

AN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OF W&L LIFE AND CULTURE

W&L Spectator

Volume 4, Issue 3 • December 1990



THE OTHER SIDE

OF FRATERNITY RENAISSANCE



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An Editorial Digression...

EDITOR'S FORUM

FOR THE PAST 25 MONTHS, it has been my greatest honor and privilege to serve as editor of the *W&L Spectator*. My successor, Marc Kreppel, has assisted me and the magazine for the last twelve issues. If an editor's most important job is finding his replacement, then Mr. Kreppel may well be my most important contribution to the publication. He is a tireless and dedicated leader, and I wish him the best of success, fully confident of his capacity to move the magazine well beyond where I now leave it.

Without digressing too sentimentally, I would like to thank the many people that I have known through to my relationship with the *Spectator*. Among these are the three Senior Editor staffs with whom I have had the privilege of working. I offer with complete candor that these are some of the finest individuals recently to have graduated from Washington and Lee. Their leadership has been instrumental in the development of the magazine and of my own character, most especially Elise Bryant, Charles Kranich, Brant Martin, Nancy Mitchell, George Nomikos, Tait North, Mike Skarda, and Jamie Tucker.

My deepest gratitude goes to all who have assisted in production. In many respects this is largely thankless work, but nevertheless our production staff consistently sacrifices untold hours of sleep to insure the professional look and feel of the magazine, most especially Camp Ellis and Kelly Land on graphics design and desktop publishing, and Matt French and Jason Coccia in the darkroom.

Were it not for the talents and skills of our business staff, present and past, the *W&L Spectator* would not enjoy the fi-

nancial independence that she has thus far. Will Thomas supplied the fledgling magazine with consistent advertising revenue, John Ebner and Greg Golub administered our finances, and the publishers (most recently Chris Vinyard) managed paperwork and other office responsibilities. These business responsibilities are not spotlighted or glamorized within the pages of the magazine and yet they are just as crucial as any other role to the success of an independent publication.

In addition to these students, two local businesses donated their facilities and expertise to the magazine when all we could offer these businesses in return was a drain on their time and resources. I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Nancy Birch of Deavers' Alley Business Services and Tom Raisbeck of Quality Quick Print.

Finally there are the three gentlemen responsible for creating the *W&L Spectator*. I thank them for entrusting me with their creation and also acknowledge their formative leadership and friendship. My experiences working with them constitute so of my dearest memories at Washington and Lee. Many thanks to Paul Lagarde, Marc Short and Ray Welder. But alas, I digress...

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General *opinion*

Fraternity Harrassment* Forum

The SCC sponsored harrassment forum quickly loses sight of its purpose.

Although W&L's Sexual Harassment Forum got off to a good start, once it was opened to questions from the audience it wasted no time in becoming another Fraternity Bashing Seminar. This open meeting was designed to discuss the procedure that should be followed by students charged with sexual and verbal teasing. In his opening remarks, Dean Howison suggested the benefits of mediation and communication, using the SCC only as a "last resort" when all other options have been exhausted. Yet certain militant females did not feel that this was enough. Appointing themselves as the judges of propriety, they proceeded to ridicule the IFC and all fraternities as being insensitive and unsympathetic to their claims. Dean Howison correctly stated that an entire fraternity should not be punished for the actions of a few members. When Reggie Aggarwal, President of the SCC, declared that the SCC (charged with hearing complaints against

individuals) had no authority over the fraternity system as a whole, it became clear that nothing would placate these extremists save full reinstatement of the now defunct CRC. Though sexual harassment is an offence that should be addressed, freedom of speech in daily campus life should not be restricted or threatened by a sensitivity Star Chamber.

Phi Humor...an oxymoron

Unfortunately, the Ring Tum Phi's attempt at humor falls far beyond disgusting pornography.

The humor column of the Phi on October 15 was not very funny. The title of the column, "Erection Man Battles Diabolical Villains", exemplified the vulgar tone of the humorless humor column. At a University that honors traditional values, this article had no place. Chalk up one more reason why General Lee is rolling over in his grave. This article described a phallic man's zany capture of a crook who steals pornography from a local convenience store. Even more distressing than the author's taste was the fact that this was sent (through subscription) to W&L parents and alumni. I'm sure

many were shocked by the filthy subject matter which the Phi obviously felt appealed to their readers.

Perhaps the Phi should be collecting subscriptions to limit readership. Has the Phi fallen off so much that they are forced to try to expand their readership to dirty old men who read girlie mags in a local barber shop, or maybe it was an attempt to get funding from a national collaboration of adult book stores and peep shows or perhaps simply to qualify for an NEA grant.

Cash, Credit, and Honor

Merchants respect the Honor System, but does the University Bookstore?

You can walk up to the register at Walmart and easily make a check or credit card purchase by identifying yourself as a Washington and Lee student, but don't try it at the University Bookstore. One student attempted to make a purchase using a University Card that belonged to a friend, from whom she had permission to use the card. The purchase was denied and the student was asked, "How do I know you have permission to use that card?" When the student recovered

from the accusation, she explained that her friend was sitting right outside. The person behind the counter then required the card's owner to give the bookstore "official" authorization for the purchase. The woman's status as a W&L student was never questioned, only her honor. The bookstore does have a reasonable right to protect itself against theft and fraud, but the employees must respect the System in place. The Honor System works not simply because the student body abides by it, but because the University as a whole respects it, Bookstore employees included.

AIDS Education?

W&L's AIDS Education speaker blames AIDS crisis on Ronald Reagan's alcoholic parents.

The W&L AIDS Education Project recently spent some of the \$1,200 that the Executive Committee allocated to it for promoting "compassion" by co-sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Bob Carrere '72, a clinical psychologist. Entitled "The Human Face of AIDS," Dr. Carrere's lecture opened with a touching account of his experience with a young boy whose mother and sister

General *opinion*

were afflicted by AIDS. Had his remarks continued in such fashion, perhaps one could have felt greater sympathy for his cause. Instead, Dr. Carrere began to psychoanalyze Ronald Reagan and indeed most unenlightened Americans, who he argued have been in "defensive denial" of AIDS.

Dr. Carrere, in typical psychological fashion, said that Ronald Reagan failed to mention AIDS during his first five years in office because of a mental defensiveness that is attributable to his having grown up with an alcoholic parent. Ronald

Reagan's silence about the virus's existence allowed the entire country's denial to grow. Then, when Jerry Falwell in 1985 suggested that AIDS is God's vengeance on homosexuals and IV drug users, an us vs. them mentality was propagated and the nation lost its compassion and empathy for AIDS victims. According to Dr. Carrere, denial had preserved our innocence and when confronted with statistics, we could no longer deny the existence of AIDS, we chose to view those with the virus, predominately homosexuals and IV drug

users, as "bad" people who must have done something wrong to deserve this fatal punishment.

The problem with Dr. Carrere's analysis is that he fails to take a critical stand against the behavior that leads to AIDS. Dr. Carrere thinks the solution to the problem is not decrying the behavior that leads to AIDS transmission, but rather increasing sex education in schools (parents are doing a poor job), promoting condom usage, and teaching drug users to twice bleach their potentially tainted needles. Although

AIDS may not be the wrath of God on evil people, we should not condone the activities that are spreading the virus. AIDS cases grew so quickly in the first place because of sexual promiscuity, largely by homosexual men, and the sharing of IV drug syringes. Most people have real sympathy for individuals, such as hemophiliacs and babies born of infected mothers, who have received AIDS through no fault of their own. But people do have trouble finding compassion for those who caught AIDS from behavior antithetical to most notions of



morality or decency, just as people are not often empathetic to victims of venereal diseases or even smoking-induced lung cancer.

Dr. Carrere can fault Ronald Reagan for waiting too long to make a statement about AIDS, but why does he not also criticize the media for keeping off the AIDS bandwagon? If Ronald Reagan would have told people to avoid sex outside a monogamous relationship and the use of IV drugs in order to protect against AIDS, Dr. Carrere would probably have chided him for insensitivity and callousness towards alternative lifestyles. Let's begin to face reality about the AIDS situation; most people do have compassion for AIDS victims, but they are understandably disgusted by and opposed to countenancing the behavioral practices that often lead to transmission of the virus.

Stealing Lee

A portrait of General Lee is stolen from, of all places, the Executive Committee office.

Most students don't even glance at the Executive Committee Minutes posted outside the EC room each week. Well, perhaps they should. According to the

minutes of the October 12 meeting: "New Business: Jimmy Kull found two portraits of Robert E. Lee, but does not believe either to be suitable to fit the room. The committee as a whole will search for a suitable print." Is the EC redecorating? Hardly. About a year ago, Captain Peniston the curator of Lee Chapel donated prints of General Lee to the EC for their meeting room. However, Captain Peniston's generous gift has been stolen. A student perhaps? Doubtful. What pleasure would a portrait of an honorable man like Lee bring to a student who stole it? It appears that some outside force has gotten wind of the fact that W&L, because of its Honor System, maintains an open (and vulnerable) campus. The casualties: countless bikes, the Macintosh from the library, some C-School calculators, a student's \$1,000+ CD collection, and, of course, the above mentioned portraits. But of all the thefts, that of the portrait of Lee, the foundation of W&L's Honor tradition, from the Executive Committee's Office (arguably the very heart of the Honor System itself) sounds most resoundingly. This numbing irony strikes deep. While the surrounding community gives many things to students here at W&L,

perhaps the EC and the administration should focus on preventing certain elements of that community from taking so much.

Feminism: a dirty word?

Women's Forum would be well served with more mainstream membership.

Last week, the Women's Forum, an organization founded to support the women of Washington and Lee undergraduates, hosted Dr. Pam Simpson's discussion on "Feminism: is it a dirty word?" The forum began with Dr. Simpson asking the audience to list adjectives given to women who describe themselves as feminists. The audience readily spewed forth titles "male-bashing," "bra-burner," "hairy," "anti-family," and "aggressive," as reflecting the current perception of feminism. From the participants' answers, Simpson concluded that the fifteen women in the room feared feminism was a dirty word in society today and that this stereotype reflected white males' and others' conscientious effort to marginalize feminists' struggle for equality. The women shared with Dr. Simpson their experiences of discrimination against

themselves and other groups (white males not included, of course). The discussion centered on the case concerning a company that refused to allow women to work in its toxic factory, reasoning that pregnant women might subject their unborn to potential birth defects—not to mention subject the business to massive litigation. To their credit, the women represented both sides and a heated debate ensued regarding whether or not this action constituted actual discrimination against women, or rather reflected good business sense coupled with concern for the mother and her child's well being.

W&L prides itself in its openness to varying groups, and the Women's Forum's existence is a reflection of this openness. The group itself is a revival of an earlier women's group founded when women were first admitted to W&L. Currently, Women's Forum collects no dues from its members and all walks of political thought are welcomed. Women's Forum not only strives to be a "support group" for W&L women, it also seeks involvement with women's groups at other schools.

But these and other efforts of the organization, whether they include Dr.

General *opinion*

Simpson's extreme ideas or concern more mainstream activities of general outreach, are legitimate in so far as student and University funds are not required to support them. If certain women wish to form a support group, discussion forum or whatever, then the University's obligation to that group includes providing a meeting place for them.

And no more.

The Executive Committee's newly stated policy on funding groups with ideological agendas dictates this. Make no mistake: Women's Forum

expresses an inherently political and ideological agenda.

The November issue of the Women's Forum newsletter reveals the direction of the group. The issue celebrates increasing support for Anita Hill and condemns Pat Robertson's criticism of feminism. The same "non-political" issue lobbies for "Equal Rights" legislation, while also echoing the groups' support for pro-abortion efforts.

Open forum or not, these women or any other group are not entitled to student funds to promulgate

their interpretation of what are and are not women's issues. The very idea that there is only one "correct" interpretation of feminism reveals Dr. Simpson for the totalitarian that she really is. And regardless of one's personal conception of a woman's place in the world today, they are as various as women like Phyllis Schaffly or Molly Yard, Kate Michelman and Lynn Cheney. But to credit Women's Forum with this kind of true feminine diversity gives it far too much credit. Perhaps if a broader group of women attended and participated in

Women's Forum, it could shed its liberal image and its newsletter would lose its extremism.

Were Women's Forum to spotlight efforts such as those to open the women's center for visiting women from other colleges (so they won't have to return home or spend the night in foreign fraternity rooms on party nights), the efforts of the Forum could be quite admirable. But so far, W&L's Women's Forum has exemplified characteristics that its own members fear are most often associated with them.



Campus Amnesty

National, political organizations are not entitled to Student funding. Period.

Many W&L Students who read Amnesty International's self-important, moralistic response in the *Ring-tum Phi* to threats to its funding, may undoubtedly confuse Amnesty's mission from that of a true non-partisan, humanitarian organization like the Red Cross. After all, Amnesty's President smugly offers, who would dare disagree with Amnesty International's interpretation of the Fourth Amendment?

Well, frankly, a lot of people.

Amnesty International vehemently opposes the death penalty in all circumstances (a position possibly even to the left of the ACLU) and is extremely critical of incarceration as well. Under the guise of protecting criminals from "cruel and unusual punishment," this organization consistently uses its self-righteous bully pulpit to attack the American legal justice system.

Though this group may not pursue its leftist agenda for all ten amendments in the Bill of Rights—and accordingly does not "enjoy" the radical reputation, oh, of

say the ACLU—just ask any governor who has recently executed one of member of his state's Death Row ranks, and he will tell you just how activist, partisan, and political this really group is.

Furthermore, unlike the ACLU, that at least pretends to uphold the United States Constitution, Amnesty remains extremely critical of the United States' government, or any nation-state that stands in the way of its globalist vision.

And this is not to discount the good work that the organization has

accomplished. Tens of thousands of "political" prisoners (oops, Prisoners of Conscience) are now free as a result of Amnesty's letter writing campaign. But the W&L chapter does not need Executive Committee subsidies to underwrite letters and postage; Amnesty's self-acknowledged need for student money is to "educate" the campus. One such educational seminar is the upcoming ACLU co-sponsored lecture on why the United States' use of the Death Penalty is barbaric and immoral. (Surprised?

Amnesty International, after all, is the same organization that claimed the United States' civil rights protection was on par with that of Red China and South Africa!)

The Amnesty *Phi* letter opened with the Fourth Amendment of the Bill of Rights, a Thomas Jefferson inspired document. This article closes with another Jefferson inspired article, the Statute of Virginia of Religious Freedoms. "To compel a man to subsidize beliefs with which he disagrees is immoral."

Many students have

the mistaken impression that the *Spectator* only accepts new staff members at certain times of the year. Don't get caught in that trap. We're always looking for new staff in photography, writing, editing, layout and design, business administration, advertising and development.

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W&L Spectator

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THE OTHER SIDE

Why Greeks Are Increasingly
Suspicious of Fraternity
Renaissance, Buddy Atkins,
and the IFC.

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

June 1990 -

by Jim Eddings, Marc
Kreppel, and Chris
Vinyard

WASHINGTON AND LEE

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RENAISSANCE



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“To see an evaluation of Washington and Lee
in some assessment of the best schools in
America, and to have the fraternity system
cited as being consistent with our history and
tradition and enhancing the overall experi-
ence, that is the ultimate goal.”

—Dean of Students David Howison, Winter
1991 *Alumni Magazine*

OF FRATERNITY RENAISSANCE

ACCORDING TO THE PRINCETON REVIEW, Washington and Lee's fraternity system is the most popular among its students of any college campus' today. Many believe that the continuing Fraternity Renaissance Program is the major contributing factor to this nationally recognized success. Unfortunately, inside many of the newly renovated houses, Greek members' faith in Fraternity Renaissance is not so strong. Questions and criticism are commonplace in chapter meetings and casual conversation among fraternity members—especially the high cost of fraternity maintenance, the confusing and sometimes misleading IFC regulations, the leadership and governing decisions of the House Corporations and the Alumni Fraternity Council, and, of course, the inconsistent attention given to particular fraternities by the University. And because the Fraternity system is so integral to campus life, these concerns should not be limited to only the fraternity chapters but to everyone involved.

The leaders of Fraternity Renaissance

have since its conception maintained that its success can be achieved only through the combined efforts of the University administration, the national fraternity headquarters, the alumni, and most importantly, the students. In the Winter 1991 *Alumni Magazine*, Col. Paul J.B. Murphy, '49 describes this balance, "now unless you can get those four constituencies working together, and each playing their roles, you're in trouble. It's just like a chair with four legs, if one of the legs isn't there, it's going to tip over."

At such a traditional school as Washington and Lee, many students wonder why the University and alumni are so fervently dedicated to structurally redirecting the existing fraternity system. At the Fraternity Renaissance dedication in the Fall of 1991, President John D. Wilson remarked, "We're dedicating not the restored buildings, but the ideal of fraternity life that they will help to realize." And one part of Wilson's ideal, the newly adopted *Standards for Fraternities*, intend to "give direction and support to those entities

crucial to and responsible for the vitality of the fraternity system."

Associate Dean of Students for Greek Affairs and Student Activities, Leroy "Buddy" Atkins, attributes the decline of W&L's fraternity system in the mid 1970's to a number of specific factors. Possibly most important among them surrounds the fraternities' decision, with the permission of the University, not to provide housemothers. For some fraternities, with the housemothers' absence of authority, conduct and atmosphere of the chapters changed overnight. The transformation of attitude was manifested specifically in the complete decline of the houses' physical structure because the houses also lacked the necessary foresight to appropriately budget funds for capital upkeep and improvement. Much of the problems faced by fraternities during this decline resulted house corporation members' own lack of experience as student leaders of fraternities as these members usually held their student position for only one year and rarely received any advice from earlier student generations.

Many in the W&L community, including Board of Trustees members were aware of the problems the fraternities encountered in the late 70's and early 80's, but remained undecided how to approach the situation. And should any action be taken, no one knew who was responsible for initiating efforts to revive the fraternity system. Then Col. Murphy returned to W&L in 1983 to help re-establish the seriously debilitated Sigma Nu fraternity.

Not only did Col. Murphy desire to restore the Sigma Nu chapter to the prominence that Sigma Nu enjoyed during his years on campus, but to do so for all W&L Greeks. Murphy soon realized that the condition of the entire fraternity system was flawed and that its future would follow only one of two paths—complete revitalization or ultimate demise. Murphy's concerns led to the formation of the Alumni Fraternity Council and, ultimately, to the drafting of the *Standards for Fraternities*.

The newly formed Alumni Fraternity Council acknowledged "social fraternities are a valuable and integral part of both the University and Lexington communities," and after an AFC meeting in the Fall of

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1986, concluded that something must be done to revitalize the Greek system. The Board of Trustees supported the discussions of the AFC and in the spring of 1987, giving tentative approval to a "major house renovation effort." At this meeting the AFC also established the Fraternity Renaissance Steering Committee whose purpose was to investigate the financial options of physical renovation. But, more

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 and most importantly

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importantly, the FRSC sought to legitimize this massive undertaking in the eyes of the University and its alumni.

To this end, the FRSC completed development of *The Washington and Lee University Standards for Fraternities*, a document that defines "the privileges, responsibilities, and interrelationships of those entities crucial to and responsible for the

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vitality of the fraternity system," while also outlining the basic structure and purposes of the fraternities. The "entities" described in the *Standards* are the University, the national fraternities, the Interfraternity Council, and the house corporations and their local chapters. Dean Atkins supports the *Standards*, "They were put together very, very well to foresee all the kinds of problems that would come up."

This is true in the sense that the *Standards* rhetorically incorporate all entities to uphold the "fraternal ideal," but they do little to differentiate individual responsibilities of each specific group. Accordingly, the extent to which the *Stan-*

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PRINCETON REVIEW,

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dards establish any "interrelationships" among the five bodies is minimal. Although the hierarchical relationships between a few groups are somewhat obvious (for instance, the Interfraternity Council is clearly empowered by its national charter to influence activities of the individual chapters), the *Standards* fall short of creating any well developed relationships of organization within the system as a whole.

One such example of this shortcoming surrounds the flawed fraternity maintenance system. The *Standards* mandate that the house corporations, by their legal incorporation and responsibilities as leasee, must inspect the property and maintain its physical appearance and safety. Since

Social Event Registration

Until I recently read the new "Social Event Registration Form" I dismissed all this talk about change at W&L. True, no longer can fraternities have kegs at parties, even though it's more economical, saves the waste of hundreds of aluminum cans, and is much more easily cleaned up. Oh yeah, and my personal favorite, a student can now be suspended from his studies for the inexcusable act of breaking a window.

With all these constant face lifts made in W&L life over the years, I feel I've become slightly immune to change. However, when I recently read the University's new format for the registration of parties, something inside me just clicked. Suddenly I was no longer a mild mannered, take it as it comes, over-slacked senior. Suddenly I had become Charles Bronson in loafers, suddenly I was "damn upset!"

The line has to be drawn somewhere. And party registration forms, although less of an impassioned topic than colonnade architecture, are as good a place as any.

The most obvious, yet least annoying problem with the form, is its length. Two full pages (six pages if you are registering parties for the week) is entirely too long. I practically had writer's cramp after my first go at it. Secondly, this form requires the designation of a theme for each party. After a while this gets crazy, there are only so many themes one can dream up; "The First Wednesday of the Week Ball", the "Oh My Gosh It's Friday Again Shindig", the "Last Second Saturday of November Luau."

Another part of the form that ticks me off is the security section. Under this heading one must designate, what "Security" will be present, if there is a "Security Checklist Available," whether there is an "Emergency Procedures Checklist Available," and if there are "Invitations Available." I've no doubt that the reason for such security regulations had a lot to do with the ever so present threat of the notorious "L-Posse", a local terrorist group made of fourteen-year-old Lex-High students. Is security really necessary at a school of this size? One of the best attributes of W&L's social life is its friendly atmosphere. We belong to a close-knit university nestled in the Blue Ridge mountains, not a restricted country club in East L.A. The University of Virginia has such strict security regulations, and personally, it's no fun having to sell yourself into a party.

The next part of this form, the "House Director" section is no less annoying. In the first lines one must fill out whether the House Director is informed of "Plans For People Who Stay Over For Emergencies." While we all know full well what the implications of such a question is (and probably know full well which Dean was responsible for it), is it really any business of the University? Plans for party night visitors who do not wish to drive home that night are, and should be, personal arrangements between these young ladies and their hosts. Washington and Lee men are, if nothing else, an honorable lot, as many a sore back from a night on the sitting room couch will attest.

This June Cleaveresque section compliments the Mickey Mouse "Plans for Snacks", and "Snacks To Be Served During Band Breaks" lines that follow. I can't help but shake my head every time I see this part. If I come back to visit this school in ten years and they're serving milk and cookies, singing "It's A Small World" in Red Square, you can kiss my annual giving goodbye.

There is the "Clean-Up Crew Designated," and "Bartenders" lines which always evoke humorous images. Between these and the "Security" before mentioned I expect to see butlers in tails, mingling with loaded townies in bright yellow jackets walking around with walkie talkies, and pointing bright orange flashlights in students faces.

The "salt in the wounds" part of this form is that the deadline for all party registrations is by noon Tuesday. Maybe this is why

most people entering Dean Atkins office Tuesday morning have a sour look on their face. Then again Dean Atkins' office has never been known for it's "good times." The only place less fun in Lexington is probably The GHQ, or maybe The Bone. Whatever happened to the W&L of old where students had the freedom to have a party without planning it for nearly a week? Who are the "Myrons" in the administration that are so anxious to find out where parties are on the weekends that they have to know four days ahead of time? Since most Social Chairmen have no clue what will be planned for the ensuing week, the result of this rule is that parties are scheduled for all three allotted nights by every fraternity whether they're having one or not.

Not only does one feel like they've just been lectured by their mother by the time this registration form is completed, but at the end of the questionnaire lies a "Statement Of Responsibility" to which a pledged signature must be affixed. This code of responsibility reads: I have read and understand all the requirements of I.F.C. By-Law XI or the comparable Panhellenic or University Policy on Alcohol and am aware of the consequences for non-compliance. I certify to the best of my ability that this event will be held in compliance with Guidelines for Safe Partying in Section 3 of the above by-law or in accordance with the appropriate requirements of the applicable University policy.

To have to sign such a statement after sifting through all the chafe before it is like adding insult to

injury. It's absolutely ridiculous. The whole point of this form is simply to let the University know who's having a party. Why does one have to get sweaty palms and paranoia while just registering a party? Upon signing one's name to the form you expect to feel the hot breath of the E.C. beating down your neck—Beware, Big Brother is watching!

I'm actually quite reasonable when it comes to change at W&L. I realize that the University has an interest in protecting the investments made during Fraternity Renaissance. Hey, it wasn't such a bad idea to make these old buildings actually livable. However I don't think that the student body, moreover, fraternity members, are being sufficiently contacted and asked about their opinions on the changes being made. After all, we are the ones who are being most directly affected by these changes. I guarantee that if they did better gauging student opinions that the fraternal system would be without fifteen dentist-office-looking front halls, one baby grand piano, and definitely without the new "Social Event Registration Form". If we can't keep "the place from changing" we should at least be able to steer it in the right direction.

--Carter Lee



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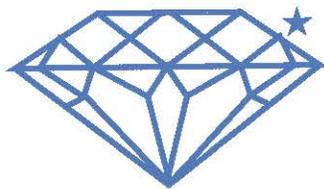
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many house corporations' members are not residents of Lexington or its surrounding area, the University offered to provide the inspection services and contract the maintenance services so each house corporation could be assured of meeting the set regulations of appearance. Obviously, however, the house corporations are not meeting their responsibilities as the University has failed to provide adequate maintenance on terms agreeable to all involved. But with this arrangement in place, the entity specifically responsible for addressing the concerns of individual chapters remains unclear. And the *Standards* themselves do not provide an answer.

Dean Atkins maintains that when one entity of the Greek system does not meet its expectations, the burden lies with the others to demand that its compliance must be met. No surprise, any vacuum created by house corporation inactivity is readily filled by University (*i.e.* Buddy Atkins) action.

But according to Atkins, however, "the biggest problem with all these different entities involved has truly been communication." No one attempts to resolve any problems because of the inherit difficulty of communication between the entities. This breakdown among the parties within Fraternity Renaissance illustrates the fundamental weakness of the program; its goals included establishing and strengthening lines of communication, not confusing them.

No one reads the literature developed to guide the program—not fraternity officers, not house corporation officers, not even IFC officers: "these documents that have been available from day one, to anybody and everybody...but you'd be amazed at how many people haven't read them."

But even if everyone read the *Standards for Fraternities*, there would still be questions and confusion. For this reason, today's Greeks are upset with Fraternity Renaissance. This distrust for Fraternity Renaissance doesn't result from its goal of changing the system, but from the new confusion and frustration that are increasingly such a common element of the Renaissance fraternity life.

There's No Accounting For It

Housing Corporations introduce a new twist to keeping the books...

by *Chris Vinyard*

ALL FRATERNITY CHAPTER AND HOUSE CORPORATION treasurers were invited to the last Alumni Fraternity Council meeting for the announcement of an arrangement between the AFC and a local accountant to establish a standard fraternity accounting system.

The motivation for such an arrangement is twofold. First, Mrs. Lowery, a University accountant who has prepared many fraternities' books for a number of years, indicated her plans to retire sometime next year. Second, Phi Delta Theta has been using Thomas R. Litton, the accountant named in the AFC agreement, for similar work since 1989 and are generally pleased with their system.

According to the agreement, Mr. Litton would be responsible for a number of the fraternities' financial matters including: preparing all payroll tax reports, preparing all annual Form 990s for the chapters and house corporations, preparing annual reports to the State Corporation Commission, assisting with the preparation of semester budgets, distributing payroll checks to house employees such as the house mother and cooks, reconciling checking accounts, and providing monthly statements of income and expense. Mr. Litton would also write all of the House Corporations' checks on the approval of the House Corporations' treasurers. At this time, each of these responsibilities is handled either by Mrs. Lowery or by the chapter and house corporation treasurers themselves (although some house corporations have their own accountants to do similar work).

This arrangement has met mixed reactions from fraternity treasurers. Some are concerned that the

houses' autonomy with their funds will be jeopardized. Mr. Litton himself addressed this concern in the AFC meeting by noting that under the agreement, his work would in no way infringe on how the houses spend their money, but that he must rely on the chapter treasurers to ensure that each expense is accountable under one of a number of categories (food, social, rush, etc.).

But the most questionable aspect of the new system is how the AFC plans to fund it. The flat rate for Litton is quoted as \$3,000 per fraternity per year, which includes all of the above mentioned services. The bill may also include extra charges, \$25 per hour of extra clerical work and \$75 per hour of extra professional work, plus a charge for all extra supplies needed such as postage and copies. This seems straightforward enough (although not necessarily reasonable), but although Litton received \$3,000 per fraternity, the total cost for all of the fraternities is divided equally among all fraternity members. In other words, Litton is getting paid on a per fraternity basis, but the fraternities are getting charged by the Alumni Fraternity Council on a per member basis. This, of course, means that larger houses will be responsible for picking up more of the expense than a smaller one, although both benefit from exactly the same services.

This new accounting system is the most recent manifestation of the ongoing trend of standardizing the fraternity system that began with the implementation of the Fraternity Renaissance. Like so many other aspects of this trend, the benefits of the arrangement seem promising but at the expense of being fair for all involved.

The War Continues

ON NOVEMBER 2ND, THE BALLOTS CAME POURING in through out the nation. The results were not a mandate for a Clinton victory, nor a surprise by Perot, but a loss by George Bush. This election was not a referendum on two different

agenda's for America, but a message to George Bush that the American people did not want another four years of the invisible domestic Presidency.

Clinton received less votes than Dukakis in 1988, but George Bush lost twenty percent of the support he had received four years before. This was a result of George Bush lacking a core group of political convictions. Bush abandoned leadership in outlining clear conservative principles of domestic policy months before the election. Bill Clinton had a bad plan, but George Bush had no plan or if he did no one knew what it was.

The media gave Governor Clinton the benefit of the doubt and tried to create the artificial impression of a landslide. This image quickly failed as a less than 45 percent of the vote translated to nothing near a landslide. The intent of the media promoting the idea of a Clinton landslide was to make a false claim that the Reagan Legacy and conservative fiscal ideas were refuted by the people. The conservative agenda was not defeated, but Bush's loss has left the disciples of conservatism without access to the White House.

A Clinton administration means that government gridlock is no longer an excusable reason for government failure. Government accountability has returned to Washington and now the Democrats will reap its consequences. The Congress and the President no longer are offered immunity from the blame of failure as long

as the Democrats control both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

As a result of the pending cloud of accountability rising over the Potomac, the Democrats must stop orbiting and land on earth to make realistic proposals for economic growth. This may be the hardest seed for the Democratic party to swallow. The Democrats have made promises in the past that they knew that they would never have to deliver as long as a Republican was in the White House. The democrats must start making tough decisions, which inevitably mean alienating someone they promised the moon to.

Clinton tried to appeal to the center and now he must deliver. This inevitably will mean conflict between the rainbow coalition Democrats and Clinton's boys from Arkansas that delivered a 42% landslide. A 42 percent landslide (that must be the equivalent of a faked orgasm). Clinton inevitably will have to move the party towards the center to maintain political viability. This is a task that will be harder than creating a television image of unity.

Clinton's campaign was almost trademarked by the lack of minorities included in photo opportunities. Clinton will have a difficult time unifying the party at a time when more minorities and women have ever been elected to the house and senate. There interests and those of the typical bow-weevil southern Democrats are bound to clash. This is bound to force a conflict within the party.

There are a number of issues that will force this conflict. DC statehood and homosexuals in the military will be the first two test cases that will show how Clinton will deal with the factions in his own party. These test cases will show how Clinton stakes out his own political capital. It is not likely that D.C. Statehood will become a reality and many believe that it would be characteristic of Clinton to put only as much political capital on the line for homosexuals as he can minimally afford. This means that Clinton may try to bandage bleeding gushers, but that his parties internal divisions may prove to be too great of a stumbling block.

Clinton will try to ride the fence on issues, so as to seem like everyones friend. This is the same approach that George Bush tried, and the result will be to alienate both sides of issues rather than incorporating them in some grand consensus. George Bush failed because he did not stake out and support a specific agenda, but rather looked weak in trying to reach consensus. Clinton may be successful in reaching for consensus where Bush failed but this is not likely.

The conflict within the Democratic party over swallowing a more conservative agenda will be the Republican parties opportunity to redefine itself as the home of fiscal soundness. As the Democrats are held accountable for their policies and the direction of government, the Republicans can strengthen the party and rally it around its traditional beliefs. The first step is to examine the Republican failure in 1992.

In 1992 George Bush failed to effectively focus on the conservative strength in economics because he did not fully embrace the conservative agenda. George Bush ran the first Republican campaign in a decade that did not focus on economic policies. Bush's weak defense of conserva-

tive economic policies gave the economy master card to the Democrats. Bush chose to focus on values, trust, and foreign policy and ignored a history of success Republicans had found in defining conservative solutions to economic woes. Bush got caught muddled in talking moral values when people were thinking about where the next paycheck was coming from. In time of recession Bush chose to avoid confronting the economy. He could have attacked the economy with conservative solutions, if the Congress blocked him he would be able to show the unproductive gridlock that they fostered.

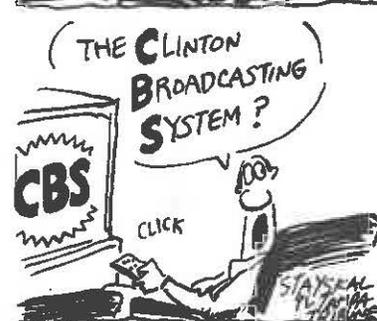
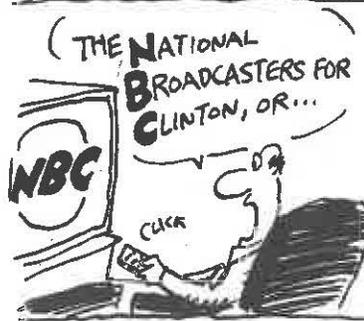
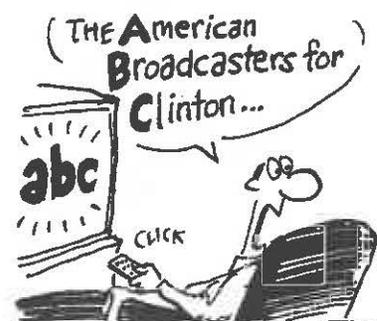
Bill Clinton tried to appeal to this message by calling for tax-cuts, capital gain relief, and deficit control. Governor Clinton realized that the Democratic party had to adopt the Republican message to be electable. George Bush rolled over and let the Democrats seize our agenda and did little to question this sudden shift in Democratic party philosophy. It will be harder for Bill to walk the walk of conservative beliefs in contrast to the easiness he found

in talking the talk.

The lesson for Republicans is that they must seize the economic high ground rather than harping on the moral high ground. The new Republican leaders that rise will be conscious of the importance of defining the economic message of peace and prosperity. The new leaders will be younger women and men who harp less on seeking social correctness and more to find how government can create an atmosphere conducive to economic success.

The Republicans must seek a strategy that returns to staking out traditional conservative pillars. These pillars are centered around a message of fiscal conservatism, deficit control, tax relief, deregulation, policies that benefit small business, and a strong foreign policy posture. These areas are where the Democrats and Republicans differ and where the GOP must define itself. It is time to return to the traditional doctrine of decreasing government interference on individuals.

The election proved that the pocket book is the main tell tale of how the results



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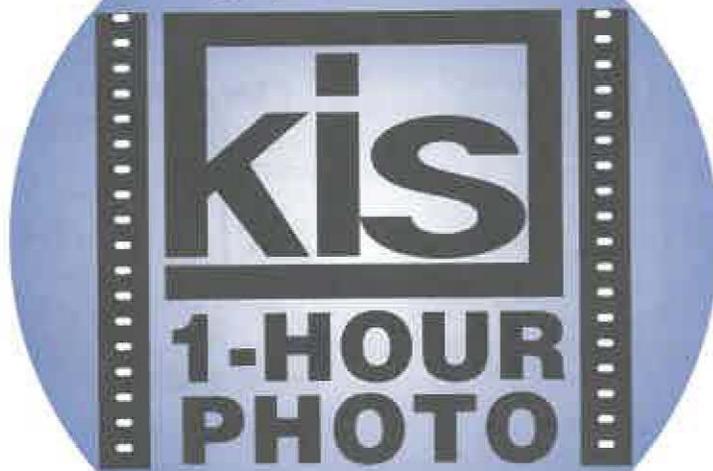
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will turn out. The candidate who talks about how his policies may effect dollar and cents issues will be able to captivate the voter. In 1980 Reagan spoke of economic recovery, in 1984 he asked are you better off than you were four years ago, and in 1988 George Bush promised tax relief. These campaign planks were the meat and potatoes of the conservative agenda.

I believe that there are a number of rising stars who can return the party to power, articulate the Republican economic agenda and have strong records in government service. The leaders to watch are Governor Weld of Massachusetts, Governor Wilson of California, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp, Senator Phil Gramm, and Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin. Governor Weld has been able to cut government programs, government employees, and taxes while remaining popular. Governor Wilson has made tough choices for California and will be a national star when the states economy recovers. Jack Kemp is a favorite because of his appeal to a wide range of the electorate for his ideology and success at HUD. Senator Gramm has kept control of the Senatorial Committee, the master of campaign finance as a launching board for the 1996 election. Lynn Martin is a moderate female who was a strong spokesman for the Bush campaign and remains a best hope for attracting the female electorate back to the GOP. These Republicans are people who have stressed economic soundness, but not social compliance.

The future leaders of the party must enunciate sound economics and speak to the pocket book. The Clinton victory is an opportunity for the Republican party to shed layers of fat that came to Washington only to forget the ideas that got them there. The Republican party has been given a second chance to devise a plan for success during the next four years. The Republican party will return refreshed, regrouped, and refocused. The conservative idea that government is part of the problem and not the solution is even more valid today than it was when Ronald Reagan entered the White House in 1980. The conservative revolution is not over; it has yet to see its final days.

SPECTATOR PROFILE:

Thomas "Baner" Bane

HOME:

Buena Vista, Virginia

"I was born and raised on the farm right across from the Keydet-General."

PROFESSION:

Traffic Coordinator of University

WHY I DO WHAT I DO:

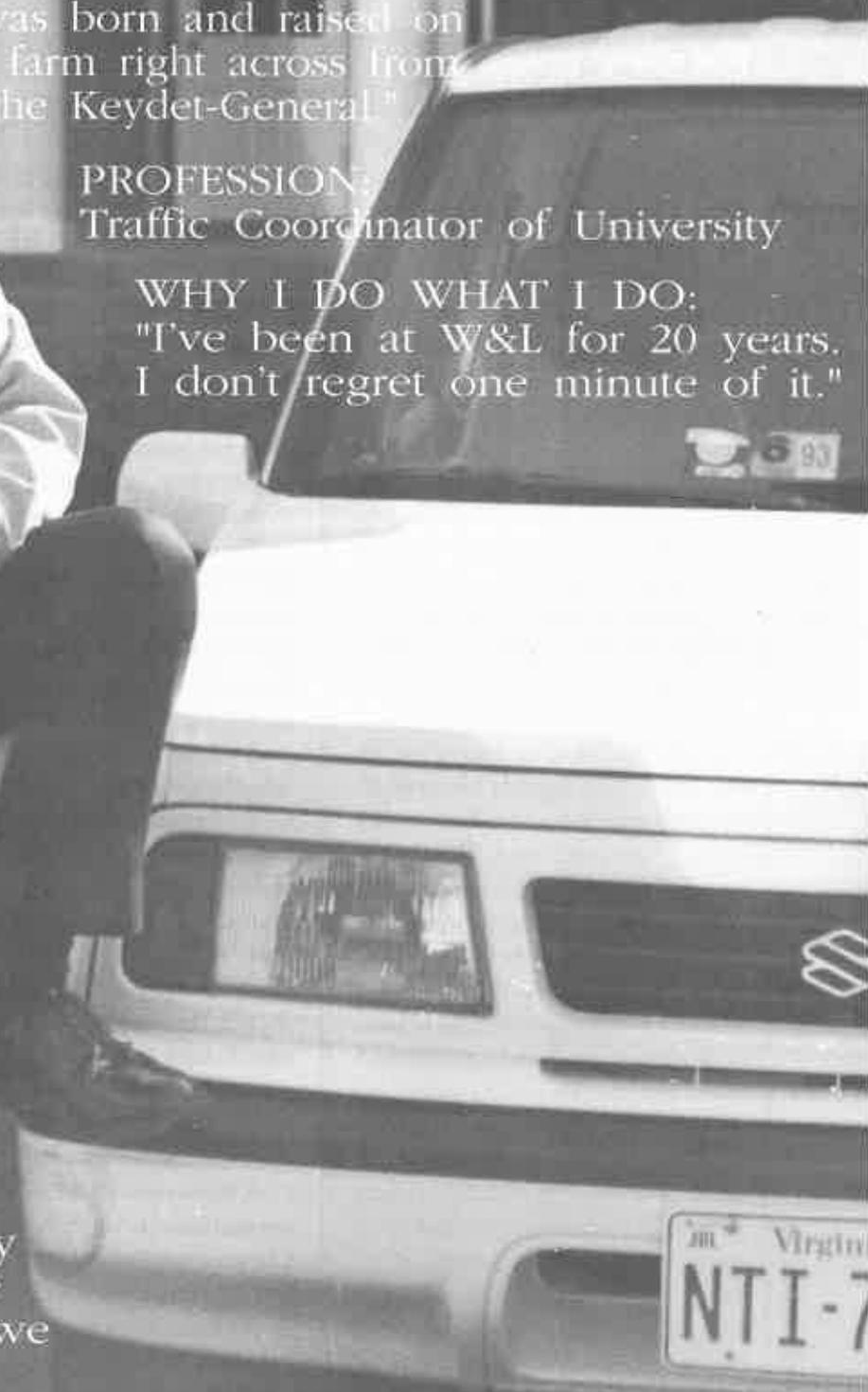
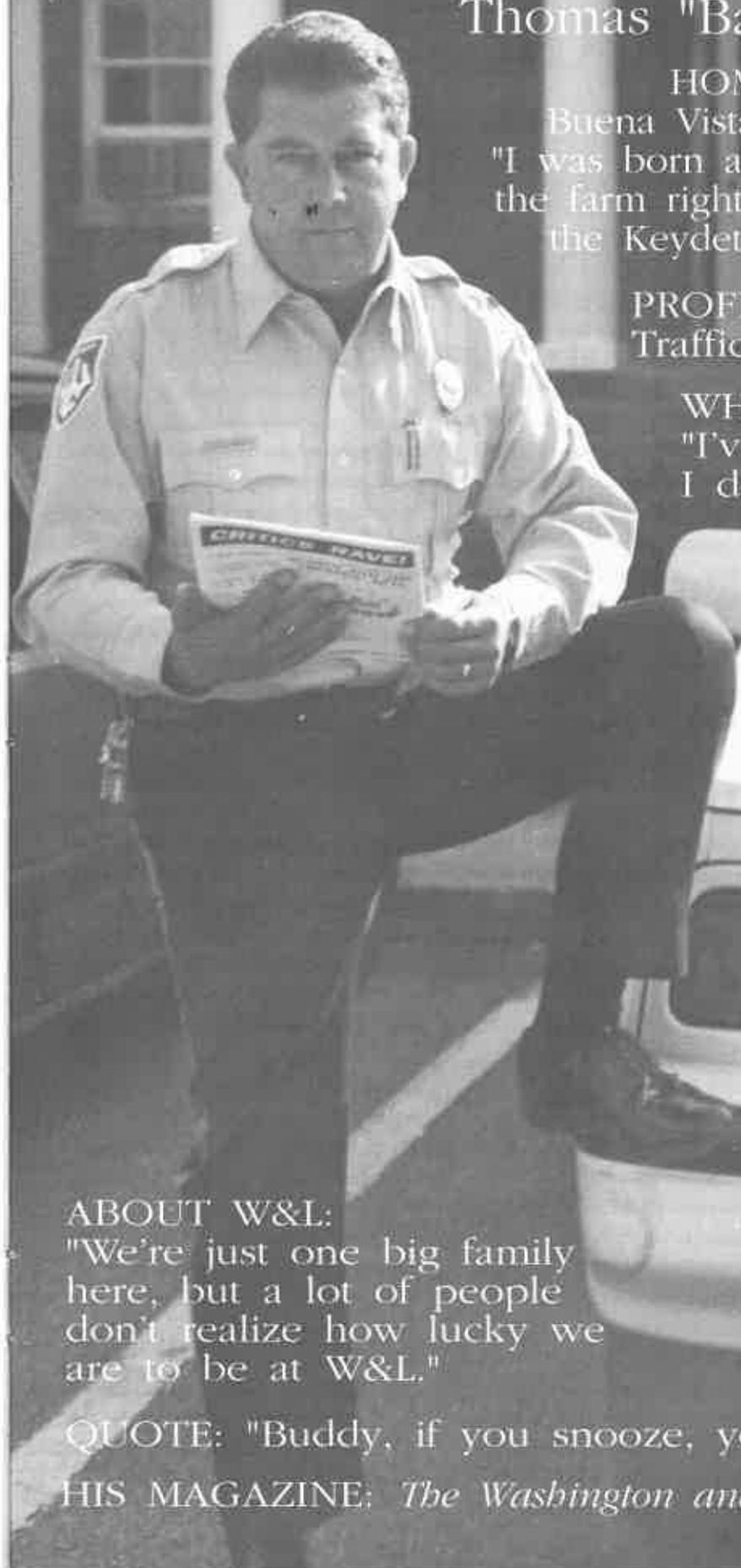
"I've been at W&L for 20 years. I don't regret one minute of it."

ABOUT W&L:

"We're just one big family here, but a lot of people don't realize how lucky we are to be at W&L."

QUOTE: "Buddy, if you snooze, you lose."

HIS MAGAZINE: *The Washington and Lee Spectator*



ESSAY ■

Slick Willy's School



SPECIAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOUNDED BY BILL Clinton for Arkansas' top high school students is a hotbed of one-sided "politically correct" indoctrination and anti-Christian nihilism.

Campus Report has acquired the 1991 "textbook" used in the Arkansas Governor's School, a six-week summer program for the state's "gifted" students, who are able to participate in the program between their junior and senior years of high school.

The book, a collection of readings called the "Tree Book," states that the school's intention is to promote "reflective thinking" by its young attendees. But a review of the book's essays, as well as the program's guest speakers and the films shown, suggests the real purpose of the Governor's School is to "uproot" whatever traditional beliefs the students bring into the program and replace them with liberal skepticism and secular relativism.

According to the 1991 teaching materials, readings and speakers at the Governor's School cover the full gamut of the left. There is also a heavy anti-Christian element at the school, as if special care was taken to shed the impressionable teenagers of their Bible Belt past. Among the teachings in 1991 were:

A blatant anti-Christian diatribe from a radical feminist "witch," who likens Jesus Christ's death on the cross to necrophilia and sado-masochism.

Pro-homosexual reading, films and discussions.

A lecture from the attorney who defended "Jane Roe" in the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court case (with no balancing speaker from the pro-life side).

A lesson in "Animal Liberation" from

a representative of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), a rabid "animal rights" group whose leader has compared chicken harvesting to the holocaust. (Ironically, Tyson's chicken company is Arkansas' largest employer.)

Readings praising pacifism, including one that lavishly praises a Mennonite who refused to register for the draft partly because he didn't want to send a "hostile signal" to the Soviet Union.

Though, as governor, Bill Clinton is not involved in the day-to-day operation of the school, he became an avid booster after bringing the idea for it to Arkansas from North Carolina. Clinton founded the Arkansas Governor's School for the Gifted and Talented in 1979.

In his convocation speech inaugurating the school the following year, Clinton called the program his "dream come true," according to one disaffected student who wrote a 42-page paper about the school based on copious notes he took while attending in 1980.

"[Clinton] takes a very active interest in the program," said Bruce Haggard, a biology professor at Hendrix College and director of the Governor's School. "On occasion he even gives guest lectures to the students."

Haggard said that Clinton gives the opening address at the school every summer. His wife, Hillary, has also given lectures to the students, according to Mark Loury, who served as the school's publicity

director from 1983-84.

Critics note that since Governor Clinton established the school, he cannot absolve himself of what is taught there, and its one-sided bent. He appointed the seven-member state education committee that has direct oversight of the school. In addition, the program is totally supported by state funds, allowing students to attend for free. Every summer, the Governor's School enrolls 400 of the top rising high school seniors from around the state.

The program is divided into three areas—academic (with concentration based on the student's talents, such as math, science, or English), "conceptual development," and "personal and social development." The latter is the most controversial part of the school, says Haggard, as it teaches students to "look into the implications of knowledge."

Included in the list of readings in the book is an essay by Emily Culpepper entitled, "The Spiritual, Political Journey of a Feminist Freethinker." Culpepper, who abandoned her southern Christian upbringing and ultimately became a "free thinking witch," assails the "androcentrism" of Christianity:

"...Even beyond the problems presented by a male god and male savior, there remains the central foundational Christian faith claim—one incarnation of the divine into humanity at one specific point in history. Belief in a unique penetration of divinity into humanity was no longer just implausible, it was offensive. This concept of one anointed-from-on-high messiah sent to enter/save the world is inescapably hierarchical. And salvation requiring bloody sacrifice is necrophilic and sado-masochistic." Culpepper goes on to describe how, for her, Christianity has become "compost."

If writings like the above were isolated in the Governor's School curriculum, it would be one thing. But far from that, they are typical. When asked why the other side was not presented to students, Haggard said that the teachers do not necessarily take the side of the writer. And, he said, to think critically and openly students need to be exposed to views they don't normally get at home or in the

"...This concept of one
anointed-from-on-high
messiah [Christ] sent to
enter/save the world is
inescapably hierarchical.
And salvation requiring
bloody sacrifice is
necrophilic and sado-
masochistic."

traditional classroom setting.

But more telling was Haggard's comment "I don't think good education requires a balanced treatment of everything." Under that criterion, Governor's School's would seem to have reached a new standard of excellence.

Assaults on traditional beliefs seem to comprise more than some lofty goal of just

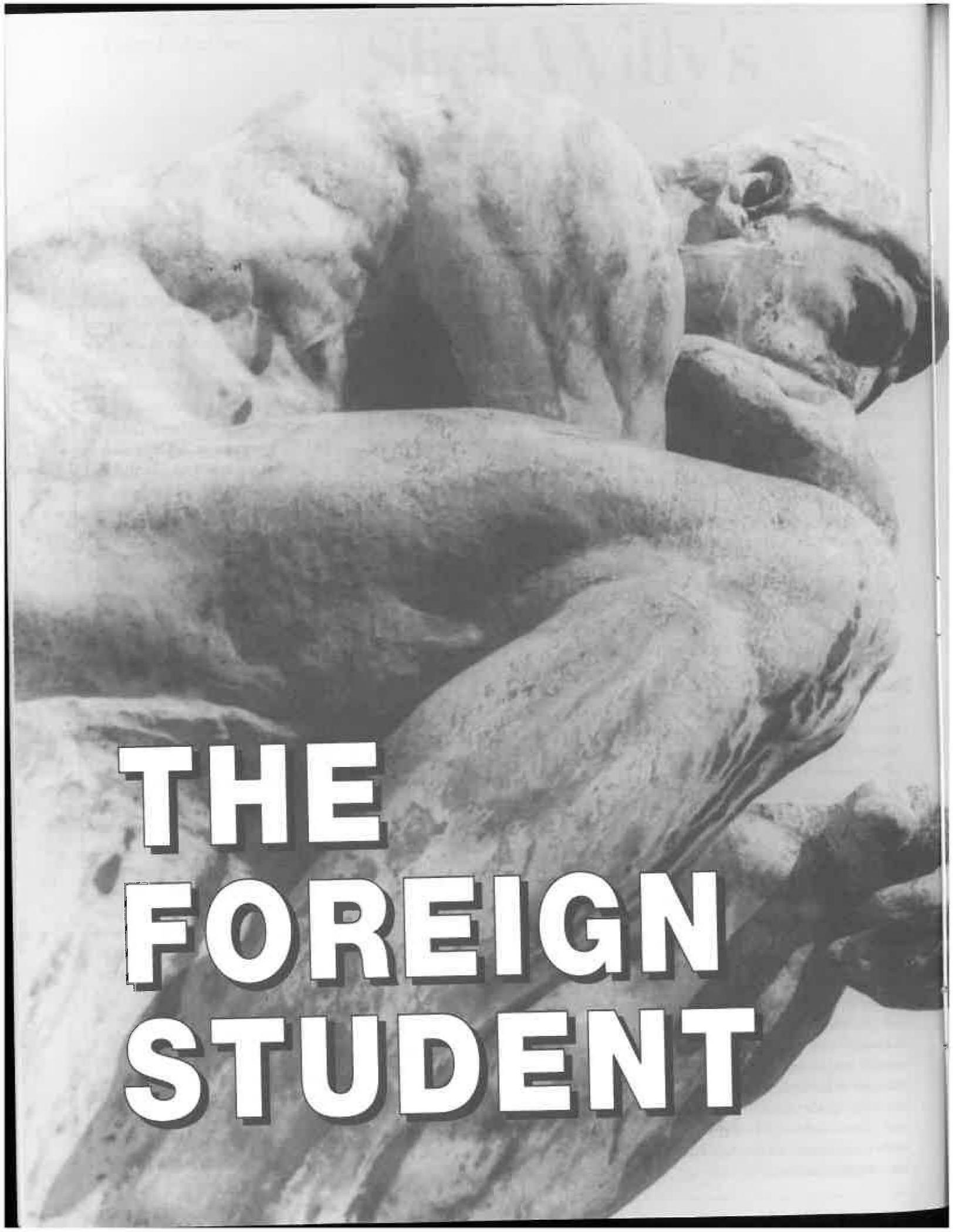
encouraging kids to "think critically." Chris Yarbrough, a Governor's School student who left the school mid-way in 1991 out of disgust for its teachings, recalled one lecture by a feminist professor who took the entire class time explaining why, after trying out many different churches, she had decided to become an atheist. Then she gave reasons for that choice. Yarbrough said, "You have a room full of adolescent kids. If you say something like that and give these reasons, it's bound to have some kind of effect."

At another point in the course, he said, a feminist lecturer came and addressed the class, but when she finished, she would take questions only from female students in the audience—ignoring the men.

Yarbrough, who was raised in the small town of Oark, Arkansas, says that when he told School Director Haggard about his disappointment in the lack of balance in the program, Haggard told him that the school usually had speakers on both sides of the issue, but not that year.

Even seemingly innocuous items are used by the Governor's School professors to advance a Leftist cultural agenda, according to Mark Loury. Among the films listed in the 1991 manual is one entitled *Night and Fog*, a French documentary about the Holocaust. But Loury said that in class discussions following the film, professors led the students in an analysis that linked Hitler's barbarism to "oppression" in the United States.

"It's almost a mind-bending process that takes place during those six weeks," Loury said. "It was an attack on Christianity, but more so it was an attack on conservative thought. They very strongly put out the implication that if you want to be considered an intellectual by your peers, you have to be liberal. You can't be conservative."



**THE
FOREIGN
STUDENT**

Many in the Washington & Lee community are familiar with French author and W&L alumnus Philippe Labro's novel, "*L'étudiant étranger*" (*The Foreign Student*), which is a fictional story based on Labro's experiences during the 1950s as an exchange student at W&L. When I first read the book the summer after my freshman year, I found many of Labro's observations, some undoubtedly jazzed up for Frenchy shock appeal, about life in Lexington quite notable. It seemed that this Frenchman succeeded superbly in breaking into and understanding an important part of "my" uniquely American world: Washington & Lee and its sometimes particular set of traditions and honor. This French literary best-seller continued furthermore to provide me with pages and pages of fascinating insight into an era at Washington

by scott mccoey

& Lee about which I knew little and gave me a genuine respect for the novel's author and his interpretative success in "L'étudiant étranger".

The next year, as I was pondering whether (and where) to take a year away from W&L to study abroad in Europe, I thought again about Philippe Labro's book and in many ways what an interesting challenge Labro's experienced posed. Labro, an obviously intelligent student in post-war France, had accepted the opportunity to come and study in a country that he had never visited, at a school about which he could not have known much and yet passed this personal challenge with flying colors (and got a summer job in Colorado to boot). Although I know Philippe Labro, I've read Philippe Labro's work, and believe me, I'm no Philippe Labro, I did have before me a similar opportunity to spend a year in Paris, "his" world. Furthermore, even though France had been a part of my itinerary before, the personal challenge to integrate and succeed there in a world so different from W&L seemed more than remotely like that which faced the aforementioned Frenchman more than three

decades before.

Soon after, I applied to and was accepted into a program in Paris for study abroad during my Junior year. The challenge-odyssey had begun. Several months and a Belgian jet ride later, I found myself in Paris perched outside the Gare Montparnasse, staring hopefully up an out-of-service escalator with four massive bags at my side. I wondered if Philippe Labro had faced such a daunting test upon arriving in Lexington but then remembered the size of the old train station there and began the laborious process of dragging my bags up the steps into the fast world of the Parisian *gare*.

My first major challenge behind me and after visiting friends at a Norman beach for a "you're-in-France-now, you-gotta-start-speaking-some-French" week of basic integration, I returned to the French capital ready to start filling out the kilometers of paperwork and exams necessary to begin my school year.

One learns quickly as a student in the French educational system that no one begins anything without a lot of forms, bad passport-sized photos of oneself, and if one

is lucky, a couple of vague entrance exams. In keeping up with my self-imposed challenge of infiltrating, ...er, experiencing the best of the French educational system and French culture, I hoped to gain entrance into the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, a top French *Grande Ecole* for Politics and Economics, and this required all of the above. Luckily, my exam results and without a doubt my stunning passport photo prevailed and I became one amongst the six percent of foreign students at the IEP, or, as anyone who is really "in" with things calls it, at *Sciences Po.* My first class was cancelled and the second had an unannounced room (and building and street) change, but I located the third and became officially an *étudiant parisien*.

This is perhaps an appropriate point to pause and to explain a little about French schools. I do not intend to patronize the French system of higher education, which is not always so different from that in the United States, but dealing with such an often antiquated system makes the W&L bureaucracy look like a bagel beside an elaborate French pastry....and yet this was one of France's finest schools. The exten-

sive library at Sciences Po. (almost half of whose books were in English), in addition to being spread out in three buildings, required two student i.d. cards, one white request form, and a twenty minute plus wait for one book which was often required to be returned by three o'clock the following day. Professors at Sciences Po., as most taught or worked elsewhere as well, do not generally have office hours and one is lucky if he should ever meet the professor of a large lecture class; luckier still should he ever grade one of your papers or exams. For foreign students, the process it made even more interesting with the "helpful" addition of a special office just for us, the "*Bureau des étudiants étrangers*," which constructed the guidelines and grading



policies for such students, often with last-minute changes blamed on another administrative department. I once found out that several of my classes wouldn't have a final, as I was expecting, but rather would require a jumbo research paper be completed and turned in a little over a month later.

Every French institution is not like Sciences Po., and indeed the quality of the faculty, who will sometimes take the time to meet students and even invite them over for a post-exam dinner, makes up for some of the otherwise unnerving problems there. Another school, perhaps the finest of the University of Paris (which includes the Sorbonne building) system, and which was created after the massive student demonstrations in France in 1968 during which French students demanded many changes in their educational system, is the Université de Paris IX-Dauphine. This University, located in an unused NATO building in the rich-but-boring sixteenth arrondissement, operates on what more closely resembles the American system. It is small, about three thousand undergraduates, has smaller class sizes, normally under forty students per class, and is selective, only those students who have a top score on *le baccalauréat*, the French post-*lycée* (high school) achievement test, are accepted. Most French universities, unlike the *Grandes Ecoles* like Sciences Po., are required to accept into first year classes anyone and everyone who has passed "*le bac*". How Paris IX-Dauphine gets away with a selective entrance is not clear, but what is clear is that its graduates are often intensely sought after in the competitive French business community—often taking top jobs once reserved for *Grande Ecole* graduates. Unfortunately for many French students, however, the Université de Paris IX-Dauphine and its more American style system remain for the most part an anomaly.

So much for Mr. Labro's country's higher educational system (and back on the story), although I succeeded in meeting a number of French students at Sciences Po., most social events (with some notably fun exceptions, including the Ecole Polytechnique's all-night black tie ball at the Opéra Garnier) take place "in Paris"



rather than "at school", so aside from the abovementioned fête and a number of student dinner parties, it would be difficult to say clearly whether or not I can add any challenge points from successes on the Sciences Po. social scene. Paris itself, though, is another story and offered a myriad of ways by which the foreign student could live French culture. Some of the greatest rainy days in my life were spent inside the wonderful museums of the French capital and when the sun was out, I discovered perhaps the finest way to enjoy a hot European day: drink away the afternoon with friends at the sidewalk tables of Parisian cafés. And surely the cold winter evenings in the student discount line waiting for last-minute Yo Yo Ma and Jean-Pierre Rampal tickets, that New Year's Eve riding a Ferris wheel in the *Jardin des Tuileries*, dancing the [school] nights away to deafening techno music in Parisian *boîtes de nuit*, and those crazy rent-a-car road trips to obscure châteaux must count for something of a mastery of French culture, *n'est-ce pas?* These must at least have some sort of parallel with Philippe Labro's Virginia road trips to Sweet Briar and Hollins, and I wonder if he ever really

mastered the Shag the way one American I know can get down to Paris disjockey Laurent Garnier's unique house music. Perhaps that point is moot, but I believe that I often succeeded in blending in with hip Parisians, so I get another check for a cultural challenge met.

As any foreign student anywhere knows, though, the truest test of any year abroad is the personal relations test, i.e., "Were your host family, program director, European girl/boyfriend (which is, by the way, obligatory), and schoolmates still talking to you when you left?" One gets added points if all the above people were not only still talking to you, but talking to you in French. Although I don't know if I can top Mr. Labro's controversial rapport with the cleaning girl in his book, I was still talking (*en français, bien sûr*) with all these people AND MORE at the end of my trip. Some of them even still write. Chalk up yet another "oui" on the challenge list. Then there's that crucial internship test, and before I start explaining this, it is interesting to note a very positive point here concerning the French and I believe, European, educational system. Internships hold a much more important position in

France in that they are both more prevalent and often much more serious in nature than their American counterparts. Many top French college students have a more varied and impressive *résumé* (which is ironically called a *curriculum vitae* in French) upon receiving their degree than some Americans ever achieve. Fall and Winter terms as well as summers are devoted to internships with all major corporations, the French government, and, for those at technical institutes, apprenticeships in industry, which can certainly make up where the universities and *Grandes Ecoles* are lacking. Perhaps that is why during Labro's days at W&L he sought and obtained a position with the Forest Service the summer after his first year at W&L: He was following the French tradition of intern and apprenticeships.

Continuously forging ahead with my goal, and not to miss following Labro's (and every other French student's) lead, I pulled strings like mad (another great French tradition, which even has its own verb, *pistonner*) and obtained an internship at the French National Assembly doing constitutional and media research for the conservative RPR political party, which turned out to be some of the nicest people in town. I even had my own official "*Laisser passer*" for the National Assembly and Sénat buildings, which allowed me to bypass with a wave and a "bonjour" the pesky lines of tourists and members of the press at the main entrances to the Assembly, which was especially fun, though perhaps a bit pompous, on days when the Prime Minister was speaking and large crowds had gathered hoping to get into the building. Back to my point, surely even Mr. Labro would agree that this internship was at least as good albeit quite different from his forest fling in the Rockies. My internship ended at roughly the same time as my classes at Sciences Po. and I tearfully waved good-bye to the lecture halls where I had so often dozed, read "*Le Monde*", or taken notes and exams. Hard as it was to believe, my Junior year abroad was coming to a close and my futile attempts at landing another internship at the end of May failed. The exchange rate, which had played cruelly with the price of a Heineken throughout my stay in France,

was getting even worse, and I realized that it was time to bid the French capital "au revoir." Finishing my last project for school at midnight the day before my flight home, I afterward strolled the streets of Neuilly-sur-Seine, the Paris suburb where I had been living since October of the previous year and, remembering that I had not yet begun packing for my flight several hours later, wondered what Philippe Labro was thinking the night before he went back to France after his stay at W&L. Had he also tried feverishly to put off the inevitable trip home by thinking up elaborate and improbable schemes for staying abroad, putting off packing things up until the last moment? I arrived in front of my apartment building and thought agreeably that he had probably not begun packing, really putting things into suitcases, until the night before he was to return home either. The next day, while sitting on the ground at Boston in a delayed jet between a retired couple from Houston playing a *New Yorker* crossword puzzle, I pondered again the question of my cultural challenge and Philippe Labro's novel. Had I really succeeded in meeting most of my goals during my year abroad? After helping my rowmates find a missing "ACROSS" row, I concluded that indeed I may have done just that, although many effects of my

invented cultural challenge with one of France's most popular authors will take time to materialize. For instance, who can start a good, varied wine cellar on a student budget....in Lexington? In addition, Philippe Labro's book wasn't printed for a quarter of a century after his stay in Virginia and he continues to reap the fruit of his *séjour* even today, although I don't know if he gets any challenge points for having W&L au pairs take care of his *enfants* in Paris. If he does, though, I'm sure it won't be too hard to find a lovely bunch of au pairs from Sciences Po. to come and stay in the United States should such a need arise. All I've got to do now is spice up my Paris stories a bit, write a best-selling novel about them, and return to Paris in twenty five years to sign autographed copies of them. I would, of course, gain lots of extra points if the book was then made into a major motion picture, even more of them if the film wins any Academy or Golden Globe awards, and an absolute mountain of them should the flick win anything at Cannes. THEN, and only then, will the final cultural challenge of my Junior year abroad be complete.

And to believe that some American students go to school in France just to improve their French.



HOOPS

SPORTS



HE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTING for Washington and Lee basketball players. Inexperienced and undersized, the Generals have struggled in the tough Old Dominion Athletic Conference. However,

look for changes this year. Several current leaders have made it through these tough times and are looking forward to renewed success in the 1992-93 season.

"We sometimes panicked, and got to caught up on the perimeter last year. We are still going to shoot the threes this year, but I think we will be much more balanced. I think we could surprise some people with our inside game," said senior Bryan Watkins, who will be called upon to help lead this year's squad. Watkins, a three year letterman, will be joined by captain Brian Brading and forward Bob Ehret as the senior leaders.

Watkins and Brading are the two most experienced players on the team and they should form the nucleus of a much improved backcourt. Watkins was the team's leading scorer and outside threat last year. The job of point guard will belong to Brading, who led the team in assists last season. Brading rarely turns the ball over and is excellent on defense. Coach Verne Canfield thinks Brading may be one of the best point guards the Generals have ever had. These two will be joined on the wing by freshman Cam Dier, who has shined in the preseason. The Generals will be unusually deep in the backcourt, with Matt Newton and John Rogers ready to come in. Newton is one of the defensive standouts of the team, while Rogers led the team in scoring in several games last year.

With the departure of forward Courtney Penn and center Mark Melton, one would

expect this year's frontcourt to be lacking. This is certainly not the case. Junior Robert Miggins has emerged in the last year as an extremely capable power forward. If Miggins plays up to his potential, he can attract enough attention down low to free up shooters on the perimeter. 6'8 sophomore Mark Connelly should fill the role of center. Senior Bob Ehret, who is just finishing an All-American year as punter on the football team, will also contribute in the paint. Ehret provides a bruising style of play that will further open up the middle.

The ODAC Conference looks to be a strong one this year, and most people have picked W&L to be no better than second to last. This doesn't bother the Generals, however. Watkins says, "We were picked next to last, last year and that is probably where we belonged. We are a lot better this year, though, and the low expectations just relieve us of any unnecessary pressure. We had some close losses to good teams last season and this year we are confident we can turn those games around." Due to new NCAA rules, preseason practice could not start until three weeks later than usual. The Generals took advantage of the situation, however, and worked out on their own every evening. The team's preseason preparation has been strengthened by the new assistant coach, Bill Raleigh.

The Generals will begin their season in San Antonio, Texas in the Trinity Tip-Off Tournament. The early season will

Robby MacNaughton is a junior from Greenville, South Carolina.

provide the still young Generals a chance to come together and get ready for the conference games beginning in January. Key games to pencil in are arch rival Roanoke College and nationally ranked Hampden-Sydney. Watkins says, "We need to concentrate on the basics: free throws, defense, and rebounding. If we can do this we will at least be in every game. We seem to be much more fluid this year. We have more offensive threats and if we stay confident, I think we will surprise a lot of teams." All the ingredients are present for the return of basketball success under Coach Canfield.

ACC Preview

Without a doubt, the ACC will be the premiere basketball conference in the country this year. Duke, North Carolina, and Florida State should all three be in the top ten, and Wake Forest and Georgia Tech are also locks for the NCAA tournament in March. With the departure of Christian Laettner, parity should return to the league. Here is a look at how the league should take shape this year.

1. NORTH CAROLINA

The Tarheels are fed up with dark blue being the dominant color in the state and the country, as well. With big emergences of the "Fabulous Freshmen" of two years ago, all this will change. The Tarheels will have four amazing players who are all at least seven feet tall, and out of those Eric Montross should be the league's top center. Many believe that Montross is ready to have a season that will be a painful reminder of what Bobby Knight lost when Indiana-born Montross picked Chapel Hill over Bloomington. With George Lynch primed for a big senior year, and athletic Brian Reese ready to explode at anytime, the Heels should have a formidable frontcourt. In the backcourt, Coach Dean Smith will certainly miss the departed sharpshooter Hubert Davis, but quickhanded Derrick Phelps and sophomore Donald Williams return. As usual, Coach Smith will have plenty of reserves to throw in. Barring serious injuries the Tarheels should be able to replace their hated rivals atop the league and make a run at the Final Four.

2. DUKE

Without Christian Laettner the Blue Devils are not nearly the invincible team that they have been the past two years. However, Cherokee Parks is a very solid replacement for Laettner in the middle and the Dukies still possess two of the nations top players in point guard Bobby Hurley and swingman Grant Hill. Senior Thomas Hill also returns after averaging fifteen points a game on last year's National Championship team. With proven leader Mike Krzyzewski as coach, the Blue Devils have no real weaknesses but it was Laettner's special something that took them to the next level. So, no championships for this Duke group, but expect to see them in everybody's top five.



3. FLORIDA STATE

Last year's entry into the ACC was unbelievably successful for the Seminoles. This year, the Seminoles return everybody from a team that was second in the league and advanced all the way to the sweet sixteen of the NCAA Tournament. Expectations for another big year are present, and all Seminole faithful will be waiting for the arrival of their quarter-back/point guard Charlie Ward to the basketball court. After leading the 'Noles to a New Year's Day victory in football, Ward will join shooting guard Sam Cassell to form the ACC's top backcourt. If Doug Edwards plays as strong at the forward spot as he did last season (17 points a game), the Seminoles should again be exciting and good. However, the Seminoles will not be able to catch anybody sleeping this time around. If Florida State can keep the turnovers down in a sometimes wild offense, they will again be one of the nation's top programs.

4. WAKE FOREST

The Demon Deacons were one of the most unpredictable teams in the country last year. When things were running smooth, they would merely whip top ranked Duke. However, when things were sluggish, the Deacs would drop four games in a row to lesser opponents. Expect Randolph Childress, who missed all of last season due to a knee injury, to get Wake back on track. Childress was superb as a freshman and he may well be the quickest player in the league. Then there is pre-season All-American selection Rodney Rogers, an imposing man-child who is probably the frontrunner for ACC player of the year. Georgetown transfer Charlie Harrison and Terlonnie Owens, a solid number six man last season, will also make Wake dangerous. There is not a team in the country that David Odom's fourth Wake Forest ball club is incapable of beating.

5. GEORGIA TECH

The dark horse of the league may be the Ramblin' Wreck. They will certainly miss the shooting of Jon Barry, who has moved on to the Boston Celtics, but the emphasis of this team will shift to the frontcourt with 6'10" Malcolm Mackey

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becoming one of the nations best power forwards. The backcourt, although talented, will be inexperienced; but the Yellow Jackets should have no trouble securing another berth in the NCAA Tournament.

6. VIRGINIA

The Wahoos have lost their school's all-time leading scorer in the departure of Bryant Smith. The projected starting lineup for this year averaged only thirty five points in offense last season, but UVA should be able to balance this stat with tenacious defense. If Corey Alexander continues to improve at point guard, and Junior Burrough lives up to expectations, the Cavaliers should be solid - but don't expect any miracles.

7. MARYLAND

Even the best recruiting class in the league will not fill the void created by the loss of All-American Walt Williams. The Terps will be unusually young, with three freshmen, including two-time Parade All-American Darrin Simkins, vying for start-

ing positions. However, Maryland and Coach Gary Williams are building for a terrific future.

8. NORTH CAROLINA STATE

With Mr. Everything Tom Gugliotta gone, don't expect too much out of the Pack. The team will revolve around center Kevin Thompson and a fast paced offense. Freshman signee Charles Cornegey should also help with the scoring load. Although, Thompson has developed into a fine player, the Wolfpack is still too weak on defense to compete with the top programs in the ACC.

9. CLEMSON

Optimism concerning Clemson's basketball future is hard to find. In the off season, NCAA hearings over scandals in the Tiger program caused some to doubt that they would even be able to field a team. There will indeed be a Clemson basketball team, but few will disagree that the Tigers place in this league is in the cellar.

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