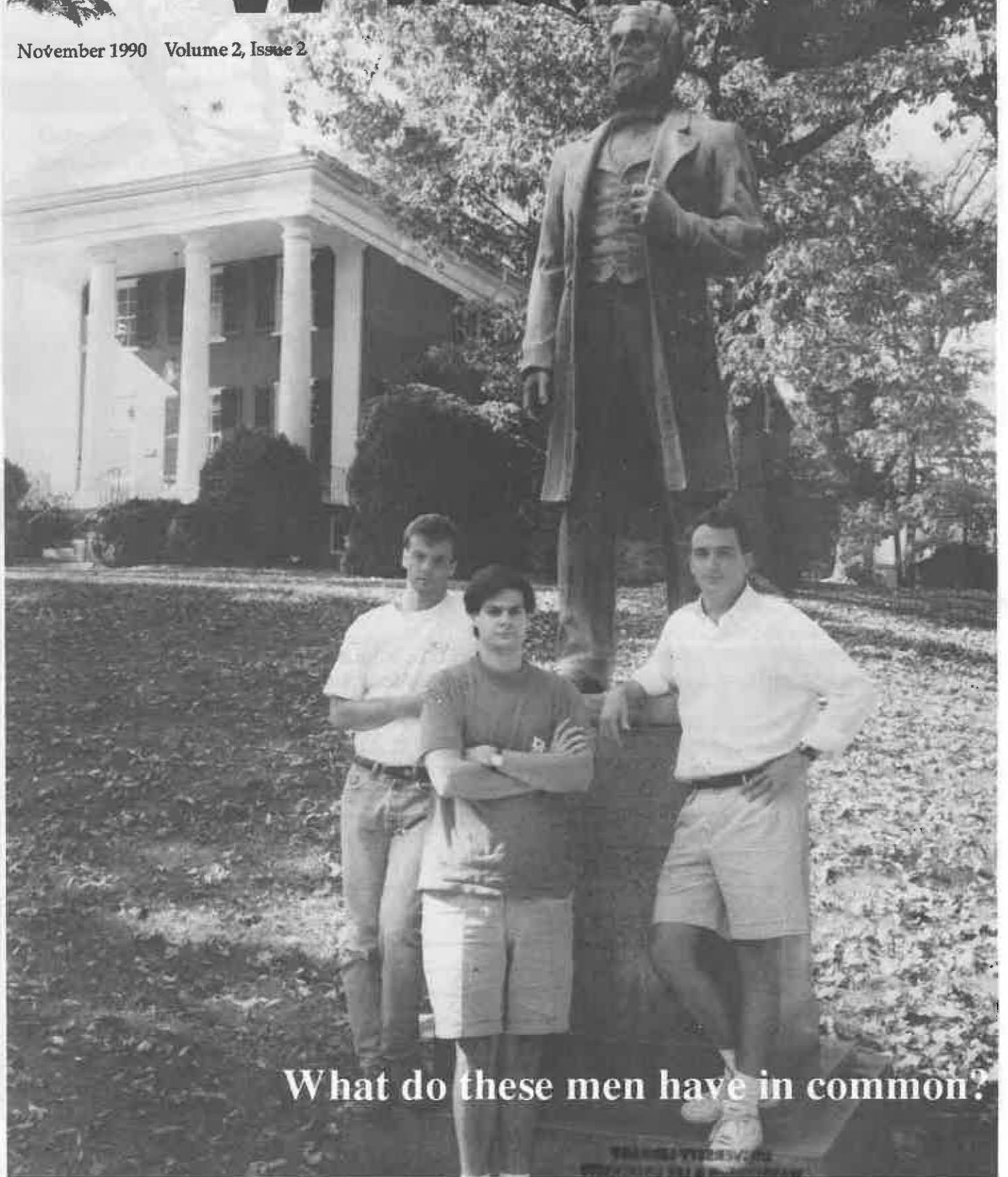




WASHINGTON AND LEE SPECTATOR

November 1990 Volume 2, Issue 2



What do these men have in common?

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WASHINGTON AND LEE SPECTATOR

November 1990

The W&L Student Journal of Fact and Opinion

Vol. 2, No. 2

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Cover Photo: What Do These Men Have in Common?

Well, they were all attacked by Washington and Lee's official student newspaper—one gave a beer to a freshman, one dirty rushed, one is president of a drug house, and another perpetuated slavery. The unofficial student magazine wishes to state that the above allegations are completely unfounded.

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Special thanks to Bill Cooper for providing legal assistance, and to Quality Quick Print for providing printing and graphics assistance.

Correction:

The Lexington City car tax, reported in the September issue as 5.5%, was lowered by the city council to 4.5% over the summer. The *Spectator* regrets the error.

LETTERS

Dear Spectator:

In light of the recent eviction of three male sophomores from Gaines for having a keg in the dorm, there should be a re-evaluation of the excessive punishment they received and the process by which it was imposed. Although I am a fraternity brother of the three, I have tried to approach this issue as objectively as possible.

Let me first say that the three students certainly broke the dormitory rules and deserved punishment of some sort. But did they deserve eviction for having a keg, especially when others who have been caught with kegs have received lesser punishments? I think not, and believe that the university's strong action was based upon an unfair judgement on their past actions and a bias against fraternity members.

First, since they are fraternity members, the school required them to sign a special form which non-Renaissance residents did not sign. Aside from one provision about pro-rated rent for fraternity members, the form included two other provisions: one which stated that violations go directly to the Dean (as opposed to the R.A. or SCC), and another which granted extraordinary latitude to the university in punishing violators of the rules.

Second, while the students in question had a past record in the freshman dormitories, they had a clean slate so

far this year. The university unfairly justified this extreme action on the basis of past conduct, conduct that had already been punished.

Finally, the whole problem in dorms that evening arose as a result of a misunderstanding with the R.A. The R.A. after having warned the students twice, told them, "If you have the keg out of the dorm by 9:00 o'clock, nothing will come of this." The keg was out of the dorm by 9:00 P.M. Yet two days later, the students received a call from Dean Ruscio concerning the matter. Certainly, the lack of professionalism on the R.A.'s part contributed to students' sincere belief that their actions were not that serious. Of course, the deans felt otherwise.

It seems to me that although only the students received punishment, blame can be allocated to the deans and the R.A. as well.

Sincerely,
Doug Lamb

Editor's note: It is the Spectator's policy to print every letter we receive, regardless of the editorial board's agreement or disagreement with the letter's content. Due to space limitations, the Spectator reserves the right to edit any letter we receive. Address all correspondence to the following address:

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Strictly Green

In an effort to enhance the environment of the dormitories, Dean Ken Ruscio dedicated certain halls in the freshman dorms to, well, the environment. The "Green Dean" sent letters to the Class of 1994 over the summer in order to gauge interest in his experiment. After receiving results of the inquiry, Dean Ruscio reserved a section in the first floor of Graham-Lees dormitory for men and part of Baker dormitory for women who wished to take part in this environmental experiment.

While most upperclassmen agree that their freshman dorm experience was characterized by more than environmental politics, or any other single topic, Ruscio and the enlightened masters of Washington Hall are debating whether the "theme hall" concept ought to be expanded. Is this a desirable trend for our campus?

Although preserving the earth's en-

vironment is a worthy cause, the concept of an environmental (or any other theme) hall is skewed. The freshman dorms provide an atmosphere in which students with different ideas and backgrounds gather together over a pizza or two and discuss issues. The dorm experience should serve to broaden one's horizon, not simply reinforce previously held ideas. This is not to say that campus interest groups are bad in and of themselves, but to assign rooms based on one's ideas or interests defeats one of the purposes of dorm life.

All of this hall separation is even more interesting when one considers the administration's past view concerning Winter Rush. The primary argument supporting the fraternities' move to Winter Rush was that the administration's fear that freshmen who pledged in the beginning of their first semester were denied the natural friendships which form as a result of the freshman dorm arrangement. The same Washington Hall has now instituted a plan which places students into a separate club in the dorms before our current Rush even begins. It seems that Washington Hall does not mind freshmen assimilating into cliques based on ideas, as long as they are "correct" ones. Or perhaps the University would prefer that fraternities hold Rush during the summer so that the dorm assignments could be based not on political beliefs, but by pledge classes.

Let's hope that this trendy innovation fails to survive Spring Term. If it does then the turn of the century could bring a variety of choices to incoming freshman: the "Health n' Fitness" hall, the "Women's Rugby" hall, the "New Age Today" hall, or perhaps a hall dedicated to an ideal which is quickly becoming lost in the move towards modernization and Ivyization within our nation's colleges and universities, a "Traditional Liberal Arts Education" hall.

Promises, Promises

America read George Bush's lips and liked what it read. Now it seems that President Bush wishes that ours were a nation of illiterates; it isn't. The American people did not elect George "no new taxes" Bush because it believed we could tax our way out of the deficit — the spend-liberal Democrats had been proving the inefficiency of that method for years. We knew that the Massachusetts Miracle was no miracle at all. Perhaps the citizens in the Land of Kennedy had forgotten that high taxes kill economic growth, but the rest of the nation had not, and America catapulted Mr. Bush into his mentor's old house by nearly as large a margin as Ronald Reagan himself enjoyed. But George Bush did not learn Reagan's lessons very well, and now the American people are about to learn theirs: elect a moderate and ex-

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pect to receive a moderate increase in your taxes.

Instead of Mr. No New Taxes, perhaps we should refer to the president as Mr. Gallup Poll, for instead of establishing policy to achieve goals, Mr. Bush does so to attain approval ratings. Unlike those preceding him, this President really wants to be your friend. But George Bush should know, friends don't let friends drive drunk, and friends don't let friends raise taxes. Americans may be more moderate in the 90s, but when it comes to taxes, most are as conservative as ever. George Bush, read the newspapers — we are not happy.

And yet the recent aggression against free-enterprise ideas begs one to recall the rhetoric of Bush's 1980 Presidential Campaign. Republicans should have been wary. Despite the denials in Bush's 1988 "I'm a Conservative, too" Campaign, Bush has returned to his old position of equating free-market economics with "voodoo" economics.

It's time for Americans to realize that the real problem on Capital Hill is not only the liberal Democrats, but politicians who are governed not by what their conscience dictates, but by self-serving special interests.

Pill on the Hill

The Pro-Choice bias in the media is no secret to anyone anymore. Ethan Bronner of *The Boston Globe*, David Shaw of the *Los Angeles Times*, and Richard Harwood of *The Washington Post* all have chronicled how the liberal press has misrepresented Pro-Life arguments. Unfortunately, the *Ring-tum Phi* has fallen into the very same trap. The September 13th issue included a front page article (advertisement?) with the headline "Morning After Pill Prevents Pregnancy." If only that were true.

Ovral, the "morning after pill" described in the Phi article, is an abortifacient which terminates, not prevents, pregnancy. For all its inaccuracies, the article was correct on one score: Ovral is currently being dispensed in the Washington & Lee infirmary free of charge and not only with the approval of the current administration, but also with University funds.

It is unacceptable for the University to promote an abortifacient pill that prevents pregnancy only so much that it terminates it. In truth and contrary to popular misconceptions, Ovral is administered not only to possible

date-rape victims, but to any sexually active student who, in the words of a W & L infirmary nurse, may have had an "accident." We should ask ourselves how a university distinguished by its dedication to honor, integrity, and virtue can condone the use of such an abortive pill in its own infirmary, especially when many in its community vehemently oppose its use.



Right to Remain Silent

In this day and age of free speech and flaming flags, about the only ones who do not enjoy all the privileges of the Constitution are many of those entrusted to interpret it: traditionalist judges. Even before their graduation from law school, potential judges have been read their Miranda-like rights by the liberal Senators on the Judiciary Committee: "You have the right to remain silent, anything you say or write can and will be used against you in a Senate Confirmation Committee."

The liberals in the United States Senate use a double standard in the confirmation process. First, they denounce the President for picking judicial nominees according to their constitutional interpretations, yet when it comes time for the Judiciary Committee hearing, Senators vote and act according to their own political "litmus test."

As with the Robert Bork nomination, certain Senators voted against David Souter because he was not willing to advance a certain political agenda from the bench of the Supreme Court. If the Founding Fathers had intended Supreme Court Justices and Federal Judges to be arms of the legislature, they would have had Congress choose the judicial nominees and not the President. Furthermore, if they had wanted Justices to represent the prevailing public opinion, they would have had judges elected by the people in a direct election.

But, unfortunately, the liberal Congress cares little for the Framers' intent, and neither do many of the activist judges of the past two decades. The activist judge is far less concerned



with adapting society to the constitution by means of judicial review than with adapting the constitution to society by means of judicial activism.

This emphasis on judicial activism by the liberal Senators was exemplified most clearly with the issue of abortion. Not only did many on the confirmation committee expect Judge Souter to have already made up his mind concerning the issue (the last thing that Senator Kennedy wants is a justice with an open mind), but they also expected the justice to promise that he would cast his decision in favor of abortion rights. It does, however, say a great deal about the respect the Senators obviously have for David Souter that they would take him at his word, because the rest of the nation does not believe a word most of the Senators say.

One of the best traits Souter possesses is that he genuinely comes across as an individual who will decide cases only after hearing the arguments and after careful reflection. But if the current trend continues, the judicial nomination process will only get worse. Nominees will find themselves, not unlike Souter, going to great lengths to remain "stealth" candidates. No one, outside of a few politicians like Sununu, will know what any nominee stands for or if they even have basic qualifications for the position. The liberals in Congress will remain deeply suspicious, but totally unable to determine if a candidate does or does not match their "litmus test." Congress will soon become inconsequential in the judicial process, which — considering the current state of Congress — may not be too bad of a compromise at all.

DATELINE: DARTMOUTH

"Far better it is to dare mighty things...than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much." So goes a famous quote from Teddy Roosevelt which the *Dartmouth Review* had, since its inception more than ten years ago, always printed on its front cover masthead. "Had printed" because on front of the *Review's* late September issue, which



came out the day before Yom Kippur, the motto printed used not the words of Roosevelt, but the haunting words of Adolf Hitler which read, "By warding off the Jews I am fighting for the Lord's work."

The ensuing storm of outrage and then confusion that swept across the New Hampshire campus and eventually the country took little time to develop. During the past weeks, there has been an anti-*Review* campus petition circulated, a huge "Rally Against Hate" (read: Rally Against the *Review*) on Dartmouth commons, and Dartmouth President James O. Freedman has written an Op-Ed piece in the *New York Times* denouncing the *Review*. At the rally, Mr. Freedman (who spoke at W & L's 1990 opening convocation address), called the *Review's* cover "an act of moral cowardice" and "vicious hatred" which he offered, was part of a "reprehensible pattern" of "appalling bigotry".

For all his strong words, Mr. Freedman's battle cries might be more worthwhile and meaningful if the *Review* editors had put the Hitler quote on the cover themselves. The editors, including editor-in-chief Kevin Pritchett, claim that they had no knowledge that the quote was to be printed and say that the credo change was sabotage by an outsider or by a low-level *Review* staffer wishing to harm the paper. They cite a typo-

graphical error and differences in typesetting used in the Hitler quote as evidence of the paper's innocence and as support for the sabotage case. Furthermore, the *Review* has also called upon the New Hampshire Attorney General to investigate the situation and to charge those found guilty.

Not surprisingly, however, in the radical-liberal playground that is Dartmouth under President Freedman, even the *Review's* response by editor Pritchett, "this cancer amongst us, we assure you, will be sought out and thoroughly punished", has been interpreted by some faculty on the campus as "troublesome" — hinting, as the *Wall Street Journal* observes, that the statement was "reminiscent of Nazi propaganda." This untidy observation becomes even more interesting in light of President George Bush's recent description of the budget deficit as "a cancer gnawing away at our nation's health." Surely no one in Hanover would call George Bush a Nazi. But alas, this is Dartmouth, and James O. Freedman is president. Even the quite certain prospect of the *Review's* innocence seems to have passed by a Freedman on the hunt. Asked by the *Journal* if such a revelation would make him change his current attitude, he responded, "I just haven't thought about it."

To find possible reasons for Mr. Freedman's and the tenured

radicals' warlike stance and unwillingness to help discover the truth about the origins of the horrible quote, one must look at Freedman's and much of the leftist faculty's past tirades against the *Review* and all things reasonable or conservative. Since Kevin Pritchett, who is black, became the *Review's* editor, Mr. Freedman and others have had trouble supporting their charges of racism at the paper. Jews, blacks, women, and Asians have always, in fact, been numerous on the *Review* staff. Even the current anti-semitic charges come after the *Review's* support for a Kosher kitchen on campus and ignore the fact that one contributor is the son of Holocaust survivors. The truth is probably that the sabotage at the paper is the closest thing Mr. Freedman has had to a logical argument against the paper and he is now simply fanning the dying flames. What he in fact doesn't like is a voice which criticizes and questions what he and his sidelings say and do.

It is also interesting that a national Jewish paper, *Forward*, printed an editorial calling the *Review* "one of Israel's defenders against much anti-Israel agitation at Dartmouth."

The resolution of this controversy will serve to show whether Dartmouth and in particular whether President Freeman can drop their tirade against the *Review* and try to find out

who planted the Hitler quote. If he and the school do not, the case may turn out to be, in the words of one Dartmouth graduate, "Dartmouth's Tawana Brawley case" and Mr. Freedman, "the Al Sharpton of academia."



Deconstructionism

As its 1990 Shannon-Clark lecturer, the English department brought the distinguished deconstructionist critic, J. Hillis Miller, to W&L. Those fortunate enough to hear Mr. Miller — either at his lecture in Northern Auditorium or during the retreat at Skylark — can recall his reluctance to define deconstructionism as anything more than "careful reading." Deconstructionism has also been described as a form of critical analysis which looks for inconsistencies or contradictions within the text that subvert what the text actually appears to say. Another source went even further, defining deconstructionism as a means of discovering or distinguishing what something is by first determining what it is not. This so, then Mr. Miller was wise not to offer an explicit definition for deconstructionism, for if he

had, his very explanation might well have deconstructed itself.

The deconstructionists' claim that theirs is a new literary criticism, while in fact it is nothing other than an ancient heresy resurfacing in a different form. Deconstructionism is the latest in a long series of intellectual movements designed to subvert objective truth; it is the 1990's cult of subjectivism. In deconstructionism, like subjectivism, the manner in which we perceive becomes the focus of scrutiny instead of the object of perception. As C.S. Lewis writes, "it is as if we took out our eyes to look at them." The deconstructionists begin with the foundation that there is no foundation — no external truths or realities — and instead require that the world be constructed within a literary work. In this philosophical framework, anything goes. Yet possibilities do not concern the deconstructionist nearly as much as impossibilities and they quickly return us to the distorted setting of *Macbeth*, where "nothing is, but what is not."

But in a larger and more important sense, the deconstructionists create a world in which values and truths are "deconstructed" so that they are relegated to the description of "personal" or "subjective," which, of course, really means that within the deconstructionist framework they do not exist at all. As Kierkegaard feared 150 years earlier, deconstructionism "leaves everything standing, but cunningly empties it of significance."

Once deconstructionism is seen in its nihilistic sense, the fact that one of its originators, de Mon, was an avowed Nazi who published in excess of 200 articles defending anti-semitism comes as little surprise. That Laurence Tribe, another deconstructionist, equates a woman's pregnancy with "an involuntary servitude" comes as not much more of one either.

Fortunately, ideas like deconstructionism do not last long. They have no foundation, no structure upon which to stand. A philosophy which rejects all values, has no value. And nations which turn to their culture to find only questions where they seek answers, share the fate which is ultimately that of the deconstructionist — dissipation, dissolution, and disintegration.



"IT'S A GOOD THING HE WON FOR PEACE, BECAUSE HE'LL NEVER WIN IN ECONOMICS!"

Source: Richmond Times-Dispatch

INTERVIEW

President John D. Wilson

Spectator: Last year in your graduation speech you said that "Washington and Lee is not simply a University located in the South, but a Southern University with a national reputation." What exactly did you mean by that?

President Wilson: Well I mean that I believe...put it this way: you call up the office of the chief executive of a major corporation in New York and the secretary will say "yes," "no," "no," "yes." You call up the head of a corporation in Atlanta, you get, "Oh Mr. Wilson, I know he's going to be heartsick not to have been able to talk to you on the phone, because he's out right now, but I'll tell him and he'll call you back at once." And you would hang up feeling pretty good about it. That's the difference. In a word there's a certain softness of manner and gentility in the South. As far as southern tradition goes, as a northerner, I think I can appreciate it better than some others....

Spectator: President Wilson, you presided over one of the greatest changes in this school's history. How do you believe that the academic and social atmosphere has changed since the advent of coeducation?

Wilson: Well, I think the faculty actually could answer your first comment better than I could. I regret to say I'm not teaching and haven't taught at Washington and Lee, so I don't have any historical perspective of what has happened in the past ten years... I think it would be redundant to say that the overall quality of men and women attending Washington and Lee has improved over these years. That shows up in dozens of ways I'm quite sure. The faculty has testified that there have always been good students at Washington and Lee. But now there are more good students and there's more liveliness and, as a consequence of it, exchanges in the classroom. Now on the social side, I'm not sure I really...I'm not a terribly good witness there either. You guys could tell me about that. My sense is that the all male Washington and Lee took advantage of the favored place that it had (vis-a-vis the women's colleges), and I might be bold enough to say it in rather unattractive way. Young women in the four neighboring women's colleges and, of course, Southern Seminary would come swinging into Lexington unattached by the formality of dating. You know, it wasn't very long ago Washington and Lee men would have a date with a Hollins gal and then he'd drive to pick her up, bring her to the party and get her home right away. This whole scene has changed, for better or worse, in the last 20 years with the large numbers of young women coming here for parties....It is better for young men and women to meet each



"I think that we've had a false economy in the houses. We've had cheap room rates, and we've lived in squalor as a result of it."

other in the less intense social setting provided by the Co-op, the Colonnade, the Library, the Book Store, and in classrooms in the sense that you don't have this single dimension of viewing each other: women are here on weekends for social purposes and that's about all. I think that now, maybe, you'll have a better chance of coming to appreciate each other across these sexual lines as human beings with intellectual interests and levels of energy, involvement and so on....

Spectator: This year W & L went for the first time to a 60-40 male-female ratio. How soon, or are there plans to move that to a 50-50 ratio?

Wilson: No, the long-range plan committees recommended that the University adopt a goal. Ultimately it should be 50-50 but the Board of Trustees has not adopted that recommendation. It has said that, for the foreseeable future, we shall be no larger than 1600 undergrads; 1000 will be men and 600 will be women. I had started out by saying we should be 1500 undergrads, 1000 men, 500 women, by the end of the first ten years - that was the recommendation in 1984 when the Board of Trustees first adopted co-education. We had 500 women in five years.

This last year there were 1600 plus male applications and 1400 plus female applications. I felt that, for

ten years, we had an obligation to go through a transition period where the all-male organizations would have an opportunity to adjust and make transitions. I'm talking now about fraternities and I'm talking about athletic teams. To go from the 1375 men to 1000 men takes some adjustment, and I didn't want to make it automatically necessary for any fraternity, for example, to fail....

Spectator: The September 23rd edition of *The New York Times* reports that Wesleyan is considering forced integration of women into fraternities. This process is described by them as the last phase of the co-education process which began 20 years ago. Do you believe that the arrival of sororities at W & L means that this will not be attempted here?

Wilson: Well I think you can start out by saying that we did not share that assumption. The faculty, as a whole, were not uniformly happy about the way fraternities were being run or not run. There was no subject that was more frequently brought up in my early years here than the deplorable state of the fraternities, and that problem was not unique to Washington and Lee. Well, there are two ways to solve that: the first is to say that the real problem is a group of 19-year old men, usually sophomores, dominating a house, tearing it apart, using it as a kind of an unregulated playground....and the other would be to try to return fraternities to the style that they used to enjoy in

many of our colleges and universities. And so, we put our commitment in our program, and I hope

it's successful.

Spectator: Has there been any discussion about the increasing cost for the fraternity members as a result of the Fraternity Renaissance program?

Wilson: You are referring to the cost of room and board?

Spectator: Well there's the cost of room and board, and there's the \$400 head tax, and then there are also additional costs to be paid for the house mother.

Wilson: It will be more expensive than it is now for the average house; not a whole lot more expensive... I think we've had a false economy in the houses. We've had houses that have had no disciplined budgets, that have not properly been putting aside money for renovations and for cosmetics and furniture repair and decent management of the kitchens. We've had "cheap room rates," and we've lived in squalor as a consequence of that. I think that that has to change regardless of who the author of the change might be - whether it's the house corporation or the chapter members themselves. The head tax - I guess we should try together to invent a better term for that - a "surcharge," is really an advertised half of the cost of the renovations over time. I'm hoping the alumni of the University will set aside for the other half of the cost through capital gifts to the campaign....

Spectator: I know some people have brought up the possibility of a fraternity having an off year and getting a very small pledge class. Suppose they just don't have enough members to fill up the house. Has the university made any provisions to ensure that the houses will remain private?

Wilson: What the University has done is to leave the house to the house corporation. The house corporation is still the landlord, as it is now, a virtually invisible landlord in many houses. As you know, part of the whole Renaissance program is to get the house corporation back functioning as an active agency. So we will lease to the house corporation and it is their responsibility for managing the revenues that have to be managed in order to pay for the house mother. I am not sure what will happen if a house has several bad years and can't fill the house or can't manage ... One can presume if you have a capacity of 20 students and only 15 are able to move in, those 15 are going to have to generate the rent for twenty students. Or the membership at large will have to generate enough cash flow to meet the obligations of the house. So that could get sticky, I guess. Given the boundaries of Rush, especially this year with more dirty rush....I gather from a PiKA I talked to the other day that their difficulties with the nationals become part of the conversation in Rush. "Join them and you won't be in the fraternity next year." That is too bad.

Spectator: Suppose a Fraternity folds. I know Frank

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Parsons says that we could have a French speaking house or a vegetarian house?

INTERVIEW

Wilson: Well, those are remote possibilities. As I recall I shuttered as I read it; the specter of these language houses all over the place. We want to make the fraternities work. We think the base and support for fraternities will provide for attractive small group options for living with compatible people as long as they don't become socially elitist and snobbish. One of the good things about fraternities at W&L is that almost everybody who wants to belongs....

Spectator: Do you think that sororities will get, or ought to get, first choice if a house should become available?

Wilson: I think we ought to be very clear about what sororities do or do not want. I should not say "want" because it doesn't follow if they want "Tara" reproduced somewhere that we could do it... The sororities have a clean slate; they are starting not with a problem but a set of possibilities. And we want to be very careful as to how we define those possibilities.

Spectator: In a recent front page article in the *Phi* entitled "White Males Predominate New Faculty Crop," Dean Elrod indicated that W&L has "always been guided by the principle of hiring the most talented and best person for the job," while Professor Simpson argued that "the scenario that we will hire only the best qualified regardless of whether they are women or black is a little simplistic."

Wilson: You're not going to draw me into that controversy (laughs). Let them fight each other!... I don't think it is simplistic. I think our obligation is to try to attract the healthiest pool of candidates for any one position we can possibly attract, and that means working hard to identify talented people from all over the country. And then to let the best person emerge from the process of evaluation...

Spectator: In a letter in the *Alumni Magazine*, alumnus Peter Cimmino wrote about the admissions processes. One of his concerns is that most of our alumni could not get into W&L today with its high SAT average. Does this concern you?

Wilson: I think it is wrong. I don't know what class he was in, but we have not reached the SAT average that we had in the middle 60s at W&L. The average in 1965 was 1250, and the class which just entered had an average of 1245. I don't think most people recognize that. They all say, "you know Dean Gilliam would never pay attention to qualifications like that; he would just take a good look and say, "I like that young man." Baloney! He had the highest SAT average in Washington and Lee's history.

Spectator: What do you think about the Confidential Review Committee, especially in light of the free speech issue?

Wilson: The CRC was created at the instigation of the

Chairman of the SCC, Michael Henry '88. (Mike would probably say "What do you mean 'instigation,' that is a heavy word").

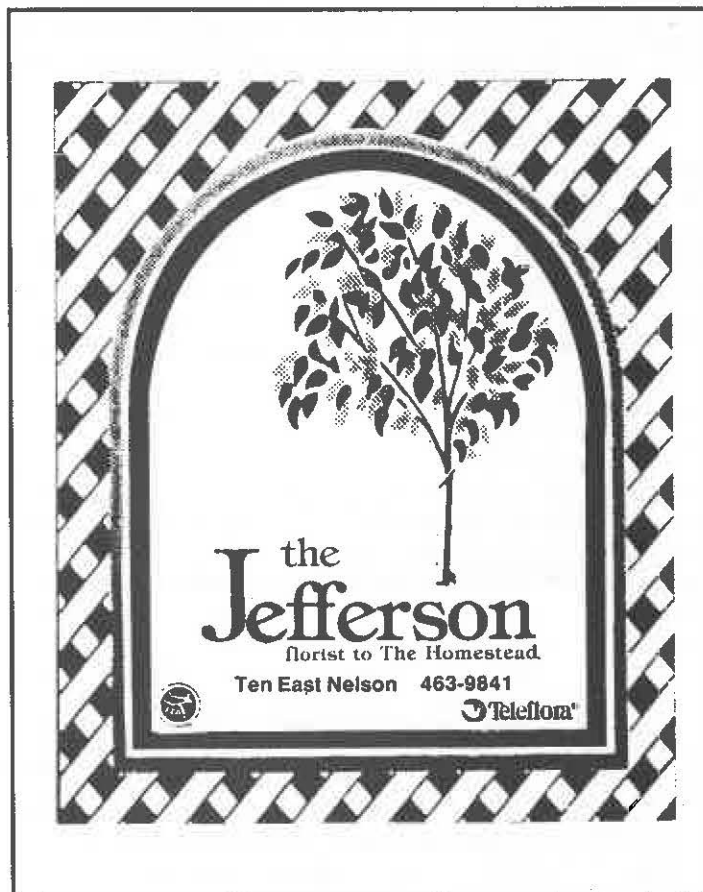
What Michael said is that there are certain matters that come before us [SCC] that are really awkward — those which have to do with sexual relations — and I don't think we can handle that. We don't have the confidentiality necessary to hear cases in which there are private reputations at stake... But then the problem of racial aggression was introduced and became part of it, not only here but many, many places. We have been blessed — knock on wood — with pretty good racial relations here....

My own opinion is that when someone abuses another verbally, the best thing is for human beings to step in and say, "Look, this is no way to treat each other." I do think that there are gains and losses in having a judicial process to decide upon verbal abuse; maybe you have more to lose than to gain when you try to adjudicate that. But that was clearly not the opinion of those who first drafted it [CRC] and the faculty as a whole which approved it, and this may continue to be the faculty's opinion. If it is, we will do the best that we can to make sure it works sensibly, properly, and intelligently.

Spectator: Thank you very much, President Wilson.

This interview was conducted by Charles Kranich and Paul Lagarde

Special thanks to Jim Gallagher and Mark Van Deusen for help in transcribing the interview; thanks to Richard Hill for typing; and thanks to Christine Hamlet and Amanda Stewart for editing.



FRAT-TAX

by J. Cameron Humphries
& Charles Kranich

As Phase I of the Fraternity Renaissance nears completion, fraternities are just beginning to realize the magnitude of its cost. Slightly over one month ago, the University finalized its plan to assess each fraternity member \$400 per year. This "Greek Tax" did not come as a complete surprise; fraternities have known from the outset that there would be an assessment. Few, however, anticipated the amount of the Greek Tax, and no one can possibly predict the effects this tax will have on the fraternity system. Because the University has not released a detailed cost analysis of the \$400 tax, we can only estimate the increased cost to fraternity members. Figures given to the *Spectator* by the University indicate fraternity members, in what the University labels its "sample house", will pay \$500 more after the Renaissance completion than they are currently paying. This figure will increase significantly for fraternity members living in the house. The Sample House resident can expect to pay an additional 29.4% in rent after the Renaissance. If it is true, as reported in the October 18th *Phi* article, that costs for some houses will decrease after the Renaissance, then costs for some fraternity members will rise more than the \$500. But how much more?

Among the many changes implemented in the Fraternity Renaissance Program is the requirement that each house employ a full time house mother. The current salary for house mothers is between \$10,000 and \$12,000; both the individual houses and the University agree with this figure. According to the University, however, a Sample House has sixty-four brothers. IFC figures indicate that the actual average is closer to forty-three members, meaning that brothers in the average house will pay an additional \$279 for the house mother alone. Calculated for Washington and Lee's smallest house, which has only twenty brothers, this figure jumps to \$600.

Not surprisingly, this is not the only added fee that the houses will incur under the Renaissance Program.

The \$400 Greek Tax, yet another novel cost for fraternity members will be directed towards two purposes. The majority

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Charles Kranich is a senior from Altoona, Pennsylvania. He is the Treasurer of the *Kappa Sigma* fraternity.





of the fee, \$250-\$300, will cover insurance, utilities, routine maintenance, property taxes, and similar costs. The remainder will go directly to the University to repay the fraternities' \$7 million share of the \$13 million Renaissance Program. Perhaps, the most interesting aspect of the \$400 fee is not how high it is, but rather how low.

Of the \$13 million spent on the fraternities in the Renaissance Program, the University agreed to pay \$6 million in exchange for the deeds on all of the houses. The remainder, first estimated at \$6 million, but now at least \$7 million, will be repaid by the fraternities over a thirty year period. Were the University to leave that money in its endowment rather than loan it to the fraternities, Washington and Lee could expect, according to the University Treasurer, to receive a rate of return near 15%, (the average rate of return W&L currently receives on its endowment). Thus fraternities are paying, approximately 2%, of the total interest they owe the University. In fact, conservatively, the lost interest alone will cost the W&L's endowment over \$500,000 a year. As the final cost of the Renaissance climbs higher, the amount of lost interest increases. In addition to the \$6 million the University gave the program outright, W&L stands to lose millions more in interest on lost principle in years to come. Why, then, is the University willing to spend so much money to save the fraternity system?

Ironically, the University is spending money to save money. Compared to the alternatives, if the University had to pay the entire \$13 million cost of the Renaissance, it would still be a bargain. Completed in 1988, Gaines Hall

cost nearly \$8.5 million to build. Were it filled to capacity (which it is not), it would sleep about 250

students. Thus, each bed cost the University \$34,000. The fraternities, when completed, will sleep 350 fraternity members, at a cost of less than \$31,500 per bed in 1988 dollars. Coupled with the fact that fraternity houses also include dining facilities, which Gaines does not, the Fraternity Renaissance would be a bargain were its price tag to rise above the projected \$13 million. Put another way, should the University replace the fraternities' eating and sleeping facilities entirely, the financial cost would easily exceed \$15 million. No amount of money, however, could ever offset the impact that the loss of the fraternity system would have on Washington and Lee.

Although the Fraternity Renaissance will probably not bankrupt the entire fraternity system, nearly everyone from President Wilson down acknowledges some houses may fold. During a *Spectator* interview, Wilson acknowledged the possibility that one or two houses might not, for whatever reasons, survive in the post-Renaissance period. He also denied that the University had any plans not for any house which may fold. Unless Washington Hall develops some financial aid package to help some fraternities, it should expect that at least two of the houses will fold — probably within twenty-four months of completion.

And consequently, smaller fraternities will have to place a disproportionately percentage of their members in expensive fraternity housing. [When the renovated houses open, each house will be required to fill all of its beds.] Twenty-six brothers of *Beta Theta Pi*, which has one of the larger sleeping capacities, will be required to live in the house. Considering that the average pledge class is only half that size, the fraternity will be forced to place its entire sophomore class, a large number of its juniors, and its officers in the house. Smaller houses will be required to fill upwards of twenty places. Unlike in Gaines, vacancy is not an option. Regardless of whether or not the beds are used, the fraternity will be assessed at the same price students in Gaines pay, for every room.

Therefore, while fraternity housing may have been a bargain in the past, it will now be an expensive luxury. The average fraternity member living in the house will soon pay, on average, about eighty dollars more per month than he does now. This figure does not seem terribly unfair when considering how much better the houses will be after renovation. However, while most houses only charge rent for nine months during the school year, the University will lease the rooms for ten months. The average increase per month, combined with an additional month's rent, means that fraternity brothers living in the house, will pay an additional \$920 yearly. Added to the extra \$500 which every brother pays and this year's freshmen will pay, on average, nearly \$1500 more per year than the sophomores who preceded them.

Unlike Gaines, the fraternity houses were handed over to the University at a cost which is significantly less, on a per bed basis, than Gaines cost to construct. If the fraternity houses offer more facilities than Gaines, it is not because they cost Washington and Lee more to construct, but because they existed prior to University ownership.

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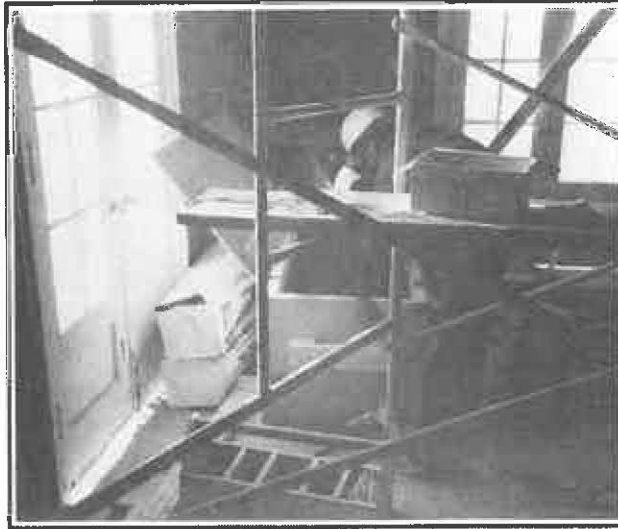
Therefore, it is unfair to charge fraternities even as much as Gaines' residents are charged, much less to charge them 20% more.

Moreover, the University will consolodate the insurance coverage, resulting in insurance and liability costs that are one-fifth what they are now. Additionally, the new houses will be far more energy efficient after the renovations, saving the fraternities a significant amount of money in insurance and utility costs. In fact, along with the requirement of increased involvement by the house corporations, decreased maintenance is probably one of the most positive aspects of the Fraternity Renaissance — even more valuable than the improved appearance of the houses. But all those savings are negated by the necessity of repaying the \$7 million "loan" to the University.

From an accounting point of view, the Fraternity Renaissance is a lopsided arrangement, slanted heavily in favor of the University. Not only have they assumed half the responsibility of the total Renaissance cost, but they have financed the remainder at interest rates less than the current inflation rate. If the fraternities retained ownership of the houses, this would be quite beneficial to the fraternities. But, when the Renaissance is completed, the University will own the house, the land, and all improvements. Brothers will be little more than tenants on property they are paying the University to take from them.

Money to supplement the cost of a housemother is being directed away from fraternity budgets and into the University's endowment. Current developments in the Persian Gulf and the Stock Market, which were unforeseeable as recently as four months ago, have added an additional problem to the program.

The approximate \$7 million of University endowments set aside for Phase I of the Renaissance is now worth between \$500,000 and \$750,000 less because of the stock market drop. The stock market drop has not only affected the Renaissance endowments, but limited available cash. Since few analysts predict that stocks will regain much, if any, of their value in the next two years, this crisis will adversely affect the W&L treasury. Furthermore, recession may be on the way at the same time the University plans to launch its New Capital Improvements campaign. Part of the campaign is directed at raising funds to offset the University's part of the Renaissance. Mr. Broomall, the University treasurer, predicts that, optimistically, this campaign will raise no more than \$2 million. He cites other capital needs, including the "proposed" student center, additional scholarships, and endowments for department heads which he feels will be "more attractive" causes for alumni wishing to donate money to the University. Because the University has invested such a large sum in the



Originally budgeted at a cost of \$11 million, the Fraternity Renaissance is now projected to cost at least \$13 million

fraternities, and because it foresees little possibility of recouping its expenditures through the capital improvement campaign, the University has an vested financial interest in maintaining fraternity membership at eighty percent of the male population. What it does not have is an interest in maintaining the current number of houses. Why?

The amount of its investment that the University receives from the fraternity system is determined not by the number of fraternities, but by the number of fraternity members. Furthermore, the University will gain financially if one or two of the houses falls because fraternity houses do not pay the Greek Tax, individual fraternity members do. This is not to say the University, or that the Fraternity Renaissance,

is designed to reduce the number of fraternities. Instead, the Fraternity Renaissance costs will expedite the extinction of a few houses, a process also facilitated by a declining number of entering freshman men.

In addition to the financial burden of the housemother, the smaller houses have, and will continue to carry disproportionate financial burdens because many of their costs are fixed. All houses must hire a cook, buy food and

TOP TEN POTENTIAL RING TUM PHI HEADLINES

10. Elvis pledges Delta Gamma
9. VMI diary reveals Stonewall Jackson was gay
8. Registrar's Office predictions for the New Year
7. Exclusive: Underage freshman caught drinking beer !!
6. Cold Check Heads bounce check for Dominos
5. Coeducation: Trustee claims, "The Board never voted !"
4. The truth revealed: Cadavers are space aliens
3. Fraternity Renaissance Scandal: Red Square to be rebuilt as new Fine Arts Center
2. Hollins to go coed in '95
1. Co-op employee caught selling drugs: "Joints or Hash ?"

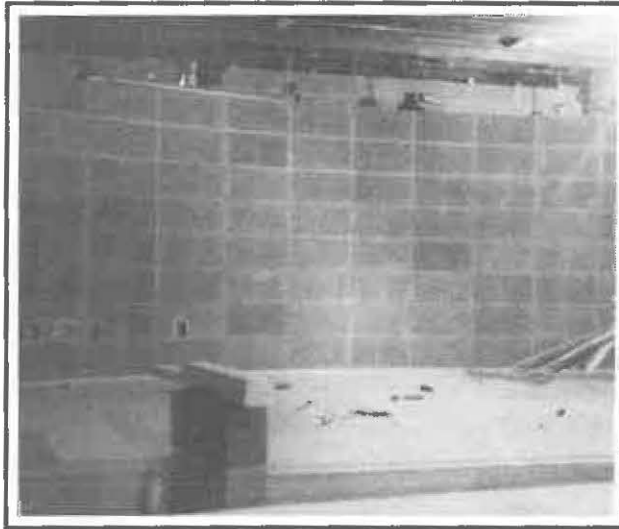
provide social activities. Social spending is even more important in the post-Renaissance environment when houses must attract members or fold since one weak pledge class could bankrupt a house. If every house's budget differs by only ten to fifteen thousand dollars, while membership differs by fifteen to twenty brothers, small houses -- in the effort to match the larger houses -- would have to spend in excess of \$1000 more per member than the larger houses do. This is \$1000 in addition to the \$500 more which they are already paying per member because of the housemother and Greek Tax. Developing a reputation for having significantly reduced social activities or for costing significantly more than other houses, could bankrupt a brotherhood in less than a year. When fraternity brothers in the smallest few houses return to their new houses to find that membership costs hundreds and hundreds more than what it costs their friends in other larger houses, they may choose not to remain in the fraternity -- either because they do not want to pay the increase, or more likely, because they cannot afford it. Smaller fraternities will be faced with reduced activities and opportunities, or else dramatically inflated dues. Either will lead to rapid dissolution.

Surprisingly, this development favors both the University and other houses; in the post-Renaissance environment of increased costs, fraternities will need more members to maintain the level of social activity to which the fraternities are accustomed. As long as the number of fraternity members remains constant, the University has no financial reason to intervene.

If both the fraternity system and the University will benefit from fewer houses, what will happen to the smallest few houses on campus? Unless their national chapters step in to save them, they -- not unlike any financially disadvantaged firm in a free-market -- will fail. If so, what will become of the empty houses?

While a few administrators talk of an enlightened era of Vegetarian Houses and or a series of language houses, the current student body would neither support such a change, nor would many faculty members, alumni or administrators. The only other alternative for the structures is for the sororities to move in.

Currently, the administration sincerely denies that it has any such plans for the fraternities, or even that it expects more than one or two of the houses to fold. It is exactly such a scenario, however, in which two houses fold, which is the worst possible scenario the University could face. The University could not offer houses to only two sororities; they could, however, offer houses to three sororities, and promise the fourth the old *Kappa Sigma* property. Then, the University would not only receive the \$400 tax from eight hundred fraternity men, but they could also



The stage is nearly complete, but can they afford the band?

justifiably raise the sorority rate from \$100 to \$400. This would not only increase University Greek revenue, but, by providing a large percentage of women's dining facilities, alleviate current pressure on the University's existing dining facilities, especially the Co-op.

The current controversy surrounding "critical probation" takes on new significance in light of this scenario.

The Fraternity Renaissance was seen as necessary to save the fraternity system from collapse. However, caught unaware, some fraternities have signed their own death sentence, and it seems that few, if any, of the fraternities have prepared for the cost increases. Unfortunately, and perhaps tragically, it is possible that

when many fraternity members return to this University and to their old fraternity house as alumni five, ten, or fifteen years from now, they may find themselves surrounded by women at a pre-game cocktail party. Not too unpleasant a thought until those alumni realize that the women surrounding them are not their fraternity brothers' dates, but rather sorority sisters who are unsure why this alumnus is in their sorority house.

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Crime and Punishment

We have all seen the melodrama unfold before our eyes in the black and white movies. A bedraggled prisoner is snatched from his cell on death row by a couple of brutish looking security guards. The slow march to the electric chair begins. The other prisoners peer out of their cages in silent awe and audibly gulp as this parade passes by their part of the neighborhood. The

by Clyde Haig

prisoner keeps a sweaty cool until he lays eyes on the chair, and then all hell breaks loose. What starts as a World Class Federation wrestling match with the guards ends in a gut-wrenching pleas for mercy once the prisoner can struggle no longer. The chair crew, sullen and stone-faced, looks to the executioner. Before the latter throws the switch, the camera gives us one last shot of the hapless, hooded victim. A close-up on the hand throwing the switch follows; then onto the credits.

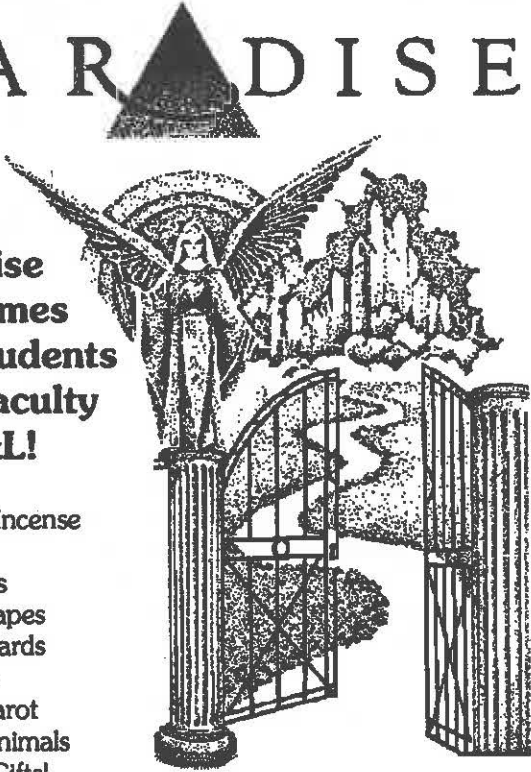
Scenes like this grip me as I am sure they grip you. The bottom line is that killing is not pretty. It is more than just an ugly thing to witness. It is emotionally disturbing in some other strange way: in an evil way, if you will. When one observes such a death he may feel intense emotions of anger at the perpetrators and sorrow for the victim, leaving his stomach in knots. Only the most twisted of sorts would not agree that taking the life of another person is an intrinsically gruesome act...under any circumstances. It is from this common understanding and agreement (that killing someone is inherently loathsome) that we must begin examining the death penalty debate.

Any lasting, substantive argument against the death penalty must be somehow built around the foregoing notion that it is repugnant (morally and/or religiously) to take another human life. Arguments which do not center on the inherent injustice of killing most often appeal to the basic concept of fairness. These are "the death penalty just isn't fair the way it works in America today" arguments and "juries make mistakes" pleas.

There is a great deal of merit to the "fairness" arguments. It simply is not "fair" that you can find yourself in a prison cell in one state and a pine box in another for committing the exact same crime. It obviously is not "fair" that a jury finds a man guilty for a crime which he did not commit. It's not "fair" to keep a prisoner hanging around on death row for years and years on end.

Clyde Haig is a third year law student.

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Commingled with the fairness idea is the appeal to economic efficiency. It costs more to execute a criminal than it does to keep him in jail for a lifetime. It is not "economically efficient" to institute capital punishment when it costs the state an average of \$1.8 million by the time the criminal is executed, compared to \$1 million to keep him in jail for a whopping fifty years. Not fair. Not economical. These two points are weighty, but ultimately not compelling for one obvious reason: fairness and efficiency concerns target problems which can be addressed and situations which can be dramatically improved. Concerns of fairness and efficiency cannot ultimately hold the day in the argument against capital punishment. The implication is that if capital punishment were implemented fairly and with economic efficiency, we should shine up the chair and make sure it is plugged in properly.

We thus inexorably find ourselves back at the common ground: killing is dreadful. Now I ask you not to confuse two very separate functions: the role of the individual and the role of the State. Depending upon your beliefs and convictions, it may be the individual's responsibility to forgive. It is most certainly not, however, the role of our secular State to forgive those who have wronged its citizens. Among other things, our State exists to protect its citizens from internal and external threats, ensuring the ongoing safety and security of the citizen. Why was the U.S. Constitution ordained and established? "...in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty..."



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Forgiveness does not figure into the equation, and it is a mistake to unwittingly transpose the duty of

forgiveness onto the State from the separate and distinct province of the individual.

It is not the duty of the State to forgive; in fact, the State, completely outside the realm of capital punishment, mandates killing. Some would go so far as to posit that our State actively promotes killing. Though this may be somewhat extreme, it is by no means farfetched to say that the State does mandate killing. For what reason? Ideally, it is to provide for the security and safety of her citizens, and realistically, for lots of other reasons. As crass as it sounds, we live in a country that has and that will continue kill in the name of the safety and protection of its citizens' way of life. I challenge you to think of any viable governing force in history that has not given tacit or overt sanction to this type of killing. You will not be able to come up with one.

Now add capital punishment as another example of when the State kills. Consider first the interests furthered by capital punishment and military-related killing. Then, as a side line, consider the relative culpability of the people who lose their lives in each instance. The interest furthered by military-related killing falls mostly under the rubric of "national security." Unfortunately, this is a slippery concept. Often our nation has taken significant military action when the threat to our national security has been something less than immediate. Indeed, major action has been taken and many lives lost in causes that have had no tangible impact on the lives of most Americans.

There is no similar "grey area" with the question of capital punishment. The people the State executes in this arena have given a wonderful demonstration of their lack of respect for human life and subsequently dangerous threat they pose to the general welfare. A critic may now argue: "Wouldn't it be just as well if we locked them up for life and kept them out of society?" The simple answer is "no". We would still be inflicting these people on the prison population, foisting the same danger on them. To say we solve the problem by tossing these murderers in jail is to delude ourselves, at the expense of a voiceless, unseen prison population.

Another objection may be raised to my comparison: "But capital punishment cannot appropriately be contrasted with military action." Yet, both involve killing in the interests of our citizens' security. How about the interests purportedly being served? Can the menace posed to society by a group of people prone to extreme acts of violence and holding little to no regard for human life rise to or even exceed the magnitude of the threat presented by certain international crises in which we have been involved? The inmate who gets stabbed to death in prison would probably answer this question in the affirmative. He would say that it is not enough to simply incarcerate the cold-blooded killer. In short, once we look at the interests being served, and the magnitude of those interests, capital punishment is every bit as justified as killing in a military setting. Many people do not want to come to grips with this reality.

Currently there are forty-four inmates on death row in Virginia. In the past few weeks, two dozen innocent

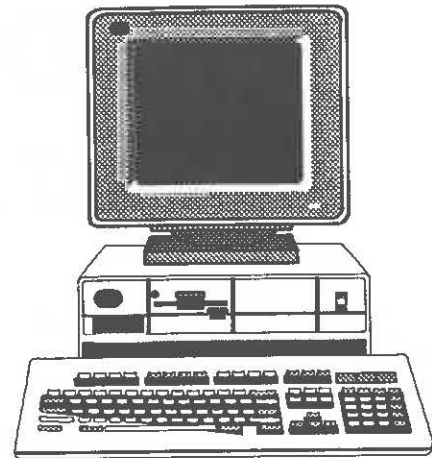
Americans servicemen have lost their lives in training maneuvers associated with "Operation Desert Shield" in the Middle East. In the coming months, thousands upon thousands of people could go to painful, early graves in that part of the world. The killing would take place in the name of our "national security" (some would substitute "higher oil prices" for this end). Don't ask whether the State may take human life. That question has been sufficiently answered. The proper question is when should the State take life. I fail to see why the lethal risk which the first-degree murderer poses to the "general welfare" of American citizens is any less salient than the risk posed by some of the international political problems in which we have been recently involved. Maybe you simply don't like to see someone being killed. Neither do I. How I feel or how you might feel, however, should have no bearing on the State's proper role in this matter. I leave you with some very old wisdom on the topic:

"We have, however, no sympathy with that sickly sentimentality that springs into action whenever a criminal is at length about to suffer for crime. It may be a sign of a tender heart, but it is also a sign of one not under proper regulation. Society demands that crime shall be punished and criminals warned, and the false humanity that starts and shudders when the axe of justice is ready to strike, is a dangerous element of the peace of society. We have too much of this mercy. It is not true mercy. It only looks to the criminal, but we must insist upon mercy to society..." *Eberhart v. State*, 47 Ga. 598, 610 (1873).

TOP TEN POLICE CITATIONS THIS YEAR

10. "Causing Trouble"
9. Correcting an officer's English
8. Teasing an officer of the law about driving a golf cart
7. "Reckless Endangerment" (1-3 miles above the posted speed limit)
6. Looking "Real Suspicious"
5. Failure to pay the new city bike tax
4. Erasing chalk mark on tires
3. Possession of a non-bottled carbonated diet beverage in a public area between the hours of 10PM and 9AM on recognized Shinto holidays in a non-leap year (males only)
2. Referring to Chief Beard as "Dick Miller with a badge"
1. Contributing to a "Town Out of Control"

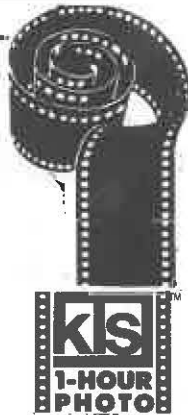
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CAMPUS PERSPECTIVE

In Defense of Spring Term

Single sex, coats and ties, kegs, and "old George": is spring term the next W&L tradition to fall prey to a new order? Although its future is by no means certain, the absence of spring term may soon be another one of those traditions which separate the old and the "improved" W&L. Recently, Dean Elrod charged a faculty-dominated committee to study the session and make a recommendation concerning its existence. The report, due on February 6 of next year, may have one of three conclusions: (1) to maintain spring term as it is, (2) to maintain it with specific modifications, or (3) to eradicate it entirely. It does not take a committee of midwestern deans to figure out its odds of survival are less than one in three.

According to Elrod, this inquiry is the first "systematic analysis" of the term in its twenty-one year history. Al-

though it is not a "calendar study," the committee's conclusions may have a grave effect on the University's schedule.

In the 1960's, the face of higher education changed dramatically. One of the only positive changes to come from this ten year granola festival and love-in, in the area of so-called educational "reform," was the introduction of the January term on campuses all over the nation. Always trendy, W&L followed schools nation-wide and introduced a similar session here, but at the end of the winter term instead of before it. In the past few years, however, most colleges abolished their short terms and instituted a 15-week/15-week semester system. Not to be left behind, W&L is considering a similar move.

The central question the committee must address is, in Dean Elrod's words, "Does this term advance our quest for academic excellence?". The opinions on this question are sharply divided, and the old alliances of the sciences and the Commerce School (anti spring term) against the College (pro spring term) no longer hold. In fact, one of the science departments vociferously supports the session. Various voices argue that spring term does more to hinder than to help the educational process. Many complain that three weeks per term are lost, that the students are not making up for the lost time outside of class (because they are spending too much time on extracurricular pursuits), and that many spring term classes are considerably less productive than an additional class in each of the 15-week terms would be.

While the arguments against spring term may be persuasive, the ones in favor of it are more so. Many, but certainly not all, departments have successfully adapted to the system and developed useful and rewarding classes. The language departments, for example, offer study abroad programs which provide many students with a once in a lifetime opportunity. Few would have the time to spend an entire semester in Europe, especially those not majoring in the languages, but many can allocate one of the six week terms to foreign study. Thus, W&L is fulfilling its mission to provide its students with a truly diverse, liberal (but hopefully not leftist) education.

Similarly, W&L's unique three term calendar affords students the occasion to enjoy seminars and internships. The politics department has what many consider to be a

George Nomikos is a senior from Richmond, Virginia.

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model internship program on Capitol Hill and in the White House. Undoubtedly, eliminating the short session would deprive many students outside the politics department of such a rewarding experience. Such programs furnish students with an educational experience beyond the classroom, different from the formal lecture setting. Spring seminars also depart from the traditional teaching methods and provide more one on one discussion among students and faculty. The number of discussion courses any student would be able to take would be greatly diminished in a 15 week semester. In a school that prides itself on the close relationship between student and professor, such seminars should be preserved. Seminars develop analytical and verbal skills, force a student to do extensive preparation outside class and produce (more or less) lively discussion in a refreshing break from the furious, though equally important, note taking of many classes.

Finally, academic pursuits aside, after the rigors of the winter, the spring allows for an active student social life. The Foxfield races, fraternity and private parties and trips to Goshen are an important part of

THE WASHINGTON AND LEE SPECTATOR



Spring term offers many students the opportunity for internships in Washington, D.C.

the W&L education and they should not be dismissed as idle pursuits. Time spent outside the classroom develops social skills and leadership abilities, without which no one can be successful in society. Students, often too busy to spend much time with one another, come together in the more relaxed atmosphere of the last term, often establishing lasting bonds of friendship—a process that should be an integral part of any college experience.

Any calendar changes the committee may recommend must be approved by the faculty, and not vehemently objected to by the board of trustees, in order to take effect. In 1984, a similar committee reported that a majority of faculty members wanted to keep spring term as it then existed. Apparently, the administration did not like this answer, and now—five years later—they have requested a new one. Hopefully, the faculty, however, will reaffirm the spring term as a unique element of the W&L experience and a unique educational opportunity. Instead of following the current fad, W&L should continue to offer a viable alternative to the common, megaversity 15 week term.

THE BACK ROOM

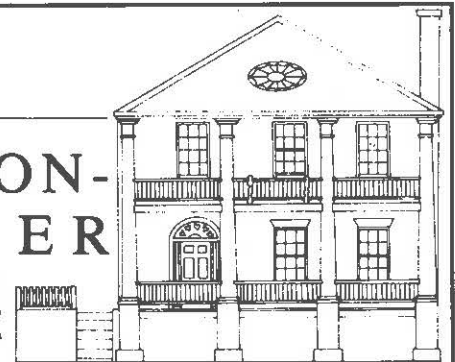
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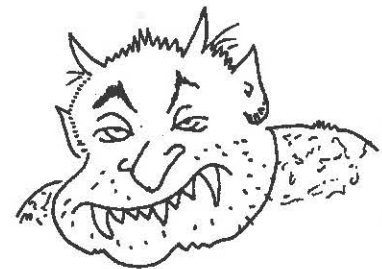
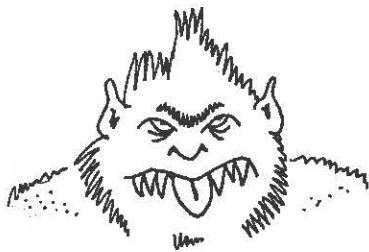
Editors note: On April 7, 1988, an investigative team consisting Sean Connolly, Thomas Gottsegen, and Claude Williams attempted to bring the following story to light. At the time, Washington & Lee was a one-publication University, and so the sleuths went to the Ring-tum Phi with the article. Under the pretense of being a serious newspaper, the Phi editors refused to print the piece, consequently endangering our beloved Washington and Lee Community, not to mention Rockbridge County, if not the entire South. What follows is the original masterpiece, reworked by Mr. Gottsegen in light of new evidence.



Last Thursday, our investigative team enlarged this photograph, which seems to provide the first substantial evidence in fourteen years of the existence of a small, but dangerous hunched beast rumored to inhabit Lexington, Virginia. Because it was photographed near the concrete footbridge, where it has appeared in virtually every reported sighting since 1956, experts believe that this creature lives somewhere in the vicinity of the bridge.

Our investigation began three years ago in 1987 when we were contacted by a third year law stu-

Could this be only one of many trolls?



These drawings, compiled from eye-witness accounts in six different sightings, lead experts to believe that there are several trolls, possibly an entire colony.



Drawings by Kevin Nalty

dent who led us to believe that the disappearance of a close friend in the Spring of 1982 involved more than just another "missing persons" report. She suspected that the administration was attempting to cover up the disappearance as they refused to comment on the incident.

The University Proctor, Murph, when confronted with the photograph shown here, became noticeably uncomfortable and defensive. Finally, when repeatedly questioned about the possibility of a troll, Murph exclaimed off the record, "Uh, I haven't heard such stories in over ten years; it would be better for everyone if no one sees that picture."

This prompted further questioning throughout the Lexington community, which uncovered some rather shocking information. Mrs. Diefenthal of South Randolph Street, claims that her deceased sister-in-law once saw a furry biped leaping from the bridge while she was walking her dog late one afternoon in the Summer of 1956. Displaying a Mona Lisa like smile, she assured us that others in the community could provide us with further conclusive evidence. Then, paradoxically, she refused to answer any more questions and abruptly ended the interview.

Prior to our departure, however, through ingenious interrogating techniques learned at the Sgt. Friday School of Interrogation, we discovered a Mrs. Gladys Adkins who lived on McDowell Street. Mrs. Adkins, who asked to remain unidentified, well remembers talk of a troll living in the proximity of the footbridge. In a low voice she added that her deceased husband had been forced to quietly retire as a result of "University pressure" after being overheard discussing a certain "bridge incident." She related alarming stories of how the University has repeatedly tried to hide the existence of this menace. As she was near death, she refused to cover up for the administration any more.

yet to be released by the Lexington Police Department.

Upon calling Washington and Lee information for facts on this matter, we posed this question to senior Brad Hair: "What do you know about the 'troll' under the footbridge?" Hair, in an obvious cover up, replied "that bridge that goes out to the field? I don't know anything about it, except what you just said."

Editors note: We recently posed the same question to Brian Root, current editor of the Phi, who is obviously privy to extensive information on the subject. Root, in an attempt to "play dumb," indignantly replied, "Excuse me! This is a very interesting question, but you'll have to give me at least a month on that." He quickly hung up the phone, no doubt in a hurried attempt to alert administrative officials that someone was prying into the contents on their secret grievance department files.

Since the disappearance of the girl over six year ago, everyone has been afraid to comment about the existence of a troll. Although no information is currently available about the mating habits of trolls, one expert indicated to us that "if trolls are at all like rabbits, then you guys could be in serious danger." Our photograph only shows one troll, however Lexington may be the location of the next great troll colony. In any case, it is time that everyone faced up to this rather painful truth.

Editor's note: The Washington & Lee Spectator, the W&L Student Journal of Fact and Opinion is COMPLETELY independent of the University. Unlike some publications, the Spectator is not afraid to take controversial stands on such important issues as the Administration's blatant cover-up of the troll affair. We hope to continue to provide Washington & Lee with such quality journalism and we thank you for your support.

Outloud

After I finished four years at Washington and Lee University and went on to graduate school at Yale, I met my first Marxists....

-Tom Wolfe at a recent party celebrating the 35th anniversary of *National Review*

Knowledge of human nature is the beginning and end of political education.

-Henry Adams

I thought Stalin was a good leader.

-Gus Hall, chairman Communist Party of the U.S.A.

You have to have at least one pervert per show or you can't survive out here.

-Phil Donahue

Any man who puts out his hand to stop the moving wave of history will get his fingers crushed.

-Lech Walesa

A single sentence will suffice for modern man: He fornicated and read the newspapers.

-Albert Camus

The trouble with being punctual is that there's no one there to appreciate it.

-Harold Rohme

It is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations.

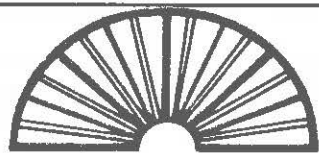
-Winston Churchill

A critic is a legless man who teaches running.

-Channing Pollock

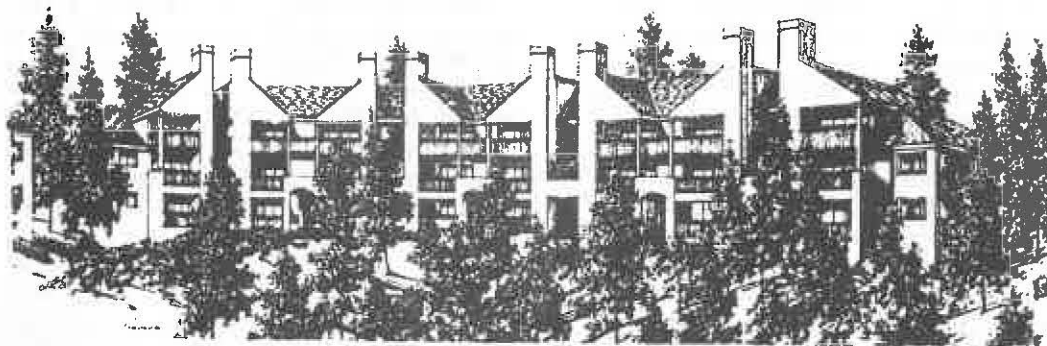
The liberals can understand everything except the people who don't understand them.

-Lenny Bruce



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