



February 7, 1984

Mr. Peter A. Agelastro III, '62  
President  
Washington & Lee Alumni, Inc.  
Lexington, VA 24450

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Dear Mr. Agelastro:

I have thoroughly read the last several Alumni Magazines, attended the outrageous Washington Chapter dinner (reported in the January issue) and have followed the recent unfavorable Washington Post items about W&L (dress code; coeducation, etc.).

As a result, I would like to express three suggestions which reflect my position insofar as the current furor over subverting W&L into a coed campus.

1. It is once more very evident that you can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy. I propose, and will be the first volunteer to contribute, that a one-way ticket back to Lapeer, Michigan, be immediately purchased for Dr. Wilson.

2. From what I read, hear and observe in the press, we have reached another point in time where the faculty has put itself on a pedestal and wants to dictate the University's policies. Damn the faculty; the Board and Alumni should and MUST dictate policy.

3. Get the message over to the Board of Trustees that there is overwhelming sentiment against converting W&L to coeducation. I need not bore the reader with the negative facts we all know: housing; toilet facilities; parking; curriculum; athletics; ad infinitum. Allegedly the only benefits are "broadening of in-class discussion" and increased revenue potential. I would rather see the University shut down than destroy our 230-year-old all-male tradition!

Very truly yours,



Thursday, June 21, 1984

# A Vote For Women

## University Club Amends Membership Bylaws

By Carla Hall

The University Club, a longtime Washington stronghold of the male elite, has voted to allow women members.

The club's break with tradition follows its much-publicized rejection in March of an applicant who was the daughter of a club member. Virginia architect Jo Anne Murray, 32, was turned down for membership after being sponsored by her father, real estate executive F. Alden Murray, and another member, real estate company president John C. Walker.

The private club, founded in the Red Room of the Willard Hotel in the winter of 1904, has a membership list that includes House Minority Leader Robert Michel, Archbishop James A. Hickey and several Supreme Court justices. It has barred women by tradition although it never had a law expressly prohibiting women. Now, bylaws of the club, which is located at 1135 16th St. NW, have been amended so that they provide for women in all membership categories. "We added some

# University Club

CLUB, From B1

fearful that we can't offer women the same facilities. We hope in time we can."

Watson said that athletic facilities, with the possible exception of the squash courts, would not be available to women members. As it is, male members are charged a separate fee to use the athletic facilities, which Watson called "old and very limited." According to Watson, there is a 20-yard, five-lane pool, a steam room, a sauna, a workout room "the size of a small living room," and a locker room. Members have traditionally swum without suits, and "there's no way to get to the pool without going through the men's locker room," Watson said. "We'd have to spend half a million dollars to change the locker room."

The squash courts, he said, are already available on Sundays to wives of members. The women change in a fourth floor guest room.

Watson, the president of the Ferroalloys Association, also spoke of his own feelings, with a slight chuckle: "Undeniably I must confess that I would like to keep it all male. I don't know why. It's like a men's bowling team."

Jo Anne Murray, club members believe, was the first woman to apply for full membership. Another woman applied for non-resident membership some four years ago, but her sponsors resigned before the application

ing last Thursday, he met with Chandler. "We had a drink in the men's bar right afterwards . . . His first question was [Jo Anne Murray] still interested in belonging? I said that I talked to her and . . . yes, very definitely, she was still interested."

Murray said his daughter had been "wooed by a number of other clubs" since her turndown by the University Club. "The International Club wanted her right away," he said. "Then the Army Navy Club was talking to her. But she felt the University Club satisfied her needs more for a dining and social club."

Asked why she was interested in reapplying after having been rejected, Jo Anne Murray said, "I just feel like the ballgame is different. I'm just glad my application brought on that rethinking."

Chandler downplayed any connection between the club's decision and reaction to the original decision. The move to admit women, he said, "is something we'd been considering for many years."

Watson agreed: "Over a period of time we've been thinking about this thing very seriously—even before we had a woman applicant," he said. "With pressure for equal employment and equal opportunity for women, why not?"

The change was approved last Thursday at a club meeting attended by 200. Over two-thirds of those present voted in favor of accepting women. (The club's by-laws say that at least two-thirds must ap-

prove before a bylaw can be changed.) The club's 1,250 resident voting members (total membership is 2,350) were sent letters informing them of the special meeting.

The club not only wrote the acceptance of women into the bylaws,

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