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Presidential Search Committee  
Northwestern University



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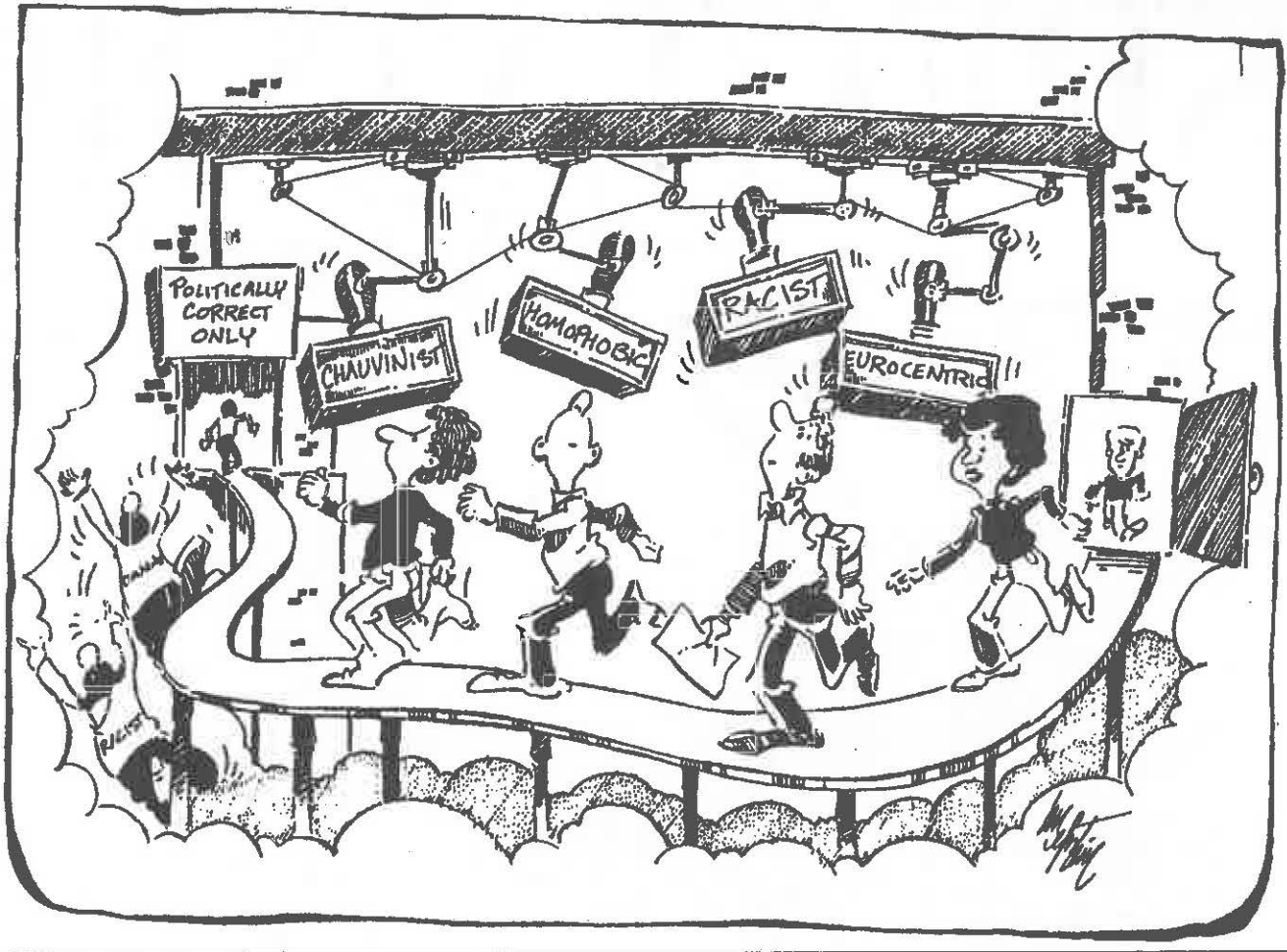
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# FROM THE EDITOR

**W**ELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE *Spectator* this year. Much to the chagrin of faculty and administration, our magazine is back for its fifth year on campus. I want to especially welcome all of our new alumni readers and thank them for their support of our efforts. After the successful Alumni Weekend Issue last May, we are now prepared to tackle the important challenges facing W&L in her near future.

When President Wilson called a joint meeting of the faculty of both the undergraduate and law schools to announce his resignation, he opened the next chapter in the history of our institution. Many dramatic changes in the face and the character of Washington and Lee have occurred in the past ten years under Wilson's tenure. Once the Capital Campaign ends and the University has the financial resources to meet the year 2000, the leadership of W&L will possess great power in shaping the future path of this institution.

Will W&L continue to improve its distinct character and tradition? We hope so. However, the new President will be the primary factor in the new direction of the

University.

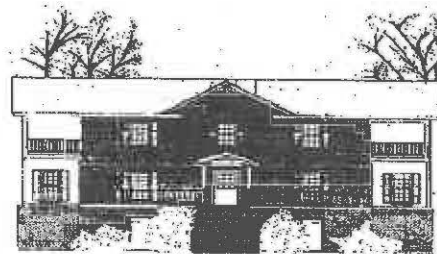
The administration recently charged a new committee to reevaluate coeducation and the sixty/forty, male/female ratio. Not surprisingly, one administrator already mentioned that he is expecting a fifty/fifty ratio, although the committee has not yet announced its recommendation. Obviously, these decisions will shape the future of the University's admissions, academic, and social policies.

Washington and Lee must avoid this movement toward a nameless, faceless, small liberal arts college. W&L students and alumni must fight to preserve her unique character. It is our obligation to take an active role in shaping our school's future. Please make your opinion heard.



Editor-in-Chief

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# LETTERS

## THE FINAL VERDICT

### *Renewed Spirit*

APPROXIMATELY TEN YEARS AGO MY interest in Washington and Lee died, almost completely.

Yesterday, my first copy of the *Spectator* arrived and I have been revived. It was unknown to me that such a journal even existed, but I am so glad that it does. A cover-to-cover reading indicates all of the reasons for the original waning of my interest. It has been renewed.

Hill Maury '43

### *Fraternity Theme Halls*

I APPLAUD YOU AND YOUR colleagues for stirring the perverbial pot which is Washington and Lee University.

Unfortunately, the overwhelming tone of the *Washington and Lee Spectator* is one of paranoia--toward women, Afro-Americans, "liberals," and gays...et al. whom do not happen to conform to traditional W&L mindset and genetic pool.

It is ironic that Cameron Humphries ("The Rhetoric of Change and Tradition") decries ideological theme halls while lamenting passage of the fraternity system as it was prior to the fraternity renaissance program. During my undergraduate years at W&L the fraternities were ideological theme halls which encouraged would-be pledges to think as did the brothers of each respective house. Thus, I was treated as a pariah at some houses by virtue of having a yankee name tag listing Hudson, Ohio as my hometown. These same houses kissed-up when I chose to list my ancestral/farm address of

Staffordsville, Virginia. (Whew! Yes, Y'all, I am a certifiable, prep school bred W.A.S.P. of conservative Virginia stock--A few years removed and (gratefully) exposed to people from different, daresay interesting backgrounds.) Similarly, when incoming students were told to go through Rush, a fellow black student was excluded with the admonishment that "niggers have never gotten into a fraternity at W&L and never will."

The juxtaposition of an academically strong Washington and Lee in 1993 to increased campus awareness of minorities and non-traditional thinking is not coincidental--it is a positive dynamic which should be encouraged.

John Phillip Stafford '79

### *The White Rose of W&L*

I RECENTLY SAW A DOCUMENTARY on the anti-Hitler resistance in Germany. The student component of this resistance was named "White Rose." Generally speaking the fact that there even was any grass roots anti-Hitler resistance in Germany was suppressed by the Allies because it was inconsistent with the propaganda of "total war" against the German people.

The membership of White Rose, whose anti-establishment, anti-Nazi, views were, in contemporary parlance, "politically incorrect," was rounded up and hung by piano wire, never acknowledged by the Allies.

I graduated from Washington and Lee in 1974, one of several classes which, in retrospect, represented a rear guard as the administration(s) retreated from classical traditions (academically and culturally) in the

**"With the arrival of each Alumni Magazine, the gap between my memory of W&L and what was being described to me widened."**

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face of what has since been labeled "political correctness," "multiculturalism," "diversity" or whatever other fashionable name the barbarians at the gates have spray-painted on their battering rams. I considered that retreat, that opening of the gates, cowardly and hypocritical, demonstrating a breach of faith with the 2,500 years of Western Civilization that I had been taught, correctly, to love and respect on that same campus—a campus which itself owed a debt to that tradition of Western Civilization. It should be the job of the University to educate rather than to empower the ignorant. I'm getting the sense that

there is a lot more empowerment going on at W&L at the moment than educating. The changes that are being imposed on the soul of the University represent a betrayal of the Liberal Arts<sup>1</sup>, sanctioned only by some contrived, pragmatic excuses.

I have never contributed to the University as an alumnus. It seemed that from the day I left, there had been a plot to disenfranchise me. With the arrival of each Alumni Magazine, the gap between my memory, albeit idealized, of W&L and what was being described to me widened. I have only been able to return to the campus once since 1974, one night in mid-Winter, in the dark, during Christmas break, I think in 1989. It looked as if a lot of money had been spent on buildings. My wife looked at me as if I were crazy as I described to her the charm of the drafty old classrooms, where Professor Coulling's Victorian Poetry seemed more tangible than it would have in a sealed, caulked, carpeted room with forced air heating; and the breezy old library I remembered—before the gentrification of the

campus. Behind the gloss of the *Alumni Magazine* with its occasional, deliberate concession to "tradition," I sensed a systematic, quiet disassembly of the core of what I appreciated about W&L. I darkly suspected that a visit to the active campus during the day would hold for me a shock value similar to that of some Oxford scholar who, after spending a lifetime studying ancient Greek, visits modern Athens for the first time and can neither breathe the air nor speak the language. I had no evidence of this until I received your magazine. Thank you. It is always a relief to have one's sixth sense validated.

**"My cynicism as an alumnus came not so much from aggravation with what the University administration was doing in the name of pragmatism; that's what bureaucrats do."**

The question is, what do I do now? First, I am sending a check a subscription plus a small contribution under separate cover. Secondly, I will be in more direct contact with the University administration as an alumnus. My cynicism as an alumnus came not so much from aggravation with what the University administration was doing in the name of pragmatism; that's what bureaucrats do. The fact that there seemed to be no Resistance on campus is what disturbed me.

With no campus resistance, alumni disagreement with policy changes was easily written off as being "out of touch," or "afraid of change," or "misogynic," or "homophobic." With campus resistance, however, alumni disagreement can become a potent force. My only source of information had been the *Alumni Magazine*. Like the White Rose I mentioned at the start, your existence had been kept from us for strategic reasons. If they had been able to keep the secret for a few more four year "generations" of students, they may have been able to consolidate their victory over Washington and Lee. Your mass

distribution of your magazine was timely and tactically correct.

I don't feel that I am alone in my feelings on the subject; I hope you get similar responses from alumni with enough money, clout, and credibility to help you get this mess straightened out.

Stuart Hutchings '74

<sup>1</sup> A definition of Liberal Arts I keep near my desk is: "The learned habits of thought and speech considered essential for a free man. In the liberal arts tradition, the free man makes important decisions without being a slave to habits, emotions, prejudices, or a language so limited that he can neither think clearly nor express himself well." This is the opposite of what the "politically correct" crowd seeks to instill in its mob. But as we know, "liberals" are, in fact, what they claim to hate.

## SPORTING SPECTATORS

THE SUGGESTION OF RICHARD E. Kramer, '69, that partisans of the *Washington and Lee Spectator* may feel sympathetic embarrassment at its occasional technical errors, is the only element of his letter with which I can agree.

Kramer is pleased to find fault with the literary talent on display in the *Spectator*, suggesting that it compares poorly to that of the W&L student body as a whole.

If he has evidence to support this interesting charge, I think we should be told. Till then, we can assume that in both their skills and their faults the "Spectistas" are worthy of their peers. And what peers! If class standing, S.A.T. scores, and other accomplishments count for anything, today's students are among the most promising ever to have been found at W&L. In these respects at least, they surpass the standards that prevailed in my day—and that of Kramer, for that matter. If their writing is flawed

nevertheless, can it really be the fault of these bright and capable students? At the risk of seeming rude, may one not ask whether any blame rests with

**"I shall be plain. Let's not deceive ourselves that this debate is about journalism. It is about intolerance."**

teachers of English, of whom Kramer is one?

Was Kramer out of the room when the Grammarians' Union rules were explained to the rest of us? Can he pass the *tu quoque* test? Well, let's see: in his letter, I find one error in punctuation (line 4), two in subject/verb agreement (lines 24 and 28), and various solecisms ("education standards;" "doubtlessly;" "an alumni"). Here, I think, we have a clue that Richard "Hoist With His Own Petard" Kramer, English teacher, may be part of the problem, not part of the solution.

I see that Kramer's class and my own are separated by ten years. Perhaps in another ten years I too shall have lost all memory of the indulgence that obtains in collegiate journalism. I too might then expect the *Spectator* to be gracefully written and impeccably edited. I should expect its youthful idealism and high spirits to complement, and never to overwhelm, sound judgment and good taste. I should expect financial subsidies to provide a payroll for staff, and to do away with the need to sell advertising. In short, I should expect a sleek, professional product, not unlike the *Alumni Magazine* and altogether unrecognizable as student journalism.

I shall be plain. Let's not deceive ourselves that this debate is about journalism. It is about intolerance. While grandly conceding the *Spectator's* right to publish, Kramer hills for a University administration that is no longer amused by student criticism, and for certain faculty

members who have systematically sought to cripple the *Spectator's* ability to publish.

Now, I have an interest to declare.

For about three years, I have been a subscriber and a supporter of the *Spectator*. I have promoted it among alumni sympathetic to its point of view. This Spring, I was flattered

when the *Spectator* published a letter from me. I have met and talked with two of its editors. I admire them and their staffs, and regret that in my own day I lacked the initiative and courage they display. Perhaps they fail to appreciate the risk they take in confronting entrenched power. Perhaps they don't, but ask themselves, "If not now, when?" In time they too may learn prudence and circumspection—virtues of middle age, so different from the virtues of

youth. I hope not. I salute them.

Some final questions: in your next issue, are we to be treated to accusations of shoddy photography in the Calyx, or athletic ineptitude on Wilson Field, or boorishness at the XXX house? Is it now University policy that its mouthpieces will be a party to unprovoked attacks on all student organizations that find themselves beyond the pale of official approval? Or will this penalty be imposed only for having mentioned political correctness? Just asking.

Robert B. Ramirez, '79

*Editor's Note: This article was written to the Alumni Magazine in response to Mr. Kramer's letter regarding the May issue of the Spectator. However, Mr. Ramirez expected that it would not be printed as the Alumni Magazine edits letters for not only length, but content and style as well.*

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# GENERAL

## W&L's Very Own Tax and Spend

The Students Activities Fee remains a bureaucratic mess.

The annual Executive Committee Budgets Hearings are over once again the results are mixed. The EC exercised good judgment in denying both the ACLU and Amnesty International the financial ammunition they requested to further their political agendas. However, the Executive Committee was not consistent in allocating student funds to other wasteful special interest groups. Some groups requests mirror the waste and abuse that is usually only developed inside the Washington Beltway.

The Executive Committee had no problem allocating student money to very small student groups. The Women's Forum requested \$172 for food for their meetings, \$351.50 for

feminist literature, and \$500 for a closed party, Confetti's. The Squash Club is asking for \$50 worth of squash balls, a 50% subsidy for the club's t-shirts, and miscellaneous gas expenses.

The Squash question is nothing compared to the \$200 request to cover "typing costs" to record the dialogue of "especially important events" sponsored by the Graham-Lee-Washington Society.

Most W&L students are unaware that their student fees are going to subsidize the social calendar of the International Club. The club requested money for trips including "Rockbridge Exploration," "New River Spelunking," and numerous other parties attended by a small number of students. They requested \$115 for Halloween, \$130 for Pot Luck Dinners, and \$130 for a year-end reception. In total, the International Club requested \$765 for parties—enough to cover more than a couple kegs of Lowenbrau.

Another interesting request came from the Minority Student Association which asked for \$325 for parties and \$250 for a trip to King's

Dominion. The request was justified as a recreational opportunity for MSA members.

The type of waste found in these budgets amounts to \$5 of each student's fees which are going to pay for parties, trips to King's Dominion, and blatant self-serving waste.

It is apparently not against the EC's policy to let the majority of W&L subsidize the activities of many small campus groups in addition to paying for increasing fraternity and sorority dues. There is no reason why each of these





# OPINION

groups cannot pay for these superfluous demands.

## Not Quite the Rush it was Meant to Be

Although there were marked improvements this year, Rush still has a very long way to go.

The new and improved Rush system did cure several important problems, but there are still glaring errors that need attention. The greatest fault of the new system is that four weeks simply take up too much time. Rush takes up nearly all of a fraternity member's time. Delaying the start of Rush does not give actives any more free time, they are still discussing, planning, and thinking about Rush. Rush should not extend into the third week of classes. An extended Rush not only requires too much time but also requires too much of the fraternity's money. Although there is not necessarily a direct correlation between money spent and success in Rush, fraternities cannot afford to be outdone by their rivals.

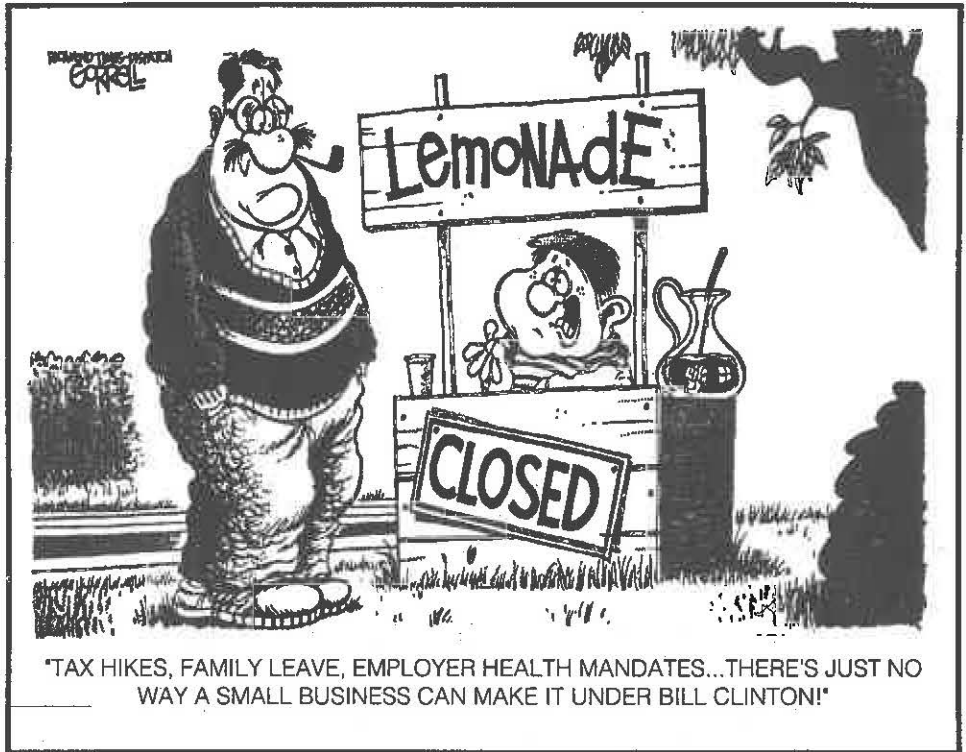
Having all the rushees to go to every fraternity made Rush almost unbearable for both the actives and the freshmen. There is simply no need for freshman to be forced to go to all of the houses. The initial open houses must be at the very beginning of Rush in order to make a difference. All of the freshmen had made up their minds as to which fraternities they liked before any of the open

**"Some groups' requests mirror waste and abuse that is usually only developed inside the Washington beltway."**

houses. These dates were simply a waste of time.

The new system was not without its merits. The two weeks of open contact at the beginning of year made much more sense than having freshmen males be excluded from the school's first social activities. Additionally, forcing fraternities to have parties together helped to eliminate much of the traditional animosity and rivalry that have always come to a head during Rush. This kinder, gentler Rush also was much cleaner, shown by the low number of Rush violations.

The system simply needs additional work. If Rush unofficially begins as soon as the freshman arrive, why not officially begin it upon their arrival? By beginning earlier, both the extra pressure and time requirements can be lessened, and W&L men can get on with their



lives as students.

## The CRC is back...

A new committee formed to evaluate women at W&L may develop just as much controversy as the old CRC.

President Wilson has recently appointed a committee to reevaluate W&L's transition to coeducation. Wilson charged this committee with seeking answers to the two questions, "Does the environment of our classrooms, labs, students government, Greek organizations, departmental and administrative offices, and on our playing fields, in our dormitories, student clubs and organizations promote the highest possibilities for the development of our students and faculty? Have we succeeded in creating for our women members a sense of ownership in this community that rivals the way men feel about W&L; are women able to think of W&L as

something they possess equally with men?" The administration states that this reevaluation is simply another step in the coeducation process. Wilson felt that after two full generations of women at W&L the time had come to look again at the transition.

The committee is currently establishing its purposes and goals. According to CRC co-chairman Robert Strong, the committee intends to look at the needs of women in the areas of admissions policy, social life, academic environment, and faculty make-up. The most significant issue on the committee agenda will be the admissions policy and whether the sixty-four ratio provides W&L with the best possible students and environment for the University. On this issue Strong stated, "We have a couple of things we are interested in. One is obviously documenting whether or not coeducation, to what degree coeducation succeeded in its goal of changing the character of the applicant pool and improving the applicant pool." However, the committee is not limiting itself to the gender policy of admissions.

This committee is not, however, intended to reflect the mainstream opinions of W&L students and alumni. A number of professors have characterized this committee as being stacked with faculty liberals, radical feminists, and administration puppets. When asked if this committee was intended to represent the mainstream of W&L students and faculty, Strong responded tentatively, "I do not think that it was to be representative of every group. It was intended, I think we are starting off this way, to be a group who will be open to hear." The administration did not build this committee with the many different ideological views present on this campus but instead tried to legitimize its left-wing agenda. It is a disappointment that the leaders of the University are so afraid of the coeducation issue that they do not want constructive debate on the issue.

The committee is, however, making some attempt to overcome its liberal bias by asking for opinions from the W&L community. It is our obligation to make our opinions known to this committee, to President Wilson, to the Board of Trustees, and to the Alumni. Please make yourself heard.

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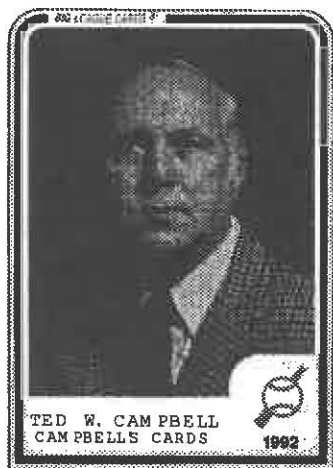
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Over the past five years, the *Spectator* has kept you informed about campus diversity. You might be interested to see the results of W&L's own effort to understand its changing student body.

**M E M O R A N D U M**

To: John Wilson  
John Elrod  
David Howison  
Larry Broomall

From: Scott Dittman

Re: Summer withdrawals - edited for distribution by DSD 10/4/93

Date: September 16, 1993

Withdrawals

Last spring, we redesigned the withdrawal process to try to gather more information about the reasons students are leaving and their current plans. Because this is such a new process, we have little comparative data. I've tried to summarize here what we do know about undergraduate students withdrawing during the summer of '93 (June 1 to September 8) for non-honor reasons.

<i>Class</i>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
Sophomore	15%	59%
Junior	40%	30%
Senior	45%	12%
Total #	20	36

Obviously, something about last year's freshman class was unusual -- it's composition, it's experience at W&L (academic, social, administrative). Our upper-class summer attrition is not unusual, though the senior class is already the smallest in recent years and has the lowest class retention at this point in their careers of any in five years (84%), so they may have lost larger numbers earlier and those who have stayed to this point are less likely to leave.

<i>Reasons given</i> (more than one reason, so percentages total to more than 100%)		
Academic	40%	44%
Emotional/Psych.	0%	6%
Financial	20%	33%
Health	13%	0%
Personal	53%	36%
Social	20%	28%
Other	0%	8%

I think we would expect the percentage of students leaving for academic (different major, wanted a larger department, etc.) and health-related reasons to remain relatively constant. The totals of those categories are 53% and 50%, respectively, for 1992 and 1993. The drop in "personal reasons" responses is probably a result of our asking the students for more details and providing some categories for them to use.

I ran the names of the students mentioning "financial reasons" by John DeCourcy. He said roughly half have never talked to him about changes in their financial situation and another quarter were well taken care of and may have chosen this rubric to avoid explaining other reasons. Of the remaining quarter, some probably had some academic difficulty which reduced their grant aid, etc.

The social reasons for leaving include "didn't like the fraternity system," "didn't make any friends, had difficulties adjusting (sexual preference, small community, etc.)," and "looking for a bigger place." Again, none of these is unusual or necessarily predictable.

# CROSSROADS: WHAT P



In August 1865, a determined set of men met in a small town in the Blue Ridge Mountains to determine the future of a tiny college.

The decision of the trustees of Washington College profoundly shaped our institution. The trustees, resolute Scotch Irish men from the valley of Virginia, were determined to preserve a school entrusted to their

care.

On the night of August 4th those trustees voted to elect General Robert Edward Lee President of Washington College. General Lee accepted the challenge to rebuild more than just the bricks of this struggling college. Lee molded a liberal arts tradition based on honor. His tenure illustrated how a president's leadership can build community spirit, encourage academic excellence, and establish lasting tradition.

President John D. Wilson announced that his tenure will end after the 1994-95 school year when the historical changes to W&L over the

past ten years will be complete (coeducation, fraternity renaissance, and the capital campaign).

Now, the Washington and Lee trustees are once again asked to make a historic decision. The candidate they choose to replace President Wilson will decide whether our University maintains its uniqueness or becomes simply another indistinguishable liberal arts college. The trustees' decision will demonstrate whether they believe progress can coexist with tradition or whether mortars and brick can replace a sense of community.

According to President Wilson, the Rector of the Board of Trustees has

General Lee accepted the challenge of rebuilding more than just bricks of the  
The choice of our next president will affect whether our University mainta

# ATH WILL W & L TAKE?

By Ted Elliott

appointed to lead the faculty in the process and the Executive Committee president will also be involved. While the search committee is now developing, it is necessary for members of the community to make sure their constituency is represented.

Many alumni feel that W&L needs a President who is more in touch with their concerns. At the same time, those in the W & L community wonder if the trustees will represent the general consensus of the alumni during the search. Perhaps the trustees should develop alumni participation to involve those who truly understand the strong traditions of our University and are concerned that she develops a successful future.

Since Wilson gave the Board of Trustees nearly two years notice of his resignation, they have ample time to conduct a thorough search for W&L's next president. The trustees should incorporate the opinions of students,

faculty, alumni, and administrators in formulating the criteria by which to assess the candidates' abilities. The trustees' research should include student perspectives because the University cannot afford to ignore the interests of those it serves.

In the coming months the the evolving selection process will be the most important decision facing our institution since coeducation. Our interest rests in ensuring that the Washington and Lee trustees embrace the legacy of their predecessors while reaching out to future generations. W&L must be proud of her past and mindful of her future: non incautus futuri.

Knowing that Washington and Lee is at a crossroads in her history, we challenge all members of the community to express their concerns to the trustees.

already appointed some members of the Board to serve on the search committee. Wilson says that he does not know if those members plan to include any faculty or students in the process, although he believes input from all parts of the community is essential.

During the October meeting of the board of trustees, the search process was only discussed in generalities. According to Dean of Students David Howison, it was announced that the search committee will be performed internally rather than hiring an outside search firm. Furthermore, he said that a faculty member was



colonnade and molded a liberal arts tradition marked by its sense of honor...  
ns its uniqueness or becomes another undistinguishable liberal arts college.

# "Small Latin"

**I**N HIGH SCHOOL I DROPPED LATIN after two years. No excuses. I had two excellent teachers, and they did their best for me. But having gotten through Caesar, I couldn't face Cicero and Virgil. I've regretted it ever since.

Today I can't make out a Latin inscription on a public building. Of course the newer public buildings don't have Latin inscriptions anymore.

It was during my generation—those famously smart baby boomers—that Latin pretty much dropped out of the curriculum. It had failed the great test of Relevance. At the same time, the Catholic Church downgraded the Latin Mass.

Too bad. Latin is, for one thing, a great link with the past. If we're going to all be multicultural, we might pay some attention to the roots of European culture. For most of 2,000 years, Latin was the basis of European unity. As late as the 18th century, learned men like Samuel Johnson could converse on the continent only by speaking Latin.

Consider Shakespeare. Ben Jonson says Shakespeare had "small Latin and less Greek." Honest Ben must have been pulling our leg when he wrote that. Shakespeare uses more than 350 Classical names in his plays, drawing easily on Roman and Greek history, mythology and topography. He must have read Cicero, Virgil, Ovid, Seneca, Horace, Livy and others in Latin.

"Small Latin"? John Milton was a superb Classical scholar, yet Shakespeare's vocabulary—about 25,000 words—is nearly three times as vast as Milton's. And that vocabulary is Latin based, full of strange coinages like "oppugnancy," "exsufflicate" and "incarnadine." Shakespeare didn't develop his word power by subscribing to Reader's Digest. He was saturated in Latinity.

This also meant he didn't learn words abstractly, as from a dictionary. He acquired them from stories, the great literature of Rome and Greece. "Hamlet" alone mentions Nero, Julius Caesar, Brutus, Alexander, Seneca, Plautus, Roscius, Jove, Mars, Mercury, Phoebus, Damon, Fortune, Hercules, Vulcan, Hyperion, Niobe, Tellus, Hymen, Neptune, Hecate, Aeneas, Dido, Priam, Pyrrhus,

Hecuba, Ossa, Pelion, Olympus, Lethe, The Cyclops, nymphs, satyrs, the Trojan horse and the Nemean lion. Even the play's char-

acters have names like Claudius, Laertes, Ophelia, Marcellus, Horatio, Lucianus.

Shakespeare's mind was peopled with myth, and he invoked myth with such casual grace that his learning is easy to overlook or belittle. But his was a kind of learning that has fallen into neglect. He had what the late Northrop Frye called "the educated imagination." And he had it because he knew Latin.

For generations of educated people, Classical culture provided

much more than idle ornament. With the Bible, it supplied a common stock of vivid archetypes, precedents, similes and apt phrases. These gave the mind a range and flexibility that most college graduates now lack. They were springs of creativity for most of the great poets of the West, from Dante on.

Latin and Greek enriched even daily conversation. Churchill began one budget speech with the first line of the Aeneid, and the opposition leader ventured to correct his translation; don't expect such an exchange between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole. Freud made witty use of the myths of Oedipus, Electra and Narcissus; if your shrink knows these names, chances are it's only because he learned them from Freud.

Today our great myth is the story of World War II. Political discussion adverts to it constantly and monotonously. That war was infinitely bigger in scope than the Trojan war; it only seems smaller. But it's about all that remains of a communal memory, except for a few assassinations and of course the movies. And it's meager food for the imagination.

Latin? Greek? Today it's asking too much to expect kids to read Shakespeare, who wrote in their own language. They are being "culturally deprived" of their own past. We flatter them that they are smarter than their ancestors, when we don't even acquaint them with those ancestors.

Don't blame the kids. Not long ago the nation was laughing at a vice president who couldn't spell "potato." It was overlooked that he was relying on a teacher's flash card. Nobody laughed at that teacher; maybe we should have wept, like Niobe.

*Mr. Sobran is a nationally syndicated columnist. This article originally appeared in What is a College Education? (and How to Get One).*

**If we're going to all be multicultural, we might pay some attention to the roots of European Culture.**

# What are alumni saying about the Spectator?

"Thanks for giving me the real scoop as to what's going on at W&L. I hope we can all work together to straighten some of this nonsense out."

--Class of '86

"I regret that your magazine is necessary, but I have felt for some time that something was missing at W&L. I really loved my old school."

--Class of '33

"I cannot help but think that the behavior of the school over the past years has not affected alumni support. I know it has mine."

--Class of '71

"Keep up the good work. I enjoyed the complimentary issue. Please send more. I love W&L as you do."

--Class of '66

"I am at odds with some of the apparent underlying political premises on which the *W&L Spectator* seems to be founded; however, I am troubled by some of the institutional thoughtlessness of W&L. Your magazine transcends your political agenda."

--Class of '73

"How refreshing to read the *Spectator*. It certainly clears away much of the fog and provides information never to be seen in the *Alumni Magazine*. The *Alumni Magazine* should be exploring topics similar to those in the *Spectator*, but one only gets the party line instead. You are providing a valuable and long overdue information service."

--Class of '45

"We were shocked and greatly disappointed that W&L is into PC, feminist malarkey, etc. How tragic and degrading for a university of such quality and uniqueness. May your independent student journal be successful and fruitful!"

--Class of '37

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# Fraternity Reformation... now Gaines Renovation

**F**ALL IS HERE. RUSH IS OVER, and most freshmen men know where they will live next year. Traditionally, about this same time W & L freshmen women begin making a mad dash for off-campus housing. Perusal of the phone book, word of mouth, and help from a friendly upperclassman usually gets the lucky freshman a decent house or an apartment.

This fall, however, the tides have changed and freshman women are now encouraged to postpone preparation for sophomore living until January, when the University officially opens Gaines registration. Freshman women have been approached by Dorm Counselors, Rho Chis (Rush advisors) and Panhellenic to persuade them to wait and consider Gaines as an option. Traditionally, Gaines has not been the preferred living choice of most students due to fraternity obligations and the attraction of off-campus housing. Fraternity houses have been much more attractive to students than the aneseptic concrete-block Gaines Hall.

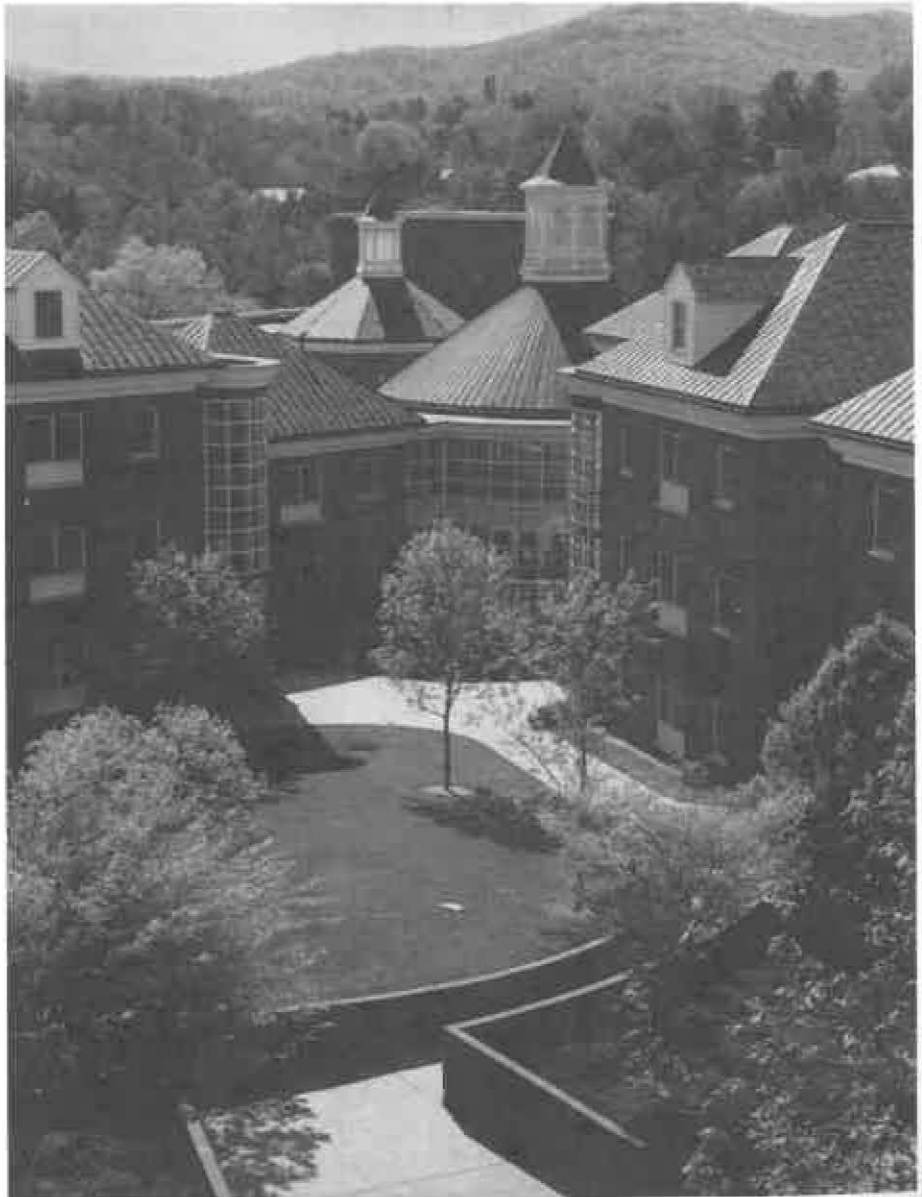
A committee of students was formed to propose possible renovations of the present Gaines facility. The committee includes Bob Tompkins (Executive Committee President), Laura Clark (Panhellenic President), Eliza Tobias (Panhellenic Housing Representative), Jamie Hartman (Gaines Head Resident Assistant), Heather Aussiker (Head Dorm Counselor), Kate Stimeling (Women's Forum President) and Chris Albert (Gaines resident). These students work each week to analyze various options available in transforming

Gaines. The committee will eventually present a proposal to David Howison, Dean of Students. In December, Howison will review the proposal and will evaluate the possibilities with President Wilson. A final proposal will be submitted to the Board of Trustees in February for their approval. Thus far the Trustees

have been supportive of the basic idea of renovating Gaines into a women's center.

At this stage in the committee's deliberation, two of the three wings of Gaines may be used for the new center. Transformation of the building may include the creation of seven meeting rooms (one for each sorority, one for Women's Forum, and two for colonizing sororities). The committee also hopes for office space and designated halls for women's living space. Each sorority will ideally be given a quota of rooms that they are expected to fill, just as the fraternities are expected to fill their renovated houses.

The search for women's housing began last winter when a group of





women representing the four sororities and the Women's Forum created a committee. These women approached Dean Howison with a petition signed by 500 sorority and

with an increase of women students living in Gaines, more male students will want to become a part of this development.

After the Gaines renovations,

permanent lodges a premature decision.

The University would rather wait until the number of colonized sororities is finalized before they begin

**Traditionally, Gaines has not been the preferred living choice of most students due to fraternity obligations and the attraction of off-campus housing.**

non-sorority women. Howison and the committee developed some ideas for possible meeting places including the old Sigma Chi house or the old Sigma Phi Epsilon house (SPE). Sigma Chi was ruled out because it was going to be used for the expansion of the Career Development Office, currently in the University Center. The SPE house was a promising option for these women, until the city refused to issue another zoning permit for communal living in the residential area. Since the Gaines Hall has never filled to capacity, it became the ideal location for future women's housing.

Gaines Dormitory was presented originally as an expansion to the idea of a women's center. The residence hall could provide a large amount of living space as well as needed meeting rooms. Gaines became a very popular option for the committee, and the idea was presented to the Campus Life Committee of the Board of Trustees in draft form during their spring meeting. Permission was given for the student committee to explore the possibilities available in Gaines.

The Board of Trustees will review the committee's plans during their February meeting and will finalize the Gaines project. The desire for the Gaines project goes beyond a women's center. The hope is that there will be a change of movement towards Gaines, creating a vibrant place with plenty of activity and a positive student life. In its ideal form, the plan will maintain and hopefully augment its coed feeling. Currently, women make up the majority of Gaines residents. The desire is that

women will consider the future of free standing sorority lodges at Washington and Lee. Some are concerned the University may never build lodges after spending money to transform the inside of Gaines. The outlook of women's life at W&L may change drastically. Dean Howison expects and hopes that more women will be attending W&L in the future. He believes that with more women as a result of the new admissions policies, the expansion of sororities seems inevitable. The possibility of more sororities makes the creation of

considering lodge facilities. The Gaines Project provides an immediate solution to the question of women's housing as well as the empty space in Gaines. The future implications of this plan should be considered, as the University may decide that since Gaines has been renovated to accomodate large groups and so many dollars were spent, no lodges or houses will be built.

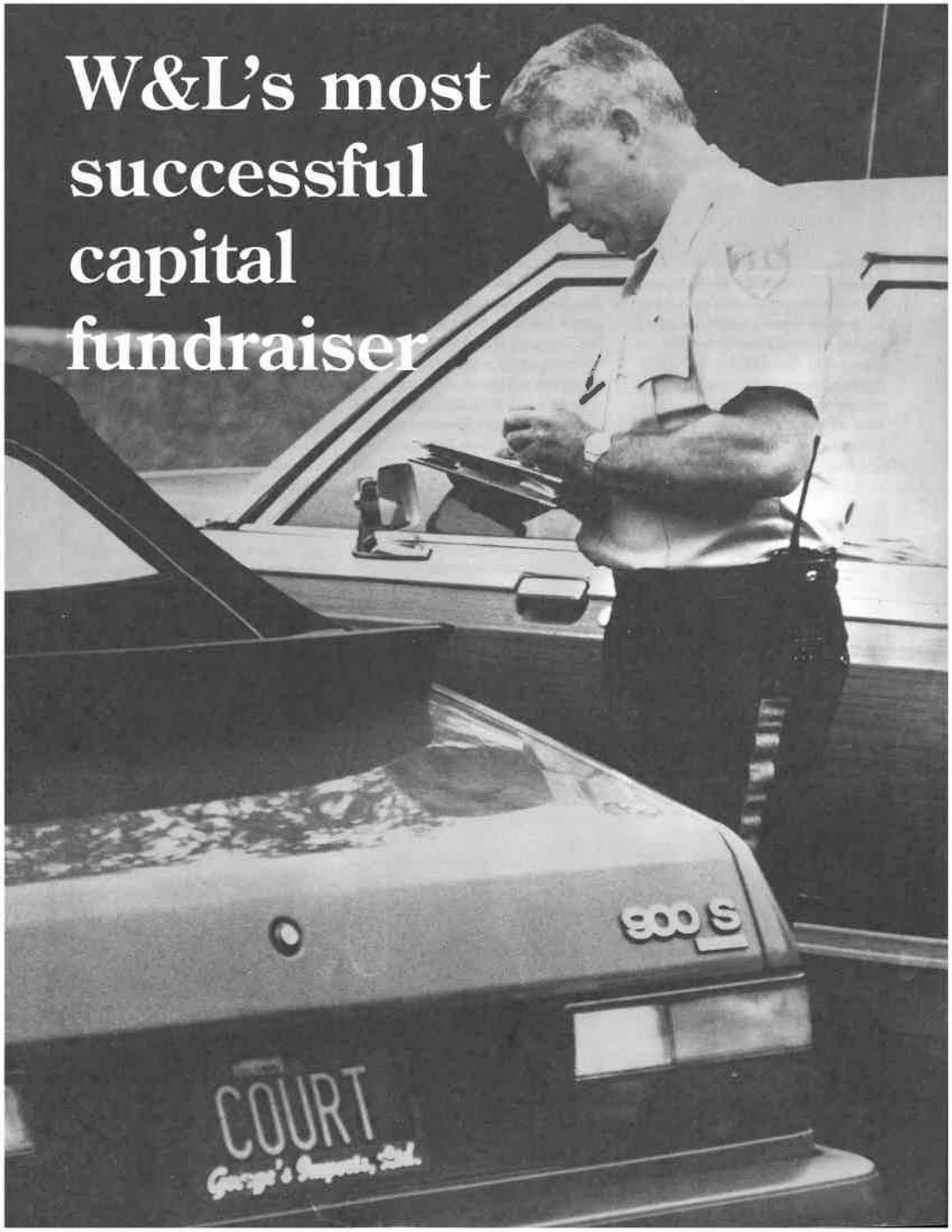
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# W&L Polo Fights Traditional Battle

**T**HROUGH THE MANY GENERATIONS of Washington and Lee Water Polo, one thing has remained constant, when Richmond comes to town, you know that you are going to see one of the most exciting matches of the year. Whether it was Tim Stanford in '85, Alan Herrick in '91, or Greg Golub today, this great rivalry continues. The coaches agree that there is no need to pump up the players for this game, because when the Generals and the Spiders get in the water its a 25 yard war. No other game brings out the crowd like this one and the officials are forced to routinely stop the game because the players cannot hear the whistles.

Each year both teams take a weekend off from their busy tournament

schedules and play just two games, one in Lexington and one in Richmond.

This season has been a challenging one for W&L because of some close losses. For Richmond, however, it's been one of their most successful years, including a national ranking of 19th. W&L obviously had something to prove when the Spiders came to Lexington.

It was a big night for seniors Jake Berman and Greg Golub, who have both been an integral part of the team ever since they dove in Cy Twombly pool four years ago. From the start of the game, W&L took control with a 4-3 first quarter lead, sparked by a beautiful lob by Rich Cober and aggressive hole play by Greg Golub. As the game continued, the Generals

stifled Richmond with strong lanes defense and pure hustle in the pool. One of Richmond's key offensive weapons, their counter attack, was shut down and W&L would never relinquish the lead. When freshman Pete Sorensen scored a two-pointer with less than a minute to go in the game, the victory was sealed. As time ran out, junior Tony Diedrich hurled the ball into the air and W&L had won their first of the year against the Spiders 12-11.

The Generals knew that the next night's event would not be any easier as they travelled to the Robbins Center. W&L could see the Spider's intensity since three of Richmond's starters had shaved their heads after the previous day's loss. The first quarter was a defensive one, with key blocks by both teams' goalies. After the first quarter the Generals held a 2-1 lead, but it seemed only a matter of time before W&L took control. During the second quarter W&L lengthened their lead to 7-4 and felt confident going into the locker room at halftime.

This confidence disappeared as the Spiders came out swimming hard and jumping out on their counter attack. They shut down Golub and the rest of the offense allowing only two goals in the second half. Richmond was led by their two-meter All-American Adam Ward who led them to a 13 goal second half, and 17-9 victory.

The weekend proved how important home pool advantage is in this series and I'm sure both teams look forward to next year's match. The Generals end their season with tournaments in New York and Boston for the Division III championships. Good Luck Generals!





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