers to encourage the college generation to believe our progressive and trendy ideas.
- We are working for the Reformation, er, Renaissance of the current degenerate fraternity houses. (If we own the structures, we can control the members!)

Architecturally Speaking...





with George Nomikos

If it is true that there is nothing more influential in determining an opinion than a first impression, then W&L is quite fortunate. The ordered, stately beauty of the colonnade is striking, and it testifies to the University fathers' respect for traditional values and classical education. Although it does not qualify as an exercise in nineteenth-century academic Neoclassicism, the colonnade is a singular example of American vernacular neoclassical architecture. As Talbot Hamlin observed in his book *Greek Revival Architecture in America*, "No more impressive expression of the educational ideals of the time could be imagined than this classic group, its pediment and orders seen through embowering trees, over swelling American lawns, its cupola crowned with the image of the *Pater Patriae*" (Lyle and Simpson, 144). Unfortunately, just as the rest of Western values have fallen by the wayside, so has reverence for architectural tradition and heritage.

The architectural history of W&L has certainly not been George Nomikos is a junior from Richmond, Virginia. He is a triple major in English, chemistry, and history.

Architecturally Speaking...

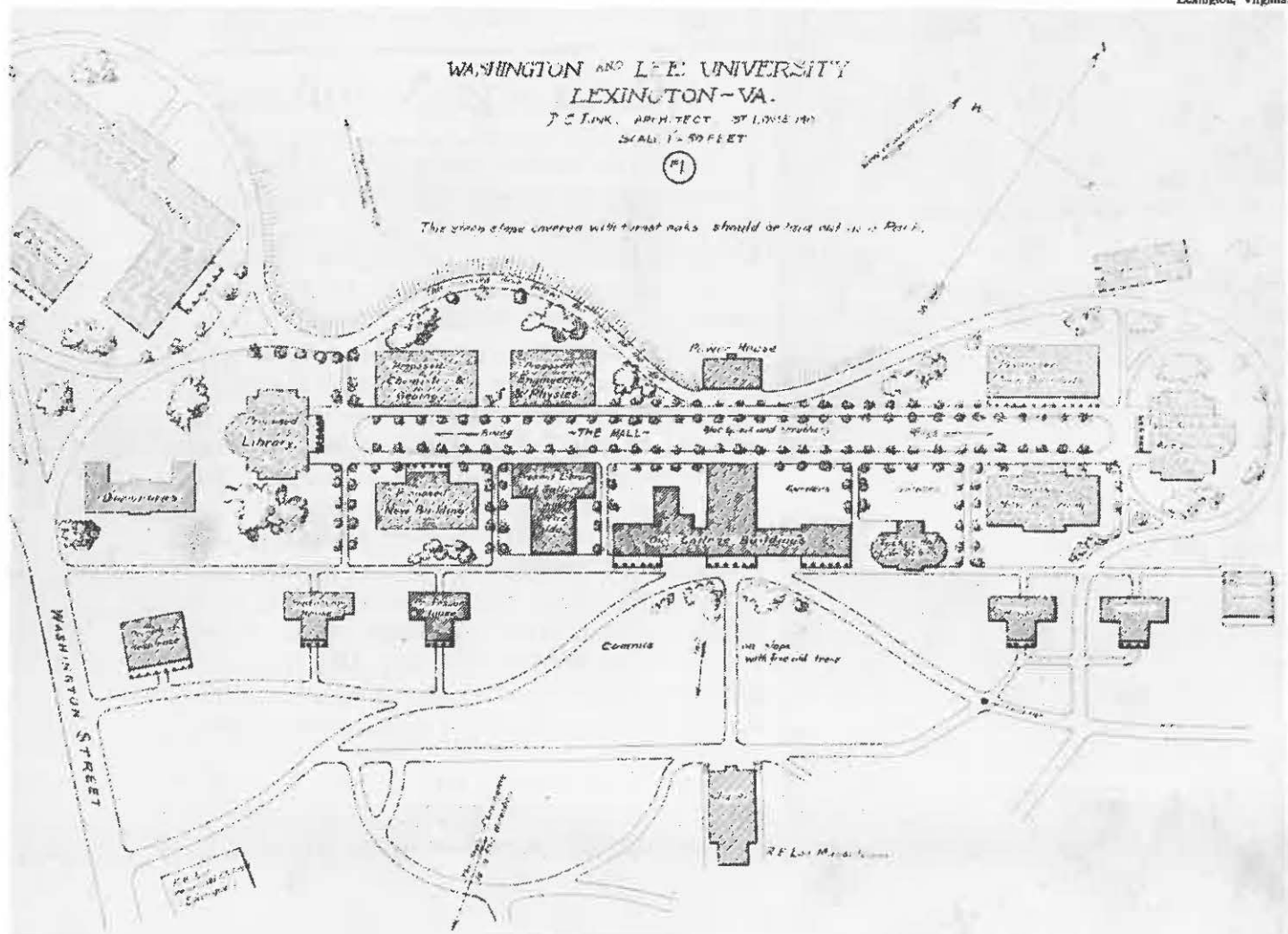
without controversy. In the late nineteenth century the first Tucker Hall was erected in a Victorian Romanesque style which contrasted sharply with the rest of the campus. This departure from the classical motif established by the other buildings was so widely condemned that, for a time, such thoughtless architectural experimentation on campus was discontinued. In 1934, when Old Tucker burned down, the students' universal distaste for the building prompted the *Ring-tum Phi* to praise the event, saying that the conflagration had removed "one of the most unsightly messes that could have been dropped in our midst" (Lyle and Simpson, 174). The editors had no idea of what was to follow less than fifty years later. The problem with Old Tucker was not that it was intrinsically unattractive, but that it violated one of the basic tenants of good architecture -- it was not consonant with its surroundings. It simply did not fit in with the other structures and therefore it could neither enhance the others, nor effectively stand alone. The principal of architectural suitability has been observed since antiquity for the precise reason that no matter how beautiful a building might otherwise be, it will fail if it interacts aggressively with its neighbors. Had Old Tucker been erected in a more appropriate location it could have been quite admirable. Not surprisingly, New Tucker Hall was

constructed to match Newcomb's portico (which had been added a few years earlier to integrate it with the rest of the campus) and to visually balance the colonnade.

Unfortunately, the Trustees did not long profit from the egregious crime perpetrated in their approval of Old Tucker, and within the past twenty years they have, baring another fire or two, irrevocably scared the campus. Like Old Tucker, the University Library is totally unsuitable for its location, but unlike Tucker it would not even be handsome elsewhere. Architecturally speaking, perhaps the kindest thing that can be said about the library is that more than half of it is underground. H.R.H. The Prince of Wales recently described a planned addition to the stately National Gallery in London as resembling "a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much loved and elegant friend" (Junor, 216). The same characterization is appropriate to W&L's own situation. Not only is the library not suited to its surroundings and a blight on the campus, but like so much in today's society it is trendy and dated. Buildings such as the library, because they are not apparently rooted in a firm tradition, will eventually lose whatever attraction they may momentarily possess. Conversely, the colonnade, although it is of a distinct period in American architecture, will always be admired because

Original Master Plan - circa 1900

Washington and Lee Architecture Oversize Collection.
The University Library, Washington and Lee University,
Lexington, Virginia.



of its inherent and timeless beauty. The library's appeal, if it has any, is solely a result of fad and an obsession with newness, two very questionable foundations for good architecture. Modern man has been brainwashed by the architectural community into thinking that if he rejects modern design in favor of established forms he is being reactionary and provincial. Truthfully, these views have been advanced by the architectural community to cover up a lack of talent and creativity. This is not to say that modern architects are

incapable of successfully advancing their field, but in order to do so they must integrate



Old Tucker Hall

Rockbridge Historical Society Photograph Collection
The University Library, Washington and Lee University,
Lexington, Virginia.

had a viable alternative when they decided to build the library. A master plan advanced in the early 20th century laid out a scheme for future development which would have been both practical and attractive. A second, westward facing, colonnade was to be built behind the main one. Reid Hall was slated as the first structure in this new row of buildings and consequently it faces the "wrong way." The new buildings would have been Neoclassical, similar to those on the Hill. Once completed, together with the front colonnade, they would have enclosed

an inner mall, thus presenting a unified and coherent physical plant. It is regrettable that even after beginning to execute the plan, later architects ignored it and proceeded to scar the campus. How much more dignified the University would have been had not the architects decided to "improve" upon a gracious 150 year old tradition and let the concrete jungle invade it.

Not surprisingly, the University Library is not the only wildly inappropriate and pointedly ugly building to be erected on campus. Gaines Hall, although less damaging because of its distance from the colonnade, is just as lamentable an addition to the campus. Its style is of the post modern school, an architectural movement which prides itself on an amalgamation of many disparate styles all incorporated in one building. For all of their grand designs, post modernists have created nothing more than design by committee. As many diverse elements as possible are incorporated into a single edifice with the result being that the final product is nothing but an incoherent mess. Gaines is the perfect example of this ununified, thoughtless type of architec-

The trustees did not long profit from the egregious crime perpetrated in their approval of Old Tucker, and within the past twenty years they have, baring another fire or two, irrevocably scared the campus.

the achievements and traditions of the past with modern needs and tastes. Architecture cannot exist in a vacuum, for if it does it becomes meaningless and incomprehensible.

No attempt whatsoever was made to help the library blend with the other buildings. Even its brown brick and dingy concrete are in sharp contrast to the painted red brick of the others. Seemingly, the architect tried to destroy the visual harmony and architectural integrity of the Hill all in one blow. The building's cold, grey, reclusive appearance is in marked contrast to the reserved dignity of the colonnade, and the harsh, heavy appearance imparted by the excessive use of masonry prevents the structure from fitting in with the landscape. Its rigid lines and lack of proportion, as well as its confused shape, doom the library to remain permanently out of place. For centuries architects recognized the importance of proportion and perspective. It is the careful observance of these principles that forms the basis of any good building regardless of a structures ornamentation. Without these two qualities it will lose a measure of its appeal. Its oppressive facade, running with rust stains looks more like a warehouse than the scholarly center of the University.

Even more disturbing is the fact that the University planners

The enclosure [on the back of Morris House] is more appropriate to a Taco Bell than to an early 19th century faculty house.

ture, and, because of its even greater compilation of styles, the new Lenfest Center will be just as bad if not worse.

According to the principles of classical architecture, beauty comes through proportion and perhaps one of the most objectionable features of the new residence hall, like the library, is its

Architecturally Speaking...

lack of proportion. The building incorporates styles from the classical to the modern and everything in between. The large Tuscan columns on the gatehouse are astoundingly inappropriate, and behind them, the enigmatic miniature columns, which serve no structural or stylistic purpose, are almost comic. They appear to have been positioned without thought or purpose, never mind concern for any overall design. These Renaissance columns contrast starkly with the colonial dormers which are scattered about the roof and the cupola which surmounts the gatehouse. Although one would not know it from its use in Gaines, the purpose of a cupola is for observation and illumination; but ignoring its purpose completely the architect placed it on the lowest point of the entire building. What planning! The gatehouse's oculus is excessively sub-divided into incongruous pawns which look out from a behind a grotesquely oversized balustrade. Not to leave out the modern, the staircases were foolishly inclosed behind a tower of glass in order to provide a breathtaking view of the rubberized steps and the hot pink railing. Moreover, the building is an astounding mixture of the expensive and the cheap. The elaborate brick courses and quoins, which are quite costly, look ridiculous next to the cheap fenestration. The window treatments and lattice panels, which look like they came from Wal-mart, are in marked contrast to the extensive brickwork. To put it plainly, nothing in the building fits with anything else and the result is a building which appears to have been constructed from leftovers from a rummage sale. It is as if the architect picked his favorite elements from a hundred different buildings and incorporated them all in Gaines to create an architectural circus.

As if the University were not happy in erecting an ugly building, they decided to make it pretentious as well. As unsightly as the library is, it is not as overtly ostentatious as Gaines. It is one thing to lack architectural skills and taste, but quite another to flaunt it in such a gaudy, *nouveau-riche* manner. Considering the outrageous amount of money spent on the deliberately flashy external ornamentation and design, make the building an even more disgraceful failure than it would have been if it were an ugly, yet modest, building. In times when the University had less money to spend on construction, architects were nonetheless, able to remain within the boundaries of acceptable style. The deficiency in all the new campus buildings is not the amount of money spent but the uses to which the money is put. Although the dormitories in Gilliam quad, for example, are not ornate or spectacular, they are not eyesores either. Their simplicity and understated elegance is warm and appealing, and they are suitable to their purpose as residences and harmonious with the sur-

rounding buildings. Another admirable achievement is Doremus Gym, which, although built a century after the colonnade, still conforms because of its elegant row of columns and classically proportioned facade. An awareness of tradition in the design of Doremus allowed the University to meet the physical needs for expansion without negating past accomplishments and virtues. It is ironic that a basketball court can be constructed so as to blend in with the campus, but a modern dormitory cannot.

Like the university library, Gaines is dated; once this new trend in architecture passes, the building will be viewed with embarrassment and regret. One wonders why anything so bla-

The staircases [the ones in Gaines Hall] were foolishly inclosed behind a tower of glass in order to provide a breathtaking view of the rubberized steps and the hot pink railing.

tantly faddish could ever have been approved. Perhaps the problem is that architects have run out of ideas and that they have no creative abilities. More likely, however, it may be that in cutting off ties to the past, instead of being creatively unfettered (as they had hoped), they have lost all their imaginative ability. This is not to say that architects must be slaves to tradition, but that only through an understanding and incorporation of the past can the art move forward in any significant fashion. It is ironic that Gaines Hall, which Dean Ruscio claimed would become "the social and cultural center of the campus", could so obviously lack any cultural or artistic sophistication itself.

Although the integrity of the campus has already been severely undermined, the greatest challenges still lie ahead. The responsibility of the University will rest in two major areas: 1) the preservation of the existing buildings, and 2) the arrangement and the design of new buildings. As far as the former is concerned, the University's record is quite poor. A perfect example of the school's failure to maintain the integrity of the old buildings is the monstrous glass enclosure on the back of the Morris House. This addition is singly inappropriate and disheartening. Convenience and trend

University Library (1979)



once again have won over preservation. The solarium on the guest house is an unsavory attempt to "modernize" an elegant old house without regard to its heritage or place in time. The enclosure is more appropriate to a Taco Bell than to an early 19th century faculty house. Another failure is the addition to the admissions office which shows a virtual ignorance of classical principles. Of its many faults, the most notorious is the use of columns. Instead of having an architrave between the columns and the roof, cornice rest directly on top of the columns. An architrave is an essential element in the proper use of classical orders, and its absence mocks the integrity of the entire addition. A comparison of the new portico on the Admissions Office and

The venerable old buildings of the colonnade are a symbol of the founders' commitment to order, reason, and beauty, and they should serve as a reminder to beware of fleeting trends and hollow values.



Galnes (1988)

the one on the front of the building reveals the architects' gross error. The mistake (or frivolity) is made even worse by the fact that the new sections were built to conform to the rest of the structure, but because of architectural negligence the new portico does not. Such an obvious disregard for the rules of architecture is nowhere more criminal than in the restoration of period buildings. Hopefully the current disregard for the campus will not continue, but one only need look at the new Master Plan to wonder.

The future shape of the University was unveiled in the Long Range Plan made public last fall. The proposal calls for a new co-op "in the ravine near the Warner Center, Graham-Lees Dormitory, and the Commerce School", a connection between Howe and Parmly Halls, a new science library where the Sigma Society's cabin is now, and an addition to Dupont. It is perhaps inevitable



Front Portico of Admissions House (1841-42)



New Side Portico on Admissions House (1988)

that as the University grows, the plan for any coherent arrangement of buildings will vanish also because of spacial limitations. Although physical coherence may disappear, it is not necessary for architectural integrity to go along with it. Some sensible architectural direction should enable the University to expand in a stately and dignified way; in a way "not unmindful of the future," yet not unmindful of the past either. The venerable old buildings of the colonnade are more than merely brick and plaster; they are a symbol of the founders' commitment to order, reason and beauty, and they should serve as a reminder to beware of fleeting trends and hollow values. Whereas their style is

eternal, contemporary architecture changes every decade, leaving meaningless monuments to foolish men. It is time to put an end to the invasion of abstract architecture on this campus, to begin to respect and appreciate the great treasure bequeathed to us not only by preserving the old but by thoughtful planning of the new.



Sources:

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The Problems with Student Input

By Tom Spurgeon

Projecting the future needs of Washington and Lee, the administration and faculty have compiled a Long Range Plan. In the process, however, they have already assumed that today's W&L students are a thing of the past.

“
The [Long Range] Plan is sneak preview of what Washington and Lee will be like in the year 2000. If its recommendations are followed, W&L is going to be a mighty different place.
”

The Washington & Lee University Long Range Plan is a crystal-clear example of what is wrong with administration/student relations. Students who have battled through the Plan find little to which they can relate. And they are quite justified in those feelings. The Long Range Plan exposes the difficulties of the committee system and gives voice to the administration's deep-seeded beliefs which work against those held by most students.

At this point, a certain amount of history is in order. The plan being used as an example, the Washington and Lee University Long Range Plan, is a report in ten parts detailing how the University should improve itself in the 1990's. Its genesis is the periodical need for critical self-study which precedes university accreditation. Instead of a typical self-study report, Washington and Lee received permission to conduct a detailed research into the future needs of the school.

The process of compiling the report took nearly all of the 1988-89 scholastic year. Sub-committees studied specific topics; their suggestions and reports were debated by issue-centered steering committees, which in turn submitted reports to the overall steering committee. The result is the book available on caged reserve at the library.

What is important to remember is the impact the Plan will have. It will not only serve to get Washington and Lee reaccredited, but much of it will serve as a rough blueprint for the next major capital outlays and the reorganization that will arrive concurrently. This will probably coincide with the upcoming major anniversary of the school. In other words, the Plan is a sneak preview of what Washington and Lee will be like in the year 2000. If its recommendations are followed, W&L is going to be a mighty different place. Consider just a smattering of the recommendations that students have found troubling:

WINTER RUSH -- Winter Rush is seen as a way to avoid splitting the freshman class into cliques so early after their arrival. This theory goes on to say that allowing them to wait to join a fraternity fosters natural friendships and promotes class unity and a feeling of community.

STUDENT CENTER -- The new student center, to be built in the ravine next to Graham-Lees dormitory and the Commerce School, will be the new center for on-campus life. It will contain a bigger bookstore, fast food, a post office, lounge areas, student offices, etc.

FRATERNITY IMPROVEMENTS -- The Fraternity Renaissance Program will serve as a springboard for many improvements in the Greek system. These will include a new stress on academics, a closer eye on fraternity self-government, and a move towards community involvement by the fraternities. Provisions will also be made for the housing of women's fraternities.

The reaction of many W&L students to these points and others like them has for the most part been a justified, collective "Huh?" Whether or not to move to a winter rush has been debated for a long time, and it is still a viable issue. Not to the Long Range Plan, though, whose recommendation settles the question. The Student Center issue was accurately skewered in a fall editorial in the Ring-Tum Phi. Simply put, on what basis of need is such a massive building required? The improvement of fraternities seems to give only cursory credit to the real progress being made by those institutions. Even more scary, it seemingly makes school aid the sole justification for unlimited modification to the fraternity system during, and following, the renaissance program.

So there is a lot here that doesn't jibe the mainstream of student thought. What happened? The easiest thing to do at this point would be to once again "blame the Hill," but a closer examination of such an accusation does not wash. There were students on both the subcommittees and the steering committees. Furthermore, painting the Administration as some sort of generic bad guy is unrealistic. It is ludicrous to think that the various deans sit in their offices dreaming up new ways to "get" the student body. They are simply people doing their jobs the best way they know how. Identifying them as the sole cause of any problem is gross oversimplification, and one that shifts attention from real problems.

Without justification for a grand conspiracy theory, we must turn our attention to the difficulties encountered in formulating the Plan. There are a number of difficulties with such a process. The first, and most obvious, is personnel. The students were named to the committees by administration members. Understandably, in selecting the students, they chose students they knew and who would do a good job. The result was a talented group of students who, because of those talents, and because of their positions, "campus leaders" (such as dorm counselors, class officers, etc.) are often not the most representative of the student body.

Where widespread and applicable representation existed, however, it was often unused. Take the first example, the winter rush proposal. The proposal is from the chapter on enhancing the freshman year. The subcommittee which formulated this proposition contained one fraternity member and he opposed it.

The steering committee which debated the proposal also contained one fraternity member who opposed it as well. Regardless, the proposal passed. Unfortunately, the committee, it seems, disregarded those with direct experience. This was probably due to a cynical assumption that students are merely defending their own interests unconcerned about the future good of the University. The logic is absurd since the students will be long gone by the time the proposals go into effect. Also, there exists the problem of faculty members' unfamiliarity with having to deal with students as anything but students. In this case, the faculty was forced to face the students who represented a number of students who believed in an idea, not just what was good for

them. Furthermore, all of the students serving on these types of committee are put into a difficult situation, one that is unfortunately exacerbated by the honor code. It is always difficult to argue with professors, administration members, and other authority figures. You are, or may eventually be, dependent on those figures for your professional or scholastic future. Under a police-type system, such as those found at public institutions, the student/authority relationship is governed largely by rules. By definition, Washington and Lee does not have those rules, a factor which makes the personal relationship even more important.

The Washington and Lee relationship is one in which, the student can ask a faculty member for an extension on a paper due to illness. Although he may not receive that extension the student assumes his request will be treated truthfully because of the Honor System. As a result of such benefits, there is more to gain and lose in the Washington and Lee experience. And although favoritism does not exist, to my knowledge, due to the reverse truthfulness of the faculty member, the fear of losing potential future consideration is a considerable risk for the student.

Beyond the process itself, another problem with the Long Range Plan results from what I consider inarticulate and confused goals. In making such farsighted recommendations, the committees are in effect painting their ideal picture of Washington and Lee at a specific time in the future. Not only do

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Fallacy of Student Input

certain portions of this picture run counter to present realities on campus, but there is no reason for future goals to be antagonistic with those realities.

Another pertinent example is the proposed student center. A student center is probably a good idea given the spatial needs of some basic campus services: an on-campus restaurant, a bigger bookstore, student offices, etc, but the argument given in the long-range plan goes beyond spatial requirements to include the advantage of community. Stated simply, once the student center is built, it will help us become one big, happy W&L family.

Will it really? There's nothing to indicate this will ever be realized. Human beings tend to congregate in small numbers, "find a niche", as the Plan itself states, and there is no reason to think this will not continue even with a student center. More simply, I do not think I have ever made a friend at the Co-op or the GHQ. I have had a good time with friends there, but my friends have come through association with smaller groups, such as sports teams, fraternity, student organizations, etc, rather than through campus-wide organizations. Realistically, a student center would serve as a center to enjoy one's niche, not expand it.

The idea of community is reinforced with certain often minor recommendations, one of which is the long-overdue conversion of the dormitories into residence halls (addition of common areas and enhancement to residence life). This desire seems to suggest that pledging a fraternity is anathema to the desired sense of

community, and that a more attractive residence hall life contributes to it.

Both assumptions are vast simplifications of, or run counter to, the truth. In fact, they are contradictory. The important unit of dormitory life, and residential life at most other universities, is the hall. Living in such close proximity, one gets to know the guys or girls on the hall fairly well. In fact, along with the fraternity pledge class, it serves as the basis for many enduring friendships. It is not rational, however, to assume that the hall, chosen by the administration, necessarily a better unit of companionship than the fraternity pledge class, chosen because of the similarity to a brotherhood. On the other hand, the two do not have to be mutually exclusive.

A major aspect of fraternity and sorority rush and pledgship is that it increases your circle of friends. Now, because of the postponed pledgship in effect, no walls should be built to other friendships except for those built by the freshmen themselves.

The desire to find a niche is strong, but not strong enough to keep most people from finding a number of them. To take away one early sense of identity will not remove that desire, but only transfer it to another source (the hall unit, perhaps). The desired feeling of community results from inclusion in as many different groups as possible, none of which are exclusive or absolute. Rush and pledgship are some of the most effective ways of finding one's own place. Eliminating it would reduce, rather than enhance, the desired feeling of community.

The third proposal, fraternity improvements, is the result of another, more dangerous idea of the administration. That such a divisive issue as fraternity self-rule would be settled by a committee report should come as no surprise to anyone who has followed various student government issues over the last few years. There is much truth in the accusations of various students that "the Hill wants to take our powers away." The SCC lost a large portion of its power to the CRC, fraternity pledgship was standardized, and sources have expressed to me the possibility (though in no ways immediate) that the Executive Committee will lose budgetary authority. Taken in this light, recommendations in the Long Range Plan to improve fraternity self-government and operating principles are to be expected.

To be fair, there are many arguments in favor of such changes that are needed. The CRC has received the trust of those who bring such cases forward, and the delay of pledgship resulted in higher first term midterms for freshmen (so has higher admissions requirements, but that is another story). Realizing the need for reform, the Executive Committee pondered these very issues for a month of their fall schedule. And who is to say that a tighter clamp on fraternities would not be beneficial in the future, especially in an era where some schools are attacking such systems openly and wholeheartedly. Although there is something to be said for both sides, logical arguments on both sides make the way these changes are made so frustrating.

One of the best things about Washington and Lee is the existence of the honor system: not the good things the system brings, but its very existence. The existence of such a system illustrates not only that we students are expected to live honorable lives, but that we are capable of living honorably. This basic assumption is even more significant when considered next the non-police aspects of our System. Military institutions have honor codes that end with the phrase "nor tolerate those who do."

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The expectation of dishonorable behavior exists. The Washington and Lee student who cheats is an aberration; he is not assumed to be lurking in the student body.

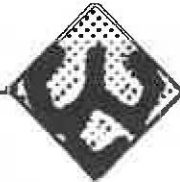
The assumption that we can live by such a high standard indicates that we are capable individuals. Too often, however, the opposite is assumed. When a student organization has a problem, it is often solved for them, with a minimum of input because the administration often believes that committee members carry a vested interest that will keep them acting maturely and objectively. Consequently, the students' views are frequently disregarded, even though they may have considerable merit.

Such rash assumptions are also common in the student body, I should hasten to add, and are most completely displayed in anti-administration paranoia. We are rarely in a position, however, to have an effect on the lives of administration and faculty members. Overall, it appears that students capable of living under a stringent Honor System are also capable of doing the right thing if asked. As far as the problems which necessitated creating the CRC, the SCC tried to provide alternate solutions.

If the solutions had been considered -- not accepted, just considered -- then the CRC would not have had such a difficult birth last fall. The same can be said of the fraternities: a great majority would probably agree with the goals of the administration, but many have sincere doubts about some of the specifics, as well as justified feelings of resentment at the direct imposition.

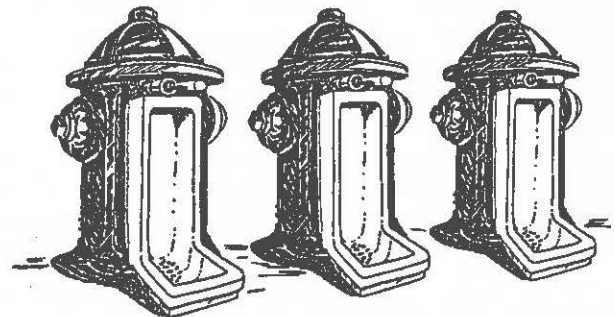
The Long Range Plan is in the hands of the trustees and hopefully, everyone can learn something from it. The next time student/administration cooperation is deemed necessary, let's hope that an equitable hand is offered from the Hill, and that the students involved receive the hand with an eye towards the problem, not towards finger-pointing. The next time such a committee set-up is used, let us hope that the difficulties for all involved will be understood and solved.

The Washington and Lee Long Range Plan is a pretty good document and the W&L of tomorrow imagined in that Plan will be a good school, although it will not be the same school. Unfortunately for those who will attend the future Washington and Lee, some of the best things about today may well fail to survive the night.



The Spectator's Top Ten Oxymorons:

- 10) Polish Currency
- 9) Student Government
- 8) Congressional Ethics
- 7) Woman Priest
- 6) Cafeteria Food
- 5) Modern Art
- 4) Yankee Charm
- 3) Faculty Advisor
- 2) Roanoke College
- 1) Soviet Union



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



A Conversation with Fred Barnes

A Conversation with Fred Barnes

Spectator: I noticed in some biographical information that you were a history major at UVA.

Fred Barnes: I actually took more Oriental history than anything else. I had a theory that I'm trying out on my daughter, but she doesn't buy it at all. The reason I majored in history was I figured that I much preferred English, and I figured I'd read all the novels anyway. For a number of years, I did. So I figured I'd major in something that I didn't have the discipline to do on my own. As I said, I've tried this out on my daughter at UVA, and she thinks it's nuts.

Spectator: Had you always been "a conservative" or was it something in your education or someone you read that crystalized your thinking and made you realize what you really believed?

Fred Barnes: I actually can point to the exact day -- a little like Saul on the road to Damascus, when he sees the light and becomes St. Paul. It wasn't quite that dramatic, though. When I got out of college and went into journalism, I was very much a liberal, opposed to the war in Vietnam and so forth. Finally it came down to the day in 1975, and I remember it quite well, when South Vietnam fell to the North Vietnamese. I was covering the White House for the Washington Star at the time, and supposedly I'd been on the side of the people who had won, or at least not too alarmed by the fact that they won. All of a sudden I realized what a terrible thing it was that the Communists had won there, and that the Conservatives had been right all along about what was going to happen in Vietnam. There was a

with Fred Barnes

bloodbath -- certainly in Cambodia -- or something quite similar to it in Vietnam, with all the boat people and re-education camps. We have starvation in Vietnam, or at least North Vietnam, because the system works so poorly. It hit me all of a sudden, and I wonder why it wasn't obvious to me before, but I was just thunderstruck by the notion that "My God! Nothing worse could happen to Vietnam than what has happened." Back when I was in college, or maybe in high school, I read Whittaker Chambers' *Witness* and *Cold Friday*, and in one of his essays, Chambers talks about "the great nightfall" when Communism takes over and the world goes into these new Dark Ages. That phrase occurred to me that day in 1975 when the great nightfall happened in Vietnam. That was just a spark, and ever since then I've become a lot more conservative.

Spectator: Other than Haynes Johnson ("Washington Week in Review"), you were the only one on the December 31 - January 1 talk shows calling Ronald Reagan the "Man of the Decade."

Fred Barnes: Haynes Johnson did? I'm surprised.

Spectator: Yes, he did.

Fred Barnes: Well, good for him! The other one is Pat Buchanan -- he was off the show ("The McLaughlin Group") that day, but he's certainly written that. And Pat was telling me the other day that he had sent Reagan his column denouncing Time magazine's choice of Gorbachev as "Man of the Decade." And Reagan sent back a letter that made Pat think that Reagan was sort of down in the dumps over this. Reagan thinks that Gorbachev is getting too much credit, and he and others like Lech Walesa, and the Pope are getting too little. I think Reagan is feeling like a forgotten man a year out of office. I think that historical forces that Reagan, Lech Walesa, the Pope and others have contributed to have driven him to allow things to happen that he didn't want to happen.

Spectator: What has been the Pope's role exactly?

Fred Barnes: The first country to fall was Poland, and that started the dominos falling. The Pope, obviously Polish, was elected in 1978. In 1979, he went back to Poland, and it actually galvanized the country to have a religious leader come and draw crowds in the millions, and a sixth of the population show up for masses. And the Church became not only the center of Polish nationalism, but it became the center of anti-Communist dissent. Solidarity was founded almost as a Catholic group, and the leader was Lech Walesa, a very ardent Catholic, and very opposed to abortion, among many other things. The Pope (in 1980) sent a message to Moscow that if the Soviets sent forces in

Exclusive Interview

Poland to crush Solidarity, then he, the Pope, would go to Poland and stand with his people. The Soviets certainly didn't want that, and they tried to assassinate the Pope. Then the Poles themselves declared martial law, which didn't work, and ultimately the Communist government had to deal with Solidarity. So the Pope played a very critical role in the early days in the nurturing of Solidarity.

Spectator: A year after Reagan, conservatives seem to be suffering from a leadership void.

Fred Barnes: They are!

Spectator: Are new leaders going to emerge soon, and who might they be?

Fred Barnes: It's not that there aren't leaders, it's that there aren't issues. Conservatives are victims of their own success. Look at the issues that Reagan campaigned on when he came into office. Reducing taxes -- the top rate when from 70 to 28 percent and you're not going to get it much lower than that. Reducing the size of government -- Reagan failed on that, and my view is that if there were government programs that Reagan couldn't kill, nobody can kill 'em. There was the issue of building up the military -- Reagan certainly did that in spades in his first term. Fourthly, instituting a much more aggressive, assertive foreign policy, which Reagan did. These things are pretty much intact. There's not much for conservatives to do. There aren't great issues to rise on. Remember Jack Kemp? He's pretty much stuck with the tax issue, although he's moving into a new issue, the conservative anti-poverty program. Trouble with that is that most conservatives don't care about having an anti-poverty program, even if it is based on incentives. So that places limitations on his leadership. Bill Bennett -- we'll see how he does. Then you have another guy who I think will emerge as an important force, because he's so smart, and that's Senator Phil Gramm of Texas.

Spectator: What do you think are Senator Gramm's chances for the Presidency in 1996 or 2000? I was talking to some friends who were unaware that he was the "Gramm" of Gramm-Rudman, but once they realized this, they felt very positively about him

Fred Barnes: Really? Good for them. He was already planning on running in 1992 back when it looked like Bush was going to lose. Obviously those plans are out. He's surely going to run in 1996. He comes from a big state and he's extremely popular there. He's very smart and a great debater. Phil Gramm's only problem may be that he has the "Bob Dole" problem. Rather than being an outside leader -- somebody like Reagan who is great at appealing to people and giving speeches and stirring the country. Phil Gramm may be more of an inside player. Phil Gramm is really spectacular about making things happen in Congress. Gramm-Rudman is really Gramm's bill, and the budget cuts of 1981 were as much Gramm's as they were David Stockman's. There's really no substitute for being really smart.

Spectator: He may be an inside player, but he isn't very popular in Congress, and wouldn't have their support either.

Fred Barnes: You know, Reagan was never very popular with those guys in Congress either. They didn't like him before he became President, after he became President, and they're not that crazy about him now. Who do they like? They think Bob Dole is great.

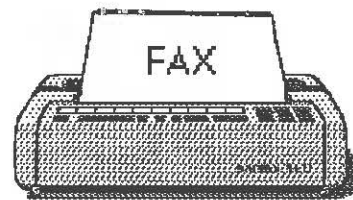
Spectator: Newt Gingrich said in a speech in the spring that "the great age of opposition conservatism is over." That rang true in that I can think of many things that conservatives are against, but not that many that we are for. Is that going to change?

Fred Barnes: Well, that's what Jack Kemp is looking for, a conservative anti-poverty program. He's for generating homeownership, entrepreneurship and lifting people out of poverty. I think that's an inspiring program. Trouble is, it doesn't inspire conservatives that much. What conservatives are never going to be able to have is the kind of programmatic platform that liberals do. They don't want government to do all these things. They'd rather leave them to other sectors of society, private individuals, business and so forth. It's never going to be that stirring a positive platform.

Spectator: Some have suggested that the democracy revolu-

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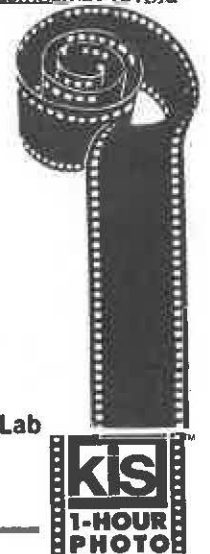
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tion in Eastern Europe might actually turn out to be our undoing, because this new instability in the region could spark off national security problems for us.

Fred Barnes: I don't think so at all. Why is it dangerous for us when the Soviets can't count on the Polish railroad workers carrying their troops across Poland? The Warsaw Pact is defacto defunct. I don't think that's more dangerous at all. I think the Bush Administration ought to be very careful of just the word "stability" and talking about "stability," and pretending that what we need in East Germany is stability. They don't need stability in East Germany; they need freedom, capitalism and more ransacking of the secret police. I think we need more instability, not less. We need instability in Russia (as opposed to the Soviet Union). Instability is a great engine of change. Change is now going in a democratic, capitalist way, and I think it will continue.

Spectator: I found Francis Fukuyama's article in the Fall issue of "The National Interest" somewhat depressing, because he indicated that the world was tending toward what I perceive as a watered-down, liquid socialist democracy, which doesn't have much in common with any of our political or economic institutions. Is the United States, given our values, really alone out there?

Fred Barnes: I understand that. I don't think people should, although Pat Buchanan has fallen into this new right wing isolationism that's really growing. Pat's sort of the leader of it, and I think Pat's probably, at the moment, the strongest conservative voice in America. It's hard to turn on the TV without finding Pat somewhere. Europe does have one thing, and you touched on it, that the U.S. never had, the social democratic tradition in Europe where you have left wing socialist parties that have been elected in almost every European country from one time to another. But, I don't see this great rift between us and the Europeans and the Japanese. We're so much more like the Japanese and the Europeans than we are different that I tend to see us all as a community, but there are limits on that community. I think the whole proposal for EC '92 is very mistaken and one

that can only cause a rift with the United States and Japan.

Spectator: What do you think are the possibilities of a United States - Japan alliance somewhat like the European Community?

Fred Barnes: That makes a lot of sense. Our economies, despite some minor trade barriers with Japan, have gotten so integrated, that I think that's the direction we ought to head. There is a Honda plant in Ohio that now exports cars to Japan. These are Hondas made in the United States by American workers. I don't think the Japanese are an evil force. They are humorless and not a lot of fun, but they know how to play baseball.

Spectator: What should young people interested in conservatism be reading?

Fred Barnes: By the time you are a senior in high school the editorial page of the *Wall Street Journal* shouldn't be too difficult. It's one of the single greatest pages in American journalism. It's very, very conservative, but conservative in a very radical way--in favor of radical capitalism, conservative anti-poverty program and so on. I highly recommend it. There are a lot of very conservative columnists--George Will, Evans and Novak, Pat Buchanan. There are a lot of great conservative books. There are ones that I can remember having read that absolutely crystalized my thinking. When *Wealth and Poverty* came out in 1980, I read it. You can't think about taxes differently after reading *Wealth and Poverty*. Have you ever read any of the stuff on foreign policy by Peter Bauer, the English economist? You'll never think about foreign aid and what we should do to help Third World countries in the same way. You'll never think about colonialism as a negative force again. If you read Charles Murray's *Losing Ground*, you'll never think about well-intentioned, liberal, government social programs the same way again. You just can't, because you realize their destructive impact on the lives of poor people. Those are the three that I read in the 1980s that made the strongest impression on me from a conservative standpoint.

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GUEST COLUMN

Campus mind control is an evil thing

by Jeffrey Hart

"How to Handle Hate on Campus." This was the startling headline on an editorial in the Dec. 13 *New York Times*. The issue raised is pressing enough, and important enough, to deserve some reflection.

The particular occasion commented upon is this. A student named Nina Wu at the University of Connecticut put a hand-lettered poster on the door of her dormitory room listing various categories of people as unwelcome. Among them she listed "homos."

THE UNIVERSITY of Connecticut, believe it or not, expelled Nina Wu. She had violated a rather sweeping University regulation about harassment, including "slurs" against "sexual orientation."

Nina Wu, thank heavens, sued. She claimed that her First Amendment rights were being violated by the University of Connecticut, as indeed they certainly were.

Under the bun on Nina Wu's lawsuit, the university readmitted her and revised its rules to the effect that only "incendiary" speech is barred, on the traditional model I suppose of shouting "fire" in a crowded theater.

Surely one thing that is shocking here is the evident will of the University of Connecticut to prevent Nina Wu from expressing her opinion of homosexuality.

Is Nina Wu not free to disapprove of it? Is homosexuality in the eyes of the University of Connecticut a "protected species?" A sort of sacred object? Apparently so.

THE FACT OF THE matter is, however, that most civilizations and most cultures in most times and places have not approved of homosexuality. Why not let Nina Wu agree with the opinion if she wants to?

Now the next interesting thing to consider is the use of the word "hate" in the

New York Times editorial: "How to Handle Hate on Campus." The word "hate" is awfully heavy. AS a college professor myself, I have not seen much "hate" on the campus in the last 40 years. There is no evidence at all that Nina Wu "hated" anyone. Quite possibly she was merely exasperated at the coddling of homosexuals as a "sexual minority." Maybe her poster was just her way of hoping that someone would ask her for a normal date.

This sort of censorship is going to run into huge legal difficulties, and it is going to cost the offending colleges and universities millions of dollars in legal fees and damages.

The *New York Times* in its editorial believes, mistakenly, that public institutions like the University of Connecticut are inhibited by the First Amendment from moving against Wu, but that private institutions have more latitude to do so. "Private colleges and universities have some freedom to regulate behavior; their students attend under an agreement to abide by rules."

Oh yea? Make my day.

CASE LAW as developed over the past decade, and now constituting legal precedent, has established the following. When a student registers at Stanford, he is given a printed copy of the university's rules and regulations. The courts have held that this document is in the nature of a contract. It is binding not only upon the student but upon the university as well. The rules and regulations at every university I know of contain a provision about freedom of speech and opinion.

Now this is not a routine gesture. It is also solidly backed up by the First Amendment.

The *New York Times* notes that private universities can "regulate behavior." Sure. If the initial contract requires all students to wear neckties, then the student must wear neckties. The Constitution is silent about neckties. The Constitution is

not silent about freedom of speech.

And college administrators should bear in mind that the violation of an individual's constitutional rights is a felony. That's right. A felony. Jailable. And such a felony would undoubtedly involve a "conspiracy." That is, several deans discussed expelling Nina Wu. A conspiracy to commit a crime is itself another felony. Those administrators at the University of Connecticut are fortunate not to have ended up making license plates in Danbury.

WE HAVE every reason to be grateful that Nina Wu and everyone else is sternly protected by American law.

Suppose a student says in class or in a bull-session that he does not believe in the existence of God. Is that to be held "offensive" to student believers? Is he going to be hauled up before the dean?

Suppose a student says that he does believe in God. Is he "harassing" atheists?

Suppose a student says, "Wow, that girl is really attractive." Is he harassing homely women, harassing homosexuals?

The will to mind control that is appearing on our university campuses is an evil thing and it should be stopped dead in its tracks, and I say Merry Christmas to Nina Wu.



Jeffery Hart is an English Professor at Dartmouth University, and senior editor for the *National Review*. This article struck us as an important reminder of what our very own Confidential Review Committee (CRC) could become. It is reprinted here with his permission. Professor Hart will be on the Washington and Lee campus March 15 to speak on this very issue.

ESSAY

"Your Mother Wears Combat Boots"

While many W&L women were gearing up for the first annual Sorority Rush, close to 600 women helped with cleaning up operations in the country of Panama. The recent quest to capture General Noriega has sparked much debate over the role of women in our armed forces. In fact, feminist Congresswoman Patricia Shroeder will soon introduce legislation to allow women to participate in combat. If enacted, this law will affect every part of society; in 1981, the Supreme Court cited the Defense Department's combat exclusions as the only grounds for upholding draft exemptions for women. In other words, if Rep. Shroeder has her way, the young ladies who recently took part in Sorority Rush could find themselves registering for the selective service, i.e., the draft, in the not too distant future. It is time we took a closer look at this issue.

by Ray Welder

It is the nature of all heresies to contain at least some element of truth. Clever social leaders (demagogues) are often able to obscure irrational elements of an ideology, allowing it to appeal to the majority. Eventually, however, as more and more people become believers, the new leaders of the ideology begin to take the ideas to their logical end. When this happens, the doctrine can be seen in all its absurdity. Currently, ordinary Americans are experiencing such a revelation. With the press hype over women taking part in combat roles in the Panama invasion, Americans are witnessing the leaders of the women's movement, which began by exposing double standards, stand up and demand the right for their sisters to blow our enemies to pieces (or get blown up themselves). Such an irrational proposition could hardly be imagined.

The story of women in the military began long before the Panama invasion. Since the inception of the All-Volunteer Force, the Pentagon has continued on a steady pace to accommodate women into our military. Women in combat may be the latest issue in the op-ed pages, but it is the last obstacle on the road to feminize the US armed forces. As Brian Mitchell, author of *Weak Link: The Feminization of the American Military*, says, it is a road we need to get off.

Yet the feminists in Washington, led by Colorado Congresswoman Patricia Shroeder, are in an excited lather over the

US invasion of Panama. According to these women, their sisters-in-arms performed so well against a fourth-rate power that women should be allowed to participate in all forms of military operations, including combat. These feminists are holding Capt. Linda Bray high on their shoulders as an example of the new G.I. Josephine; she knocked off some armed Panamanians guarding a dog-pound. (Later reports, however, reveal the Bray bravery story to be a hoax perpetrated by a desire in the liberal press and the feminists to justify women's combat roles).

Military statistics alone give credibility to the belief that women should not participate in most, if not all, military functions. First, women have only 80 percent of men's overall strength. The 1980 West Point tests showed male cadets surpassing female ones 48 and 473 percent at the leg and bench press, respectively. "All of the services," Mitchell writes, "have double standards for men and women on all events of their physical tests. In the Army, the youngest women are given an extra three minutes to complete a two-mile run." Furthermore, according to Mitchell, the Pentagon's own self-studies report that "women miss twice as much duty time for medical reasons than men, are four times more likely to complain of spurious physical ailments, and, at any given time, up to 10 percent are pregnant." The problem is so serious that scarcely a tenth of Army women possess the strength

required for 75 percent of Army jobs. Moreover, 97 percent of female aircraft mechanics can't even execute routine assignments such as changing tires and breaking torque on bolts!

Even more disturbing than these figures are the attempts by Defense Department leaders to disguise the inherent weaknesses of military women, not only through the use of bureaucratic euphemisms, but by lessening standards. Mitchell writes that "Cadets at West Point are told that separate standards are 'dual standards,' not double standards. Eliminating tasks too difficult for women is described as 'normalizing requirements' to avoid the embarrassing admission that standards have been lowered." Veterans have always told grandsons about how tough and mean the Old Navy or Old Army used to be and, as William Murchison points out, "This time they're right." More importantly, the diminishing of standards in military training could prove quite costly if the US is forced to fight a militia more difficult than the Panamanians.

This reduction of standards is, of course, in reverence to the doctrine of equality, and the concomitant tenet of equal job opportunity. Pressure on modern military officers to believe in these principles is enormous; promotions can hinge on it. "Personnel," writes Mitchell, "are required to attend equal opportunity training during which EO officers preach the sanctity of sexual equality and the

folly and immorality of belief in traditional sex roles. The definition of sexual harassment has expanded to include the open expression of opposition to women in the military. Officers and senior enlisteds are kept in check by their performance reports; a 'ding' in the block that reads 'Support Equal Opportunity' can have career-ending consequences."

If it appears to the reader that our military is beginning to behave more like our Washington bureaucracy than an effective fighting force serving American interests, you may be right. But the problem is much more grave. In an effort to accommodate women, military leaders have not only relaxed military standards, but they have also lost sight of the very reason they exist. As Mitchell argues, this loss of purpose represents the ultimate triumph of ideology over reality. Consider that as late as 1986, Reagan's secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh, Jr., -- a W&L graduate, by the way -- asserted that modern military values mirror "the ethic of our people which denies any assertive national power doctrine and projects a love and mercy to all." What nonsense! A nation's military, modern or otherwise, has no business projecting love and mercy; their job is to protect this nation in the event of war, and, when forced, to kill the enemy. Anything else is a distant sec-

ond.

Not surprisingly, though, the modern Pentagon is embarrassed by such blunt talk. The Army's Code of Conduct, for example, no longer includes the phrase, "I am an American fighting man," but instead, simply, "I am an American" -- so as not to offend military women. As Mitchell makes clear, a successful military is necessarily hierarchical, anti-egalitarian, and altruistic (to die for another is the greatest of all sacrifices). Advocates of women in the military base their arguments on the undisputed equality of all persons; they place individual rights up against hierarchal authority and encourage women to think of themselves and their careers before the good of the group. Recognizing the devastating consequences of such attitudes in our military, Mitchell writes that the American military is "unwittingly undermining its own legitimacy, for if equality is the ultimate measure of justice, then where is the justification for rank and privilege? If the individual is indeed supreme, then why should one give of oneself for the good of the service or lay down one's life in defense of others?"

The logical end of the bankrupt philosophy of feminism is that men and women are simply interchangeable components. However, men and women, regardless of

the propaganda, are in many important ways quite different. Historically, a nation or tribe that risked the lives of its young women soon faced extinction. To quote George Gilder, "The youthful years of women, far more than men, are precious and irreplaceable." Moreover, there are tremendous sociological reasons to exempt women from the grisly reality of combat. Perhaps we can learn a lesson from the Israelis here. *National Review* explained Israeli's three reasons for pulling women out of combat zones: 1) when captured, women are raped -- repeatedly, 2) when they see young women they know well being torn to shreds by enemy fire, many men fall apart, and most importantly, 3) Israel's people do not want its girls to be trained killers. As one Israeli general put it, "We do not do what you do in the United States, because unfortunately, we have to take war seriously." The official line from the Defense Department is that effective use of women on the battlefield hinges on men casting aside their natural inclinations and viewing women as full partners in a "professional" military. Not only is this philosophy inherently flawed, but its full implementation just may prove disastrous for the survival of our nation.

Outloud

"I am invincible."

-Mayor Marion Barry

"Remember the argument about where George Bush is from -- Maine, Connecticut, Texas? He is from Washington. He is a career government man, and it is with governments, not the ideals or the people they stir, that he identifies."

-George Will

"Sex was never meant to be a suppository."

-Man on Phil Donahue Show

"The government we had sought to undermine might not be able to punish us, but history would not prove us so kind."

-Peter Collier and David Horowitz, *Destructive Generation*

"I should sooner live in a society governed by the first two thousand names in the Boston telephone directory than in a society governed by the two thousand faculty members of Harvard University."

-William F. Buckley

"No man's life, liberty, and property are safe while the legislature is in session."

-Judge Gideon Tucker

"Free men have the liberty to demonstrate their inequality."

-Clark C. Wren, Jr.

"Thank God we don't get all the government we pay for."

-Will Rogers

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