

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

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There's a Little Good in Everyone

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Tobacco is the new boogeyman of the authoritarians in government who think that they alone own our bodies and know what is good for them. The hysteria over tobacco has reached a fever pitch in the last few months. Recently on CNN--or some other Turnerite station--they had three actresses (heavy-duty thinkers, they were) weighing in with their speculations about tobacco use, sales, and advertising. "If it can be shown that tobacco is harmful," one of them opined, "I think it ought to be banned."

Oh great. So now we want gangs pushing cigarettes in the inner cities, more politicians corrupted by "tobacco money," the CIA smuggling chew into Black communities, and a new wave of property seizures to wage an increasingly futile War on Things That Are Bad for You.

We've always known that cigarettes and chewing tobacco have side-effects. (I make an exception for cigars and pipes; the tobacco in these instruments of enjoyment has

fewer chemicals, and their smell is quite pleasant. I myself occasionally enjoy a puff on a high-quality cigar.) People who smoke cigarettes are responsible for their own actions; they willingly take the risk of lung cancer in exchange for the pleasures of smoking.

Those who are suing the tobacco companies for "addicting" them (as if through force) thus have no moral footing. If they had actually signed contracts with makers of cigarettes which included clauses promising that cigarettes would not cause cancer no matter how many of them were consumed, then the litigants would have the right to compensation for damages. As it is, they do not.

The proposed "compromise" between state Attorney Generals and the tobacco companies is no better. One key provision of the settlement is that tobacco will henceforth be considered a drug subject to FDA regulation. On the day when the proposed settlement was announced, tobacco stocks

soared. And no wonder. FDA regulation is an anti-competitive ploy. When a new company tries to enter the cigarette market, it will have to wait years for its product to be approved. This delay would effectively remove any threat of future competition for the tobacco giants.

The fact is that governments at all levels have been hypocritical in their policies toward tobacco. The federal government continues to subsidize tobacco farmers at outlandish levels. State and local governments invest their employees' pensions in tobacco stocks, and most do not plan to change this policy any time soon.

What I propose is simple enough: leave everyone the hell alone. End all tobacco subsidies, and end all regulations on tobacco sale, use, and advertising. Respect private property rights. If the owner of a restaurant, hotel, or any other private institution wants to forbid, allow, or require smoking on his or her own premises, he or she should have that right. Let's stop hysteria over tobacco before it gets out of hand.

Okay, let's be honest, tobacco is not good for you. The tobacco companies lie because they want to make money. Tobacco can cause cancer, and it is probably physically addictive. But so what? It is also a wonderful, wonderful leaf.

Tobacco is truly one of life's simple pleasures. It can calm, it can excite, it can relax, it can stimulate, and it is the perfect end to a fine meal, a sexual encounter, or a long drive. There really is no bad time to smoke. I cannot think of something that is so inexpensive and yet so enjoyable. Tobacco (in whatever form you choose) is really fantastic. But still a number of people have decided that tobacco is public enemy number one. Like all of America's ills, this too will be cured if only people stopped enjoying themselves. Still, to understand the importance of tobacco a little history is needed.

The American Indians living on this conti-

nent when the Europeans arrived had figured out all about tobacco. (And since I'm already sounding condescending and insulting your intelligence, let me mention that they lived in teepees, which to my knowledge, had no ban on smoking.) They grew it and smoked it in pipes that went into their noses. This may sound like a disgusting way to smoke, but these guys apparently adored maximizing their nicotine intake. In fact, they would smoke it with white chalk that would enhance the nicotine's effects. When you

think about all the other things these people smoked, a little tobacco and powder is really pretty bland. Impressed with the natives' strange pipes and smoke, the conquerors experimented with tobacco, saw that it was a damn fine crop, and brought it back to Europe. As an aside, I would like to take a moment to thank all the good people of the American Indian tribes who pioneered the cultivation of tobacco. Sure, most of you lacked a written language, and sure, you may have lost the continent to about fifteen Frenchmen with



muskets, but when it came to which leaves to cultivate, you were right on the money.

Although tobacco took a little while to catch on, it eventually became quite chic in British society. And it remained so until just a few days ago when the old liberals disguised as so-called New Labor decided to ban all cigarette ads--as if the British, or other Europeans for that matter, are ever going to stop smoking. Perhaps France's only intelligible policy is its permissive stance toward smoking.

We must keep a vigilant eye on those revisionist historians who like to downplay the role tobacco played in chartering America. It was integral in the formation of our great land. All those people who get up in arms about second-hand smoke and other evils should be at least a little bit respectful of the role tobacco had in our coming together as one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.

These days, however, people are more worried about safety and health than good old

fashioned fun. This is exactly why people today purchase cars based on the miles per gallon rather than miles per hour, buy low-fat ice cream and veggie-burgers, and lose their minds if someone lights a cigarette. We are lucky in Lexington that the smoking Gestapo has not ventured down into the valley yet, but I fear they are on their way. True story: in Friendship Heights, a wealthy section of Washington, DC, which is host to scores of Gucci-type stores, it is actually *illegal* to smoke on the street. Just strolling down the street with a lit cigarette can earn a fine. I mean, what's next, City Ordinance 1224.G paragraph 7, "No fun within the city limits?"

I know, of course, that the tobacco company executives lie. But at the heart of the matter they are only trying to make money, which is pretty darn American when you think about it. People know the dangers inherent in smoking. We are all aware of what can happen to you if you smoke.

In that respect the government has done a good job; it has made certain that people know what cancers they can expect. The government should leave its efforts at that. People are informed; it should be up to them to determine what health risks they want to assume. Government should not tell you that you can't smoke. Rather, it should allow educated consumers to make up their own minds. That is the appropriate role of Government, not telling citizens what they should do like a paternalistic overlord.

Besides, the government constantly bungles one thing after another (I watch *X-Files*, I know what goes on), so why would you want to take their advice in the first place? Make your own decisions about tobacco's costs and benefits. Without tobacco you might live to be a hundred, but you will most certainly die of boredom long before that.

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BARBARIAN AT THE GATE : THE STORY OF A CHEESE STEAK TYCOON

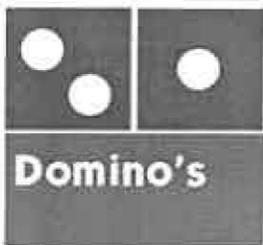
Editors Note: On Friday afternoon, May 16, The Spectator reassigned crack journalists Jonathan Bayer and J. Michael Blackwell from the Grassy Knoll to South Philly Phat's corporate headquarters on North Main Street. These two young men were destined for greatness as they took their Pulitzer skills on the beat. Opinions expressed in this article are those of John Wayne Rife and do not represent the ideas, positions, or dogmas

of the Spectator.

Last week, the editors asked that we embark on a quest to determine how John Wayne Rife, proprietor of South Philly Phat's, successfully cornered the Lexington cheese steak market. Fully aware that this assignment represented a formidable undertaking for us two hack journalists, we nonetheless felt we should acquiesce to the management's request, and accept the challenge of interviewing a cor

porate titan. The story we were told by John Wayne Rife is intriguing, interesting, and informative, but also shocking and horrifying. It is a tale of murdered business associates, unscrupulous capitalist chicanery, and cutthroat monopolistic competition. John Wayne's ascendancy to high-class restaurateur is also a very poignant story; we learned, for example, that a portion of the proceeds from small chicken teriyaki sales is earmarked for the Kelly Schmidt Endowment, a fund established in honor of a young girl dying of apoplexy. That said, we now recount the incredible story of a cheese steak aficionado who detests the letter "f."

South Philly Phat's started as the small dream of a large man from Lexington. A man quite skilled at making cheese steaks, John Wayne had an epiphany one day and discovered that it was simply unfair for a man who possessed so much culinary savvy to keep his genius from the community. Acting on this unselfish impulse, John



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Wayne set up shop across from Red Square earlier this year and began peddling his product. Thanks to a menu with plenty of high cholesterol items and a prompt delivery system, business has burgeoned, making that neighboring pork joint look like a little backyard bar-b-que. John Wayne attributes much of his success to his secret blend of seven herbs and spices, which is picked from the fields by Zollman's by a sales associate who goes by the name of Moot. He also credits South Philly's prime location. This location allows the restaurant to cater to Washington and Lee students, VMI Keydets, and disgruntled Stop-In employees.

In his free time John Wayne Rife enjoys playing basketball and watching NASCAR. When we asked him to pick a favorite between Petty and Earnhardt, John Wayne chose neither. Instead, he emphatically

expressed his affinity for Bill Elliot. "I like the underdogs and not the high fallotin' crowd favorites," John Wayne explained. He went on to tell us that the last time Petty visited South Philly Phat's, "he grabbed his food, spit on the floor, and ran off



without paying." As far as Earnhardt is concerned, "he'd knock up your daughter if you didn't keep an eye on him," says John Wayne.

The restaurant's popularity and prospects for success has created much financial promise.

Two months ago South Philly Industries, LTD. (Ticker: PHAT) went public in an IPO backed by Morgan Stanley, and subsequently went global with venture capital from a team of investors represented by ING Barings Bank. As of Friday's closing, PHAT has managed to grow by 2 and 3/4 points to 54 1/2. Potential investor's should exercise caution, however, as those close to the cheese steak enterprise are a little skeptical. According to Moot, "The stock may be a little overvalued." John Wayne Rife is considering whether to offer a split and to buy back some outstanding stock to credit the Treasury Stock Account.

The experts on Wall Street (and Main Street for that matter) believe South Philly remains a good bet, with a debt to equity ratio of 86.5%. In the last fiscal year John Wayne increased his quick ratio by nearly .6% and was able to write off the new South Philly Lear Jet. As far as the European Currency Union (ECU) is concerned, Rife

is not intimidated. "I figure that our exports to Europe will remain constant, until the dollar depreciates relative to the Euro and then European consumers will prefer the cheaper South Philly cheese steak to those more aesthetically pleasing ones manufactured in Europe," he forecasted.

Given that South Philly's is primarily a late night stop for inebriated students, we inquired as to whether John Wayne ever had to kick someone out of his establishment, or break up any fights. According to John, he has never had to ask anyone to leave. Our question proved

fruitful, however, as it did prompt him to relate an interesting anecdote. Late one night, John Wayne, who is known for being extremely sympathetic to women's issues, and one of his female sales associates were working when a group of intoxicated W&L Generals entered the establishment. One of the gentlemen made inappropriate sexual innuendoes and harassed the female sales associate. The six-foot four, 250 pound John Wayne asked the rascalion to step outside, at which point he told the punk, "I don't care if you are drunk or if you plan to buy 10 cheese steaks, you will

not insult or inappropriately accost a woman in my presence."

John Wayne has vastly expanded his business since the restaurant first opened. Most recently, he has added cold cuts to the menu and has purchased the car wash connected to the building. Next year he plans to add burritos and a greater cold cuts selection to the menu. Additionally, he invites students to take advantage of the South Philly prepaid meal card, which will be coming out this summer.

John Wayne also would like to thank all of the W&L students who have supported him in his first year. He estimates that 60% of his business comes from students and attributes his success to their support. He hopes that everyone "has a nice summer and comes back hungry."

Disclaimer: Some of the business-related information in this article is purely speculative. As of this printing, John Wayne Rife is the sole proprietor of South Philly Phat's and has no plans for expansion into the global market, at least not in the Pacific Rim.

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When I first saw this campus and learned about its history, character, and tradition as a sophomore in high school, I knew that W&L was where I wanted to go to college. Perhaps I was too young to fully understand all of the issues involved in debates about continuity and change, but I was old enough to appreciate history and tradition, and it was this appreciation that drew me to W&L.

After my first three years at Washington and Lee, my appreciation of history and tradition has grown even stronger and I now more fully understand the debate between continuity and change. A strong sense of history and tradition does not mean that I believe in a static society; it does not mean that I believe that continuity is inherently good and that change is inherently bad. It does have profound implications for the impetus behind decisions about whether to perpetuate or change the social structures which shape our lives, however.

My strong sense of history and tradition does not predispose me to either continuity or change. It means that I do not believe in change simply for the sake of change. A decision to change an existing structure or institution should be made only when the absence of change will damage or destroy that structure or institution. We live in an ever changing world. As a result, the

social structures which shape and define the way in which we live must change as well. This change should not be in terms of what we think is best, but in terms of what we know is best. This change should not be whimsical or foolhardy, but well planned and debated by all of the actors involved and affected. If the structures and institutions that comprise our social structure are not outdated, if they still perform well the tasks for which they were created, then why change them? Why go through the monetary and emotional expense and de-stabilization of society to change these institutions when their continuity serves the society just as well, if not better than the reconstituted ones would? These are the questions that Washington and Lee's administrators, faculty, and students need to ask themselves before they begin to transform institutions and social structures that are not outdated, that still serve clearly defined purposes, that give W&L its unique sense of history and tradition.

The road that W&L has been set upon by its current administration and its last administration can best be described as the "Amherstization" of Washington and Lee. In the administration's drive to see the University's U.S. News and World Report rankings rise it has lost sight of the very principles and values that draw many student to

Washington and Lee. In its drive to put itself next to Amherst as the "number one" liberal arts college in the nation, according to the rankings, it has alienated much of its traditional student base and it is trying to compete in a market where there is too much competition already. There are enough Amhersts in this nation. A conservative school with a strong sense of history and tradition fills a very large niche in American higher education. If I wanted to go to Amherst or Williams or Pomona I would have applied there. I did not want a liberal, progressive school. I wanted Washington and Lee.

A primary reason, I believe, that Washington and Lee is not at the top of the all-important rankings is its conservative nature. It is not politically correct to be eighty percent Greek. It is not politically correct to be an institution of higher learning whose students lean primarily towards the Republican Party. But it is for these very reasons that many of the students here chose W&L over Amherst and others. Those students that did not choose Washington and Lee for its conservative nature or for similar reasons still knew the nature of the school when they came here. Do they have a right to express their opinions? Of course. Do they have a right to try and dictate policy via the administration

at a school that prides itself on its student autonomy? Of course not. If the ideas and opinions of the student body as a whole change, then the structures and institutions which serve the student body must change, but as long as Washington and Lee's student body retains its conservative nature and its sense of history and tradition there is no need for the institutions and structures which serve Washington and Lee to change or be changed from above in order to fit into a more politically correct view of the world of higher education.

Why should Washington and Lee abandon the niche it has so carefully carved for itself to

satisfy the U.S. News pollsters? Why should Washington and Lee try and compete on a playing field on which it has never needed to compete in the past and does not need to compete on now? If college bound juniors and seniors are looking at Amherst or Williams and find that they do not like the environments of those schools they will find Washington and Lee. They always have and they will continue to do so. Upon my mother telling her that I went to W&L the chief administrator of Texas Women's University said that Washington and Lee was probably the best liberal arts college in the nation. I am sure many others at W&L have heard similar comments.

With this kind of national perception why does the administration and various other groups within the university insist on attacking the social structures and institutions that created this perception other than to serve their own personal interests? Why do they continue to try and fix things that are not broken? Certainly they are entitled to their opinions, and I will gladly listen to their

opinions, but there is a difference between debate and imposition; between democracy and dictatorship.

I believe that the administration and faculty should adhere most rigidly to one of the institutions they are so fond of telling perspective students about--the institution of student autonomy. Let the students choose the direction in which they want to steer their school. Student autonomy does not mean midnight bed checks and security S.W.A.T. teams storming fraternity houses. It does mean letting adults decide on their own what they want to do with their time and suffering the consequences of their decisions.

Obviously, ultimate power lies with the administration in the office of admissions. They can reject students they traditionally accept and vice versa. Sadly, I have witnessed this process subtly taking place over the last three years. That is the administration's prerogative. I am just glad that I will not be here to watch this fine institution continue to abandon its sense of history and tradition; to abandon those precepts which brought it to where it is today. I am just glad that I will not be here to see Washington and Lee become a second rate Amherst, whose only sense of history is that of an English Lord who infested blankets with malaria and then gave them to Indians with the false promise of staying warm and healthy.



Recent changes to the Student Judicial Council have rekindled the debate over the law and its place among Washington and Lee University's judicial systems. Just last year this magazine published a criticism of several students who ad-

vanced the idea that a student who drinks under a g e (witho ut the use of a f a k e I D) might b e guilty

of a breach of the Honor System. This year's SJC changes have brought to light a policy of hearing cases of students arrested for driving under the influence, and once again this writer must take issue with the practice of University committees punishing students for violations of Virginia law.

The University Alcohol Policy grants the Student Conduct Committee (now the SJC) the jurisdiction "to review violations of the policy by individual Washington and Lee students," and makes it clear that the Dean of Students may refer students in



violation of University policy to the University counseling service "in addition to applicable judicial procedures." University policy seems, appropriately, to support state and local law. In effect then, the University grants the power to punish students for violations of state law to the SJC while at the same time recogniz-

ing that "students are adults who are personally responsible for conforming their behavior to state and local laws and University policy." This written distinction between state and local laws on the one hand, and University policy on the other, is unrecognized in practice.

It is exceedingly appropriate that the University support state law and help local police in enforcing it. Students are adults, and as such should obey the law. It is unnecessary and unfair, however, for the University to allow its judicial bodies to punish students twice for violations of state law. Imagine you are unfortunate enough to be arrested for violating Virginia's law

against driving under the influence. From the state you face the loss of your driver's license, a \$300 fine, and the immediate impoundment of your car. As if that were not enough to make you regret your action, you can next look forward to social probation, conduct probation, and community service from the University. Such was the fate of a second year law student found guilty of a D.U.I. in March. It should be questioned whether the additional punishment heaped on this student served the W&L community or added significantly to the stu-

dent's remorse.

This policy may surprise many readers, and it should. This double jeopardy contradicts common legal practice, it is unnecessary, and it should be ended. The Commonwealth of Virginia imposes sufficient penalties on citizens who violate its laws, and the University has no interest in reprimanding those who are guilty of crimes against the state. Similarly, Virginia has no interest in or right to prosecute an individual who brings alcohol into the freshmen dormitories; this is the sole pre-

rogative of Washington and Lee. The University has a duty to protect its faculty, staff and students from mischief, but it should not concern itself with seeking to punish acts which threaten the larger community. The Commonwealth of Virginia, Rockbridge County, and the City of Lexington are responsible for that. It is time to hold students accountable solely to the authority whose rules he or she violates.



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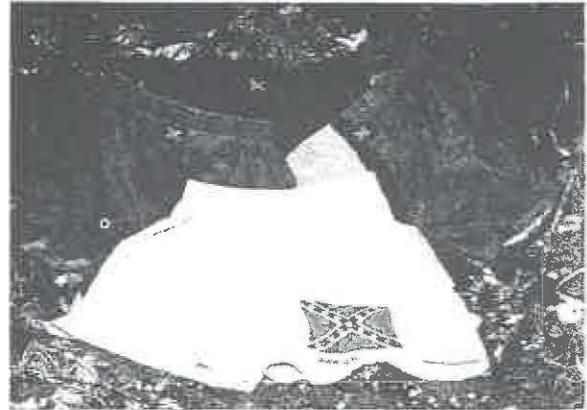
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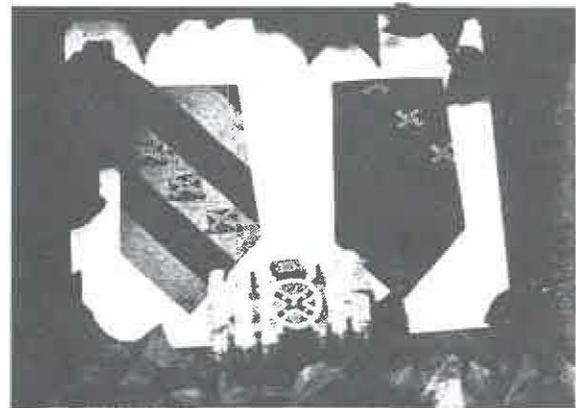
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