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October 11, 1983

MANLEY P. CALDWELL  
(1901-1971)

PLEASE REPLY TO  
[REDACTED]  
PALM BEACH, FL. 33480-2775

Dr. John D. Wilson  
President  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, Virginia 24450

Dear Dr. Wilson:

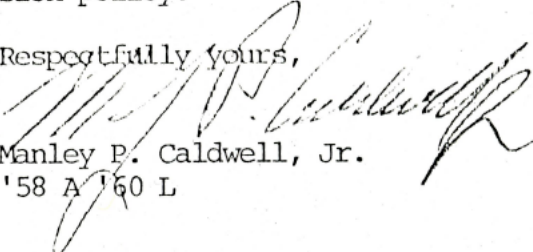
I see from articles in Virginia newspapers that the Board of Trustees will again consider the question whether Washington and Lee should become co-educational. I strongly urge the Board to so decide.

Washington and Lee's continued all male admission policy is totally out of step with the times.

I appreciate the fact that there are strong economic reasons to change the policy. We are cutting by half the pool of available high quality students from which the W & L student body has been traditionally drawn. However, my opinion is not based on economics. My opinion is based on the fact that it is the right thing to do in the 1980s.

I also appreciate the fact that co-educational admissions will cause considerable initial cost for dormitories, gymnasium facilities, athletic teams, etc. For that reason, I would have no objection to phasing in female admissions over a period of five or ten years, just so long as the ultimate commitment is made for eventual non-discriminatory admission policy.

Respectfully yours,

  
Manley P. Caldwell, Jr.

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MPCJr:dm

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY  
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 20, 1983

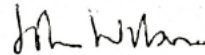
Mr. Manley P. Caldwell, Jr.  
Caldwell, Pacetti, Barrow & Salisbury  
[REDACTED]  
Palm Beach, Florida 33480-2775

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

Thanks very much for your thoughtful note. The newspapers were a bit premature but they had the matter as I stated it. I think we must take up the matter in earnest yet again, even though I know how much it will try the patience of many of our alumni and friends. It is the sort of agenda item that you wish might have been placed on someone else's agenda!

But we will move forward, I hope in a responsible way. The expression of your own feelings and thoughts on the matter is important for me to have.

Most sincerely,



John D. Wilson  
President

JDW/bcb