

The Editor's Corner -April 9, 2021

One of the developments which has been most pleasing to The Generals Redoubt has been the affiliation of other groups and individuals with our cause. We are particularly happy about the contacts we have made with current members of the student body. To read the newspapers or watch the television, one would think that the majority of Washington and Lee students are in favor of changing the name of the university and removing or changing many other traditions. In fact, those who are committed to these changes are really a pretty small group, and they are equaled or surpassed by those who don't want to change the name and want to preserve our history, values, and traditions. We have met with students from many different organizations and have offered them support in a number of ways. These include members of the College Republicans, The Spectator newspaper, The Federalist Society, and a new group called Students for Historical Preservation. We are also supporting students in their efforts to form other on campus groups. In December a group of 70+ students wrote a letter to the Board of Trustees stating their opposition to changing the name of the university. They said, in part, that the name change will not actually change student culture and emphasized the importance of addressing nuanced history appropriately. They warned against the ever growing cancel culture, and suggested a required course in institutional history. (Please see the "Letters" section)

We are also very excited about the growth of parental interest in our mission and goals. In early February, a group of 200 parents of current and former students, under the leadership of Judith Conlon, the mother of a 2016 graduate, sent a letter to the Board of Trustees expressing their opposition to a name change.(See the "Letters" section) . Within the next month, the parent group plans to send a second letter to the Board with additional parent signatures.

Nor has The Generals Redoubt been silent during this period. On February 26th, our President, Tom Rideout, sent a letter to the Rector of the Board congratulating the Board on a change in their by-laws which restored an element of student self governance while, at the same time, reducing the role of the faculty in controlling student life and activities. An appendix, written by John Lane of our Board of Directors, pointed out that during the last summer the student executive committee acted in an inappropriate manner in announcing their support for a name change to the university. This letter is also in the "Letters" section .

The Generals Redoubt continues to grow and to attract support. We continue in almost constant contact with the administration and Board. Preserving the name of our school is just the first of many steps which need to be taken to restore balance, true freedom of speech, and ideological diversity to Washington and Lee.

Neely Young

Vice President, The Generals Redoubt