

May 25, 1984

Dear [REDACTED]:

Over the past five years I have made a special effort to encourage young men from this area to attend Washington and Lee. Most of these experiences have been disappointing because I have found many apply, become accepted, and then make the decision to go to another institution such as Davidson or Vanderbilt, with the explanation to me that the decision was made to avoid spending four years at a school segregated by sex.

For generations, Louisville has sent many students of high caliber to Washington and Lee. I am disturbed about our school being able to attract these qualified people in the future.

Academic excellence should continue to be our primary goal. Since my personal experience shows me that obtaining top students is becoming more difficult, and that the single sex atmosphere is one of the things making it more difficult, I encourage you as a trustee emeritus to favorably consider coeducation for our institution. With a change of policy, we might have a couple of rough years with the student body, but these years will be insignificant in the long run for an institution of Washington and Lee's age and distinction.

I would not be surprised if some athletic coaches favor coeducation, because I have seen a few promising student-athletes turn down W&L for the same reason.

Please get us back in step with the academic institutions with whom we compete.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]