

# ✓ W&L Votes '86

## The Candidates

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MAR 7 1986

### President:

- ✓ Andrew Caruthers
- ✓ Shayam Menon
- ✓ William Thompson

(See page 3)

### Vice President:

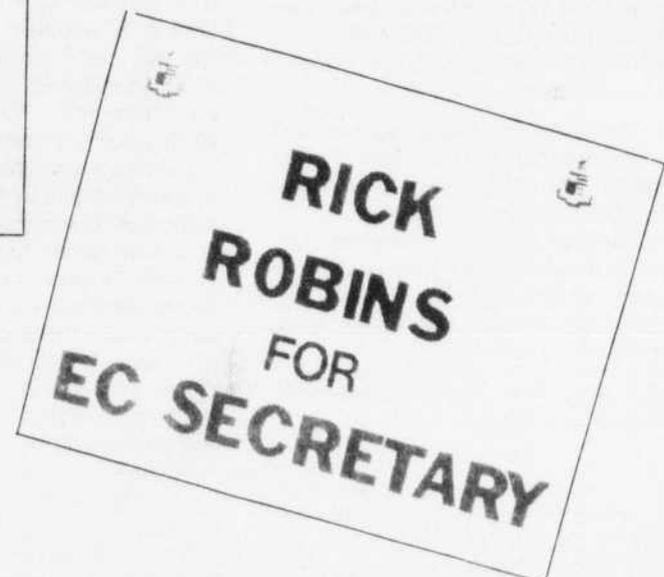
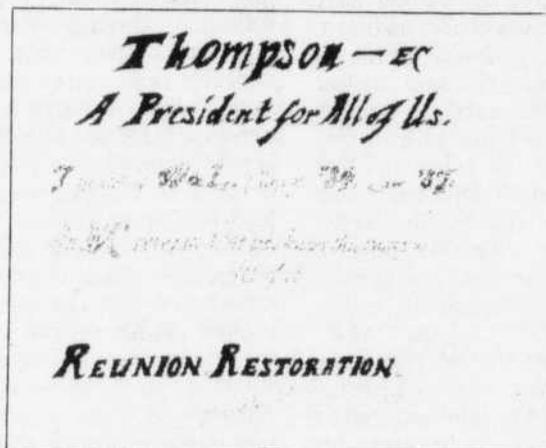
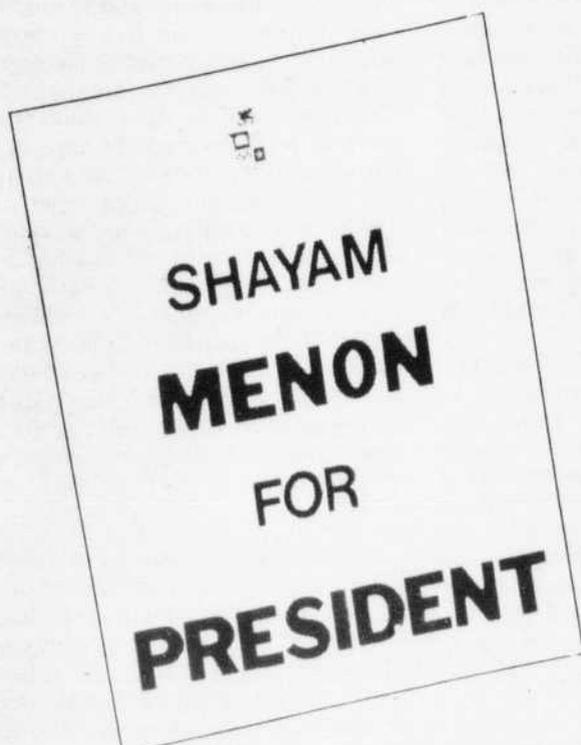
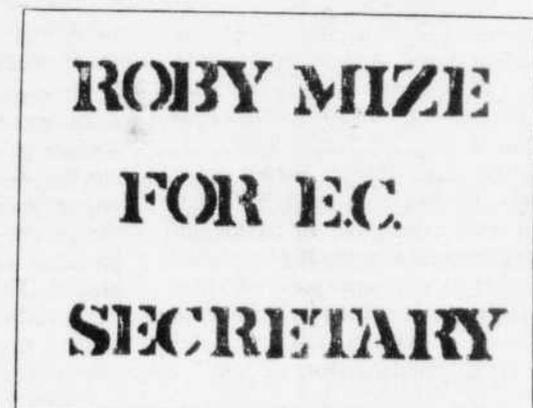
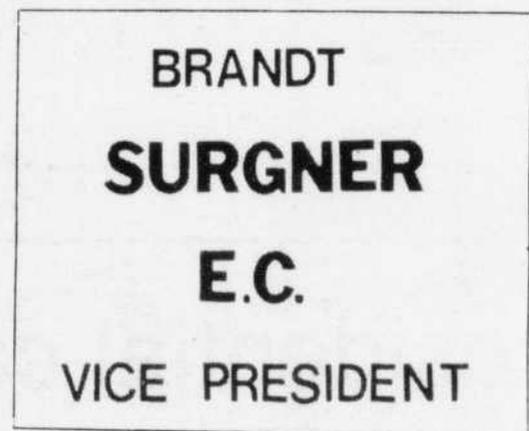
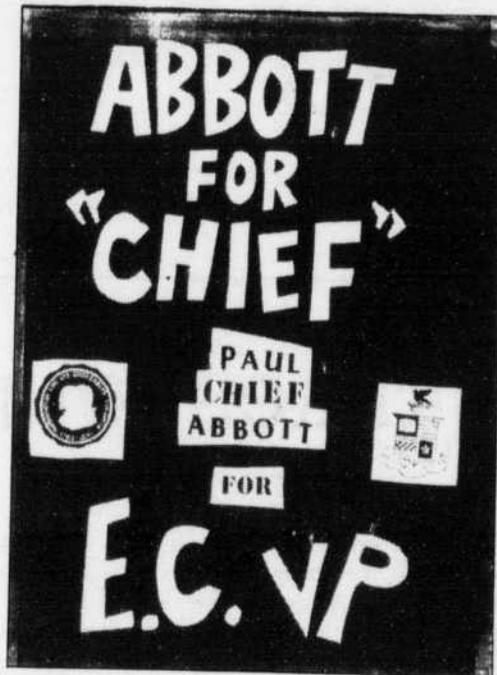
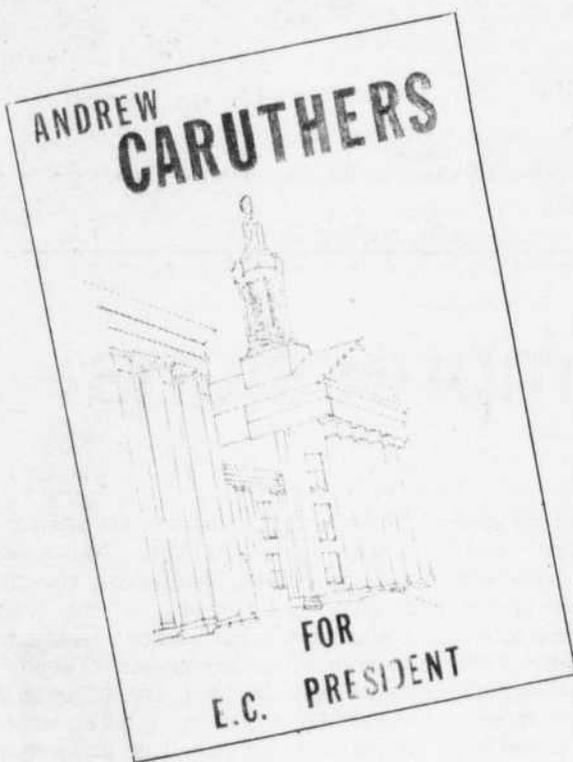
- ✓ Paul 'Chief' Abbott
- ✓ Brandt Surgner

(See page 4)

### Secretary:

- ✓ Roby Mize
- ✓ Rick Robins

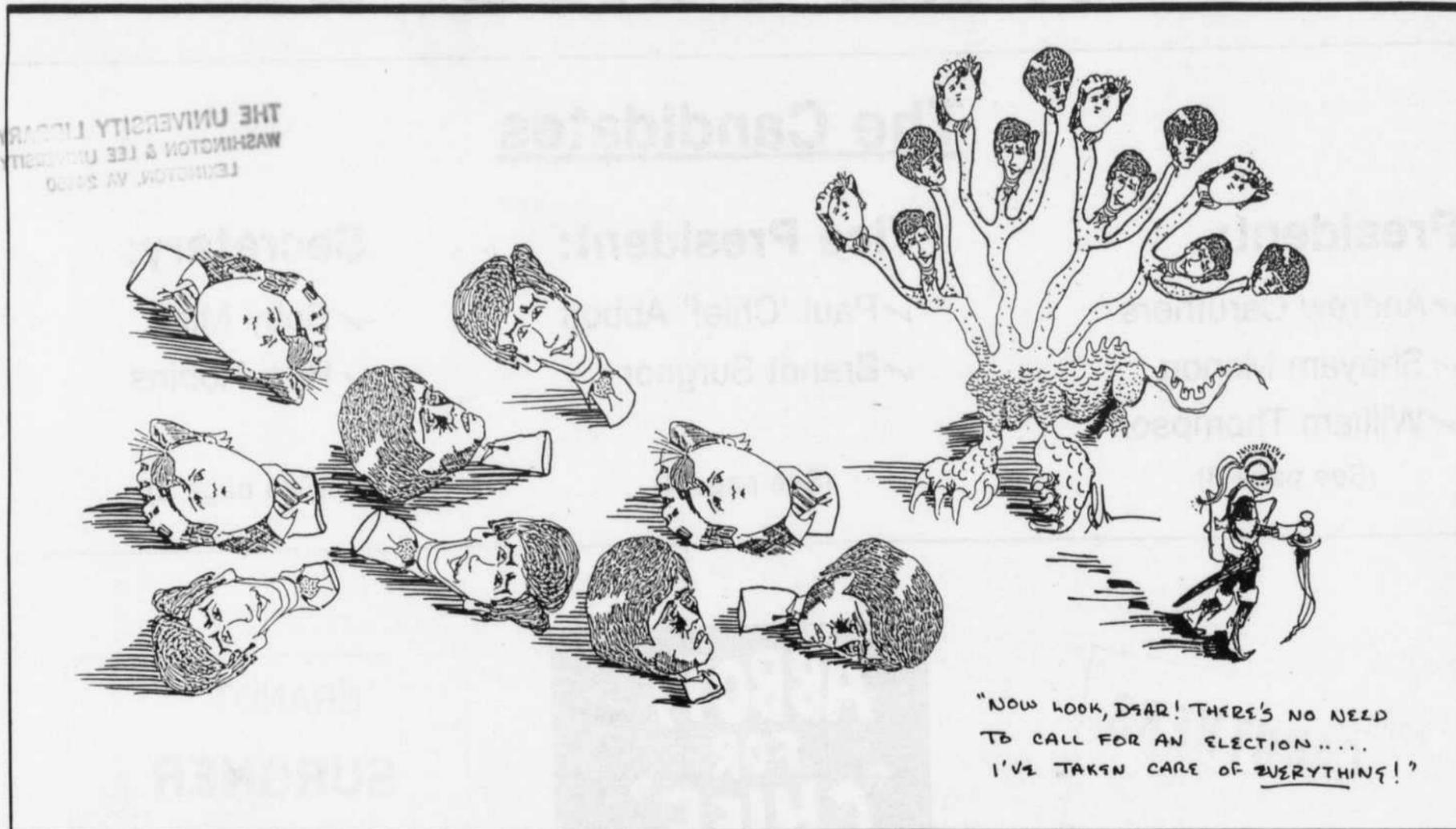
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A supplement to  
THE RING-TUM PHI  
March 6, 1986

# ELECTION OPINION

The Ring-tum Phi



## Presidential candidates: our impressions

The student body this year will choose its president from among three candidates who all currently serve on the Executive Committee. That is somewhat unusual in recent "Big Three" elections; two of the last three student body presidents, for example, had no EC experience. One advantage to having incumbent EC members running for higher office is that there's some solid information on which to evaluate them beyond the usual flurry of posters, canned statements and long-winded letters.

Since it's easy to get bored and lost in the blizzard of candidates' comments about coeducation and the Honor System, we wanted to take a stab at some less predictable insights into the individuals asking you to hand your student government over to them.

The Ring-tum Phi has a reporter and two or three editors at each Monday night EC meeting, so we get a pretty good feel for the personalities and competence of the committee members. Since no sane students should be subjected to those weekly exercises in controlled chaos, we thought it appropriate to pass along some of what we have observed.

Our impressions, then, of the three presidential candidates:

Vice President Andrew Caruthers frustrates us not so much because of what he is but because of what he could be. He has an extremely appealing personality; first impressions are his forte, and he would excel at the numerous face-man

aspects of the job, such as meeting with the trustees and orienting the freshmen. A three-year veteran of the committee, Caruthers was first elected as a freshman and has grown more effective each year. He has mastered the intricacies of the Honor System and has done a more-than-competent job this year with the thankless task of managing the student body budgets. Ever conscious of his constituency, Caruthers is always among the first to suggest that the committee seek student opinion when a controversial issue comes up. Unfortunately, he is also given to pettiness and paranoia, characteristics that torpedo his otherwise effective leadership style and hint at a troubling insecurity. Caruthers remains a likeable, talented guy who could be the ideal president to make the student government's transition from the "old" to the "new" Washington and Lee. He several times has shown a willingness to stand up to the administration and has demonstrated on numerous occasions that he votes his principles rather than simple political advantage. If there is such a thing as earning the presidency, Caruthers has done it: He is easily the most dynamic and experienced of the three candidates. If Caruthers would stop playing games and just be himself, he — and the student body — would be well served.

Junior representative Shayam Menon has managed skillfully to steer clear of two traps that lay waiting for him. One was to become a tooth-and-nails, at-the-

throat rival of Caruthers, and the other was to be a stooge for this year's president, who is a close friend, fellow dormitory counselor and fraternity brother. Caruthers and Menon would seem to have been natural adversaries. When Caruthers was a freshman, he basked in the spotlight of being the only class representative; the next year, he had Menon as a colleague. Through efforts on both of their parts, they have developed an amicable relationship and have worked well together. Although Menon generally agrees with the president, he is not — and is not perceived as — a John Lewis clone or puppet. Menon followed Caruthers' lead in staying in close touch with the class by employing an innovative system of specific contacts in each fraternity for consultation on issues. He is an extremely popular dorm counselor and has walked the fine line between being friendly and outgoing and yet avoiding any appearance of being a political climber. Like most members of the committee, he has a refreshing sense of humor, but takes matters seriously when it's time for business. Menon would hardly be a charismatic public speaker, a definite drawback in an office as visible as the student body president's. He would be a caretaker president rather than an activist, but his thoughtful, careful approach to issues would promote level-headedness on the committee.

Second year law representative Bill Thompson has not distinguished himself, but neither has he made a fool of himself,

a feat that has eluded several recent law school representatives. Thompson's years as a W&L undergraduate gave him a good understanding of the Honor System, and he has worked well with the committee's undergraduates. Despite a surprisingly short temper, he frequently contributes constructively to committee discussions. He, too, has escaped too close an identification with the president, a friend and fraternity brother, and has voted differently from him on several issues. On the rather narrow ideological spectrum that comprises this year's EC, Thompson would be left of center. His years as an undergraduate have given him a memory of the institution broader and deeper than any of the other candidates. Having a law student as student body president would undoubtedly be a huge stride in promoting greater identification between the two sides of Woods Creek. The relationship will never be as close and as productive as it was then the law school was housed in Tucker Hall, but Thompson could significantly narrow the gap between the two student bodies of one university.

A final note: More than half of the work the EC performs is not reported by the newspaper or seen by many students. To the extent that member performance cannot be observed in the context of honor matters, our judgment of the candidates is incomplete. In that sense, how this year's EC upheld the Honor System or allowed it to weaken ultimately must be the deciding factor.

## President

# Caruthers: Urges 'laissez-faire' toward coed

By JIM STRADER  
Editor

Experience in several Executive Committee positions and exposure to a variety of student government functions are the key attributes EC Vice President Andrew Caruthers said he would bring to the job of student body president.

Caruthers, 20, a junior business administration major from Shreveport, La. said in his three years on the EC he has observed not only the major workings of the committee, but also minor things the "ins and outs" of the EC. His participation in the functioning of the EC

would give him something to fall back on as president.

"It's a big step to be elected to the EC as a representative," he continued. "And it's a big step to go from being a rep to being on the 'Big Three'. The next step is to capitalize on all the fortes and foibles of the last three student body presidents I've served," Caruthers said.

Caruthers stressed the importance of improved relations between the undergraduate campus and the law school as well as the importance of maintaining good relations between the student body and other University groups.

"I'd like to strengthen the Honor System orientation for

first-year law students," he said. "I'd like to involve W&L alumni at the law school — the seven-year men — in orientation."

Caruthers pointed out that acting as a liaison from the student body to the Board of Trustees is among the duties of the student body president.

"He has to articulately express the student body opinion to the board on all issues," Caruthers said. "He is also the conduit to the faculty. It's very important to be able to express student body opinion there and explain the opinions no matter what it may be."

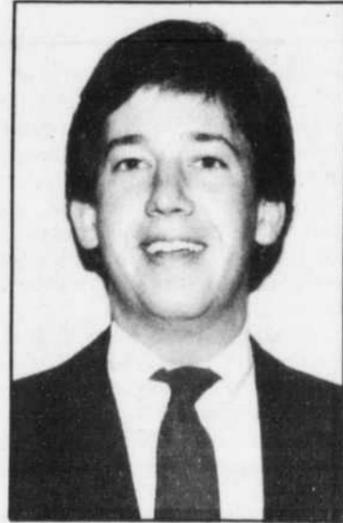
On the issue of coeducation and some of the related problems that have surfaced, Caruthers said he thinks W&L ought to

adopt a "laissez-faire" attitude.

"I don't think we should force anything prematurely," he explained. "Coeducation is a thing that has happened and it should be allowed to run its course. I'm against pushing things ahead of their time."

Although the Honor System has been surrounded by controversy recently, Caruthers said that has served to strengthen it.

"Despite the doubt about the Honor System this year, it's been a positive effect," Caruthers said. "It's encouraged students to take an active role. It's caused them to strengthen their belief and realize the importance the Honor System has at W&L."



ANDREW CARUTHERS

# Menon: Uses 'network' to track W&L views

By JASON LISI  
News Editor

Junior Executive Committee representative Shayam Menon says that if successful in his quest for the EC presidency he will try to strengthen the Honor System and make the student government more attentive to students' views and opinions.

Menon said in an interview this week that he currently stays in touch by use of a "network" of students he created to keep tabs on the views of fellow students. He said that as president, he would continue the system.

"I want to be open-minded next year," he said.

Menon, a business administration major from Charles Town, W.Va., is in his second year as a class representative and also serves as a dormitory counselor.

He lists the Honor System among the strengths of W&L, yet feels the process of implementing it can be improved.

"You would be very idealistic to say the Honor System works completely," he said. "Lying, cheating and stealing, in some aspects, are inherent to human nature."

"I think we have a system where we trust each other," Menon added. "There are flaws but we have to move in a positive direction rather than a negative one."

He suggested ways of improving the system, including more comprehensive orientation of freshmen and new faculty members at the beginning of the school year.

As a weakness of the school, Menon cited the current organization of the Student Control Committee.

"I don't think they're properly structured right now to take on more serious cases," he said, adding that there should be a more routine way the SCC goes about its investigations and hearings.

Menon said he had not seen much change since he's been at W&L except for the dorm life where, because of new Virginia drinking laws, the majority of

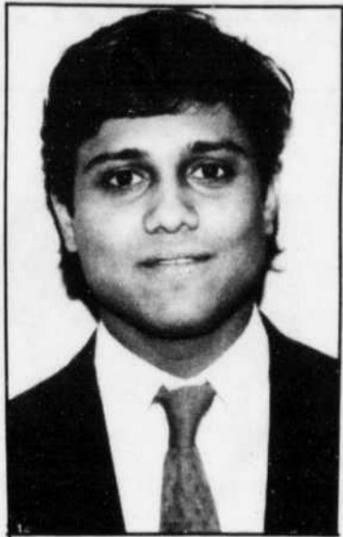
the freshman class is forbidden to possess alcohol.

Although Menon initially voted in favor of creating the non-voting female position on the SCC, he said that after hearing SCC and student body opposition to the position, he changed his vote.

"I don't think the placing of an ad hoc woman [on the SCC] is the solution to the problem," he said.

He suggests an alternative solution, such as the greater use of dorm counselors to assist with testimony.

He said that if he loses the race for president, he will not run for senior class representative so that "new blood" can flow into the committee after his two years as a representative.



SHAYAM MENON

# Thompson: Student-Hill relations suffering



WILLIAM THOMPSON

By JASON LISI  
News Editor

Bill Thompson, a 1984 Washington and Lee graduate and the only law student running in the "Big Three" election, says he has seen how the school has changed since he arrived in Lexington and wants to "put something back" into W&L by being Executive Committee president.

He is presently the second-year law representative to the EC and is from Boca Raton, Fla.

Thompson says his main concern is that the future of student government at W&L is in danger from a breakdown of relations between students and faculty.

"If there are not improved relations between student gov-

ernment and the faculty and the administration, then the very institution of student government is threatened," he said.

"We should be working together with these people," he added. "It's a relationship that could be very close."

If these relations are not improved, Thompson says, "I see change for the worse rather than for the better."

He said that in his years at W&L he has seen the academic nature of the school improve. "The impression that I get is that the students are now putting more pressure on themselves," he said.

But the time-honored traits of the campus, such as the faith in the Honor System and the spirit

of camaraderie, have not changed, he said. "The things that make it different from a lot of schools still exist, and they haven't changed," he said.

Thompson reacted to some of the major issues on campus this year:

•Thompson said he feels that the coeducation decision was intended to make many of changes in the University and that the changes have been favorable.

"The obvious academic advantages that the women have brought to the campus which have been stressed by so many are clear, but I think that there are other things the women can add that haven't even yet come

to fruition," he said.

"They're obviously interested in participating on campus."

•Thompson said he would be disappointed if some minorities whose request for a minority non-voting ad hoc member to the Student Control Committee voted against some EC members in this election.

"If the minority students took their disfavor with our decision out at the polls, I think that they would be placing their energies in the wrong direction," he said.

"I think that it would be unfortunate if they chose to take it out on this particular committee because the committee was only acting in the interest of the student body," he said.

## ✓ Vice President

# Abbott: Honor, trust to be keys to next year

By PAUL FOUTCH  
Editor

Junior Paul Abbott says he is offering the student body his trustworthiness to uphold the Honor System as a candidate for vice president, and he believes that students can define the Honor System and are ultimately responsible for it.

Abbott, an East Asian Studies major from Richmond, said this week that he doesn't believe in the "boys will be boys" argument.

"I think the IFC is there to deal with behavior of that sort," he said. "The EC is there to determine what's honorable and what's not, and I believe that was what Robert E. Lee's argument was in allowing the students to run the Honor System."

"Technically, [a "boys will be boys" incident] would be an honor violation, but then again the EC does try to reflect what the student body feels about what is honorable and what is not."

Abbott referred to a controversial open honor trial earlier in the year in which a

student jury acquitted another student who had been found guilty of larceny in Lexington General District Court. "I thought the decision wasn't detrimental to the Honor System because I think the student body decides the Honor System."

Abbott said his administrative experience includes positions as corresponding secretary and pledge educator for Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, jobs that give him a vote in a body similar to the EC and make him responsible for indoctrinating freshmen.

He gave Vice President Andrew Caruthers good marks for keeping tight control of the student body budget this year by limiting the amount of money organizations could list under "miscellaneous" in their budget requests and reports, and he praised the EC for giving groups with larger constituencies greater funding.

He also said he has gained budgeting experience by handling a speaker/dinner program for his fraternity.

The major reason that he's running for office, though, is to protect the Honor System.

Abbott said he read recently about a poll at another Virginia college with an honor system. In the poll, 75 percent of the students admitted to cheating.

"I don't believe that happens here, and I don't wish to see it happen here," Abbott said.

"The Honor System is one of the reasons I came here in the first place."

Abbott said the reason there are so few candidates for "Big Three" positions as compared with last year may be related to the amount of controversy the Honor System has generated.

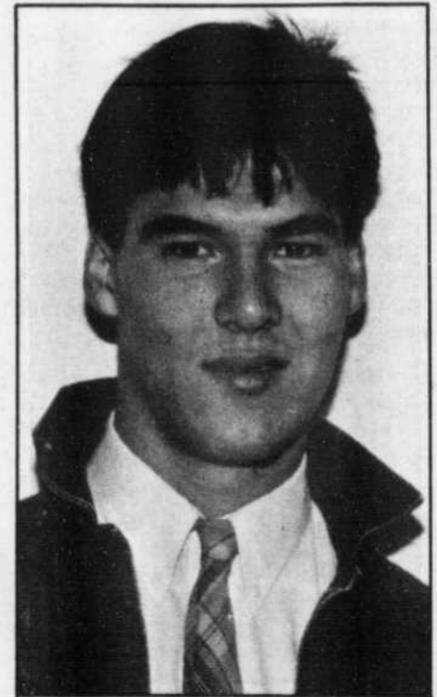
"Next year is going to be a key year for the Honor System," he said.

"I don't think there's really that many people willing to take up this challenge."

"A lot of people are questioning if there really is an Honor System." The answer to maintaining a strong system is a strong EC, Abbott said.

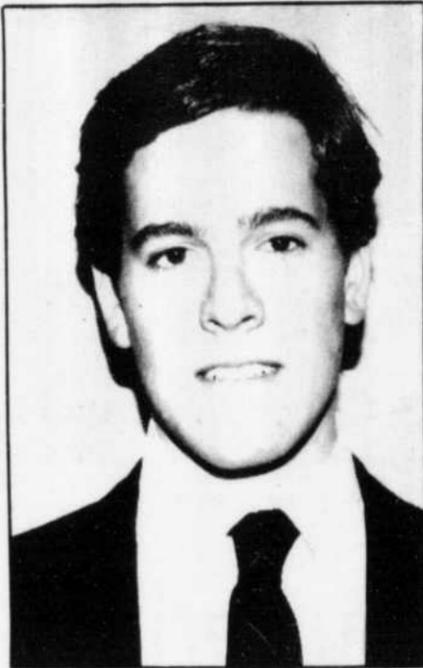
He added that his contact with much of the student body will let him keep the EC in tune with the students.

"I feel I have a firm grasp on the feelings of students."



PAUL ABBOTT

# Surgner: W&L 'tension' needs to be solved



BRANDT SURGNER

By SYDNEY MARTINSON  
Staff Reporter

Junior Brandt Surgner, one of two candidates for vice president, feels the most significant change at Washington and Lee this year has been a new atmosphere filled with tension.

Surgner said this week that most of the tension stems from differences between the upperclassmen and the freshmen women; or, with neither party actually to blame.

"There are still some upperclassmen who aren't quite ready to accept coeducation," he said, "and when they hear the women complaining about the ad hoc member and things like that, I guess that just tends to tick them off."

Surgner added, though, that he has been surprised by how receptive some of the upperclassmen have been.

"As the year has progressed, people have become more openminded," he said. "They just don't want it all dumped on them at once."

Surgner said he is opposed to a female ad hoc member on the Student Control Committee. He said it is "not fair" to either men or women, because such an appointed member would only bring about hostility and more tension.

Another area in which tension is increasing, according to Surgner, is in student attitudes toward the Honor System. While Surgner does not see any weakening of the system, he realizes that there are differences among the student body over what constitutes an honor offense. He cited fake identification cards as an example. While some students consider any false identification to be a violation of honor, Surgner said he feels that a violation occurs only when a student is questioned about the card's validity.

"If a person says, 'That's me,' that is without a doubt an honor violation," he declared.

The various tensions between students are making them less inclined to be friendly, Surgner contends. People don't seem to speak to each other as much as they have in the past two years," he said.

Because of this lack of communication, Surgner says that "tension is detrimental to the student body."

He said he feels his skills in relating with people will help him deal with the issues on both sides more effectively.

Surgner said his "leadership qualifications" and his "knowledge of the Honor System" make him the best suited for this position.

He has served as president and vice president of Sigma Phi Epsilon and is vice president of Kathekon, the student alumni association. He said his involvement with last year's White Book Revision Committee gave him a strong background with the Honor System.

"Since I've been at W&L, the Honor System has really had an impact on how I look at things," he said. Still, he thinks he and many other students, take some aspects of the Honor System, such as unproctored exams, for granted. "I would like to have the opportunity to help administer the Honor System and preserve it for this generation as well as future generations," he said.

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## Secretary

# Mize: Commitment important, not experience

By JIM STRADER  
Editor

Junior Roby Mize, a candidate for Executive Committee secretary, says serving in that position would give him an opportunity to repay all that Washington and Lee has given him.

Mize, a history and economics major from Dallas, is a member of the Student Recruitment Committee and the Phi Delta Theta social fraternity, and is a two-year tennis team letterman. He competed in the NCAA Division III National Tennis Championships as both a freshman and a sophomore.

"I've been pretty involved at school," Mize, 21, said in an interview this week.

"W&L has given me a lot, and this is one more way to give it back to the school, by serving on the EC."

This year's campaign is Mize's first attempt at student government at W&L, but he said he doesn't think experience should be a requirement for office.

"It would help to have EC experience, but past EC people have stepped in their senior year without any problems," he said.

Mize said he doesn't see many recent changes in the overall W&L community, although he has seen many changes regarding coeducation. One thing he has especially noticed through his work on the Student Recruitment Committee is an improvement in the applicant pool.

Coeducation has had negative effects as

well, Mize said. "The school has in a sense overcompensated" for the women, he explained. "They have been given a lot. The situation can't be perfect for them; time is going to have to smooth out the rough edges."

Mize said that although some women have said they've sensed hostilities from men, "that's because it was such a hot issue."

He said he thinks the anti-coed sentiment has dissipated. "It's heard about more than you see it," he said. "It's not that pervasive. Coeducation is a step to the future."

The Honor System hasn't undergone any changes, in Mize's opinion. "People point to cases sometimes, but those are individual things," Mize said. "On the whole it still works."



ROBY MIZE

# Robins: Honor remains 'first and foremost'

By PAUL FOUTCH  
Editor

Rick Robins, a sophomore economics major from Newport News, says his main reason for running for Executive Committee secretary is to keep the Honor System strong.

"I feel that honor should be first and foremost," Robins said.

He said freshmen and first-year law students should have the idea of Washington and Lee honor instilled in them through more one-on-one contact with student leaders during orientation, and he said he would like to see the EC investigate honor cases more thoroughly.

Robins, Sigma Phi Epsilon's representative to the Interfraternity Council, said his

freshman orientation was good, but "It was a little bit too casual."

He said he would like to see freshmen meet in smaller groups and have the Honor System explained to them in greater detail.

Robins, who was a witness in an honor case last year, said he saw some problems from that experience with the way the EC investigates possible honor violations.

"Each case should be investigated a bit more than in the past," he said.

"The EC this year and last year has lacked in fairness," he said, adding that he couldn't comment on the case he was involved in.

Robins said he would like to keep the Honor System strong, but he doesn't think "boys will be boys" incidents necessarily should result in expulsion.

"Each case should be dealt with individually," he said.

Robins said the "men's school mentality" hasn't changed at W&L, even with coeducation. The school is just a "coeducational men's school, if that makes any sense."

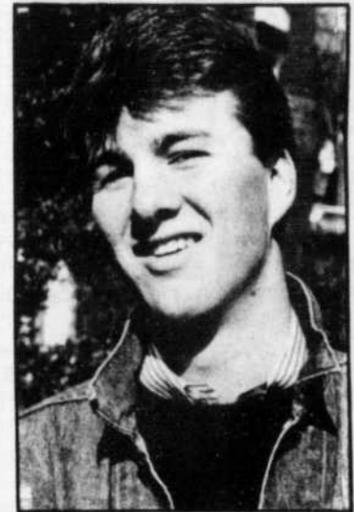
The answer to changing that doesn't lie in ad hoc woman representatives to various committees, though.

"The best way for them to have their interests represented is to have them elected," he said.

Robins said he was worried that ad hoc representatives will hurt the unity of student committees, and a strong EC particularly is important. Students who want to be represented can always attend EC meetings, he said.

"The EC will be receptive to student input."

By way of leadership experience, Robins said he started a wholesale seafood business that netted \$4,500 last summer.



RICK ROBINS

# Bedsheets in campaigns called ugly, banned by VRB

By SEAN BUGG  
Staff Reporter

Students remembering past "Big Three" elections may notice something different this year: There aren't the usual sheets hanging from buildings to advertise candidates' campaigns.

"It kind of makes the campus look ugly," said junior John Scannapieco, co-chairman of the Voting Regulations Board.

The rule banning bedsheets was passed in order to clean up the campus, he said. "You don't have to have a big sheet hanging to advertise your campaign," Scannapieco contended.

Candidates now are limited to 25 paper posters around campus.

The VRB is "a neutral board that monitors the elections and campaigns ... and makes sure there are no unfair practices," Scannapieco said.



JOHN SCANNAPIECO

In the case of Executive Committee elections, the board takes the election out of the hands of the body that is up for election in order to ensure fair voting.

The Honor System also helps the election run smoothly, Scannapieco noted. "I don't have to worry about people putting up more signs than they should," he said.



LOU MONDELLO

The student body "won't stuff ballot boxes" either, because of the Honor System, he said.

Counting the ballots is another responsibility of the board, which consists of six members in addition to Scannapieco and co-Chairman Lou Mondello.

Students who man the ballot boxes on election days are asked to do so by members of the board.

\*\*\*\*\*

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# VRB lists campaign, election do's and don't's

Following is the text of the Voting Regulations Board's election rules and regulations:

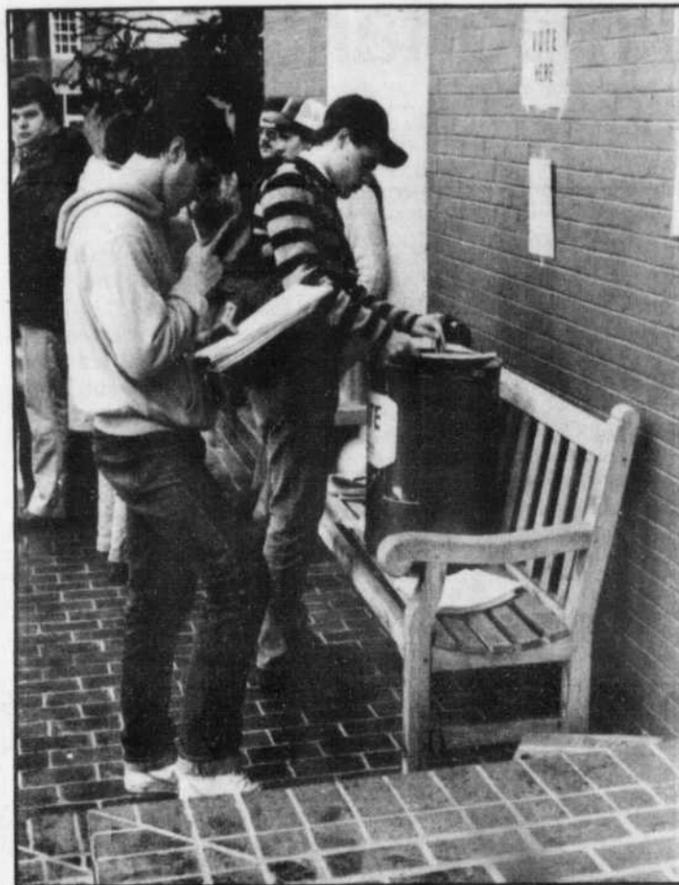
The purpose of the VRB is to maintain fair and equitable elections. Any action or event influencing voters in an unfair manner, as well as any question of possible violation of the stated rules, shall be brought to the attention of the VRB. The Board, upon hearing of the matter, will decide whether or not the candidate is disqualified from the election. The decision of the VRB may be appealed to the Executive Committee.

The Chairman shall certify the election as being in accordance with the set rules and regulations.

A. All elections and referendums shall be publicized as provided for in the Student Body Constitution. The notice shall include: the date(s), times, purpose of voting, ballot box locations, and notice of required attendance by the candidates at the "rule-setting" meeting, to be conducted by the VRB.

B. All possible candidates are required to attend the VRB "rule-setting" meeting held at least one week prior to the night petitions are due. They must be given a copy of the rules and regulations at the meeting. All exceptions must go through the VRB chairperson prior to the night petitions are due.

C. All candidates, including write-in candidates, are subject to the spending and poster limits as set by the VRB. Donations of any sort to one's campaign are to be included within these limits. Any possible violations shall be reported to the Voting Regula-



Students vote in front of the Commerce School last year

tions Board. If at any time a candidate has any questions concerning the elections and/or these regulations, he should consult a VRB member.

D. All candidates, including write-in candidates, are prohibited from: a) any verbal or physical contact with potential voters within 25 feet of polling place; and b) are prohibited from having any posters or banners within 10 feet of the polling place.

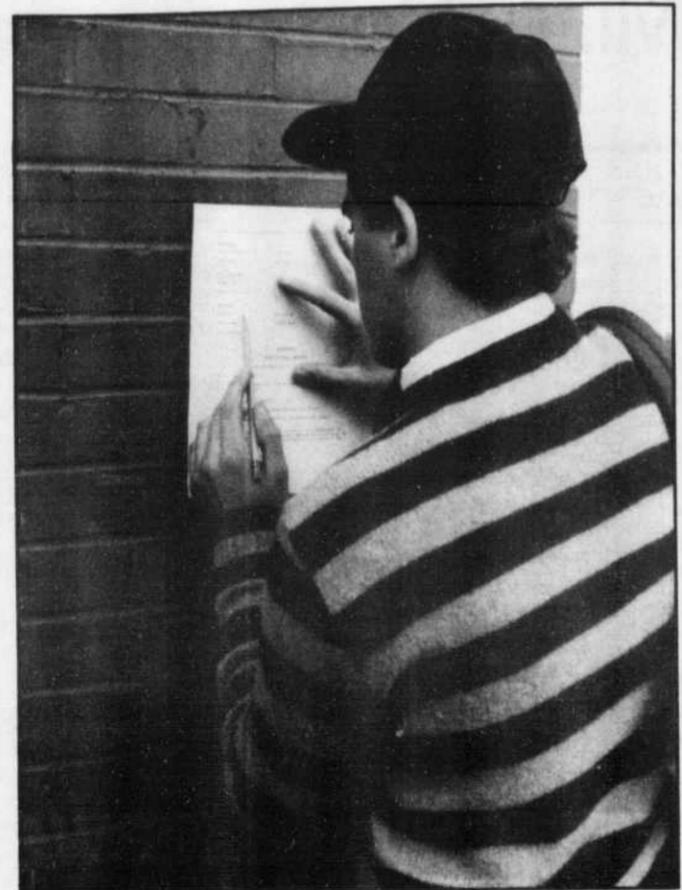
E. There shall be a minimum of two places for polling for major elections unless otherwise determined by the VRB.

F. All polling places must be staffed at all times.

G. Hours of operation shall be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

H. All ballot boxes shall remain sealed until voting is complete.

I. At each of the polling places there shall be: a list of the poll staffers, a copy of the rules, a



File photos by Cotton Puryear

Then-junior Bill Michaud casts his ballot

student directory for voters to check their names off, and the ballots.

J. The poll staffers shall remain in a position of official neutrality on candidates and/or issues being voted on.

K. Under no circumstances shall any person attempt to directly influence the vote of a student after he has obtained a ballot.

L. If there is a line of students

waiting to vote after polling hours, only they may cast their ballots.

M. Write-in votes shall be considered invalid in run-off elections.

N. Any call for a recount or any complaints shall be referred to the Voting Regulations Board, which shall meet within 24 hours after an election at a time specified at the "rule-setting" meeting.

## Petitions for EC class representatives due March 17

Candidates' petitions for Executive Committee class representative are due Monday, March 17, at 6:15 p.m. in the EC

room, according the Voting Regulations Board. A rule-setting meeting will follow. An official petition form may be ob-

tained from Carol Calkins' office in the University Center. These official petitions will be the only ones accepted.

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## Guide to 'Big Three' duties

What do the "Big Three" do? Here's a job description for each office, adapted from the Student Body Constitution:

•**President:** Calls and presides at meetings of the student body and the Executive Committee; appoints all special student body committees, subject to the approval of the EC; and has "power, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, to do anything necessary to promote the best interests of the student body."

•**Vice President:** Fulfills the duties of the president in his absence and manages the disbursements of student body funds, subject to approval of the EC.

•**Secretary:** Keeps a record of all student body and EC meetings; records proceedings and evidence in Honor System cases; has charge of all student body records; keeps an up-to-date version of the Constitution; performs student body and EC clerical duties; and posts notices required by the Constitution or EC.



By Hank Mayer/The Ring-tum Phi

The seven "Big Three" candidates respond to questions in a forum Tuesday

# Candidates discuss EC's trial coverage view

### Staff Reports

The Executive Committee's opposition to coverage of student body honor hearings by campus publications was questioned this week by some "Big Three" candidates, but the three EC members running for president reiterated their support for the policy.

The Ring-tum Phi this fall published facts from an "open honor trial" with the consent of the accused student, which one member of the EC at the time called "irresponsible journalism."

A newspaper official replied at

an EC meeting that the proceedings at open hearings don't stay secret anyway, that the Honor System would be strengthened by a thorough discussion of the issues raised at such trials, and that the EC ought not be the monopoly voice on honor matters.

Here is a roundup of the candidates' comments on the issue, gathered in interviews this week:

**Junior Andrew Caruthers (president):** "I'm against information about open hearings going outside the Washington and Lee community. I wouldn't have any problems if the paper was distributed strictly on the W&L

campus, but it's accessible to people outside.... We are here to protect [the accused student] from having his name dragged through the mud."

**Junior Shayam Menon (president):** Publications "can get the point across with mentioning the details. We want to keep this within our community; we don't want it to get out."

**Second-year law student William Thompson (president):** "An active discussion of the issues involved in honor trials is more than appropriate — it's necessary.... [But] if a student is acquitted, he should be accepted back unquestionably; there shouldn't be a rehash of the facts

and witnesses."

**Junior Paul "Chief" Abbott (vice president):** "I think the press has the right [to cover the hearings] .... I wouldn't necessarily say it hurts the Honor System."

**Junior Brandt Surgner (vice president):** "I am pretty much against having newspaper coverage of honor trials because I am a firm, firm believer in the confidentiality of those who are accused of honor violations. When an honor violation goes into an open trial, the White Book specifically states that it is only open to the Washington and Lee community. Since The Ring-tum Phi goes out of the W&L commu-

nity, I don't think it's right to publish the facts of honor trials and have our honor system scrutinized by those not in the community.... [Facts should be] just minor ones, nothing major."

**Junior Roby Mize (secretary):** "It is important that students are informed, but if people are really interested, they'll be there at the hearing. The problem with newspaper coverage is the possibility that an honor trial will turn into a media event. That might cause it to lose some of its seriousness."

**Sophomore Rick Robins (secretary):** "I think it's something that should be discussed in The Phi. I don't think the EC has anything to hide."

## Pressler: 'Vote and vote wisely' in EC elections

By TOWNES PRESSLER  
Senior Class President

It really is a unique privilege that we enjoy at Washington and Lee to have a completely

### OPINION

student run Honor System and student government. It is therefore important that the leaders of this system be the best leaders possible.

When voting on Monday, remember that the Honor System is only as powerful as the student generation makes it. This was proven this year in an open trial in which the student generation saw drunkenness as an excuse for an honor violation. It is therefore important that you elect someone whom you feel will

represent you and the 1986-87 student generation. The Honor System today is not what it was in 1960, nor will it be the same in the year 2000, so make sure that you elect someone who will represent next year's generation.

Big Three elections are on Monday and each office should be filled by someone who is well respected, and is able to make decisions and stick by those decisions. The job of president is not an enviable position: it will always be impossible to keep the students, the faculty and the Board of Trustees happy at the same time. We need someone who will not be afraid to stand up to any of these groups. The president of the student body will represent the student generation to the faculty and the board as well

as make decisions on honor cases. Choose your president with this in mind.

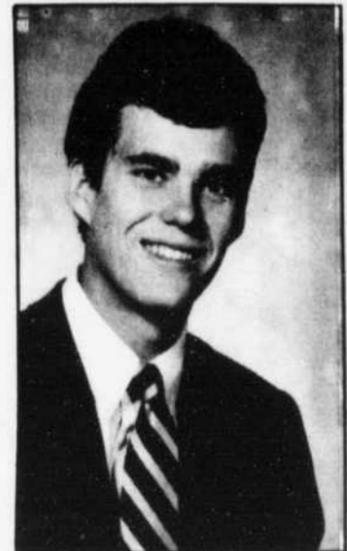
The vice president will represent you in honor trials as well as in every student organization on campus. The vice president keeps the budget for every student organization and allocates student taxes to these groups. Make sure that whomever you choose for vice president will be the type of person who will be diligent enough to keep up the books and won't be afraid to freeze any group's funds at any time.

The secretary of the EC, although not as glorified as the president and vice president, will put in as much work and has to be a conscientious worker above all else. Every week he will have

to write up the minutes of the meeting, have them typed, and post them around campus. In addition, the secretary has to record all trials and keep records at all trials and meetings. When you are voting, make certain that the person you vote for will have the time to put into all of the duties of secretary.

The president, vice president and secretary are and will be very vocal figures in the W&L community. Make sure that they will voice your opinion, which hopefully will also be their own.

The most important thing to remember when voting for the Big Three and all other representatives is that they are representing you and you control the Honor System and student government. Vote and vote wisely.



TOWNES PRESSLER

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