

# Letters to the editor...

## Over-reacting

Recent remarks by General Brown and Secretary Butz have been termed as unfortunate and even racist by various columnists in the national news media. General Brown spoke of the Jewish influence in America and Congress, saying that it is too powerful. Secretary Butz, in a mock Italian accent, criticized Pope Paul's stand on birth control in underdeveloped nations. Admittedly their comments were not overly tactful considering their high government posts. However, the real unfortunate occurrence is the over-reaction of the press and the American people.

There has been a similar situation at W&L this year. A group of members of SABU (Student Association for Black Unity) visited the residence of the writer of "Ask Traveller" demanding an explanation of his remarks on the social life of black students at W&L. Within the context of the article the remarks about their serving mint puleps were obviously meant in a humorous manner, not to be taken seriously. A public apology from "Traveller" appeared in the next issue of the *Phi*.

It is a sad situation indeed when in our country today a religious or ethnic group reacts to comments or jokes of these

sorts in such a defensive manner. A harmless quip about an ethnic minority is viewed as being racist or even anti-American. On the other hand a biting slur or a cynical denunciation directed towards white middle-class Americans is deemed perfectly acceptable, if not in vogue. I feel there is something very wrong with this vast discrepancy in attitudes.

Joel A. Williams '75

## Student finds Honor System weak

I know I am going to hell when I die, so I have no reservations when I say, "I'll be damned if any student in the University will swear he has not committed an honor violation." Take to heart two, of many, examples; being to buy liquor or stealing athletic equipment.

I for one will admit to having committed honor violations. And thought I don't relish the thought of being kicked out of W&L for these acts, I must say that if I am not kicked out of W&L then the Honor Code is dead or at least dormant.

I write this letter regretfully because I wish the honor system could only operate as simply as its ideals are stated. We are all human and the Honor System is

idealistic. I feel there is a paradox there, somewhere.

To close I only wish to say that if I had more journalistic flair I might have been able to write all of my beliefs and hopes down for the Honor System at W&L.

William Edward Thompson IV  
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higher ranking than would the student finishing first in the easy course, even if both received grades of "A".

The faculty has already held a brief discussion this year on the topic of grades, voting to table any action or further discussion. For the time being, the grades will continue to rise. And grading will continue to be inequitable. And graduate schools and employers will place less emphasis on grades and more on standardized tests. And, in the long run, the student will suffer.

## Ask Traveller

DEAR TRAVELLER—There seems to be a multitude of W&L gentlemen who like to snow-ski around here. How come no one around here likes to water-ski?

(Signed) J. C. Killy

DEAR J. C.—They can't find a lake around here with a slope on it.  
DEAR TRAVELLER—Where does Western State send its out patients?

(Signed) K. Lane

DEAR K.—To teach at VMI.

DEAR TRAVELLER—What's the difference between Southern Seminary and a stewed prune?

(Signed) M. Tussaud

DEAR M.—About 10 IQ points.

DEAR TRAVELLER—What's the difference between Lexington and a bucket of Milk of Magnesia?

(Signed) Eddie the Ax

DEAR EDDIE—The bucket.

DEAR TRAVELLER—What's the difference between Ben Sherman and the Washington and Lee football team?

(Signed) B. Bailey

DEAR B.—Sherman hasn't lost quite as often.

DEAR TRAVELLER—What's the capital of Virginia?

(Signed) M. Godwin

DEAR M.—About 27 cents.

DEAR TRAVELLER—What's the difference between the fine arts department at Washington and Lee and my sixth grade drawing