

# "The Law Is A Jealous Mistress"

*Come hither, lady fair, and joined be  
In our wild minstrelsy!*

*Keats, "Endymion"*

TUCKER HALL, September, 1972. Well, it looks like the gang's all back from vacation. There's Lou and Andy. There's Mac. And there's Susan. Susan? That's correct. Autumn of 1972 will mark the first time in the history of Washington and Lee University's School of Law that women have been admitted to full-time study on the basis of competitive applications. In an independent decision based on a year-long study, W&L's only graduate division will also become its only officially coeducational division. In announcing this policy the School of Law conformed to the regulations of the American Association of Law Schools which henceforth will only approve law programs if such programs do not discriminate on a sexual basis. The School of Law also acquiesced to the wishes of a goodly number of students.

The faculty and administration have greeted the news with enthusiasm. Professor Robert Hanes Gray commented, "Beautiful", when asked his reaction to the development. Mrs. Catherine F. McDowell, Secretary of the School of Law and administratrix par excellence, stated that she expected no difficulties in preparation for the expected women students. Roy L. Steinheimer, Jr., Dean of the School of Law, remarked that "the same standards for admission will be applied to female applicants as have been applied in the past to male applicants." Although Dean Steinheimer was unable to give exact figures regarding the number of women he expected would enroll in the School of Law this fall, he did note that applicant response had been heartening, and estimated that some fifty applications from women had been processed.

While to some former students, the introduction of feminine mystique to our hallowed institution may border on heresy, extensive interviews with present scholars have uncovered tremendous support and excitement pro the policy change. In an all-out effort to provide the reader of *The Lawyer* with an in-depth analysis of the situation, your reporter has ranged throughout the School of Law collecting facts, opinions and just plain blarney concerning this "new age".

Generally, married members of the School of Law have greeted the news with their customary *c'est la vie* attitude. However, with consummate impartiality it must be stated that, on occasion, when the subject is introduced, one senses deep-seated envy. Perhaps this is merely nostalgia. Meanwhile, the single members of the student body are alternately fascinated by thoughts of forthcoming "impression making" and petrified by the prospect of intersexual academic competition. Seniors are musing, intermediates are jubilant, and freshmen are bewildered with our newest favorite-subject-for-coffee-klatch-discussion.



*WHAT HATH WOMEN'S LIB WROUGHT!*

Not all commentary has been affirmative, however, with several students questioning the policy on the bases of tradition and/or chauvinism, not necessarily in that order. One indomitable intermediate went so far as to flatly deny that women lawyers could meet

the same standard of professionalism as that manifested by their male peers. Fortunately, such exclamations have been rare.

BUT, lurking within the bowels of Tucker Hall certain whispers of vital importance have been recorded. A studious senior, who wishes to remain anonymous, wondered if plumbing arrangements could be satisfactorily provided for the new genre (sic) of students. One may easily conjure images of separate, but equal time in the lavatory (what would Mr. Justice Douglas say?), lock-outs as a method proclaiming grievances, and, worst of all, introduction of pick-a-number, wait-your-turn systems. Is the basement janitor's closet really a powder room in clever disguise? September will tell all.

On the brighter side, several students believe that the women's touch will be a welcome, pervasive influence. For example, may we expect home-baked cookies in the student lounge? Will morning classes be eliminated in deference to beauty sleep? Will the School of Law hire female faculty members? And, will soft drink

*Dean Charles P. Light*

## Experience Looks Forward

When discussing trends and changes within the law school, Dean Emeritus Charles Porterfield Light draws on a background of 45 years of teaching and administrative experience. Speaking from the point of view of experience, Mr. Light commands a singular expertise in the area of the Washington and Lee Law School, its faculty, and its students. One finds his insights to be generally forward-looking, pivoting on expansion and progress. Naturally, such an extensive background lends to Dean Light's observations an authority of a person able to see, in a unique perspective, what is going on as well as how it developed.

Dean Light frames his general remarks on the potential of the school in terms of "expanding range." Pleased with the quality of the essential core of legal education W&L has traditionally offered, he places current emphasis on a growing faculty. Mr. Light sees the range of the school's program as a function of a well qualified faculty with diverse interests and specialties. Such interests, while important to a continually changing and developing curriculum, are also essential to a broader scope of legal education outside of the classroom.

Dean Light notes that as developments in the

cups in the library be replaced with vases replete with wild flowers? The possibilities are infinite!

More seriously, one must consider the impact of women in such diverse activities as Moot Court Competition, Law Review and Legal Aid. Most observers flatly state that women students will substantially enhance the competitive atmosphere of the student body. Conjunctively, it should be noted that initial female applicants have exhibited exceptional academic qualifications and sincere desires to make the practice of law a career.

Next fall, then, the faculty, administration, student body and alumni of the Washington and Lee University School of Law will deal with a new type of Law School—one which will more accurately reflect the needs of modern American society. To quote Dean Steinheimer once again, "The new policy is a change for the better. Bright, young, scholarly women, upon joining the student body, will add considerably to the quality of all the students."

We look forward to September. Welcome to Tucker Hall, Susan. Have an enjoyable summer?

areas of law have dictated an ever broadening curriculum, they have also stimulated student and faculty interest in modern and practical areas of legal work. At W&L this work is available on an elective basis through the Legal Aid and Alderson programs. As Dean Light sees it, such recently developed programs of legal education have received their impetus from the American Bar Association's sponsorship of Legal Aid and legal services programs. These programs now proliferating in American law schools are substantially made possible by grants from government agencies, such as the Office of Economic Opportunity, as well as by funding from private foundations. These programs provide useful outlets for legal skills that are sufficiently developed to be put to good use before the legal education has been completed.

The legal aid program at Washington and Lee offers second and third year students a chance to work through the local bar to provide basic legal assistance to indigents in communities in the Lexington-Rockbridge County area. Dean Light specifically notes the apparent attorney confidence which has been shown in the legal services program offered by students through the law school to practicing attorneys through-