

OPINION

'Hello, I'll be your tour guide—suckers!'

GREEN LAND

Betsy Green

This is really exciting: I have been selected as a member of one of those powerful three-letter committees. I am a new member of the Student Recruitment Committee (SRC). I will be giving tours to prospective students, and, to paraphrase the handbook they gave me, will be one of the first representatives of Washington and Lee those prospective and their parents will meet. They also told me, "It's your tour. You can be as creative as you want."

Those silly three-letter people. I suppose now is the time that I should officially state in print that I really do take my job seriously. I love W&L and hope everyone else loves it as much as I do, blah, blah, blah. But with that aside, it's fun to think of all I can do with a personalized tour of W&L.

My first instinct was to think of specialized tours for groups with specific interests. What gourmet wouldn't love "From Stop-In to Lee-Hi: A Culinary Tour of Lexington"? Practical-minded folks will enjoy my tour of "The Best Bathrooms at W&L." Students will also get some real W&L flavor in a tour any one of us could give: "Comfortable Places On Campus to Sleep When You Really Should Be Working."

My black little heart fills with glee when I think about things I could say to these prospectives and their parents to leave them wondering about W&L. I

fight the temptation to say things like, "Washington and Lee has no problems with asbestos," "There are no rats in Gilliam. No mice either," or, "They've asked me not to talk about Robinson Hall anymore."

Of course I'll also have to mention the thing about Washington and Lee that scares Bocci Commissioner/Dean Howison most of all: chocolate pud-

ding. home to the Psychology Department, Romance Languages, and the German and Russian Studies Departments. It has really pretty woodwork, which is why I'm a Spanish major now.

Robinson Hall: I've heard the Math and Computer Science Departments are located here in Robinson Hall. I wouldn't know, though, since I've been ducking that part of my gen eds for two

years so far. *Washington Chapel:* you'll come away with the feeling that the most important message of Washington and Lee University is, "Don't swim in the North River."

The University Center: The University Center is W&L's pathetic excuse for a student center. It doesn't have a bowling alley or anything, so don't bother looking for one.

The C-School: At this point, I'd like to ask you all for a moment of silence in reverence to the great edifice that is the C-School.

The Bookstore: If you want to buy any sweatshirts or anything, use my student ID to charge them home to my dad.

Leyburn Library: In the front of the library, you can see a special display devoted to my rival humor columnist Richard Weaver. As you can see, there's a big picture of him wearing a seer-sucker jacket, holding a straw boater hat. Draw your own conclusions. Oh, there are books and stuff here too.

Parmy Hall and Howe Hall: There's all kinds of stuff going on in Parmy and Howe that I don't understand. They say it's science, but if you ask me, they're up to no good.

The Reeves Center and The Watson Pavilion: Washington and Lee has one of the largest collections of Asian ceramics in the country. Go figure.

Yes, indeed, the SRC is one three-letter committee that is infinitely better off with me as a member. Maybe some day I'll graduate to two letter committees. Just think what I could do with the E.C.

“
I fight the temptation to say things like, 'Washington and Lee has no problems with asbestos,' 'There are no rats in Gilliam. No mice either,' or, 'They've asked me not to talk about Robinson Hall anymore.'”

Also, to mention the thing about Washington and Lee that scares Bocci Commissioner/Dean Howison most of all: chocolate pudding. I'm there!" Don't worry, His Excellency Bocci Commissioner Howison...I also stress the strong participation W&L has in intramural Bocci and the commitment its students have to heckling.

Naturally, I'll have specific things to say about the different buildings on campus. For example:

Tucker Hall: This is Tucker Hall,

part of this building other than the business office.

Payne Hall: If you're ever in English class and someone's looking for you, they might say, "I think she's in Payne!" (At this point, I'll laugh heartily.) You know...Payne...pain...forget it.

Newcomb Hall: If you say 'Newcomb Hall' really fast, it sounds like 'Nuke 'em all.' Huh, huh. Cool.

Lee Chapel: If, like my mom, you actually read all of the plaques in Lee

LETTERS

Faculty, administrative breaches of student autonomy have gone too far

To the editor:

Over the past several months, I have thought extensively about the issues of student autonomy and student governance, and I have followed closely the debate about those issues that is growing on this campus. Because of my experience with several student-run committees and groups, I have some definite opinions regarding this issue.

I feel that the current trend of administration and faculty involvement in student affairs is thoroughly unsatisfactory, and I am very concerned about the increasing control that the administration appears to be taking in student governance and student affairs. By my judgment, many of the traditions that have existed for decades and even centuries are in jeopardy. I am most concerned about issues such as the sophomore housing requirement and the move to increase faculty intervention in traditionally student-run organizations, although the issue of winter rush also concerns me.

The sophomore housing requirement, whatever it may be billed as, is little more than an effort to erase a financial liability that is the result of a bad business decision made years ago when those facilities in question were built. The administration maintains that the new requirement will promote class unity and raise money to improve the educational opportunities for the students. But what it really will do is discriminate against women and independent men who are not eligible to live in the recently renovated fraternity houses. It is completely wrong, wholly unfair and should be repealed immediately.

In addition, I have heard and read about a possible move by the administration to more closely oversee student activities, and I have heard that a conglomeration of some of these committees (like the Student Activities Board and the Fancy Dress Committee) into one group may be in order. This move is simply wrong, short-sighted, and damages a successful student-run facet of college life by creating tension between students and the administration where none has previously existed. I am offended that some people don't think that we students are capable enough to set up our own activities. To oversee the activities of students outside of the classroom represents an intrusion of authority where it is not needed or wanted and gives the impression that the adminis-

tration doesn't trust the students.

Considering the strong honor tradition on this campus, to do something to create an impression of mistrust serves only to ruin the community spirit that supposedly exists here.

Also, to combine all or some of these committees destroys a large number of very beneficial leadership positions. Some of the most practical experience I have ever received in teamwork and in planning has come through my involvement in these committees, not in the classroom. No classroom assignment or amount of lecturing can compare to the organizational and teamwork skills that are developed in these committees, and they give students a chance to learn valuable personal skills that would otherwise have to be learned in the workplace.

Specific committees exist solely for the purpose of coordinating student activities and these committees do a fine job, especially considering that fraternities and sororities handle many of the activities of well over half of the students. We students have successfully run our own student activities for at least the past four years, and we need to be told what to do now. Michelle Richardson is a very fine person, but as the chairman of the Fancy Dress Committee this past year I neither needed, sought nor received any advice from her, and I don't think that the majority of the students here needs or wants a person in her position. If some student-run committees need occasional assistance or advice, let them seek it on their own, but under no circumstances should this assistance be forced on anyone. I was glad to know that Ms. Richardson could help the Committee if we needed her, but I was even more glad to see that she didn't try to get involved where we didn't need her. In my opinion, her position caters to a minority of the students at this school. If the school or some students want to hire someone like Ms. Richardson to coordinate student activities for those who need it, then they should make sure that she is not forced to oversee areas where she is not needed. In her present position, her role at W&L where she serves only to assist students who come directly to her is acceptable. I fear, however, that Ms. Richardson is part of an on-going effort to more tightly control student activities. Her activities should be secondary to the efforts of the SAB and the Greek organizations; students need to control their own activities with as little assistance

as possible.

The large amount of student freedom at Washington and Lee in comparison with other similar colleges and universities is becoming a sort of rallying cry for some professors. Professor Craun was quoted in a recent *Phi* article as saying "student organizations have so much more freedom from faculty supervision than anywhere else." He seems to assert that this extra freedom justifies the removal of some of it. This freedom is why many of us came to this school, and I will not tolerate the removal of any of it. The United States gives as many freedoms to its citizens as any other country. Yet I guarantee you that if the government suddenly canceled one of the clauses in one of the amendments to our Constitution, a grass-roots revolution like the one that founded this country 200 years ago would develop immediately.

The fact that we have so much freedom at W&L doesn't mean that it is right to remove some of it. In the United States, the government is a by-product of the citizens, and is by, of and for the people. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for this school.

In terms of the winter rush debate, Dean Howison says in his recent letter to the *Phi* that coeducation was an unpopular move when it was made, but it was the correct move and W&L has profited from it. He is correct; coeducation has had many more positive effects than negative ones on this campus. Just because the administration moved in spite of student opinions there and succeeded does not mean that this success will happen again with winter rush. Coeducation and winter rush are completely different issues, and any parallels drawn between them must be carefully analyzed. The pressures that the students feel in regard to winter rush are not the same as any that students in opposition to coeducation likely felt; thus, the notion that we did what they didn't want once, so we can do it again" is foolish. Winter rush is not favored by the majority of W&L students, and even Dean Howison concedes this fact. That statement alone should deter the administration and faculty from involvement in it. We don't want it, so don't give it to us.

In my opinion, most of these new ideas about

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GENERAL NOTES

Calyx

Students interested in free '91-'92 and '94 copies of the *Calyx* may pick them up outside the *Calyx* office in the University Center.

Family Fair

The second annual "Choices for Children - A Family Information Fair" will be held Wednesday, May 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., inside the National Guard Armory behind Rockbridge County High School. Over 50 area programs, agencies, schools and preschools that provide services to children will be on hand. Lime Kiln Arts will be presenting a preview of their new play, *Like Meat Loves Salt*. Also at the fair will be a juggler, clown, McGruff the Crime Dog, Smokey Bear and animals from the SPCA and Wildlife Center of Virginia. There will be free ice cream and balloons and door prizes. Admission is free. For more information, call Fair Coordinator Carol Burke at 464-8560.

Film Society

The Washington and Lee Film Society and the Student Activities Department will be presenting Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* (USA, 1994), in English, in the Troubadour Theater at the corner of Main and Henry Streets at 8:05 p.m. Friday, April 28 and in the Dell behind the Leyburn Library Saturday, April 29. In case of rain, the Saturday showing will also be held in the Troubadour. There is no charge.

Internships

There will be an internship weekly update meeting on Tuesday, May 2 at 5 p.m. in the Mattingly House conference room. There will also be an interview workshop on Wednesday, May 3 at 4 p.m. in Room 109 of the University Center. All students are invited to attend.

Lost

A small, rectangular, blue cloth bag with a bright pink zipper was lost in the freshman quad area during FD week. If found, contact Carol Calkins at 462-8590.

Mock Convention

A cookout will be held in the Baker-Davis-Gilliam Quad from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, April 28 as part of the Spring Kickoff.

Marshall Lecture

Col. John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret.) and president of Southern Virginia College, will be the speaker for the second Marshall Lecture of the year on Monday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Forrest C. Pogue Auditorium at the George Marshall Foundation in Lexington. His topic will be "Marshall in Victory." The public is welcome. For more information, call 463-7103.

Polish Economist

Leszek Balcerowicz, Professor of Economics at the Warsaw School of Economics, Wiegand Distinguished Visiting Professor in Democratization at Georgetown University, chairman of the political party Freedom Union and former deputy prime minister and minister of finance of non-communist Poland, will speak on "Understanding Post-Communist Transitions" in Commerce School Room 221 May 1 at 3 p.m.

Road & River Relay

The Twentieth Annual Lexington Road and River Relay will be held May 6. The Relay is for teams of five or fewer. The first W&L fraternity or sorority team to cross the finish line will be awarded a new rotating trophy. Entry forms are available at LDDA, Rockbridge Outfitters or the Lexington Bike Shop. For more information, contact Woodson Sadler at 463-7191.

Schindler Survivor

Contact and the Hillel Association will sponsor "Schindler's List: A Survivor Celebrates Life," a talk by Zev Kedem, a documentary filmmaker and survivor of Auschwitz concentration camp who was saved through the efforts of industrialist Oskar Schindler. The talk will feature clips from the Academy Award-winning film, and will be held in the Northern Auditorium of the Leyburn Library May 4 at 8 p.m.

Swimming Lessons

Washington and Lee University is offering area residents swimming lessons under the direction of Aquatics Director Page Remillard. Registration will be held at the W&L pool on Saturday, April 29 at 10 a.m. The lesson donation is \$25 per session. The first session will be May 1-5 from 4-4:25 p.m. or 4:35-5 p.m. and the second session will be May 8-12 from 4-4:25 p.m. or 4:35-5 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
MAY BE SUBMITTED TO:

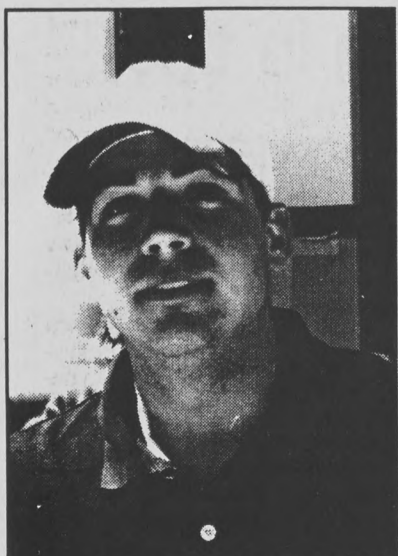
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TALKBACK

Photos and Interviews by Betsy Green

If you could pick anyone for President, who would it be?

Layout by Alex Christensen



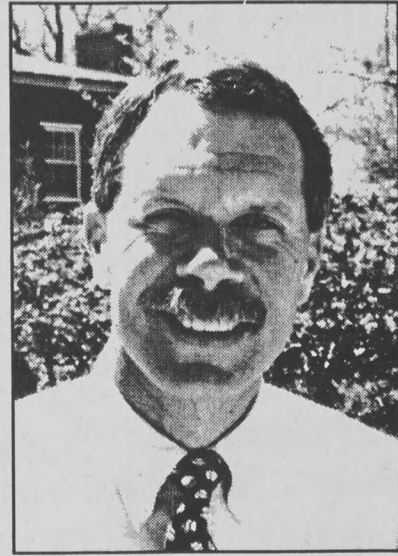
Tom Becker, '96, Dumfries, VA—"William Weld and Christine Todd Whitman would be my ideal ticket. It would breathe new life into the party."



Kristi Liptak, '95, Atlanta, GA—"Donnie, from the Palms, the woman who works the door. I like her."



Bob Ross, '96, Oklahoma City, OK—"Jack Kemp, because I feel I'm best friends with him now."



Laurent Boetsch, Professor of Romance Languages—"Sancho Panza. He's just the person we need at this critical juncture. He governed an island on a platform of common sense. What could be more appealing?"



Andria Greeney, '97, Smithtown, NY—"Mario Cuomo, since I'm from New York. He needs a job."



Paul Saboe, '97, Horsham, PA—"Me, obviously."