



The Spectator



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A MAGAZINE OF CONSERVATIVE STUDENT THOUGHT AND OPINION

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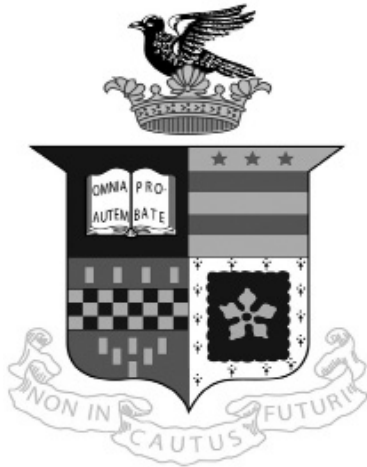
Lee's Campus on the Brink of Kink

Washington and Lee Sex
Week 2014

Dear Readers,

If you read our Fall Issue, we hope you enjoyed it, but more importantly, we hope it made you pause to think critically about the issues facing our campus.

Our first issue focused mostly on a singular topic: third-year housing. For this issue, we still cover third-year housing and will continue to do so until the Board of Trustees makes its decision later this year. However, in this issue we have sought to expand our reporting to include other areas of interest on campus as well. We have increased our length by four pages from our previous issue, and we believe we have greatly enriched our magazine in the process.



In the following pages, you will read stories concerning Fancy Dress, third-year housing, tenure practices, and much more. I would like to sincerely thank our entire staff and everyone who contributed to this issue for all their hard work and dedication. We hope you enjoy the Winter Issue of *The Spectator*.

Sincerely,

Paul Lagarde

Editor-in-Chief

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THE SPECTATOR is wholly produced by students of Washington and Lee University and welcomes Letters to the Editor which can be sent to the above email address.

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Washington or Feb Break?

By Libby Sutherland

Washington Break is one of Washington & Lee's most unique traditions. My friends at other schools are always surprised when I tell them that my school gives students a full week off in February. Many schools in the nation divide the academic year into trimesters, yet W&L is the only one to celebrate Washington Holiday over the week of George Washington's birthday. The name and timing of the break suggest that its purpose is to celebrate Washington and all that he did for W&L. However, over time the name has transitioned to "Feb Break" and the administration claims that the break was never meant to have anything to do with celebrating Washington at all.

According to the University Registrar Scott Dittman, who is in charge of scheduling, the break first began in 1973 as a four-day weekend in mid-February to give professors time to give out midterm grades to first-years. In 1976, the break became a full week and always fell six-weeks into the winter term. "It was a happenstance that halfway into the new term was between Lincoln and Washington's Birthday," Dittman said. "The Washington connection...therefore the Washington Break. Very few people even know it [as Washington Break.]" According to Dittman, the break has always been "Feb Break" to many people.

Despite this claim, the official W&L academic calendar still lists the week as Washington Break. Additionally, a Washington Holiday has been celebrated at W&L as far back as 1927. In that year, the Board of Trustees declared a University holiday on Washington's Birthday. "Aside from the fact that this day, February 22, is a national holiday and so, of much interest to everyone, it holds a special significance to us of Washington and Lee, due to the fact that Washington was one of the founders of the University," the board explained in the February 12, 1927 issue of the Ring Tum Phi.

In 1796, George Washington endowed \$20,000 to the small Liberty Hall Academy in Lexington, Virginia. His donation kept the school afloat and to this day still provides about \$1.42 per year towards every student's tuition. This sum marked the largest gift of securities to a college in the United States and it is puzzling that the administration now claims that our Washington Holiday has no relation to commemorating this event.

Aside from his contributions to our University, many of our first president's traits are worthy of celebration. His reputation for honesty helped shape the standards of our school, namely our honor code. In a 1939 Ring Tum Phi article, an anonymous writer reminded students to take a moment to appreciate Washington during their time off from school:

"Tomorrow throughout the nation, America will celebrate the birthday of her first great citizen, George

Washington. Cities and towns and villages will hold memorial banquets in tribute to him, who first so zealously sought to obtain the privileges that the citizens of these cities and towns and villages enjoy today. Other individuals will pay passing recognition to him with perhaps no more than a thought, but there are few indeed who will not in some way acknowledge this birthday.

When we were younger, we likely thought of Washington as the man who chopped down his cherry tree and took his beating for it. We were taught morals through stories like this, which we now know to be fabulous. Later on we admired him as a soldier and a statesman, integral in creating the democratic government under which we live.

Here at Washington and Lee, we are likely to respect Washington in a different light—as a contributor to our education—as the man who gave the initial impetus to that which we here enjoy.

This university arguably would not exist today if it were not for the generosity of one man. Why name the break "Washington Holiday" to only later deny that the time off has anything to do with celebrating Washington? Rather than encouraging remembrance and gratitude as the article of 1939 has done, our current administration dismisses the holiday as "Feb Break." The Board of Trustees in 1927 determined that class should be cancelled



on every February 22nd for the purpose of celebrating one of our school's great founders. That purpose has now been replaced by the need to separate the term evenly and to allow time to collect midterm grades. This mes-

sage contradicts the original message of the Board of Trustees who first declared Washington's Birthday a University holiday. Perhaps over time, we have lost sight of the importance of celebrating the man who made our university possible.

The Value of Off-Campus Living

-Johnson Lykes

The Spectator's initial article covering the impending Third-Year Housing initiative informed the student body that the Residential Life Task Force had presented misleading quotes in its report to the Board of Trustees -- excerpts that that only reflected the opinions of a small minority of students who vigorously supported mandating on-campus housing for third-years.

Despite the traces of doubt that lingered within the W&L student community when Dean Evans claimed that many students had already vehemently expressed approval for third-year on-campus housing, students lacked concrete evidence to support suspicions. In October, however, The Spectator conducted a school-wide survey that posed one question: "Do you believe that W&L should require students to live in the newly proposed on-campus housing during their junior year, or should the school build new upperclassmen housing, but make living there junior year optional?" Of the 731 responses, 84.27% believe that juniors should have the option to choose whether they live on or off campus, while only 15.73%

believe that on-campus junior housing should be mandatory. When confronted with these findings, which confirm that the interests of the student body are being inaccurately reflected in the Residential Life Task Force's proposal to the Board of Trustees, Dean Sidney Evans, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, declined to respond. Though Evans has repeatedly insisted that she wants to incorporate student sentiment into her presentation to the Board, this simple, one-question survey reveals that no legitimate attempt was made.

The survey results indicate that an overwhelming majority of students

are against mandatory on-campus Third-Year Housing, but that is just part of the story. Statistics are unable to reflect the valuable life skills that students learn while living out in the city or the country. Mr. Tom Sackfield, a '84 graduate of W&L, attests that living off-campus for two years was an integral component of his college experience. Asked to elaborate on this assessment, Mr. Sackfield explained, "These two years of off-campus living force students to manage adult responsibilities, set priorities, and budget time. It is far more important than any class or final exam they will take at W&L." He views responsibilities such as dealing with landlords, maintaining good relations with local neighbors, and even grocery-shopping, as unavoidable in the

Ian Eustis ('08) a recent graduate of W&L, addressed some of the issues the administration has brought to light: "Honestly, getting exploited by landlords is part of life. I've been exploited by more landlords in post-college housing than I ever did in Lexington -- and would have had less experience if I hadn't handled my bills as a student." Eustis also addressed the issue of failing gender relations at W&L, asserting that students, male and female, despite forming scattered clusters of communities throughout the greater Lexington area -- Windfall and Kappa Hill, Cabins, Pole Houses, and even houses within city limits -- routinely visited each other in an effort to reinforce a sense of community. Eustis attests that off-campus living was an integral part

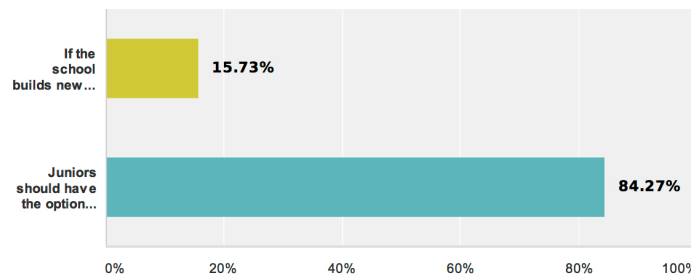
of his W&L experience and says that he "couldn't imagine living in a dorm or on-campus apartment for the first three years of [his] college career."

When pairing the results from the Third-Year Housing survey with the audible opposition that students and alumni have recently voiced, it becomes clear that the administration and students are far from reaching any common ground in this matter. In fact,

these latest findings even suggest that Dean Evans' Victory Tour last spring, in which she visited all Greek organizations supposedly to gauge student opinion on the issue, was merely a façade intended to create the perception that the administration had done its due diligence on the issue. Frankly, as a proud member of this university community, it disheartens me to watch the student body stand idly by as the Residential Life Task Force dishonestly pushes for this initiative. If there is any hope for a compromise, the students need to act, and act fast.

Q1 Do you believe that W&L should require students to live in the new proposed on-campus housing during their junior year, or should the school build new upperclassmen housing, but make living there junior year optional?

Answered: 731 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
If the school builds new upperclassmen housing, junior students should be required to live on campus.	15.73% 115
Juniors should have the option to live in new on-campus housing, but it should not be mandatory.	84.27% 616
Total	731

long-run, and says that the earlier students begin to incorporate these activities into their daily routines, the better-prepared they'll be to enter the working world. Mr. Sackfield bases this thinking not only off of his own off-campus experience, but from his daughter's (Hannah '13) as well; he anticipates that his son (Frederick '16) will benefit from the same type of experience next year -- an opportunity he deems "uniquely irreplaceable."

In their explanation of housing concerns, the administration states that landlords are exploiting students financially and that gender relations have suffered.

Solution Looking for a Problem?

Jason P. Bohrer, Sr

Current Parent

Our fourth parent's weekend just completed, we are exhausted but wish we could find a way to make it go on forever. We have accumulated wonderful memories from the experiences our children have had since enrolling such a short time ago. The beautiful campus and surrounding area, the perfect weather and the wonderful time are still fresh in our minds. It seems just yesterday we were unpacking two car loads of stuff into a one car load size room in Graham Lees.

All is not well in the hills of Rockbridge County however, as this generation of students is fighting to retain the same freedoms they have enjoyed as Washington and Lee students for future generations. The proposed third year housing requirement was high on the list of topics over the weekend for the senior class and those who have experienced living off campus are not happy. While the opportunity to live off campus may not seem like a big deal to many people, it is to the current crop of students as well as to generations of alumni.

I do not have the privilege of being an alumnus of Washington and Lee University. I have not read the Residential Life Task Force Report, nor spoken to anyone in the administration about this issue. I am certain a great deal of thought and work have gone into this project. However, I would like to offer a few observations as a parent who has watched his child enjoy the benefits and practical education of off campus housing.

My son grew up wearing a Carolina Blue hat. He was never without it. After his first visit to Washington and Lee, the hat went into the closet and never came out again. As we were listening to all the experts on college guidance they kept saying there will be a moment when it hits a prospective student that this is the place for me. For our son, it was that never ending afternoon at a country house next to the river outside of Lexington. Chicken on the grill, swimming in the river and the lifestyle of the students enjoying that beautiful day made the final decision for him. Of course the facts that he could also attend a historic university steeped in tradition with outstanding academics were also important, but the final push was at that off campus house one beautiful fall day.

The students I talked to this weekend feel very strongly about not making juniors live on campus. They believe they are not being listened to, and that the change is simply going to happen. While I understand there are strong arguments by the administration for the proposal, I am not sure they have heard the other side directly or completely.

There are many benefits to requiring students to all live on campus, as there are also many to living off campus as well. I must say, for the cost of Washington and Lee tuition, it might be nice for us to have the benefit of granite countertops on dorm and the flat screen televisions in the common room. I thought this many times when visiting Graham Lees. Interestingly enough, in a number of the college tours with my daughter this year, we have noticed a very active off campus housing scene even at schools that require students to live on campus all four years. While it is against the rules, it still goes on. People, especially college students, will continue to exercise free will and congregate with those they identify with and meet in their preferred location. No amount of social engineering through forced living arrangements will change this fundamental fact.

Our son has learned a great deal from the experience of living off campus including negotiating leases with landlords, the logistics of selecting, arranging and storing furniture, keeping a house clean, cooking, dealing with emergencies such as power failure and snow ins, and many other real life issues. All of these will come in handy when he moves to that first apartment after graduation. Rather than face all these issues for the first time, he will have already done it twice.

I must admit, when we helped our son move into his first off campus house, we felt like he had moved into a tenement. With a lot of elbow grease the place became livable and the boys had a great time. Our son will always relish the time he had living in that house by the river, and he has a base of non-academic real life experiences to take with him as well.

I want to say thank you to the Board and the Administration of Washington and Lee University. Your efforts to continually enhance an already stellar and historic institution are very much appreciated. I want to encourage you, however, to really talk to this generation of students though, and understand their thoughts on this issue...they are a smart bunch. Talk to some parents as well the alumni and get their views. Maybe you feel you have already done that. If so, there is a group you overlooked.

If we wanted our children to attend the school with granite counter tops, we would have sent them there. Washington and Lee is a special place. It has no peer, and I submit to you that maybe if the school is not up on the latest trend, that it is ok.

One of the key principles of Robert E. Lee was that a great leader teaches responsibility by giving it to others. I think the General would agree that keeping the tradition of off campus housing availability for juniors and seniors is a key way to teach responsibility for future generations of graduates.

Dear Editor,

As a father of a freshman, a 1982 W&L alum and an owner/publisher of a magazine publishing company, I find it very exciting and encouraging that the WLU Spectator is back in publication. The student body, professors and alumni will greatly benefit in having a thought provoking magazine rich in content about W&L and current affairs. If I can be of any assistance, please let me know. Wishing you and your team the best of success.

Regards,
Henry Clay

Dear Editor:

It was with great interest that I read your Fall issue. The education that takes place beyond the classroom is one of the great benefits of the Washington and Lee experience. Extra-curricular and social activities provide important leadership opportunities and teach valuable communication skills. The ability to live off-campus as an upperclassman further enhances W&L's role in preparing one for the post-college world.

Negotiating a lease, contracting for utilities, managing expenses and being part of the greater Lexington community are a part of life at Washington and Lee. Also of great value is the ability of a Washington and Lee student to choose between residing in the charm of Lexington or to live and study in the pastoral countryside. Many lucky students take advantage of both experiences during their time in Rockbridge County.

I believe that many of my friends who attended other colleges had an experience that was far more isolated and sterile than that which I experienced. Colleges in urban areas must often provide housing for upper classmen for logistical and economic reasons. Lexington poses no such constraints. On the contrary, forcing more to live on campus would have a negative economic and cultural impact on a special town that happens to be one of Washington and Lee's greatest assets.

It is my hope that the University does not force Junior's to live in campus housing. This would do irreparable damage to the Washington and Lee Community.

Sincerely,
Charles Kranich '91
State College, Pennsylvania

**If you would like to send a letter to the editor, please
email wluspectator@gmail.com**

Warning: May (But Most Likely Will) Contain Satire

Man, I Feel Sorry for Freshmen Guys in Rush

So we were looking up the 2013 Stop college Greek rankings this summer and spotted Washington and Lee University at the top of the rankings, narrowly squeaking out a first place finish right in front of America's traditionally famous party school, Brigham Young University. It didn't surprise us, as every W&L alum we have ever met has been rather impressing in his or her stature. The alums know what they are doing and where they are going. They are classy and know how to dress and are simply put, the last of a dying, All-American breed. Basically W&L is what all other schools should want to be. From what we can tell, W&L is College.

However there is one very obvious flaw in the Greek system in Lexington. There is so much pressure on the freshmen bros to perform in their first semester on campus that we believe it not only causes social anxiety but even financial strain. Questions such as, "How am I going to pay for this rush dinner?", "How am I going to stay hydrated?", and worst of all "What if the guys see me in this shirt that I wore last week?" seem to occupy the minds of the freshman guys first semester. We have observed these bros call home every week so far asking their father to send up a new outfit and some new shoes because the older guys seem "judgmental" towards their clothes. We have heard the phrase, "Dad I just wore my last flannel, send me ten more from American Eagle in the mail please." too many times

Freshmen's weekdays are filled with many awkward

rush dates with older gentlemen here at the school, and from what we hear, it is just a drain on their mental health, as the guys have to be on their toes at all times. Night-times in Lexington are real fun to watch. Due to national IFC rules, the frat houses are simply off limits to these guys, and our favorite pastime is watching these freshmen guys in the quad dive into sorority driver's cars because they are unable to ride with the guys. It is so frustrating for the guys to have to wait till 10 to catch a ride on Traveller to Kappa Hill. Nights when the older gentlemen host all of the women at Windfall Hill are the most frustrating times for the freshmen bros because they are forced to stay in and watch The Batchelor.

The sorority house party scene before Christmas at W&L is about as

crazy as our time spent at the fraternity houses at Arizona State, UT at Austin, Ohio, and Alabama. Simply put, Sorority Row is THE PLACE TO BE pre-Christmas.

The most psychologically frustrating part about the rush program here has to revolve around the bros and their social media pages. Even before the beginning of school, these guys had to purge all of their Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook pages. The idea of that one horrid pic, post, or tweet ruining their rush comes to their mind every day. Every Sunday afternoon these guys update their Facebook pages in hopes of the older guys liking their newest profile pics and newest album names often titled with a popular pop lyric such as "KeepOnDreamingEvenIfItBreaksYourHeart" or just a freshman year term such as "SoFrOsH".

If one could earn a penny for every inside joke between two bros on Facebook, there would be millionaires at this school. The best feeling in the world for these guys is when a sophomore or even a junior bro likes their post.

However in the end, the real social battle lies in the popular act of guys putting up pics of their guy friends on their SnapChat MyStories. Images of guys eating lots of fast food, singing in their dorm rooms by themselves, and hanging out on the first floor of the library pretending to study seem to permeate the social media sphere. By the way, all the bros usually congregate right by the front door in hopes of the older guys seeing them when they walk in.

The most humbling night for these bros lies on Halloween for many reasons. All the guys long to show off their physical attributes to the W&L women, but then again the bros don't want to make the older guys jealous. Pulling off the classic Nacho Libre look or even a gothic-looking man is just too risky for these guys. To often we hear of a freshman or two who got balled because they showed off too much skin to the girls in front of the older guys. Sadly many of the bros end up dressing as white-faced clowns with full body suits in order to be humble and conservative.

In conclusion, it is safe to say these bros have a hard time pre-Christmas. To all the girls on campus in Lexington we would really urge you to consider being supportive of these men before Christmas because these guys are going to be very encouraging to y'all while you are all going through a very hard time in your sorority after Christmas Break.

Roger Dorn and Rob Fox
@RogrJDorn @TeamBacon



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-Andrew Fox

Afroman Hopes W&L Performance Will “Get Him Back in the D.C Rap Game”

After staging a performance at Washington and Lee University, rapper and instrumentalist Afroman expressed optimism that the concert would help to bolster the rapper’s attempt to break into the D.C rap game. According to his agent, Afroman has been searching for gigs with proximity to Washington D.C, referring to the D.C area as a potential hotbed where he can perform and eventually “sell tapes from here to Hong Kong.” “Initially we were looking at several options,

maybe something a bit further up the Maury but in



the end Lexington offered an ideal

package” said the “Because I Got High” artist adding, “I mean what else can you ask for? Ten minutes from Buena Vista, forty-five minutes from Roanoke, I’ve even heard you can get to Charlottesville in under an hour.” Indeed, the artist behind such Billboard-eligible songs as “Crazy Rap” and “Colt 45” expects success to follow as he continues his tour. “We’re already hearing whispers about a potential show in Goshen, who knows, maybe we’ll parlay this into a tour of Appalachia.”

Blue Mist Toilet Paper: a Salute to a Stalwart in Turbulent Times

In the midst of an era of uncertainty revolving around campus reform, one product remains an integral part of the W&L experience, Blue Mist Toilet Paper. A sometimes overlooked, yet always constant staple in any university-owned building, Blue Mist Toilet Paper never ceases to play a role in daily life on campus. In lieu of mainstream brands such as Charmin, Scott, and even Angel Soft, which can all be described with words like ‘soft,’ ‘strong,’ and ‘gentle,’ Blue Mist chooses to stand out, earning such designations as ‘scratchy,’ ‘brittle in nature,’ and ‘partially tolerable.’

Affectionately dubbed ‘the Mist,’ this toilet paper embodies a notion of endurance, something that builds character one ply at a time. Stored by the thousands in closets across campus, it begins to beckon the question whether or not Washington and Lee will ever run out of Blue Mist. Indeed, whether you view it



What A Treat

as merely another roll of toilet paper or if you see it as part of a larger collective tradition, one thing is for certain, Blue Mist Toilet Paper is here to stay. Regarding its steadfast presence on campus sophomore Teddy Corcoran offered this to say, “I mean I guess it’s complimentary.”

The Speaking Tradition

-Catherine Roach

Not much has changed physically at Washington and Lee in twenty-five years besides the building of Commons and the implementation of air conditioning in some of the Colonnade buildings. However, there is one notable and scary change that is occurring at Washington and Lee. It is not the fault of the administration or faculty; rather, the blame lies in us, the students. We are not speaking.

Outsiders might not understand the magnitude of this. They would see students walking to class, staring down at the cell phones in their hands, neglecting to acknowledge everyone they pass, behaving no differently than other college students across the country. Yet, Washington and Lee alumni notice the problem and many lament the death of the Speaking Tradition. John Roach of the Class of 1989 notices the fact that the Speaking Tradition is no longer what it used to be, stating, "Obviously the presence of phones and frequent texting creates challenges. However, the Speaking Tradition is an integral part of what makes W&L special. I would hope that the community realizes that eye contact is essential to the tradition and would try to give their phones a break when walking on campus."

Even students of this generation notice the change. Sarah Agnew of the Class of 2016 says, "I feel it doesn't exist anymore, and it is supposed to be such a huge part of our school culture." I do not believe that the Speaking Tradition is totally dead, but it is on its last breath. I consider W&L students to be different from other college students, and the Speaking Tradition is one of reasons why. The Speaking Tradition was one of the many practices that Robert E. Lee implemented during his time here, and the idea behind it is to always be civil and welcoming towards others, the mark of a true gentleman. The story goes that Washington and Lee received the money for Doremus Gymnasium because students exercising the Speaking Tradition made the Doremus family feel welcome when they visited our campus. However, if the Speaking Tradition dies, W&L students will be well on their way to being like all other college students. I am saddened walking to class and observing all the people not pausing to say hello. Yet, I am as guilty as the next person of not speaking to everyone I pass.

With a few exceptions, we have overthought the Speaking Tradition. People, including me, worry about talking to people and looking like an idiot if the person we greet does not respond. We avoid talking to people because we are afraid they think they are better than us or vice versa. We feel uncomfortable acknowledging someone we know from a social setting, perhaps because that person is a best friend's

ex-boyfriend's best friend or an acquaintance we just met Saturday night and are not sure if they will remember us. It should not matter who the person is though, we should speak to everyone regardless of his or her Greek affiliation or past relationships.

Technology also plays a part in killing the Speaking Tradition as everyone in our generation is attached to his or her cell phone and cannot go 5 minutes without checking it. But what if we could put up our cellphone as we walk on the Hill so that we would always be able to say "Hello" or "What's up?"

The Speaking Tradition is dying, and we need to revive it. If W&L students continue on the same path, just think about what it will be like twenty-five years from now. I challenge everyone, including myself, to put away the technology and say hello to everyone, regardless of who they are, or at least give them a smile of acknowledgment. We do not want to let Robert E. Lee down and be a part of making one of his legacies disappear from campus.



Washington and Lee Sex Week 2014

-Paul Lagarde

During his time as President, General Lee famously instituted Washington and Lee's one rule: "That every student be a gentleman." Since Lee's time and even before, our school has prided itself on producing graduates of the highest principles and character. Students enjoy the benefits of the strongest honor system in the nation, and the trust that members of our community share with one another is unparalleled. Given our commitment to honorable behavior, it come as a shock to all that this spring, the University will hold its first annual "Sex Week," a nonsensical jamboree of eroticism, which is not only antithetical to Lee's code of the gentleman but also to the dignity of any institution of higher learning.

The newly formed Sexual Health Awareness Group, or SHAG, the organization putting on Sex Week, is led by junior Sara Korash-Schiff, who maintains that the main goal of Sex Week is to address issues of sexual repression on the W&L campus and to "change the culture." While SHAG raises a valid point that W&L students tend to subscribe to the hook-up culture instead of pursuing relationships, it is unlikely that SHAG's efforts will do anything to positively change this, as its proposed events advocate a glorification of twisted and perverse sexual encounters.

Sex Week, or "The Other 'O'-Week" (SHAG's language), will involve a series of speakers coming from outside W&L to speak on topics related to all different types of sex, including those of the kink and fetish variety. Currently on SHAG's radar is a high-dollar speaker who gives a talk titled, "I Love the Female Orgasm," and the group has also expressed hopes of bringing in a porn star to speak to students as well. Korash-Schiff also mentioned asking professors from different departments to give talks relating sex to their academic area. She noted that she was personally interested in hearing an English professor give a talk on Erotic Fiction.

In addition to the lecture aspect of Sex Week, SHAG plans to invite vendors to campus to sell their "sexual items." One can only speculate as to what classy industries these vendors will hail from.

In addition to the primary event of Sex Week, SHAG also plans to hold an event on Valentine's Day to sell "Love Kits" for singles and couples. Though The Spectator does not understand the concept behind a love kit for singles, we are told that it will include a plethora of "self-pleasure items." The couples love kits

will include, but are not limited to, items such as fuzzy handcuffs, whips, anal beads, edible lingerie, vibrating rings, nipple clamps, and body chocolate. What better way to say, "I love you" on St. Valentine's feast day than delicious lingerie and some very shiny nipple clamps?

In its budget request to the Executive Committee, SHAG sought \$15,000, most of which would be for the singular event of Sex Week. By comparison, Fancy Dress received \$20,000 from the EC last year, so clearly the Sex Week SHAG has in mind is no small event. Though the Executive Committee declined to provide funding to SHAG, the group remains optimistic that the University administration will provide significant financial support. The Spectator has spoken to Jan Kaufman, Director of Health Promotion, and understands that there is no University funding commitment at this point; however, Korash-Schiff maintains that both Kaufman and Dean Sidney Evans, Vice President of Student Affairs, seems excited about the prospect of having a Sex Week. It will be interesting to see how many tuition dollars, if any, the administration deems appropriate to grant SHAG.

Though the event is still in its early stages of planning, SHAG's Sex Week is already causing a stir among some students on campus. One outraged sophomore referred to the event as "Kink Week," commenting, "I'm sure Lee is rolling over in his grave right now."

Sex Week is not unique to W&L; it occurs at several other colleges across the nation, most of which are located in the Northeast. For years at Yale, organizers marketed Sex Week as essentially an extension of the college's teaching mission, referring to the event as "a campus-wide interdisciplinary sex-education program." According to Business Insider, in 2010, Yale University, where Sex Week originated, came under fire because "about one-third of the events were hosted or facilitated by pornographic film actors or people intimately involved with the porn industry." A conservative group called Undergraduates for a Better Yale College accused Sex Week of being anti-relationship, saying, there was no dialogue about "the emotional, mental, and interpersonal dimensions of romance." In light of this information, (or perhaps because of the publicity) Yale President Richard Levin prohibited 2012 Sex Week organizers from using "the Yale name or Yale's facilities," essentially banning the event at Yale.

Looking over SHAG's proposals, it does not appear that the group's plans differ radically from those of Sex Week at Yale. Porn is clearly an element of SHAG's plans, and the Valentine's Day Kits, rather than emphasizing healthy relationships based upon mutual regard and intimate friendship, instead reduce each partner to a mere object for sexual pleasure. If Yale, the Liberal Bastion of the North, has deemed Sex Week too morally edgy for its campus, then why on earth is Washington and Lee moving forward with plans to bring this nonsense to Lexington?

The administration should be very cautious in providing funding to this group. As proposed, SHAG's Sex Week flies in the face of everything W&L claims to stand for. If the one rule of this university is to be a gentleman or a lady, how can porn stars or sex toys achieve this end? W&L students should be ones of the highest integrity and character, as Lee envisioned. Past generations of W&L alumni are unlikely to view sex toys and other porn being marketed and sold at their Alma Mater as consistent with the school's mission.

One last thought: consider the high school student who visits W&L in the spring with his or her parents, as many high school students do. This student has just finished a tour of the campus and learned all about W&L's famed honor system and the legacy of Lee. The student and his or her parents have been very impressed with the campus's strong sense of community as well as the stately beauty of the Colonnade and Lee Chapel. But most of all, they have been impressed with the emphasis students and faculty alike place on personal integrity. And then they see porn, sex toys, and self-pleasure items being bandied about in student commons. Upon seeing such a scene, the student might be compelled to think twice about attending such an institution. The family would be forced to consider whether W&L really is the school of character it claims to be. The family might consider whether everything they had heard that morning about a school predicated on honor and integrity was nothing more than a wink and a nod to tradition.

But honor at W&L is not simply a quaint relic of the past, nor should it be relegated to only one sphere of student life; it is and should continue to be central to who we are. At its core, Lee's code of the gentleman and our school's commitment to civility means that every individual deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, in a word, with decency. Washington and Lee should decline the opportunity to welcome the porn industry onto its campus (no matter under what guise it seeks admittance) as being incompatible with the best ideals and traditions of our great university.



attribution: University of Salford Press Office

Hey kids, wanna talk about sex?

**Almost Christmas
Almost Midnight
Mass**

*Saturday, Dec. 7th
at 11 PM*

*preceded by carols at 10:30 PM
and followed by hot chocolate,
cookies and candies.*

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

A Costly Tradition

- Wyn Ponder and Emily Flippo

When you enter campus to take a tour or to attend an information session, one of the events regularly highlighted is Fancy Dress. However the pomp and circumstance surrounding Fancy Dress has diminished over the years. An event that once spanned an entire week and drew in students from schools all over the country, now only lasts for a few hours and barely attracts the whole student body.

The 1982 Fancy Dress had a “budget of \$55,000 and an expected turnout of 4,000 people,” an immensely larger turnout than what is expected nowadays. Bert Ponder, class of ’83 said, “it used to be known all around the country as a great party weekend, even by students at other schools who knew nothing about W&L, but they all knew about Fancy Dress.”

In previous decades, Fancy Dress was the premier social event of the year. Alumni were invited to return to campus for the week-long event. Fraternities held parties throughout the week leading up to the ball, and the whole school joined together to rally behind this momentous event. Marshall Bowden, class of ’85 recalls, “Fancy Dress was such a part of the social fabric of Washington and Lee. The event had a weeklong build-up similar to Hampden-Sydney’s Greek Week and the University of Virginia’s Easters. Professors would bribe the students and their dates to come to class with pitchers of Bloody Mary’s and Screwdrivers.”

Fancy Dress celebrations of decades past included headliners such as the Glenn Miller Orchestra (1970, 1988), Otis Day and the Knights (1985), the Four Tops (1985), the Count Basie Orchestra (1985), the MTV-renowned Boneshakers (1988), and the Charlie Daniels Band (1990), all bands that were “nothing to sneeze at,” says Carter Redd, class of ’73. The tradition of Fancy Dress also often included fireworks following the ball on the lawn beside the Law School. Given the Washington and Lee University’s embrace of heritage and tradition, it seems puzzling as to why such an integral part of the W&L experience has declined in significance.

The answer is simple: the school administration has imposed excessive charges on the students that have choked flexibility and diminished what was well known to be all-around great time. After the 2013 Fancy Dress Ball, facilities management charges were supposed to total up to \$4,676.53. However, the university tacked on hidden charges for labor to clean up the gym (roughly \$1,800 extra) despite having already included \$1,869 for this in the original \$4,676.53. Fancy Dress funds were also used to pay for the benefits of all university employees who worked the event as well as their overtime wages, which equated to an additional 40%. Although the Fancy Dress committee wants to lower ticket prices so that more students can attend, it seems unfeasible to do so when the university ends up charging between \$15,000 and \$30,000 to use school facilities, adding

on many unnecessary charges that serve to pinch the Fancy Dress Committee of every dime they could have used for other purposes.

For example, the Fancy Dress committee uses the Pavilion as space to create the decorations for the gymnasium. In order to use this space, the university charges \$381.70 for a tarp to cover the floor of the building. Later, they charge another \$200 to clean the pavilion, rendering the tarp seemingly pointless. Other hidden charges include \$17 to remove the gymnasium doors, and \$40 to borrow a university ladder, both of which one would assume would be a free contribution from the school. Perhaps most absurdly, FD pays a company \$1200 to supply the Beer Garden, yet the school catering services keep all profits from this, explaining that it is necessary in order “To offset expenses; product cost, labor (bartenders, setup/ cleanup) maintaining the liquor license, appropriate insurance coverage, and administrative costs associated with the department.” After this, the school requires the FD committee pay \$1500 of extra security for the Beer Garden and quite pointlessly purchase cases of water at \$13.50 a pop when they go for around \$3 at Wal-Mart. Quite simply, there is a lot of money going to waste because of the school’s unfair practices. Imagine the quality of bands FD would be able to bring in or the extravagant decorations it would be able to purchase if not burdened by administrative red tape.

In normal circumstances, it would seem that the school would want to help the students out in their extensive planning on putting on one of the greatest traditions at W&L, but on the contrary, they only contribute to the Fancy Dress committee’s long list of burdens. For the 75th ball, a pair of tickets sold for \$25, which equates to a little over \$60 today, and posters were only \$1. The FD committee has been forced hike up prices not only on tickets, but also on the memorabilia in order to offset the excessive prices that the schools charges.

These extra charges suffocate the tradition, and-if this practice by the school continues- it may become a question of whether or not students can even afford to attend the ball, and FD may cease to exist. Being a school that prides itself on traditions like Fancy Dress, it seems odd that the university would not wholeheartedly support a committee whose interests coincide with one of W&L’s most iconic annual events. Despite charging so much money, barely allowing this tradition to continue, the admissions nevertheless appraises Fancy Dress as a cornerstone of the W&L experience in order to attract prospective students. A ball that once received national attention in Life Magazine and in the New York Times as being “the South’s outstanding collegiate social event,” now hardly receives similar acclaim within its own campus. If these hiked up charges continue without abatement, the future of this once prestigious ball appears fairly glum.

Dr. Daniel Wubah: Our New Provost

-Ty Mitchell

Shortly before the 2013-2014 school year, Washington and Lee hired a new Provost: Dr. Daniel Wubah. Born and raised in Ghana, Wubah earned his Bachelor's degree at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, his Master's at the University of Akron, and his Ph.D at the University of Georgia. He started off in 1992 as a professor at Towson University and rose to the position of Assistant Provost at Virginia Tech before coming to Washington and Lee. The Spectator sat down with our new Provost to learn more about him. Interestingly enough, the first thing that Dr. Wubah told us was that he grew up reading one of the local Ghanaian newspapers... The Spectator.

The position of Provost is a relatively new position

here at our school, having only been established ten years ago. Dr. Wubah is essentially President Ruscio's right-hand man, but explains that his position "is more faculty than administration." He also wants to be thought of as more of a liaison between the students and the administration and hopes to build a good



attribution: Pat Hinely

relationship with the student body as a whole.

One of Dr. Wubah's favorite aspects of this school is the culture that surrounds Washington and Lee. The culture at our school is unlike any other college in the country, maintained by a combination of high quality students, an extremely engaged faculty, and an outstanding alumni base. Coming from Virginia Tech, the size of W&L posed a bit of a transition for Dr. Wubah, but he has since come to really enjoy the small classes. In an attempt to immerse himself more with the students, Dr. Wubah is currently working on becoming a guest lecturer for various classes. Since he earned his Ph.D in anaerobic biology, the classics course on climate change in ancient times seemed very appealing for Dr. Wubah.

One of the most interesting discussions we had

with Dr. Wubah was regarding the namesakes of our school. Since he grew up in Ghana, we were curious as to his views on the men who are so highly regarded on our campus. Of all the possible adjectives to describe George Washington, he summed him up in one, very fitting word: visionary. With regards to Robert E. Lee, Dr. Wubah had a more unconventional response. Since he did not grow up in the United States, he said that he read many books about Lee before moving to Lexington, and that his main takeaway was that "Lee was not given enough credit for what he did after the war, in trying to unite the country after it had been so divided." If it were somehow possible, Dr. Wubah wishes that he could listen to a conversation between Robert E. Lee and Abraham Lincoln, because both men were defined by outstanding character. He noted that though Lee only spent five years on W&L's campus, he had a remarkable impact, saying, "The fact that Lee's name is on the school... that says it all."

The addition of Dr. Daniel Wubah to the Washington and Lee administration was a great decision for the future of the school. He is a man who will hopefully help shape the future of our school in the right way. In his words, "the style may change, but the core principles should never change."



Tenure, Teaching, and the University's Priorities

-*Christian von Hassell*

University administrations love to see their faculty publishing, publishing often, and publishing in important places, all to impress both peer institutions and that pinnacle of American journalism, U.S. News and World Report. We know W&L currently wants to be more like its peers, which should lead students and faculty to wonder if it has given in to any pressures to sacrifice teaching competency for publishing rates.

The tenure process has certainly evolved over the past forty years. In the late eighties, President John Wilson appointed an ad-hoc committee to revise the process. Before these changes, procedure to grant professors tenure was fairly informal, and decisions were almost exclusively dependent on a professor's teaching ability. Professor Roger Dean notes, "you did not get tenure if you were not a good teacher," adding, "teaching quality was determined by word of mouth." Students talked to students, students talked to professors, and professors talked to professors: word got out. Too personal for a modern school, the process to determine teaching quality has been formalized, with two key methods: teaching reviews by students at the end of the semester and a petition for letters of recommendation (or perhaps condemnation) from upwards of a hundred former pupils.

One must doubt the merits of the former. A faculty member's rank out of five in some

category on a review at the end of the semester does not really tell the full story. Neither do the two sentence responses that students scribble afterwards. However, the latter, thoughtful written reviews, begets respect, both for the efficacy of the method and the seriousness with which the administration must hold candidates' teaching. Successfully seeking out a hundred letters from busy alumni reflects a praiseworthy value of teaching from this administration.

While there are certainly benefits to an informal process, Emeritus Geology professor and member of the aforementioned ad-hoc committee Edgar Spencer explains that before the revision, "faculty members did not know what was being expected of them." Professors could spend upwards of seven years of their careers and lives without knowing that they were way out of line for a promotion. What was expected, however, was not exactly publishing. Roger Dean notes that when he arrived to Lexington in 1984, "there was no expectation of research." The changes under Wilson did not only revise the methods used to determine teaching quality, the committee also added two new criteria through which candidates would also be judged, namely scholarly attainment and contributions to the community and society. Teaching and publishing are each full time jobs on their own, and it can be tough for a professor to excel at both simultaneously.



Bobak Ha'Eri

It would be great if every professor were a Bent, a Connor, or a Keen, but chances for that in this earthly world wax infinitesimal.

The administration then ought to prioritize, if even slightly. The current system, with these three bold criteria carries the serious risk of weighing publishing prowess above teaching quality. The quantifiable nature of someone's publishing record can lead to an inherent bias for scholarly attainment. A tenure committee can clearly see how many books, articles, and reviews a faculty member has published, how many awards won, how many talks given. Judging teaching quality is not so easy, and thus one's teaching reputation runs the natural risk of not holding the same weight as a publishing record.

Professor Spencer explained that the committee under Wilson discussed and argued about a compensatory approach, about whether one's reputation as a scholar, if significant enough, could outweigh some inadequacy in the classroom. Ultimately, he notes, "the committee did not make a recommendation on the issue." However, one phrase from the 2013 Faculty Handbook suggests that perhaps under certain circumstances exceptional scholarship could counteract mediocre teaching ability: "especially strong performance in teaching or scholarship may tip the scale favorably." That all too subtle "or" carries potentially destructive ramifications, that W&L could consciously grant tenure to a professor, not because of teaching aptitude, but because his or her publishing record was good enough, important enough to outweigh an unimpressive reputation in the classroom.

Certainly, there is not always a tradeoff between teaching competency and publishing record. Publishing and

research can keep professors up to date on their subjects. More importantly, research keeps them learning, which hopefully can then remind them what it's like to be a student. Nonetheless, so much research today has become aggressively specialized, focused on some tiny, tiny sliver of the subject at large. One wonders to what extent fervent publication about, who knows, Massachusetts gender politics under van Buren, really keeps one up to date and engaged with the whole of American history. There are other ways to stay up to date. Before Wilson, many professors spent their summers in the library, reading recent work for the very reason of staying current.

A school's recruiting and tenure processes are instrumental in shaping its faculty, and thus should always remain under heavy scrutiny. Through changes in the tenure process, the administration has diminished - if only slightly - the importance of teaching at W&L. The argument for publication is strong: publication can make our professors better teachers. When it does, the process absolutely begs for commendation. However, if in the absence of frequenting fancy journals, some rogue professor manages to somehow shine in front of a chalkboard or at a seminar table, well that should be commended just the same.



Christie No Conservative

-Nicholas Luther

Pro-Christie Republicans hammer home this idea that their man has unlocked the magic formula to win in 2016. They tout the Governor's back-to-back electoral victories in a state that President Barack Obama carried by 15 and 17 points in 2008 and 2012 respectively. There is no doubt that Christie put up very impressive poll numbers for a Republican candidate in the deep blue state of New Jersey. After all he beat his opponent by 22 points, more than either of the President's margins. But a Republican winning a statewide election in New Jersey is not a novelty. From 1990 until 2013, Republicans have each controlled the Governor's mansion for 12 years. If one assumes Christie serves a full second term, the balance tips in favor of Republicans (R- 16, D-12). The real key to understanding New Jersey Gubernatorial results is the off-year election cycle and the importance of independents.

If you consider the same time period (1990-2013) for the parties that hold the White House, you come up with a very similar power breakdown. Republicans have held it for 12 and Democrats have held it for 13. If you make an adjustment for the off year election by adding the first year of President G. H. W. Bush's term, it comes out even. The difference is that the party in power is the inverse. When a Republican won the presidential election (1988, 2000, 2004) a Democrat won the Gubernatorial election. When a Democrat won the White House (1992, 1996, 2008, 2012) a Republican won the Gubernatorial election. However, over the same period the state has not elected a single Republican to fill an open Senate seat – the only other statewide elections.

This is no mere coincidence. New Jersey Senators – just like the other 98 – run during mid-term elections. One factor to consider is that these elections attract a much higher turnout. Of the lowest turnout elections in New Jersey's recent electoral history (1990-2013), all of them have been Gubernatorial elections. The 2013 election took the top spot with 38% turnout, beating out 2009 election when Christie was first won office. But the most important factor to consider is that unlike the Senate elections, which take place as part of a greater national debate, New Jersey's Gubernatorial election is based on voter's impression of the candidate.

Senate elections are part of a greater national debate with a focus the party's respective platforms and their disparate visions for the future. Campaigns, for better or for worse, are tied to their party's prospects. The Gubernatorial election takes place outside this conversation. The race is much more about the candidate than the party he or she is affiliated with. Moreover, the election boils down to how self-identified independents view the

candidate. According to exit polls during mid-term and presidential elections New Jersey independents prefer the Democratic candidate. During Gubernatorial election, who ever wins independents wins the election. So to understand Christie's 'electability' you have to consider the challenges – or lack thereof – that he has faced.

He rocketed from irrelevancy after using connections to Wall Street to become of the top bundlers for George Bush's 2004 campaign. As a reward the Bush administration rewarded the tax attorney with the plum job of US Attorney without a day of criminal proceedings experience.

But that is not an issue for New Jersey. Finding crooked politicians and union leaders in New Jersey is like fishing with dynamite. He landed a couple big fish and made a name for himself as some one who was a real reformer, someone that was tough on crime. He declared his intent to run for Governor in 2009 and faced stiff challenge from conservative Steve Lonegan (worth a Google search). In November he faced the former Goldman Sachs CEO and junior US Senator and incumbent Governor Jon Corzine.

First off, Jon Corzine was about as effective as governor as he was CEO of his next private venture MF Global. His exorbitant wealth and his connections to Wall Street – 2009's political bogeyman – did not earn him sympathy points with the average voter. Finally, and most importantly, the summer of 2009 marked the beginning of the Obamacare fight in Congress. It was the summer of angry constituents at town halls yelling about socialized medicine and Sarah Palin was talking about death panels and Democrats in the same sentence.

During his four years as Governor, Christie developed this national reputation as a tough-talking, union-busting, pragmatic conservative. In reality he is far from the persona that the media has given him. New Jersey public employees – especially teachers – are some of the highest paid in the nation. The only way he is able to balance a budget is through new fees – also known as taxes – or by eliminating funding to school districts and towns for mandatory programs. The programs, however, are still mandated by law. The state's economy has been underperforming; growing at a much slower rate than any of the state's neighbors. The state's unemployment has been above 9% his entire term and well over the national average.

Prior to Hurricane Sandy, Christie's approval numbers were under water. New Jersey Democrats were chomping at the bit to take him on in the general election. But in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy his tour with the President made him extremely popular with voters. His performance was great. But that's all it was, a performance. Nothing meaningful came out of it. In the months after, Governor Christie was polling above 60% and Democrats were running away from even the idea of challenging him. His likely challenger, Newark mayor Cory Booker, made the decision in January to look toward the state's 2014 Senate race rather than fight for

conservative principles; he is a smooth-talking populist. If he runs for President, Christie will be the Rudy Guilani of 2016: an exciting candidate that has no staying power with conservative voters.



attribute to Bob Jagendorf

the Governor's mansion. He faced no competition from within the party.

The Democrats nominated token opposition that was about as hapless and bland a candidate as Jon Corzine was four years earlier. All of the party's "star power" had backed out or were running for the special election to fill the senate seat of the late Frank Lautenberg. Christie cruised to electoral victory without so much as a scratch. Republicans considering him for president could learn a thing or two about where he stands on issues from gay marriage to gun rights.

Governor Christie will talk a big game, but when it comes to actually governing he does not stand on

Obama Care Has Got to Go

-David Zekan

As many W&L students realize on a daily basis, the rigorous course load that makes up the pre-med track is often not what students consider fun. Most W&L pre-meds will readily agree that the material covered in required classes is interesting and engaging, but not conducive to sleep or time to “go out.” In the past, pre-med students who make it through the requirements at W&L, as well as the rigorous course load that medical school entails, have been rewarded by a livable income, job security, and the ability to care for sick individuals on a daily basis. However, with recent health care reform, two questions have come up: “Does job security in the medical field still exist?” and “Will I be able to live on my income after medical school while paying off student loans?”

According to the Heritage Foundation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) will lead to more government regulation in physician’s practices and further dependence on government reimbursements, which were already unstable before the implementation of the PPACA with regard to Medicare and Medicaid. A local physician and member of the Physician’s Council for Responsible Reform described the actions of both the federal government and insurance companies as the “bureaucratization of medicine” with the federal government stepping in and mandating exactly how patients are to be cared for and what details must be included in medical records. He also commented that “it is becoming more important to record details rather than caring for the patients,” noting the amount of time that he and nurses spend on the computer rather than with the patient. When asked on whether or not reforms need to be made in general, the physician remarked that they do saying, “insurance reform is crucial, not federal takeover of healthcare.” He further explained that he has confidence in the healthcare system if individuals can “look to their constitutional rights when making reform and keep in mind that a time of recession is not the time to make radical changes.”

Alyene Senger of the Heritage Foundation had

similar remarks with regard to changes in healthcare. She noted, “A key goal of health care reform should be the restoration of the traditional doctor-patient relationship. In such a relationship, physicians would be the key decision makers in the delivery of care, and patients would be the key decision makers in the financing of care. This cannot be achieved unless and until patients, not the government, control health care dollars and decisions, and third-party insurance executives are directly accountable to individuals and families, who really pay the health care bills.”

Despite the changes to healthcare, the local physician

interviewed encouraged myself and other students with intentions of attending medical school or going into any sort of healthcare field to continue on the path. Specifically, he remarked “people will continue to get sick and they are always in need of good doctors. The fed can attack a practice but they cannot attack knowledge. After all, we are here to care for patients regardless of reimbursements but livable wages must be

paid in order for doctors to keep practices up and running.” However, we are already seeing the inefficiency of Obamacare that accompanies most federally run programs, and I am confident that the reform will not be able to sustain itself as currently written.



Little Keyboard, Big World

-Joe Siami

They're all over. With their headphones on the possibilities are limitless; they could be bumping to some ambient techno music or that new Avicii by Dub-step. At first glance it seems like the guys and gals of Club Leyburn are Zuckerberging their little hearts out building websites or financial models. Curious, I take a closer look. Hmm, is this guy watching Netflix? Oh no, that's not an episode of *It's Always Sunny in the City*; it's one of those INTR videos.

You have to take a look around, see. The job market is selective now. If you don't know how to use spellcheck, or know what "Tan, Background 2, 50% Darker" looks like, well then you're S.O.L. Furthermore, there's no chance you'll beat out those ambitious young pups over at UVA for an internship at Bergman Snachs unless you can find out how to change the font back to Baskerville Old Face. Classmates tell me, "Joe, these are important skills we're learning. We have to know this stuff in order to hold a job and buy grown-up clothes." Well I guess that's true. I mean let's be honest here if Jack Bauer asks you for a PowerPoint presentation on why he's better than Chuck Norris and you can't figure out how to fill the background of each slide with what Jack wants... it will end in blood.

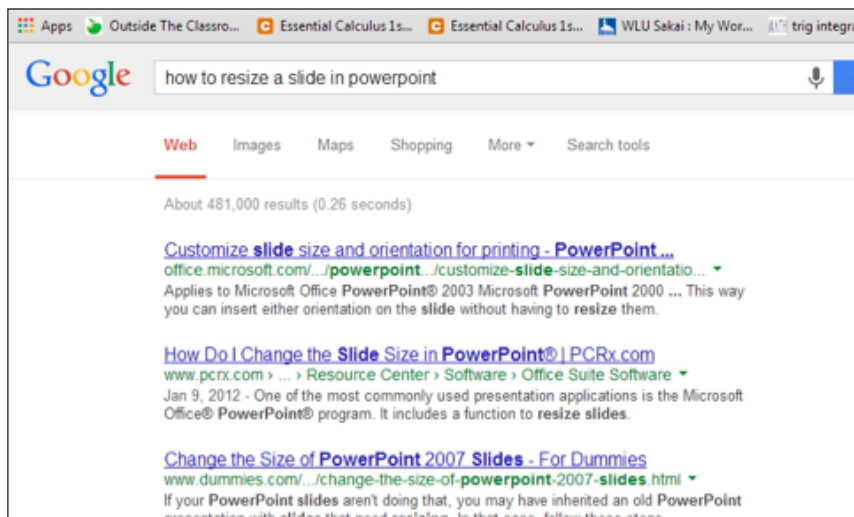
Realistically though, there's no need for bloodshed. You see, there's this company that was founded a few years back. It's called Google. I know it's a crazy concept, but sometimes when people don't know how to do something or if they forget what year Benjamin Franklin wrote the Communist Manifesto, they can just type into a search bar and amazingly the answers appear. "I don't believe you," you say. "It's a lot harder than that," you say. "Looking things up on the Internet takes too much time," you say...

Funny, my friend Google says that in 0.26 seconds, I found the link to the answer. You see that screenshot down there? I didn't even know how to take a screenshot—so I Googled it. Yes, I know I must seem like some sort of wizard, but the true mystery is that I am currently passing a tech literacy course and until a minute ago had no idea how to take a screenshot. I digress—let's revisit this "Googling" thing. Why is it so ridiculous to think that Google shouldn't play a role in

whether or not I am educated or ready for the job market? I believe there is a value in committing things to memory, but let's be realistic and quit pretending that Wikipedia is nothing more than a few stoners operating a silly blog or that Google will only show you links to "Charlie Bit my Finger" YouTube videos. The Internet is a resource, a reliable one when used by people with a modicum of tact, and reasonable evidence as to why some of the logic behind INTR 201 is irrelevant.

All told, what we the students need to recognize is that we are not victims of the Williams School or a greater scheme to replace the college pass time of inebriation with inundation. We are victims of accreditation. INTR 201 is necessary for the university to have accredited C-School coursework. Accreditation is simply a group of educators believing that if colleges meet the requirements they set, those colleges will prepare students for the job market and higher academia. Currently Washington & Lee is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (not at all redundant) to award the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Juris Doctor, and Master of Laws degrees. Really what that means is this: we must watch over 20 hours of instructional videos on how to use machines we grew up using.

So yes there are skills learned during Tech Literacy that will enhance how we use Microsoft Office, that's certainly true, and if we're being honest the class represents a practically negligible time commitment. That said, the course often feels more like an exercise in the mundane than an intellectual pursuit.



**ONE DOES NOT
SIMPLY**

**NOT READ THE
SPECTATOR**

memegenerator.net

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof” - Amendment I to the United States Constitution

Religion and W&L

-Elizabeth Powell

Though the history of the United States is sprinkled with religious allusions, our founding fathers found the protection of the right to freedom of religion for all citizens vital to the success and survival of the United States. With this amendment, our nation is defined as a secular one in that its aim is to maintain the separation of church and state to uphold the freedom of religion for all individuals. Although United States law may not have any direct power over secular institutions like Washington and Lee, the consequences that court decisions have over those secular institutions is significant in that it shapes our culture's perception of the duties of secular institutions to the individuals within them.

On the current Supreme Court docket is *Town of Greece vs. Galloway* (2013), a case that questions the separation of church and state in the town of Greece, New York. In the town of Greece, city council meetings open with a time of prayer, usually Christian prayer, that attendees are invited to join. Linda Stephens and Susan Galloway, who identify as Jewish and Atheist respectively, attend Greece city hall meetings and have reported feelings of discomfort and alienation during this time of prayer. Both Stephens and Galloway believe that the city is endorsing Christianity, which violates the separation of church and state defined so clearly in the Constitution.

The Supreme Court's ruling on this case is crucial because it could define the way that our culture believes it should exercise religion in the public sphere. In Winifred Sullivan's book "Paying the Words Extra," she articulates this connection between law and society when she states that, "When legislators write laws and courts decide cases, they... participate in an intensely practical and multilayered discourse about what society should be like." In other words, although the Supreme Court decision applies only to the state, society as a whole will inevitably look to the Court's decision as a cultural guideline of both how to publicly express religion and religious beliefs in secular institutions and how to determine what is acceptable behavior for conveying personal faith in these secular institutions.

This concept of the effect of legislation on American society is particularly personal and interesting in light of Washington and Lee's decision to hold Christian prayer at the beginning of school-wide functions such as Convocation and Baccalaureate. Traditionally, these academic ceremonies begin with a Christian prayer despite the fact that the school is not religiously affiliated. However, at this year's Convocation, bell chimes replaced the traditionally held

opening prayer. This new practice was enacted as an effort to invite faculty, staff, students, and visitors to treat the ceremony with the same feelings of reverence that one would feel from prayer in previous years, without making those who do not practice religion or share the Christian faith feel alienated by the act of the prayer itself. So, in a sense, the bell toll rang in a more isolated and private religious experience, avoiding any specific religious connotations.

It will be interesting to see how *Town of Greece vs. Galloway* plays out in the coming months and what indirect implications the court decision will have on secular institutions like Washington and Lee. I predict that this case will impact the way that the public exercise of religion is viewed in a secular context, and one must wonder how this decision will affect us in our future endeavors at Washington and Lee.



Reviews

“*The Spectator* has done it again... A tip of the hat to these fine writers.”

-Jeb Bland ‘16

“*The Spectator* has chest and a want to be great.”

-Les Miles

“Made my day.”

-Clint Eastwood

“I have no comment on *The Spectator*. Please buy my healthcare.”

-Obama

**Note: These Reviews are not real and merely intended for humor.*