



The Voice of the Corps

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The Case for Preserving Tradition - Why VMI may NOT be changing for the good.

By Cadet Tristen Bray '23

The Institute has maintained itself to be no ordinary place. The question is, what exactly generates the uniqueness of the experience? What truly sets our Institute aside from any other college in America? Our language and slang are separate from others on the outside. Our treasured systems of honor, the class system, and the ratline are not fathomable to most of those on the outside. We idolize alumni that were produced by the Institute throughout the 182 years of its existence. Recently, we have opened ourselves up to the outside world and allow those with no understanding of our systems and culture to radically alter those systems. The media will consistently attack the Institute's traditions, and opening ourselves up to the outside world will never benefit the VMI mission. Business Insider's coverage of the ratline reflects how ridiculous it is to think the media can accurately portray the VMI experience.

Changing systems and traditions quickly and without any measure will threaten to remove the foundation of what makes VMI what it is. Why

should we allow this threat to persist? Some say to change with the times, or to increase the appeal of the Institute to a broader demographic. And in some areas, we should change with the times. But this change should be discussed, debated, and determined by the Corps and not done for use by a group of individuals who cannot understand what it is like to be a part of our systems. The case for tradition is that these things do not align with the mission of the Institute. These objectives ought not to be achieved at the expense of the quality of the cadet through time. Most cadets chose the Institute understanding it promised to be the most difficult college experience available. Therefore, the Institute has attracted extraordinary individuals. With the continued limiting of the Corps' full involvement in the ratline, the altering of sacred traditions, and cadet systems being changed without cadet input, what will separate the Institute from any other SMC or Service Academy? What will make VMI "No Ordinary College" if we allow that which makes us extraordinary to be taken away?

Keydets in Saint-Cyr



Cadets on parade at St. Cyr Military Academy

- Photo by Britannia

- By Cadet Andrew Weston '24

France's military history has always been intertwined with America's military history since the Revolutionary War. You may have seen our French friends around post during the fall semester last year. This semester, VMI has sent two cadets to the École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr to experience the prestigious officer training program of the French military started by Napoleon in 1802. The exchange program is not well known at the Institute, yet through the accounts of the experiences of cadets at Saint-Cyr, hopefully the interests of those seeking to commission and improve their French will be expanded to continue to maintain a strong relationship with our French ally.

Cadet Will Rich and I started our adventure the 24th of January, beginning a week of integration with other cadets from the Belgian, Finnish, Luxembourgish, and Lithuanian academies; later we will be joined by Austrian and Czech cadets as well. This week of integration included plenty of activities to introduce us to the huge camp, as well as the traditions and practices of the academy, all while Saint-Cyr cadets conducting their FTX of the month watched us with curious eyes. The French introduced each of us to horse riding, something which every French officer has learned since the

time of Napoleon. For many of us it was the first time riding a horse. Cadets also conducted an introduction to the French FAMAS weapon system. The FAMAS is no longer the service rifle of the French army but will most likely be the one we will use during the two field trainings that foreign cadets will participate in this semester. Other activities included learning the history of the academy and French officer corps, and VMI and Lithuanian cadets visiting the city of Rennes for a weekend.

Now this week, classes and cadet parties have begun, one party being held at an old French cavalry officer club with French and foreign cadets both eager to enjoy each other's company. Although, it may still take some time to convince the French that VMI cadets are not West Point cadets. Each class is in English, except the French class obviously. These classes are designed to improve the context of each conflict zone France and other partners engage in, enhance leadership attributes, and help American and French cadets create friendships that will follow them into their military careers. I hope that Cadet Rich and I will be able to provide the corps an insight to the culture of Saint-Cyr, as well as the differences we share with our French counterparts in updates to come.

The Corps note to self: *Stay off Jodel*



JODEL

Unless it is routine, basic stuff, remember that the administration, the media, parents, and probably the Russians are all monitoring.

Join The Cadet to have your voice heard.

More than a tradition, We're an institution

The Cadet is your independent Cadet newspaper, and has been for over 115 years.



OPINION

True to the cadets and alumni who created it, cadets have 100% editorial control of all content independent of VMI or any other influence.



Board of Visitors Meeting with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee



Virginia Military Institute

Photo by VMI

- By Cadet Patrick Sexton '24

On Friday, Jan. 28 the Board of Visitors held a meeting with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee regarding training for the Corps, Staff, and themselves as well as going over an agenda of changes revolving around the suggestions made by the Barnes and Thornburg Investigation. The Cadet attended the meeting in order to report to the Corps on the topics being discussed.

The meeting was held after training had been conducted with the Rats and the First class and the results of the survey following said training was shown. For the Rats, 233 responded to the survey and the overwhelming majority said positive things concerning the training. For example, 94% said that the training initiated dialogue about inclusivity and 93% said that it helped them reflect on their own self-identity. 72% said they were very or completely satisfied with the training. However, when the Rats were given the opportunity to share what they learned in free response form, many expressed much more varying experiences. Many said positive things such as learning more about their BRs and deep conversation but others expressed indifference or dissatisfaction with the training. One Rat wrote, "It just divided people and made people look at each other differently and not in a good way". Another wrote "Respectfully, it was not an activity that brought us together. There were some redeeming parts to it...however, most other parts of the activity just seemed to draw us

apart". These responses coming from about half of the mass were overwhelmingly positive with notable exceptions. Their dykes however did not have the same experience. LTC Love's presentation did not provide the BOV complete details on survey size, stratification, validity, or that that the protocols were developed, executed and analyzed in accordance with research standards (National Research Act, Belmont Report Institutional Review Board (IRB) review), etc.

Out of the entire first class, only 71 took the survey. Of that 71, about 77-78% of them had positive answers toward the training. With 54% of those polled being very or completely satisfied with the training. When they were asked what they learned, the majority of responses were "nothing". One first said "There isn't a problem with racism or exclusion at VMI. All this "training" did was show that on issues that are important (like racism) we all agree on the same things. On less important matters, like those of personal importance, this "training" showed that we can have productive conversations about it by ourselves and don't need to be babysat by an "Inclusive Excellence Cadet Facilitator". When asked about which topics they would like to engage in in later training, the majority answered "other" and when asked for other suggestions most said none.

And it would seem that Cadets weren't the only ones with mixed feelings about

See A6

NOTICE

Regarding recent statements published by The Virginia Military Institute about *The Cadet* Newspaper

The Cadet is aware of an email by VMI to the Corps, faculty and staff also published on its official website that contains false and misleading information about *The Cadet* and our staff.

***The Cadet* will respond fully after further consultations, BUT NOT IN THIS ISSUE.**

Unlike some who participate in the production of derogatory messages on the eve of BREAKOUT, **we choose another path.**

This issue celebrates the Class of 2025 and the Corps, including their Dykes, Parents and the VMI Family who made this great day possible.

- *The Cadet Staff, still one of the oldest independent student newspapers in Virginia*

ALUMNI RUNNING THE PAPER



The Cadet Staff

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Co-Editor-in-Chief

Claire Curtis '22
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Joseph Malazo '22
Managing Editor

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VACANT
Multi-Media Editor

Staff Writers

William Franklin '23
Noah McHugh '24

Andrew Weston '24
Kyle Gargis '24 (and cartoonist!)

Russell Crouch '24

Robert Morris '79
Mentor and Alumni Editor

Thomas Wilson '79
Alumni Business Manager Mentor

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Letter to the editor

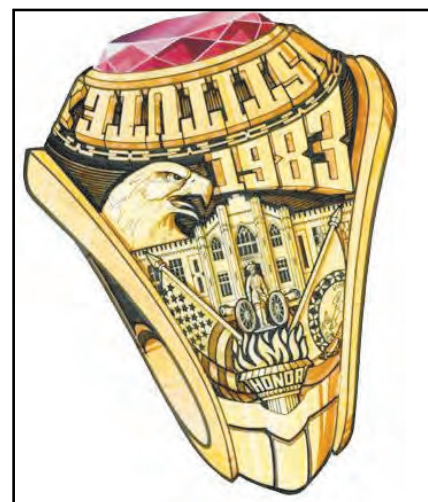
Dear Editor,

As a member of the greatest class to ever march out Jackson Arch (can you still say that?) I want to compliment you and your staff on the recent editions of *The Cadet*. There is no better way to keep one's finger on the real pulse of the Corps than to read through your paper.

I particularly enjoy the still independent voice of the editorial page and the *Darts and Laurels*. This week's article speculating about Breakout could have been written 40 years ago. Humor is alive and well!

Keep up the good work!

Hugh Daughtry '83



SURVEY FOR CADETS

Voice the Corps' TRUE OPINIONS

Take *The Cadet* newspaper survey and let your voice be heard!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cadets>

Questions see Cadet Mansfield '22 in Room 107

Scan the QR code or follow the link. Your information will **NOT** be shared with the administration. We'll report results in an upcoming issue of *The Cadet*!

Colonel Brodie gets "vested"



- Col. John Brodie with his Cadet Newspaper vest

- By Cadet James Mansfield '22

The Cadet recently "vested" Col. John Brodie, Virginia Military Institute (VMI) Band director for his support not only to *The Cadet* newspaper, but for his years of tireless support to the Corps and Institute. From handing out Hot Dogs to his band at last Friday night's basketball game, to the very next morning where he honored the wife of the late Class President, Tony Hamilton '79; Colonel Brodie never misses an opportunity to support his Keydet Family. His red vest

was awarded last Saturday and it represents only a fraction of the appreciation which he deserves. Col. Brodie was the subject of a recent Profiles in History feature in the August 21, 2021 (Vol. CXII, No.1) issue of *The Cadet*. Sir you continue to epitomize the leadership and loyalty which makes the VMI experience truly special! The Corps loves you Sir!

The Cadet Welcomes a NEW Staff member!

- By The Cadet Editorial Staff

The Cadet newspaper, one of the oldest independent college newspapers in Virginia is proud to welcome Kyle Dargis '24 as the newest member of *The Cadet* staff as a cartoonist and writer.

Cadet Dargis is the son of Mark and Melissa Dargis. He is an English Major and Golf company corporal from Fauquier County, Virginia whose goal for participating in *The Cadet* is to draw and write some great content, he joined *The Cadet* Newspaper simply because he "loves to cartoon"!

Once Cadet Dargis '24 completes his initial work, he'll receive his Commonwealth of Virginia credential as a credentialed journalist and full staff as a member of the Virginia Press Association (VPA). *The Cadet* is proud to welcome Cadet Dargis



Cadet Kyle Dargis '24

the independent voice of the corps and alumni in our 115th year of publication!



Mandatory Diversity Equity and Inclusion Training

- Compiled by the VMI Cadet Staff

There have been a number of questions raised on the mandatory Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training for cadets after it was briefed at the recent Board of Visitor's meeting. One concerned parent requested information on the training covered in the presentation under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and provided a copy of the workbook received to *The Cadet*. According to the document provided by VMI in response to that FOIA, "This workbook is a compilation of curated Diversity, Equity and Inclusion trainings designed for Virginia Military Institute. Trainings are intentional in an effort to deliver direct engagement that lets cadets achieve a better understanding of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion." Topics covered, according to the workbook set out "Diversity of people, perspectives"; Equity in policy, practice and position"; Inclusion via power, voice & organizational culture"; and Justice with equal rights & equitable opportunities".

Although the training and its content continues under DEI, Governor Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order #10,



designating Angela Sailor as a member of his cabinet as the Commonwealth Chief Diversity, Opportunity & Inclusion Officer. In changing "equity" to "Opportunity" Younkin's office stated its intent is for a stronger and more focused role on promoting ideas, policies, and economic opportunities for disadvantaged Virginians, including Virginians living with disabilities and bringing Virginians of different faiths together.

The full workbook as received is posted to *The Cadet* website at: <https://cadetnewspaper.org/283-2/>



Colonel John Brodie presents a Virginia flag flown over the Virginia State Capitol in honor of Mr. Tony Hamilton '79 to his widow, Cassandra Hamilton during the graveside service on February 5, 2022. Col Brodie coordinated for a bagpiper to play *Amazing Grace* at the funeral as well as coordinated the VMI Color Guard and Honor Guard at the Service. Over 60 Members of VMI '79 traveled from across the United States to Honor their BR at the service.

- Photo by VMI Class of '79

Letter to the Editor: Stop Censoring Alumni and The Cadet!

- Peter McCrary '56

To the Editorial Staff of *The Cadet* Newspaper

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I do not know if *The Cadet* newspaper has published the "VMI Statement on *The Cadet* Newspaper" sent to the Corps of Cadets, faculty, and staff by MG Wins' Office of the Chief of Staff on February 3, 2022 – but if it hasn't, it should. And as a subscriber to *The Cadet* and having carefully read that official statement – I would observe ...

That the first paragraph has officially recognized each cadet's First Amendment right to participate through all venues [specifically including] "production, editing or contributing to any publication whether or not it is affiliated with, or supported by VMI." Thank you MG Wins!

The second paragraph asserts that *The Cadet* uses "the VMI acronym" and that its "use of VMI's trademarked logos and marks" is unauthorized. However, sequential use of the letters V - M - I is not a trademarked "acronym." It is more accurately an "initialism" – a set of initials representing a name – and is not trademarked protected. The use of "VMI" by anyone requires no "authorization" of any kind. Also, *The Cadet's* assertion of affiliation with former newspaper

publications and the VMI corps of cadets is clearly legitimized by its founding and staffing by many VMI alumni and members of the present-day corps of cadets.

The last sentence of the second

VMI Statement on The Cadet Newspaper

- Mr. Young, Virginia Military Institute Chief of Staff

As one of the top public liberal arts colleges in the country, the First Amendment of the Constitution and free speech are a vital part of Virginia Military Institute's civic education and VMI wholly supports its cadet's First Amendment rights to free speech. VMI in no way seeks to inhibit or restrict any cadet's right to exercise free speech through any and all available venues to include producing, editing or contributing to any publication, whether or not it is affiliated with, or supported by VMI.

In May 2021, VMI and the VMI Alumni Agencies first became aware that a newspaper titled "The Cadet" was being circulated on the VMI post during commencement. A single alumnus was the driving force behind this publication. The newspaper has in its tagline, "The Independent Voice of the Corps and Alumni since 1871" and describes itself as "an independent student publication created by cadets and alumni independent of VMI." Despite any such assertions through the use of the VMI acronym and unauthorized use of VMI's trademarked logos and marks, *The Cadet* newspaper is in no way affiliated with or authorized by the Virginia Military Institute, the Corps of Cadets, or the VMI Alumni Agencies.

In addition, the paper has no affiliation with the previously published



paragraph affirms and states precisely *The Cadet* newspaper's proud assertion that it is INDEPENDENT of any influence from VMI and the VMI AA. Thank you MG Wins!

However, MG Wins, if the overall intent of the "VMI Statement on *The Cadet* Newspaper" was to discourage its support and readership – again, sir, **thank you for blowing it.**

As the Chairman of the VMI Class of '56's Reunion Committee, my efforts were subject to similar censorship before and after our 65th reunion by VMI and VMI AA. I recently filed a request for an investigation with the Commonwealth of Virginia. I hope the Offices of the Governor fully investigate and hold those responsible accountable.

Peter K. McCrary '56

Editor's note: Due to the length of Mr. McCrary's Request for Investigation and accompanying documentation, The Cadet has made the full document available online under the documents section of The Cadet Foundation website at www.cadetnewspaper.org or readers can use this link for a direct download - [DOWNLOAD HERE!](#)

"V.M.I. Cadet" or any newspapers published by the Virginia Military Institute as a cadet club activity between 1871 and 2016. Articles and opinions appearing in the current version of *The Cadet* are those of the authors and do not reflect the opinions or positions of the Virginia Military Institute, the Corps of Cadets, or the VMI Alumni Agencies. Furthermore, any solicitation of funds, advertisements, subscriptions, and donations do not support any programs authorized by the Virginia Military Institute, the Corps of Cadets, or the VMI Alumni Agencies and are not subject to any of VMI's rigorous policies with respect to accountability.

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Editor's Note: The Cadet's full response to the false and misleading information in VMI's statement is found in the Front page front page editorial of the February 25, 2022 edition of *The Cadet*. Through *The Cadet's* legal counsel, we've requested a full retraction, apology and the opportunity to provide the facts to all those VMI sent this notification to. To date VMI has not responded to our requests and *The Cadet* is seeking relief through the Virginia Attorney-General's Office.

Returning Alumni Support The Cadet!

- Contributed by reunion alumni

In welcoming back alumni for their reunions this weekend, *The Cadet* asked alumni to share their best memories of VMI. These included asking what they wanted to say about *The Cadet* during their cadetship and the newspaper being one of the oldest independent college newspapers in Virginia. We asked them what they would tell the staff today as we try to preserve *The Cadet* after restarting it in May 2021.

"Keep Going!" - Steve Tennant '81

"*The Cadet* newspaper was a way to keep abreast of what was happening at VMI and how VMI was impacted by forces outside of the Institute. I still have copies of it from Mary Baldwin College raids, etc." - Gregory Wolven '81

"*The Cadet* was a mainstay of our cadetship. Keep this historic paper and relevant. Thanks to the die-hard and supporters of *The Cadet!*" - Jim Waring '81

"Please continue to operate and report worthy and interesting, independent news." – Charles Davis '81

"Don't go PC or woke with what is published." – Ray Lawson '81

"*The Cadet* is an increasingly vital voice of the current & past cadets that should publish unvarnished truth in reasonable perspective with a healthy dose of love and humor." – Michael Denton '81

"My roommate worked for *The Cadet*. During that time he tested the limits of a "free press" and our 1st Amendment rights." – Tom Albro '81

"Keep the cadet newspaper available to promote cadets engaged in promoting stories that matter to their experience while attending the institute." - D'anthony Tillery '91

"*The Cadet* and its fundamental reverence was a must read. Wish I had read some of them." - Thomas Heffern

VMI to Cancel Awards Named for Jackson and Ezekiel

- By The Cadet Editorial Staff

In the recently published minutes from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) Board of Visitors Commemorations and Memorials Naming and Review Committee (CMNRC) on November 21, 2021, the board unanimously voted to cancel the presentation of two awards given out every year at graduation.

According to the meeting minutes, the two awards were provided to VMI and awarded by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC). Mr. Richard K. Hines V '66, Chair of the CMNRC, stated, Two more awards given annually at the Institute Awards Ceremony that BG Bob Moreschi, Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Dean of the Faculty, had asked the Committee to consider. These awards, the **Stonewall Jackson Award for physics** and the **Sir Moses Ezekiel Award** for creative endeavors, are bestowed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. While they are not Institute awards, the Institute does permit the UDC to give these awards and participate in the Institute Awards Ceremony. The Institute has no connection with the UDC other than these awards."

Also according to the CMNRC minutes, "The committee discussed the appropriateness of the UDC giving awards to graduating VMI students before unanimously deciding to recommend to BG Moreschi that VMI decline these awards, beginning with the Class of 2022."

The Stonewall Jackson Memorial Award is listed in the VMI catalog as having been "established in 1957 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to honor the great Confederate hero." The prize is presented annually to the first standing graduate in the physics curriculum.

The Sir Moses Ezekiel Award is given to a cadet who has contributed to the cultural life of the Institute.

Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson is a complex figure in VMI's history. He was a slave owner and fought for the Confederacy, becoming one of the best known commanders of the Civil War.



Virginia Mourning Her Dead

His reputation during and after the war buttressed the reputation of VMI, and his legacy became an integral part of the Institute's culture. A statue of Stonewall Jackson, which was erected in 1912, stood outside the newly renamed "Main Arch" until December of 2020.

Moses Ezekiel is equally as complex. As reported in *The Cadet's* December 15, 2022 edition, Sir Moses Ezekiel graduated from VMI with the Class of 1866 and was a member of the Corps of Cadets who fought ultimately for the Confederacy in the battle of New Market. Ezekiel was also a world famous sculptor, and the creator of several Civil War memorials, including the aforementioned statue of Stonewall Jackson, which is now on display at the New Market Battlefield.

According to its website, "the United Daughters of the Confederacy is the outgrowth of many local memorial, monument, and Confederate home associations and auxiliaries to camps of United Confederate Veterans that were organized after the War Between the States. It is the oldest patriotic organization in our country because of its connection with two statewide organizations that came into existence as early as 1890 — the Daughters of the Confederacy (DOC) in Missouri and the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Confederate Soldiers Home in Tennessee." Additionally stated: "The objects of the organization are historical, educational, benevolent, memorial and patriotic."

Organizations like the UDC and the values which they seek to preserve are becoming defined as elements of the Lost Cause. According to Encyclopedia

25 MAR 22 Redline Scores Update

- Club Sports
 - VMI Club Basketball
 - VMI vs Radford University at VMI on 2/28
 - VMI vs UVA at UVA on 3/2
 - VMI 54-59 JMU at VMI on 3/6
 - VMI 71-73 JMU at VMI on 3/6
 - VMI "Regulators" Bowling
 - USIBA Championships 3/17-3/19
 - Placed 1st Overall
 - 6 KO's
 - 1 TKO
 - 9 Unanimous Decisions
 - 4 Split Decisions
 - VMI Men's Rugby
 - VMI vs Virginia Tech at VMI on 2/26
 - VMI vs SVU and W&M at VMI on 3/5
 - Competed in a Tournament in Savannah, GA (3/11-3/12)
- NCAA Division I
 - VMI Baseball (8-12)
 - VMI 0-14 University of Virginia at UVA on 2/23
 - VMI 8-1 Lafayette at VMI on 2/25
 - Brett Cook '24 had 4 RBIs
 - VMI 13-7 Lafayette at VMI on 2/26
 - Justin Starke '23 and Will Knight '21 each had 2 runs
 - Zac Morris '23 had 3 runs
 - VMI 13-3 Lafayette at VMI on 2/27
 - Justin Starke '23 and Zac Morris '23 both had 3 runs, 2 RBIs
 - Tyler Bradt '23 named SOCON Pitcher of the Week - 6 Strikeouts
 - VMI 4-28 James Madison University at JMU on 3/1
 - VMI 13-9 Binghamton at VMI on 3/4
 - Justin Starke '23 had 2 runs, 3 RBIs
 - VMI 13-1 Binghamton at VMI on 3/5
 - Justin Starke '23 had 2 runs, 4 RBIs
 - VMI 7-8 Binghamton at VMI on 3/6
 - Zac Morris '23 had 3 runs, 3 RBIs
 - Justin Starke '23 named SOCON Player of the Week
 - VMI 11-4 Penn State at VMI on 3/8
 - Will Knight '21 and Brett Cook '24 both had 2 runs, 3 RBIs
 - VMI 1-5 Holy Cross at VMI on 3/9
 - Brett Cook '24 had 1 run, 1 RBI
 - VMI 0-8 Lehigh at VMI on 3/11
 - VMI 11-7 Lehigh at VMI on 3/11
 - JT Jessup '22 had 1 run, 4 RBIs
 - VMI vs Lehigh at VMI on 3/13 was canceled due to weather
 - VMI 1-5 North Carolina at North Carolina on 3/15
 - VMI 9-11 Rider at VMI on 3/18
 - Zac Morris '23 had 1 run, 3 RBIs
 - VMI 4-11 Rider at VMI on 3/19
 - Brett Cook '24 had 1 run, 2 RBIs
 - VMI 11-12 Rider at VMI on 3/20
 - Brett Cook '24 had 1 run, 3 RBIs
 - VMI 2-6 #18 Old Dominion University at ODU on 3/22
 - VMI Men's Basketball (16-16)
 - VMI 72-83 Wofford at VMI on 2/23
 - Honor Huff '25 scored 20 points, 5-10 FG, 3-6 3PT, 7-7 FT, 3 Rebounds, 2 Assists, 3 Steals
 - Trey Bonham '24 scored 20 points, 8-19 FG, 1-6 3PT, 3-3 FT, 5 Rebounds, 3 Assists, 2 Steals
 - VMI 73-82 Western Carolina at WCU on 2/26
 - Trey Bonham '24 scored 14 points, 3-11, 1-5 3PT, 7-7 FT, 7 Rebounds, 2 Assists
 - SOCON Tournament in Asheville, NC (3/4-3/7) - Ranked 5th in SOCON
 - VMI 66-68 Wofford on 3/5
 - Jake Stephens '22 scored 23 points, 7-18 FG, 5-11 3PT, 4-4 FT
 - College Basketball Invitational Tournament in Daytona Beach, FL on 3/30
 - VMI 78-93 UNC Wilmington
 - Trey Bonham '24 scored 26 points, 7-15 FG, 1-5 3PT, 11-13 FT, 2 Assists, 2 Steals
 - VMI Men's Lacrosse (2-6)
 - VMI 8-9 St. Bonaventure at VMI on 2/26 in OT
 - Scout Ripley '23 scored 2 Goals, 1 Assist, 4 Ground Balls, 1 Turnover
 - Hartley Jordan '23 scored 2 Goals, 2 Ground Balls
 - VMI 8-7 Mount St. Mary's at The Mount on 3/4
 - 1st Victory over Mount St. Mary's since 2005
 - Hartley Jordan '23 scored 3 Goals, 1 Assist, 4 Turnovers
 - VMI 11-16 Detroit Mercy at Detroit Mercy on 3/12
 - Scout Ripley '23 scored 3 Goals, 1 Assist, 3 Ground Balls, 1 Turnover
 - VMI 6-11 Monmouth at Monmouth on 3/15
 - 3 Goals, 1 Ground Ball, 2 Turnovers
 - VMI on 3/19
 - 3 Goals, 2 Assists, 2 Ground Balls, 1 Turnover
 - VMI (3/5-3/6)

- VMI Men's Rifle placed 5th Overall (4537)
- VMI Women's Rifle placed 6th Overall (4411)
- VMI Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving (0-5)
 - ECAC Championships at the Naval Academy (2/25-2/27)
 - Men's Swimming Finished in 9th Place
 - Women's Swimming Finished in 14th Place
 - Vera '24, Lane '24, Blackwell '24, and Cosner '24 set new Men's 200 Medley Relay Record (1:32.94) - placed 10th overall
 - Chase Lane '24 set new Men's 100 Breaststroke Record (56.30) - placed 15th overall
- VMI Men's and Women's Track and Field
 - SOCON Championships at VMI (2/26-2/27)
 - Jordin Poindexter '22 Awarded the Heath Whittle Most Outstanding Athlete Award
 - Jordin Poindexter '22 placed 1st in Men's 200m (21.41)
 - Jordin Poindexter '22 placed 1st in Men's 60m (6.74)
 - Hunter Reed '24 placed 3rd in Men's Heptathlon 60m Hurdles (8.86)
 - Isiah Blount '25 placed 3rd in Men's Heptathlon 1000m (3:00.96)
 - Johnnie Walker '22 placed 2nd in Men's 400m (48.44)
 - Keyandre Midgett '24 placed 3rd in Men's 60m Hurdles (8.27)
 - Trent Whittaker '23 placed 1st in Men's 800m (1:51.02)
 - IC4A/ECAC Championships in Boston, MA (3/4-3/6)
 - Jordin '22, Walker '22, Whittaker '23, and Jenkins '22 placed 2nd in Men's Distance Medley (9:52.15)
 - Trent Whittaker '23 placed 3rd in Men's 800m (1:49.59)
 - Raleigh Relays at North Carolina State (3/24-3/26)
 - VMI Women's Water Polo (3-15)
 - Grove City Invite (2/25-2/26)
 - VMI 19-3 Penn State Behrend on 2/25
 - Makenna Moore scored 3 Goals, 3 Assists
 - VMI 25-13 Grove City College on 2/26
 - Genevieve Pettrasi '22 scored 8 Goals, 2 Assists, 2 Steals
 - VMI 17-5 Washington and Jefferson College on 2/26
 - Sydney Shetterlee '23 scored 4 Goals, 1 Assist, 1 Steal
 - VMI 5-9 California Lutheran University in Orange, CA on 3/12
 - Genevieve Pettrasi '22 and Sydney Shetterlee '23 both scored 2 goals
 - VMI 11-14 Chapman University in Orange, CA on 3/12
 - Genevieve Pettrasi '22 scored 3 Goals, 2 Steals
 - VMI 10-17 Concordia Irvine at Concordia on 3/15
 - Caragh Osborne '24 scored 3 Goals
 - VMI 7-14 California Baptist University at CBU on 3/16
 - Kiera Anguiano '22 scored 3 Goals
 - VMI 6-17 La Salle University at VMI on 3/19
 - Ellie Pickford '24 scored 2 Goals
 - VMI 14-19 Villanova University at VMI on 3/19
 - Genevieve Pettrasi '22 and Sydney Shetterlee '23 both scored 4 Goals, 1 Assist
 - VMI 12-28 #14 Wagner College at VMI on 3/20
 - Makenna Moore scored 5 Goals
 - VMI 10-14 Iona College at VMI on 3/20
 - Anguiano '22, Pettrasi '22, Moore '22, Shetterlee '23, and Novotny '25 each scored 2 Goals
 - VMI Men's Wrestling (3-10)
 - SOCON Championships in Boone, NC on 3/5
 - Placed 7th Overall
 - Tyler Mousaw '24 placed 4th Overall (197 lbs)

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Game Ball Extracted
Tech "Rangers" Ambushed

A makeshift recon team of VMI cadets intercepted two VPI "Rangers" just east of Lynchburg in the early morning hours of November 14 and extracted the Oyster Bowl game ball which the Tech "Ranger" platoon, in shifts, was running to Norfolk. Actual contact was made with Hokie runners at about 2:45 am on Route 460 four miles west of Concord, Virginia. The VMI raiders were back in barracks with the ball by 4:15 am.

The raid to get the ball was organized as a response to a newspaper article which appeared in a Southwestern Virginia newspaper early in the week of Nov. 10. In the article, the cadet officer commanding the Tech "Ranger" platoon declared the Hokies were making the 248 mile trek to "outdo VMI on behalf of the entire Tech corps."

The Tech cadet also described the operation in general terms, stating that shifts of two runners would begin advancing the ball in three-mile increments after morning formation Thursday, November 13, and that an average rate of six miles per hour was anticipated. Starting Thursday afternoon, Roanoke radio station Q99 began giving updates on the Hokies' progress. This data proved invaluable as the Keydet raiders were able to use it to estimate the approximate location of the Hokies.

Twenty-two members of the first, second, and third classes comprising the assault group organized themselves after Taps on Thursday, November 13 and departed barracks in four cars just after midnight. They proceeded on Rt. 60 to Buena Vista, turned off onto 501 (direction Lynchburg), and then picked up 122 (South) at Big Island. At Bedford, the junction of Routes 460 and 122, the Keydets split up into two teams, each consisting of two cars.

The first team exited 122 onto 460 (East) and began traveling towards Lynchburg looking for the Hokies. The second team continued on 122 (South) another 11 miles and turned onto Rt. 24 (East) near Gillespie. The decision to split the group into two teams was made after a close study of the map revealed that the Hokies could actually have saved time using the

more direct path along the less traveled Rt. 24. The Keydets had also set Concord, the junction of Rts. 460 and 24 east of Lynchburg, as the site for a rendezvous between the two VMI recon teams. According to initial plans, the team making contact with the runners was to pass the Hokies, observing exactly how they were set up, and then continue on to Concord where the rendezvous would occur and all four Keydet cars could mass for the final assault.

The Keydets in the two cars traveling on Rt. 460 knew they were hot on the trail when they pulled into a convenience store and found out that the Hokies had passed by only a few hours earlier. Meanwhile, the two Keydet cars going South on Rt. 122 and then east on Rt. 24 did not even see another car, much less a group of Hokies. They arrived in Concord via Rt. 24 about 2:50 am and waited for the Rt. 460 team to rendezvous.

The two cars of the Rt. 460 team observed about eight cars stopped in front of a "Dunkin' Donuts" store several miles east of Lynchburg. They continued going east on 460 and finally sighted the two runners, unescorted, carrying the ball about four miles west of Concord. Deciding that the timing was right to execute the coup, the Keydets decided not to meet the rendezvous with the other

team in Concord, but instead to hit the runners while they were still unescorted. The two cars then went about one-half mile past the runners, dropping off several hit-men who concealed themselves in the bushes beside the road. A mad foot race ensued which concluded after the "Starsky and Hutch" driving antics of one Keydet driver trapped the runners against the guard rail.

As soon as the raiders had the ball in their possession, one of the two cars from the Rt. 460 team sped back to Lexington with the ball while the other car drove to Concord to inform the two Keydet cars waiting there about the successful extraction of the ball. Upon arriving back at barracks, the raiders gave an "Old Yell" around the sentinel box and collapsed into their bays.

One of the highlights of the pre-game ceremonies Saturday in Norfolk occurred when both the VMI First Class and the Tech "Rangers" made presentations of game balls to flustered Oyster Bowl officials. The Hokies, of course, claimed that they were presenting the game ball and that VMI's presentation was a hoax. It is interesting to note that the Commandant of the Tech corps had called the VMI Commandant's office to ascertain the whereabouts of the game ball early Friday.



The Cadet, Nov 8, 1980

VMI to Cancel Awards Named for Jackson and Ezekiel

From A3

Britannica, the "Lost Cause, (is) an interpretation of the American Civil War viewed by most historians as a myth that attempts to preserve the honor of the South by casting the Confederate defeat in the best possible light." Mrs. Linda Edwards published the UDC's official position, stating, "The United Daughters of the Confederacy totally denounces any individual or group that promotes racial divisiveness or white supremacy. And we call on these people to cease using Confederate symbols for their abhorrent and reprehensible purposes." The UDC statement continued, "We are saddened that some people find anything connected with

the Confederacy to be offensive. Our Confederate ancestors were and are Americans. We as an Organization do not sit in judgment of them nor do we impose the standards of the 19th century on Americans of the 21st century."

The CMNRC's decision is one of many similar decisions by VMI to distance itself from the Lost Cause. Other recent decisions include a cancellation this academic year by the Commandant's Office of **The Cadet Living History Society & Civil War Roundtable** as a cadet club. "The Civil War Round Table," as it was traditionally called, had as its charter "to allow cadets the opportunity to take part in living history events and battle reenactments to obtain a better understanding of history perspective

based on its association with the Civil War and the Confederacy." Also recently removed was the stone inscription which bore Stonewall Jackson's name above Jackson Arch. Although talk was had to remove and preserve the stone, this was deemed infeasible, which resulted in the embossed name being chiseled off and destroyed.

These actions are in line with the Barnes & Thornburg, LLP report recommendation that "VMI should solicit input from current cadets and organizations when considering any action related to the Civil War or Confederate-era iconography, symbolism, and traditions." Although it did not contain any details of who or how input from the Corps and alumni were obtained, VMI's

July 1, 2021 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Review: 30 Day Report stated, "The Commandant's office has eliminated association between activities it sponsors and the Civil War and the Confederacy."

The Cadet contacted UDC for comment on the BOV's decision and was informed the UDC has not been officially notified from VMI that the institute does not wish to receive their awards.

The CMNRC members are, Mr. Richard K. Hines V '66, Chair, CAD Dane Hamilton '22, Mr. Hugh M. Fain III '80, COL Keith Gibson '77, LTC Catharine Ingersoll, Mr. Lester Johnson '95, Mr. Anthony Moore '78, COL Kim C. Parker and Mr. Gene Scott '80

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The Cadet to publish for over 50 years.

VMI Pipe Band Attends the New York City Tartan Day Parade

- By Cadet Emily Liska '22

The VMI Pipe Band attended the Tartan Day Parade in New York City on Saturday, April 9th. Under the field direction of Drum Major Luis Ramirez-Vale '22 and Pipe Major Emily Liska '22, more than 40 pipers and drummers from all four classes marched in the parade. The group was accompanied by Maj. Burt Mitchell, Director of the Pipe Band, and CSM Suzanne Rubenstein.

The VMI Pipe Band was seen by thousands of onlookers throughout the ten-block route. Their first time performing in this parade, it is the hope of all pipe band members that this becomes an annual event. Perhaps the most special part of the parade was the invitation to join two other pipe bands to play in a street performance, a rarity for the VMI Pipe Band, as they often do not have the opportunity to play with other

pipe bands.

A "tartan" is the pattern found on kilts, and each pattern is unique to a family, clan, or organization. Tartan Day is predominantly a North American celebration commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 during the first Scottish War of Independence. Many of Scottish descent also celebrate the repeal of the 1747 Act of Proscription following the Scottish loss against England in the 1747 War of Independence. This act banned the wearing of tartans, playing of the bagpipes, and speaking Gaelic, all of which were integral to Scottish culture. The tartan that VMI Pipe Band cadets wear is specific to VMI, and is called the "New Market Tartan", which was designed by cadets that were founding members of the Pipe Band.

This is the last off-post performance for 1/C members of the Pipe



The VMI Pipe Band in front of Radio City Music Hall, New York Photo by Emily Liska '22

Band, as well as for their Director, Major Mitchell, who will be retiring from his position at the completion of this

academic year. An article on his impact at VMI will be featured in the next issue of *The Cadet*.

Military Junior College Series: The Georgia Military College

- By Cadet Kolton Dobson '23

The final article in our series on Military Junior Colleges will cover the Georgia Military College, located in Milledgeville, Georgia. As with other M.J.C.'s, G.M.C. allows cadets to commission into the Army with the Early Commissioning Program, detailed in a previous article of the series.

Named Middle Georgia Military and Agricultural College at its founding in 1879, it assumed its current name in 1900. At the outset the college was only a college-preparatory school to prepare Georgians for acceptance into four-year institutions. It was based in the former Georgia capitol building, which had been burned by General Sherman on his March to the Sea in 1864. In 1930 a junior college was added to the program. As the school progressed it began to admit civilian students, who now number 1300, in comparison to the Corps of Cadets' approximately 250.

In the present day the college has a considerably larger online presence, with an online program with over two dozen programs, and over 16,000 students. Interestingly, for a junior college, G.M.C. offers bachelor's degrees in six fields. G.M.C. has a multitude of programs to benefit enlisted men in the armed services. Airmen are able to earn a bachelor's degree as a continuation of an associate's earned in the Community College of the Air Force. A program that one would think merited further expansion and other military colleges is the State Service Scholarship



Program. With this a pro-nominated by a local state representative, would enlist in the Georgia National Guard or National Guard, graduate basic training and follow-on schools, and in return receive a full ride in the G.M.C. Corps of Cadets. Commissioning is not required with this scholarship, but is possible through E.C.P. or R.O.T.C. at another college upon graduation. Cadets would serve in the Guard as would a normal enlisted man, until either they commission, or are discharged.

The preparatory school has nearly 300 students in both the middle and high schools. Both schools are militarily structured, with the high school having a J.R.O.T.C. detachment.

G.M.C. counts among its alumni George Busbee, former governor of Georgia; Congressman Carl Vinson; former Commanding Officer of U.S. Army Western Command Claude M. Kicklighter; nine former or current N.F.L. players; and Oliver Hardy, Laurel's partner.

Why I Recognize and Support The Cadet

- Delegate Tara A. Durant, Virginia House of Delegates, 28th District

With great respect for VMI, its administration, the corps of cadets, and *The Cadet*, it was my pleasure to introduce a commending resolution recognizing the 115th Anniversary of one of the oldest independent student newspapers in the Commonwealth and the country. I look forward to my upcoming interview with *The Cadet*." - Delegate Tara A. Durant, Virginia House of Delegates, 28th District



Delegate Tara A. Durant, Virginia House of Delegates, 28th District

The Cadet Organizes Diversity Equity and Inclusion Public Debate

Editors Note: In response to the growing controversy over Virginia Military Institute's mandatory Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training, The Cadet newspaper plans to sponsor a public debate regarding the DEI program at VMI. This debate intends to foster complete and open understanding regarding such an important issue. The Cadet was, is, and always will be an advocate for productive expression and free speech. In this regard, The Cadet has contacted the Heritage Foundation with the intention of sending a representative for debate. They have already guaranteed a speaker to attend. We are still awaiting a response from the office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. The following invitation was sent to the VMI Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Jamica Love on March 30, 2022: If this is an event you would like to attend, please express your interest or send any questions to editor@cadetnewspaper.org.

Dear Dr. Love:
Please accept this request to jointly host with us and the Heritage Foundation as well as provide a speaking representative for a debate before the



VMI Corps on the topic of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at VMI.

We have tentatively arranged an educational scholar on the subject from a national organization, and ask that you or another scholar provide the argument for DEI at the event.

We request the following:
- A suitable on-post venue for the debate, such as Memorial Hall or The Center for Leadership and Ethics
- Internet access for a livestream. We will provide the equipment at no cost to VMI.

- Coordination with VMI debate team cadets and their advisors for format and

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The Cadet Organizes Diversity Equity and Inclusion Public Debate



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From A3

moderation assistance.

- Permission for *The Cadet* to work with the Corps of Cadets in developing questions for the debate. All questions can be provided in advance to both debate parties.

- A prompt response, within five business days, with a proposed date, location, and speaker.

If you prefer to keep your proposed speaker confidential, please confirm that you will provide a brief biography for the facilitators, in writing, on the night of the event.

We suggest that the debate duration be two to three hours, and that the audience be restricted to the Corp, or the Corp and alumni. This is an opportunity to publicly examine the merits of DEI, and facilitate the free exchange of ideas and speech. We have tentatively requested and expect to receive co-sponsorships for the event from within the VMI community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with

questions or other points of consideration. We look forward to your response and are continually available to work with you on this important event.

The editorial staff of *The Cadet* under Cadets Mansfield and Curtis is the POC managing all actions with the Corps (Editor@cadetnewspaper.org). The POC, under direction of *The Cadet* editorial staff for coordination of speakers, format and event logistics is The Cadet Foundation through the secretary, Ms. Deborah Hansen

(deborah.hansen57@gmail.com)

Very respectfully,
The Cadet Newspaper
The Cadet Foundation

***The Cadet* is moving forward with a permit request and coordination for a venue and speakers so the event can be conducted as a lecture with a Q&A should the DEI office and VMI decline to participate. The current plan is to conduct the debate or presentation before graduation this year.**

Statement by the VMI Alumni on the Recent Alumni Association Meeting

Published: April 12, 2022 by the VMI Alumni Agencies

Editors' Note: The following statement was issued by the VMI Alumni agencies as their version of the event that occurred April 9, 2022. This will be paired with the article by Mr Staso '79 to depict the conflicting sides of the event.

The annual meeting of the members of the VMI Alumni Association was held Saturday, April 9, to elect a total of 10 directors at large and regional directors for terms that range from one year to three years, coinciding with the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the VMI Alumni Association to elect its officers.

Serious issues were raised in the

course of the members' meeting, which ended without completing the intended elections. Here are the highlights of the meeting. We will provide additional information as we move through our election process.

An outline of events follows:

On Saturday, April 9, the members of the VMI Alumni Association held their annual meeting where all alumni in good standing who were present had the opportunity to vote for regional directors and directors at large to fill open positions on the board.

A group of approximately 67 alumni, non-board members and members of the VMI Alumni Agencies boards attended the meeting.

At the same time, the incoming Keydet Club Board of Governors and the VMI

Foundation Board of Trustees were successfully voted in without incident (this vote is by the sitting members of the VMI Alumni Association Board of Directors).

The officers of the VMI Alumni Association were voted in without incident (this vote is by the sitting members of the VMI Alumni Association Board of Directors).

As part of the members' meeting, an alumnus made a motion to replace the entire VMI Alumni Association Board of Directors and to elect a new slate of directors. This motion was ruled out of order by the VMI Alumni Association president based on the bylaws and advice from legal counsel.

Subsequently, a vote—supported by the president of the VMI Alumni

Association and legal counsel—was taken for the slate of regional directors as presented through the Board of Directors Nominating Committee. The slate as presented was not approved on a hand count of those in attendance.

Despite efforts by the president to work out the election of the directors at large and given the failed regional directors vote, the president advised that he would call a special meeting according to the bylaws, and he adjourned the meeting.

The anticipated plan forward is a special meeting to readdress the open Board of Directors positions.

Information will be forthcoming regarding a nomination process and special meeting to elect the open seats.

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Meetings will be held every Tuesday Night at 19:00 in the Adams Center, Scott Shipp Hall.

Contact James Mansfield in room 107 OB for further information.


Email: jmansfield@cadetnewspaper.org

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Questions see Cadet Mansfield '22 in Room 107

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Reminder to all Rats --- You still roll your Dyke's hays or they roll you!

Jackson's Statue finds new context at New Market battlefield



Jackson Statue previously removed from VMI property; reinstalled at the New Market Battlefield (Virginia Museum of the Civil War) - Photo by Judy Smith Photography, Lexington

-By Cadet Kolton Dobson '23 and The Cadet Staff

After a tumultuous year that saw the Statue of General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson abruptly moved from in front of Jackson Arch at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) on December 7, 2021 to an undisclosed location, it is now in place at its new home in the roundabout at the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and New Market Battlefield State Historical Park. Jackson’s name was subsequently expunged from the arch in his honor on the VMI barracks while the Corps was on Christmas break December 2021.

According to VMI historian, Col. Keith Gibson '77, the new location provides important historical context to the statue.

“Though Jackson did not fight in the Battle of New Market, the Luray Gap of the Massanutten Mountain, which can be seen from the battlefield, played a strategic role in concealing his army’s movements against Union troops,” Gibson said. “How fitting it is for the statue of Stonewall Jackson to look out over the Luray Gap which played such an important part of his Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862.”

Additional enlightening context comes from the original intent of the statue by its creator, world famous artist and New Market cadet, Sir Moses Ezekiel. As reprinted here from documents found in the VMI archives entitled *Stonewall Jackson Statue for V. M. I., Sir Moses Ezekiel Contributes His Skill and Labor Free of All Charge to His Alma Mater by —Thomas F. Ryan’s Generosity Makes the Offer Possible:*

Through the combined generosity of Sir Moses Ezekiel of Rome, Italy, and of Thomas Fortune Ryan of New York, a bronze statue of General Stonewall Jackson will soon be erected on the parade ground. It will be a replica of the statue wrought by Sir Moses for the Daughters of the Confederacy of West Virginia, and unveiled last September at Charleston.

Mr. Ryan became interested in the matter through the efforts of Colonel Joseph Button, who is a member of the board of visitors of the institute. Colonel Button visited Mr. Ryan at his home in New York Monday night, secured his promise to contribute the \$6,000 necessary for the consummation of the plans, and returned to Richmond yesterday morning.

It was while Sir Moses was in Virginia last summer that the matter of placing a statue of the Confederate leader at the school where he was an instructor in philosophy for a decade preceding the war was between the states, and which he loved so well, was first mentioned. Sir Moses Ezekiel, the noted sculptor and one of the institute cadets who marched out to do battle for their state and engaged in the encounter at New Market, then offered to have made a replica of the Charleston statue, then about to be erected. He is in possession of the original plaster cast, and offered to superintend the work and donate his time, if someone could be found to pay for the cost of labor and material, and of shipment from Rome to Lexington.

WILL COST \$6,000.

This offer has now been repeated in a letter from Sir Moses to General E. W. Nichols, superintendent of the institute. This communication says that the actual cash outlay for the monument delivered at Lexington will be about \$5000. Sir Moses will design a suitable pedestal in gray stone without making a charge for this work.

In addition to the \$5,000 for the cost to Sir Moses, it is estimated that there will be an additional expense of about \$1,000 for a base and for incidental work which must be done in putting the monument in place.

Colonel Button took up recently the matter of raising the requisite \$6,000, and communicated with Thomas Fortune Ryan, the Virginia and New York financier and philanthropist, who is his personal friend. Mr. Ryan, in spite of his long residence in the North, is intensely

Southern in all his feelings, and is interested especially in Confederate history. In his home in Nelson county of this state he has a private collection of Confederate relics and to autograph letters from leaders on the Southern side of the struggle.

So in Mr. Ryan, Colonel Button secured a ready listener for the cause which he represented. A photograph of the Charleston monument was secured for his inspection, and he was at once interested. As stated, when Colonel Button called on him Monday night, he gave quick assent to the proposition that he should bear all the expenses of putting the monument in place.

It depicts the commander looking over a battlefield, his coat swinging in the wind, his form erect, his face intent, his field glasses in his right hand, and his left grasping his sword. It represents Jackson as he was at First Manassas.

QUESTION OF LOCATION

The location of the monument will be determined later. It had been suggested that it should be placed in front of the sallyport of Jackson Hall, replacing the Ezekiel statue, “Virginia mourning Her Dead,” which now stand facing the parade ground. In that case the latter would be moved to some other part of the parade ground. It is Colonel Button’s individual idea that it might be well to place it on the southern edge of the ground, so that when the cadets drill daily they will face Jackson and he will face them.

Showing General Jackson’s love for the institute, a letter is in existence which he wrote from Centreville on October 22, 1861, to a committee of the board of visitors. In this he said:

“Your circular of the 9th instant has been received, and I beg leave to say in reply that I only took the field from a sense duty and that the obligation that brought me into the service will retain me in it, and will probably continue to do so as long as the war shall last. At the close of hostilities, I desire to resume the duties of my chair and accordingly

respectfully request that, if consistent with the interest of the board of visitors may be such as to admit my return upon the restoration of peace.”

Torre di Belisario
28 Via Campania
Rome, Italy.

From Sir Moses Ezekiel to General E. W. Nichols, Sup’t V. M. I., Lexington, Va. Regarding the donation of the statue and movement of this previous statue, *Virginia Mourning Her Dead*, donated to VMI as well as the New Market cadet graves from front of barracks to its current location.

My Dear General:

I repeat my offer to you in writing at your request that I will make the heroic size statue of General Stonewall Jackson in bronze upon a suitable pedestal in gray stone, all complete, boxed and shipped and delivered at Lexington for the bare material cost of \$5,000.00. I have no idea what it would cost you to place it on the ground in front of the Jackson hall. The foundation is already there and consequently it could only cost a very small amount to place it; one or two hundred dollars. Of course the statue of Virginia Mourning Her Dead, with the pedestal would have to be moved and placed in position on the new site chosen before the Jackson could be placed.

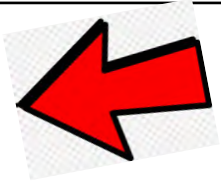
.....
Yours faithfully,
M. EZEKIEL.

Colonel Button’s message expressing his appreciation for Mr. Ryan’s gift in funding the cost of the statue, March 15, 1911.

Mr. Thomas F. Ryan
858 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.
My Dear Sir:

A telegram from Col. Joseph Button, a member of the board of visitors of this institution, subsequently confirmed by a

Jackson's statue finds new context at New Market battlefield



From A7

'phone communication, brings the gratifying intelligence that you have kindly consented to donate to this institution a replica of Ezekiel's Stonewall Jackson recently unveiled in Charleston, W. Va.

The board of visitors of the Institute will, at their first meeting make proper acknowledgment of this generous act on your part. In the meantime permit me to express the great appreciation felt by the authorities of the Institute by this act of generosity. The people of Virginia, as well as the alumni, will be greatly gratified. For 10 years General Jackson was a professor in this institution, and from our parade ground in April, 1861, he led the corps of cadets to Richmond, where they formed the drill masters of the recruits mustered there. General Jackson thus began the career which in two short years made his name and his fame.

A statue of the great Christian soldier located on our parade ground, made possible by your generosity, will not only serve as an inspiration to thousands of young men in the coming years, but will for all time connect your name with that of the equally generous sculptor, Sir Moses Ezekiel, who with equal generosity contributes his skill and labor free of all charge to his alma mater.

I have the honor to be, my dear sir,
Yours very respectfully,
E. W. Nichols
Sup't.

For his part, Sir Moses Ezekiel's donation of Jackson's statue continued his intent to honor VMI, its code of honor and specifically the Corps Spirit of

brotherhood that shaped his life not only as a cadet but during his participation in the Battle of New Market. According to *Moses Jacob Ezekiel: From Confederate Cadet to World-Famous Artist* published by the Jewish-American History Foundation, Ezekiel's statue of "Stonewall" Jackson was to memorialize him uttering his famous words, "The Institute will be heard from today," at the Battle of Chancellorsville, May 2, 1864. The Jewish-American History Foundation also notes that as for Virginia mourning her dead, "Ezekiel explained that he had conceived it [Virginia mourning her dead] about a decade earlier as a memorial to his fallen cadet comrades. Seeing the fresh young cadet faces before him at the dedication, Ezekiel recalled 'Something arose like a stone in my throat, and fell to my heart, slashing tears to my eyes.'"



DONATE



Jackson Statue previously removed from VMI property; reinstalled at the New Market Battlefield (Virginia Museum of the Civil War)

- Photo Courtesy of Judy P Smith Photography

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OPINION

True to the cadets and alumni who created it, cadets have 100% editorial control of all content independent of VMI or any other influence.



The case for New Market

-The Cadet Editorial Staff

People attend VMI for many different reasons. Some come here for athletics, others in order to commission into the Armed forces, and some for a springboard into the civilian workforce. But no matter the reason for attending VMI, when every cadet marches into barracks for the first time, they find a challenging system that is different than anything they have experienced before. Now you must consider, how can strangers of different races, genders, and creeds, from various socio-economic classes and altogether different walks of life be expected to come together under one unifying principle, in just seven months?

The answer: the Ratline.

The purpose of the Ratline is to cultivate these high school seniors from disparate origins into a cohesive class. It achieves this by wiping the slate clean for all matriculants and breaking them down from individuals and building them into members of a single unit. All of our interactions and experiences at VMI are based on this purpose. It is that shared experience, the shared suffering, that not only unites us in the class system but unites us as one Corps. And there is no greater symbol, no greater example, and no greater standard of that shared suffering and uniting purpose than the Battle of New Market.

On May 15, 1864, 257 cadets formed into 4 companies of infantry and one section of artillery and were ordered to join General John C. Breckenridge at New Market. The Union Army was making for the New Market Gap to gain control of the Shenandoah Valley. The two forces met and, after holding the line, these cadets, aged 15 to 25, charged the Union artillery and a brigade of veteran soldiers, capturing the guns and helping win the day. This act of extraordinary bravery cost them the lives of ten cadets in addition to the 47 who were wounded. Captain Frank Towne, a Union veteran of the battle describes the action in a letter to a VMI alumni "as a military spectacle [that] was most beautiful," and it was John Howard, a cadet who fought in the battle, who said of moving past the fence at the beginning of the cadets' charge, that he: "was leaving all thought of individuality behind". Is this not the epitome of a unified corps? We used to honor their bravery and instill that same sentiment that carried Cadet Howard to victory in the Rats when they charged across the New Market battlefield.

But no more.

The question must be asked; why? Why did this tradition end? Two years ago, the Class of 2024 was told that it was due to Covid. But evidently that is not the case considering the current Covid climate. This tradition had to end because the brave cadets fought on the wrong side of history. They fought for the Confederacy. They were the reason why a Confederate general succeeded in halting the advance of Union troops. But not one of these things has anything to do with the reason why it is a tradition at VMI. When Rats charge across New Market at the end of Hell Week, it is the extraordinary courage and unity the New Market cadets displayed that day that is being remembered, not who they fought for.

However, this sentiment can only be understood from within VMI and the pressure on the Institute that resulted in these changes is from external influence. Because of the social and political climate we live in, we are not allowed to do anything that could be viewed as relating to the Confederacy. We must adhere to these societal standards and that is why VMI has had to stop this tradition. But why should we care? VMI is already going against the flow with the way it organizes life for cadets. The Class system, the Regimental system, the Honor system, the Ratline, the Guard Team, the existence of the Commandant's staff, living in barracks, and ROTC are all counter-cultural. So why then remove the symbol of what gives them all purpose? If you are building a skyscraper, you do not remove the bottom floor simply because someone else does not see a purpose for it. How would you then expect the rest of the building to remain standing? The same is true regarding the founding morals of VMI.

Some people will ask the relevant question: "can we not find another symbol? Something else to demonstrate the unity of the Corps?" There is a proposal to replace it with the 9/11 stair climb. While the climb is a very special tradition and should be kept to commemorate the courage of the fallen that fateful day, it does not demonstrate the unity of the Corps, it demonstrates the unity of a nation. This is a good and necessary thing but it does not replace what was lost. The unity of VMI cadets is demonstrated through history time and time again. However, none so well symbolize it as the New Market charge. Never before or since in American history has a student body left the classroom and participated in a pitched battle. Some will say "we have to change these traditions because if we don't, people will stop applying." But it seems that we have abandoned our purpose and are now shocked to find that we have the smallest matriculating mass in decades. This Institute's attraction is its unity and its traditions, so is it any wonder that when our motto is effectively changed to "Be Ordinary" fewer people wish to attend?

Let us leave you with this. VMI is different from all other colleges. It is for young men and women who wish to be held to a higher standard. Our Mother I's fundamental nature is to be separated from the world because of this standard we hold ourselves to. The systems here form a bond between the members of your class, company, and the Corps. All of the VMI experience is based on that bond. So we must, as a Corps, ask ourselves, why should people outside of Post limits, who do not understand our traditions, be allowed to tear them down?

Whole Damn Team

New Market stories - Sir Moses Ezekiel

From jewish-history.com

As published by Jewish-History.com: "Ezekiel's war service came as a member of the Newmarket Corps or 'Baby Corps,' which fought effectively as the 295-man VMI Cadet Battalion in the Newmarket Battle. Moses Ezekiel participated in the fight as a private of Company 'C,' first in the forced march to Staunton, Harrisonburg and Newmarket, and then in the direct assault on the Union positions which defeated Sigel's forces. The battle was credited with saving the Shenandoah harvest for the Rebel forces fighting in the East.



"After the battle, Ezekiel's efforts focused on the sad mission of recovering the dead and wounded (the small cadet battalion had suffered 24 percent casualties). He first wandered the battlefield with B.A. Colonna [VMI 1864] searching for their mutual friend, Thomas Garland Jefferson [VMI 1867], a descendant of the third U.S. President. They found Jefferson, desperately wounded in the chest and lying in a hut. Ezekiel then walked, bare-footed (as his shoes had been lost in the mud during the assault), into Newmarket to find a wagon.

"The subsequently took Jefferson to the home of Lydie Clinedinst (Ezekiel wrote in 1884 from Rome to clarify misinformation that Miss Clinedinst (Mrs. Crim) had been confused with another lady or ladies, and had done no more than

provide her home to the cadets). While Jefferson remained in bed in agonizing pain for two days, Ezekiel nursed him and read to him from the Bible.

"On the evening of Tuesday, May 17, 1864, by candlelight, the Clinedinst family listened as young Moses read to his dying Christian friend the requested passages from the New Testament (John, Chap. 14): 'In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.' As Jefferson's fevered mind wandered, he thought Ezekiel was first his mother, and then his sister. As he lost his sight, he asked for a light. 'Only then it dawned on me,' wrote Ezekiel, 'that all hope was past and [he was] in his [death] agony.' The family gathered around, as Ezekiel held him in his arms while he died."



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Proud VMI alumnae return to VMI for the 25th Anniversary of Women in the Corps

Photo by VMI Alumni Association

A Legacy 25 Years in the Making

-By Cadet Gabriele Woodward '24 and Cadet Victoria Gurgos '24

Greetings. Today marks the beginning of one of the momentous times in the history of the Institute. You, Old Corps and Rats alike, will decide VMI's success on this journey of integrating the nation's women into the nation's premier military school.

Many VMI alumni have gone before you, giving themselves in allegiance to the Constitution that governs the United States. That same constitution and the laws derived from it have spoken. With that decision, the time for personal opinions on the issue of women at VMI pass into history. For all those that love VMI, there can be only one challenge now: make the change a success.

The entire nation will be looking at you in the days and months ahead. You have in your hands the opportunity for success. That means upholding the traditions of integrity, discipline, and impartiality that always have been a part of VMI. That means that some of you, both men and women, will not be at VMI this time next year. But most of you, both men and women, will return, because you are the material that is the Virginia Military Institute.

As the nation watches for you to take the Institute successfully into the future as a co-ed corps, no single group will be observing more closely than VMI alumni. Since 1839, we have dedicated ourselves to making the Virginia Military Institute successful and something of which all can be proud. We now have put our trust in you to continue and improve upon what those ahead of you have done. Give us, and yourselves, a reason to believe that our faith in you is well deserved.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Parish, VMI 1977

The above is a Letter to the Editor that was published in the 12 September 1997 edition of The Cadet. In the Fall of 1997, the Rat Mass marching into barracks looked very different than it had

in years past. Standing within the ranks that had historically been all-male, were the first women to ever enter the gates of VMI as Matriculants. Twenty-five years later, many of these women, as well as the women of later classes, returned to the institute to celebrate the quarter-century milestone that began in 1997.

In 1996, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of women being allowed the opportunity to attend the Virginia Military Institute and thus began VMI's journey towards equal opportunity. The following year, roughly 30 women matriculated into the Rat Mass of 1998+3. Four years later, the Class of 2001 graduated as the first co-ed class with thirteen women. Since then, countless women have broken out, earned their rings, and graduated alongside their Brother Rats.

This past weekend, the 25th Anniversary of Women reunited alumni from all over the country back at the beloved Mother I. Amidst these celebrations, current cadets were given the opportunity to step into history and receive words of wisdom from those that once walked in their shoes. Not to mention, the women of the last quarter-century were able to revisit the place where they were a part of such tremendous change; a change that did not occur without the perseverance of VMI cadets.

It was a change that evoked lasting resilience in both current generations and generations to come. It was said best by COL Angela Scott, '01 this past weekend, who stated, "it was almost cartoon-like easy, going through adversity because we create resilience here [at VMI]." The Corps of Cadets at VMI is no stranger to hardship, nor do they back down from a challenge, especially when they are faced with implementing a better future. At the time, there was more than enough unrest among both the Corps and Alumni. However, in true VMI fashion, cadets understood what needed to be done and

set about completing their mission: to implement women into the Corps.

These women went on to have tremendously successful careers in both the military and the civilian sector. But regardless of where they ended up, they retained the grit earned from the rigors VMI that continuously set them apart from the average citizen.

Today, there are more than enough accusations against VMI for mistreating all groups of people. However, these accusations fail to address the important factors that make VMI what it is. All Rats, regardless of their history, are put on the same playing field. No one is less than anyone else, but more importantly, no one is more important than anyone else. From the words of the current 1st Battalion Sergeant Major, Madison Cappellano '24, "no one is out to get you." Without a doubt, being a woman at VMI is a different experience, but "it is entirely possible for every individual to be successful here at VMI." For SGM Cappellano, her success "is driven by [her] desire to be the strongest woman [she] can be." The most important aspect of VMI is that it allows you to overcome the obstacles placed before you and become the strongest versions of yourselves. And as the first women of the institute proved, women are just as capable of rising to the occasion, and putting forth the effort, as men are.

The prevalent preconceived notions are coming from people who haven't lived this life, "but until you put your best foot forward and try to be with the men - with the other cadets - you cannot truly grasp the value that you can possess from these experiences." That is what VMI has always offered. The opportunity to put in the effort to become your best self. And it maintains the perfect atmosphere to get the job done. Of course, "there will always be people that look at you differently or make comments about anything you do." This was as true for the Class of 2001 as it is

today. But as SGM Cappellano eloquently stated, "as long as you put the effort in - even if you're dead last - you'll gain the respect from those around you."

This aspect of VMI is still true today. As many current and past Cadets can attest, there were times where we put in our all and still thought we had failed. But our Brother Rats respected us more for never giving up than being first. The women of the Class of 2001 had the daunting task of being the first females to prove their resilience. Today, their strength is evident in the women who continue to refuse to give up. And it has resulted in a respect amongst the Corps of Cadets for each other.

The institute has undergone tremendous trials - some of which it is still facing - arising from both within itself and from external forces. However, as proven 25 years prior when women matriculated in the first co-ed class: VMI is more than prepared to uphold their standards and produce men and women of strong and honorable character. This is even evidenced by Mr. Michael Parish in his letter. It is the job of the Corps to decide the success of the future and VMI is always prepared for the challenge. There are still many challenges that VMI must traverse, however, there are none that will overcome the Corps of Cadets.

In the words of Mrs. Carole Green, a woman who worked tremendously hard for the fair introduction of women: "Some women want that challenge; some don't. But the ones who go through VMI and complete that challenge are so impressive." The same is true for every cadet that undergoes the rigors of this Institute. Some people want the challenge that VMI offers; the challenge that the Institute will never cease to provide. It takes a special type of person to earn their diploma from VMI, and the first co-ed class proved it is not a physical attribute that characterizes these hardworking and courageous people who can.

VMI Class of '61 pays their respects at Arlington National Cemetery

- By The Cadet Editorial Staff with submission by Sal Vitale '61

From September 23rd to 24th of 2022, members of the VMI Class of 1961 traversed to Arlington National Cemetery to pay respects to their Brother Rats and laid a Red, White and Yellow wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The day was a tiring and emotional one, but entirely worth it for the still strong Class of 1961. Years following their graduation, they continue to prove the brotherhood that lasts beyond their departure from the Institute and the honor that identifies them as VMI Cadets. As submitted by Sal Vitale '61, the following briefly describes the event:

"Our activity started with a Thursday night dinner at Match Box Restaurant and was nice (maybe a little loud) but allowed 23 of us to get in the party mood. Friday morning we arrived at Joint Base Myer about 11 AM and 45 of us boarded the military bus for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Three Brother Rats, John Thompson, Jud McLester and Bill [redacted] of whom had received the Flying Cross, represented several hundred or

more people witnessed 3 old men, one with a walking stick; lay the red white and yellow wreath on the flower stand in front of the Tomb. Shortly after the announcer recognized "The Virginia Military Institute Alumni, from the Class of 1961", Taps was played and everyone was able to pay their respects. This was very moving to say the least. Stairs are a tricky trip down the flight that led to the presentation deck for Bill, but his Brother Rats were there to ensure he did not fall.

"Following a history lesson of the solemn place, performances and demonstrations were next on the agenda. So we boarded the bus and headed to The Old Guard HQ and parade field. We were seated in the VIP section and were the only people present. It is not too often that old men get the VIP treatment and this was certainly VIP treatment. What was even more special was the access to the soldiers after they performed. First up was the US Army Drill Team. Watching rifles being thrown, and many other routines and being up close (within 20 feet) made it very exciting. The marching and playing presentation by the Fife and Drum Corps had several of our Band



The VMI Class of '61 gathered in Arlington to pay tribute to their fallen Brother Rats and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. - Photo by the VMI Class of '61

Company BR's smiling brightly. The final performance was given by the Commander in Chief's Guard. They demonstrated the tactical movements General George Washington would have used to address several battle field conditions. The muskets were fired for each tactical move. The final movement was a bayonet charge and the trooper stuck his bayonet about 3 feet from my feet. Quite exciting! From the parade field to the horse barn was a short walk and though tired, we all made it. We concluded the day's activities with three

"Old Yells"- The Old Guard, LtC Ederle, and BR Ken Ederle. What a great way to end the day.

"Tired but very happy with the day's activities we said our goodbyes. Those staying over for Saturday's visit to the BR graves at Arlington Cemetery took a quick nap before dinner.

"Friday night the venue was at Doce Vita in a private room where we had wonderful food and a chance to visit

See A7

Civil suit filed against VMI over DEI contract award

- Cadet Jackson Creach '25 with The Cadet Staff

Cadets are all aware of Diversity, Excellence, and Inclusion (DEI) training at the Virginia Military Institute. It's often viewed as simply something that periodically occurs throughout the semester and takes up valuable time that could be used for studying and other extracurricular activities.. However, DEI training is purported by some of the faculty and all the VMI administration to be essential in building the modern citizen soldier by providing resources that enable students to perceive different experiences found throughout the diverse group of cadets. In a recent ABC 13, Lynchburg interview, spokesperson Col. William Wyatt claimed it is actually just meant to train cadets in "Critical Thinking." During the last academic year, *The Cadet* reported on cadet reactions to the DEI training that were, in many cases, negative.

Unbeknownst to Cadets and parents however, is that as of April 1, 2022, VMI was served with a civil lawsuit in the Rockbridge County Circuit Court for violating the Virginia Public Procurement Act while procuring a contract for DEI training material and services. Filed by the Center for Applied Innovation, LLC (CAI), VMI is accused of violating the VPPA by issuing a Notice of Intention to Award (NOI) the contract to one bidder, NewPoint Strategies, LLC. CAI's lawsuit claims VMI's competition, evaluation and the eventual award was "arbitrary and capricious under Virginia law". CAI's 54-page Protest that includes 245 footnotes and an additional 657 pages of evidentiary exhibits supporting its claims on contracting and other improprieties, will be evaluated in court. Additionally, included in CAI's protest and subsequent lawsuit are allegations that "VMI

deliberately denied access to, or concealed, or destroyed documents required by FOIA, VPPA and other applicable policies...with the aim of preventing challenges of any bidder from being successful" and that VMI's scoring system and evaluation method of offerors was arbitrary, and once again, in contravention to the VPPA.

So, what evidence does CAI put forth to support their claims? In VMI's Request for Proposal, the needs stated directly are for offerors to provide training for students and faculty. It required the hired consultants to understand the military underpinnings of VMI. Publicly available Court documents filed by CAI with its protest and complaint include CAI's own evaluation sheet, produced by VMI's evaluation team consisting of MAJ Lynn W. Carmack (VMI Procurement), LTC Jamica Love (VMI DEI Director), Prof. Tinni Sen (Economics), Prof. Keith Kline (Psychology), and Mr. Ammad Sheikh (Career Services) in which the Virginia-based Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), that has many VMI alumni and prominent military veterans on their team, was described as a team with potential bias for having VMI alumni and "too much military". While the reported winner of the contract, NewPoint strategies includes a Naval Academy Graduate, and a retired Marine. The official evaluations, including notes from interviews with the contractor, show NewPoint received positive remarks, scores, and support from Dr. Love during the interviews for a member of the NewPoint staff whose deceased father-in-law was in the VMI Class of 1933. CAI challenges that NewPoint was afforded favorable comments for understanding the military underpinnings of VMI for a deceased alumnus as the father-in-law of a staff



Rockbridge County Courthouse

- Photo by D Hughes

member, while its living alumnus participating in the effort were viewed as potentially biased. It is only up to the courts to decide whether or not such an evaluation is arbitrary, however, *How much military is "too much military"?* *Wouldn't New Point strategies then be a cause for potential bias as well given they have a relative of a VMI alumni on their team?*

Another cause for CAI's contention in the procurement process may be involved in the extreme one-sidedness that was provided to NewPoint strategies in the evaluation process. In the notes of VMI, procurement team members embellish NewPoint strategies with multiple points such as "clear answers, supporting CDO [Chief Diversity Officer], sound psychological science, energetic impression, and diversity of people and skills". All while two other competing teams were met with little discussion with points concluding that they were "Polished, biased, staying neutral, or having no substance". The lack of complete deliberation is a fair concern for CAI to

have, especially when clear, unbiased deliberation and evaluation are required within the VPPA.

Additionally, when confronted with the lawsuit VMI's response did not dispute the allegations, but rather appears to attempt to dodge the case, unsuccessfully. VMI filed a motion to have the case dismissed, stating an exemption to the VPPA on the basis of the Institute not being a party to a Management Agreement, but having entered a "Memorandum of Understanding" with The Virginia Association of State College and University Purchasing Professionals (VASCUPP). This exemption argument was denied by the court who stated that an MOU does not appear to bestow the status of a "covered institution," which would provide VMI an exemption to the requirements of the VPPA. VMI then responded by citing evidence from an amendment to the Va. Code § 23-38.90 that was *repealed* in 2016. Considering

See A7

VMI Class of '61 pays their respects at Arlington National Cemetery

From A5

had wonderful food and a chance to visit and for some, a last goodbye. That rascal Ray knew my favorite Italian wine and I asked the waiter for a bottle. Ray just smiled.

"Saturday, 18 folks arrived at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery. John Tharrington had prepared a route and we all followed him by car and then by foot to each grave site. A beautiful red white and yellow bouquet was placed at BR graves and John Tharrington provided a brief summary for each. We also visited the tomb of General Marshall '01. I think I heard the C something like "TI sinking while the d erate." The last site visited Bissell in it and we all parted fo



was very emotional day. "I cannot say this often enough, thank you Ray, John and Ltc. Meghan Ederle. A special thanks to all the soldiers of the 3rd US Infantry Regiment ("The Old Guard") who volunteered their time to educate and entertain us. What a wonderful time we had. For those who had to cancel out, maybe next time. You were missed and we hope you are doing better. There was a video taken at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by my daughter Lynn and as soon as I receive it I will send it out. Thanks John Tharrington for hosting Sue and me for two days at his home. Finally thanks to those BR's who helped me come down the stairs and made sure I did not fall down. Getting old is not for the faint of heart!"



The red, white and yellow wreath placed by the VMI Clss of '61 during their ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. - Photo by the VMI Class of '61

Civil suit filed against VMI over DEI contract award

From A5

the specific MOU in which VMI certifies that "VMI is in full compliance with the requirements of the VPPA," the mention of this exemption appears to have no basis of fact in the first place. Furthermore, VMI attempted to claim sovereign immunity from being subject to any civil court action. While in correct standing according to Va. Code § 2.2-4301, this plea was overruled.

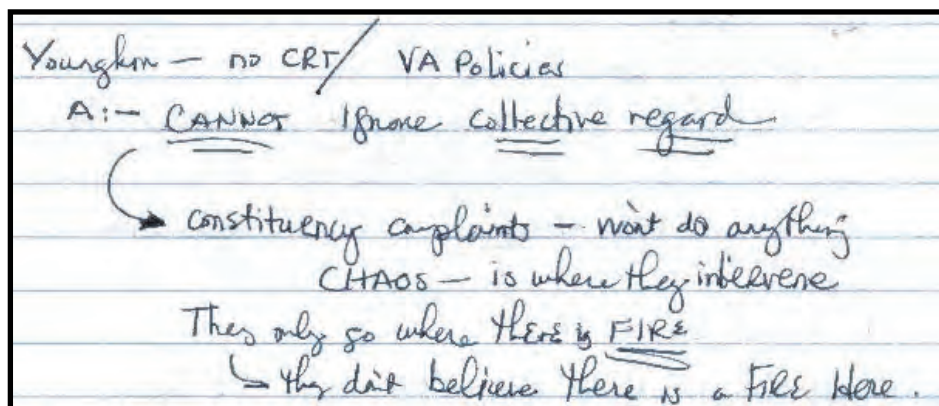
The case is gathering attention from many groups, including the Spirit of VI Political Action Committee (SOVP) that issued a press release calling for a full inquiry, not only into the alleged contract irregularities, but into the funding of DEI at VMI itself. According to a September 4th Press Release by the SOVP, following the appropriation of additional funding to the Virginia Military Institute during the last General Assembly session, Governor Youngkin directed the Institute to avoid spending any of that allocation on DEI initiatives. The SOVP states that when a high-ranking VMI official was asked if DEI funding was coming from the state appropriations by SOVP Chairman Matt Daniel '85, the direct response was that the DEI funding comes from Cadet Tuition and Fees. SOVP notes that, "in concert with another directive from the Governor, in-state tuition was not increased at VMI this year. And the VMI Superintendent directly stated to an alumnus recently that DEI funding is being expended from the General Assembly's forbidden appropriation."

Other documents in the public Court filings are also raising questions as reported by the Roanoke Star and other media outlets.

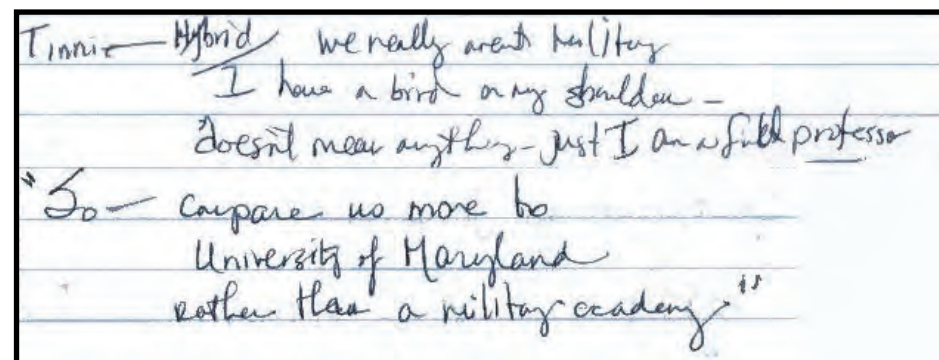
In notes from the interviews and other evaluation committee actions one evaluation panel member from the VMI faculty is noted as stating, "We [VMI] really aren't military. I have a bird on my shoulder [indicating Colonel rank] - doesn't mean anything - just I am a field professor, So - compare us more to University of Maryland than a military academy."

According to the complaint, records also allegedly show VMI developing a campaign to lobby or otherwise influence the Youngkin administration in Richmond, and a plan to deal with persons who criticize the Chief Diversity Officer. According to one VMI Professor on the evaluation Panel in a question posed to one of the offerors: "How to assist VMI with new government [i.e., then-new Youngkin administration]? Critical Race Theory. Collective Regard - Governor tends to respond to criticism and complaints" and "how will you support the CDO - people who do not support her?" This selection committee member also commented, "Youngkin CRT/Va Policies. Cannot ignore collective regard. Constituency complaints - won't do anything. CHAOS - is where they intervene. They only go where there is a FIRE. They don't believe there is a fire here."

The procurement file notes also include comments regarding VMI



Comments from evaluator Kline during contractor interviews as documents by the VMI contracting office.



Comments from evaluation team member Sen during contractor interviews documented by the VMI procurement office

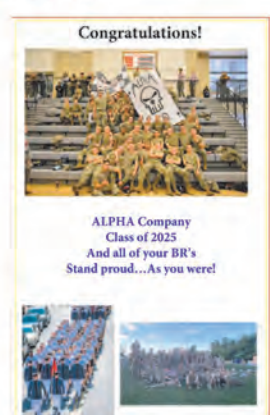
developing a media engagement plan to "Control who talks to the press. Shared understanding of what information is shared with the press" Finally in an email from VMI's Attorney-General appointed Legal Counsel, who wrote "We are getting a great deal of consternation on the subject of procurement. I expect that the probability is high that this procurement will be protested."

VMI's intent to dodge a lawsuit is questionable, however not an unexpected response from an Institution hoping to avoid any legal conflict. With this being said, The Cadet is prepared to stay up to date with the current situation and to continue providing cadets and the community with relevant information from the case.

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OPINION

True to the cadets and alumni who created it, cadets have 100% editorial control of all content independent of VMI or any other influence.



With Vision 2039 Reaching Its Final Goals, VMI Must Support Cadet Efforts

- By a current Cadet (name withheld)

Vision 2039 was unveiled in 2003, soon after General J.H. Binford Peay was named Superintendent of VMI. General Peay had used this plan to drive his tenure as VMI Superintendent--and given his love for this plan and his position of oversight--it would not be a far stretch to say that General Peay would have probably reached the 2039 mark as Superintendent had he not been left to defend the Institute against external criticisms. Even with his departure, Vision 2039 has been supplemented by Major General Cedric T. Wins with the publication of the One Corps, One VMI plan in an effort to unify the Corps.

Since its inception, the Vision 2039 plan has seen great success by acting as the driving force behind physical improvements on Post, some of which include the construction of Third Barracks, the Corps Physical Training Facility, and numerous renovations across Post. As a matter of fact, there are only two additional major physical improvements expected to affect Post in the upcoming future. According to this plan, the construction of a 5-level parking structure meant to house approximately 425 vehicles and the new Aquatic Center, which is currently under construction, will be the last of the physical alterations made to Post. The Vision 2039 plan has also been the catalyst for major academic reform at the Institute. These improvements cover a few of the fourteen points that are also outlined in the Vision 2039 plan:

1. A Military Institute and a Military Environment... delivering a unique education
2. Academic Reputation – Premier Undergraduate College in America
3. Renowned Honor System – No. 1 in the nation
4. 25 Partnerships with the best Graduate Schools in America
5. Balance of Arts, Science, and Engineering, with greater than 50 percent in hard science and engineering
6. Corps of 1,500 (with a goal of 150-200) female cadets
7. Greater than 55 percent in-State Virginia Cadets
8. 70 percent of the Corps Commissioning With Growth in Guard and Reserve – “Citizen Soldiers”
9. Every Cadet an Athlete – Winning Sports Teams – the VMI way
10. Leader Development System – Program unsurpassed
11. Physical Plant – Historic, beautiful, modern, and technologically enhanced
12. Organizationally streamlined, efficient, and communicative
13. Proud, Disciplined, Civil Cadets... and Graduates
14. One Cohesive Team – Alumni, Agencies, Board of Visitors, the Institute, Parents and Friends



See A6

VMI loses \$1,000,000 Bequest for Suppressing the Corps' Authority and Free Speech

- Letter to The Cadet

In an Open Letter to the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors (BOV), Alumni Association, Parent's Council, Corps of Cadets and his fellow alumni/ae on November 11, 2022, Mr. Douglas R. Conte M.D. '75 provided the following letter:

OPEN LETTER TO:

Virginia Military Institute Board of

Visitors

Virginia Military Institute Alumni Association

VMI Corps of Cadets

VMI Alumni/ae

The Cadet Newspaper

VMI Parents Council

November 11, 2022

I am a member of the VMI class 1975. In the nearly 50 years since my graduation, I have taken great pride in being one of the over 20,000 who can claim that honor. Therefore, I take no pleasure in writing this letter to make known my growing concerns about the future of VMI. and my conviction that the path VMI is embarked upon will destroy the Institute. And I don't mean the buildings and other physical features of VMI, but the traditions and other intangibles woven into the VMI experience from which I have benefitted and which is the source of my pride. I am confident that many other alumni share this view. My convictions have become so strong since Maj. Gen. Wins and his administration took charge that recently I reluctantly took the step of amending my last will and testament to excise a bequest of \$1,000,000 for the benefit of VMI through the Alumni Agencies.

In the brief span of just two years since the abrupt dismissal of General Peay as Superintendent, the Institute has traveled far down the path of political correctness. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and the tenets of Critical Race Theory (CRT) ideology, have sunk their toxic roots into the fabric of VMI life. The recent recognition of Gen. Peay with the New Market medal is not a step forward but simply long overdue. Even that effort was besmirched



by a crass appeal for donations by the Alumni Association immediately following the Board of Visitor's (BOV) announcement of the award, an act that only demonstrated how VMI and the Alumni Association are trying to simply capitalize and profit from what they cravenly avoided doing long ago. Adding to this insult is the BOV's recent approval of a \$100,000 bonus for the Superintendent despite a 25% drop in enrollment and the administration's direct defiance of the Governor and General Assembly's directives not to use budgeted funds to resource VMI's

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See A6

VMI Must Support Cadet Efforts



From A2

These fourteen points have been the motivation behind all the improvements seen across Post. Cadets from all walks of life are immensely grateful for the resources dedicated to their studies and their campus, but a massive number of Cadets are disillusioned with VMI leadership and feel that the administration has left them out to dry. Now more than ever, Cadets are enthusiastic to participate in the VMI System. Now more than ever, Cadets are forced to overcome obstacles placed before them by none other than the administration of VMI – made up of a few graduates that have completed the Ratline and even more new and outside hires that were brought on board with the specific purpose of driving VMI to its bicentennial.

Recent administrative decisions that have focused on responding to efforts of vocal factions inside and outside the Institute have resulted in an incredibly narrow, mainstream outlook on the VMI experience. It appears to be the opinion of the administration that leadership classes, better classrooms, diversity training, and bigger athletic buildings build the next generation of the nation's leaders; and that VMI's Spartan lifestyle, the Ratline's adversity and brotherhood, and the Class system's indoctrination of hierarchy and Cadet conduct is a matter of regimentation, and not one of transformational importance.

Unique to VMI alone, there are many organizations on Post that cadets dedicate full time job-levels of time with no expectation of compensation other than basic privileges, leadership experience, and the self-satisfaction of a job well done. Unlike any other college in the nation, VMI boasts the largest portion of its students that perform administrative duties crucial to the smooth operation of the college, as well as the largest collection of enthusiastic students that introduce additional clubs and responsibilities to their own positions of leadership, while still balancing physical fitness and a full academic schedule. In addition to this

impressive show of resiliency and initiative, VMI cadets must consistently argue with military officers and administrative officeholders that only have the Commander's Intent in mind and struggle with an increasingly bureaucratic system in which they have little means to navigate. In spite of this persistent hindrance by the administration, Cadets have prevailed in true VMI fashion.

The VMI Men's Rugby team has faced off twice against Christendom College's Crusaders, a team that has earned the #1 National Ranking for the last two straight years; conducts practice 5 times a week, and is now considered one of Christendom's valuable - if not most valuable - athletic teams. On Saturday November 5th, VMI rugby fought Christendom for their closest back-to-back victories in years, losing by only 1 in the first game, and only 3 in the second game. The men's Rugby Team is made up of leaders across the Corps, who are mostly on track to commission, train every opportunity they have, and - per club regulation - cannot receive recruitment or scholarship opportunities. Cadets, by dedication to the love of their sport alone, have recruited brand new cadets from the Corps that have no experience in the sport, competed in broad leagues that encompass massive skill differences, and have come out on top more often than VMI NCAA teams. Men's rugby is not the only example of Cadets setting ambitious goals to compete and win.

The VMI Army ROTC Ranger Challenge team transformed itself from a pseudo-military skills club to a machine of physical toughness, athleticism, and military instinct in less than two years. Of their own accord, the Ranger Challenge team's cadets organized training and set goals that were incredibly ambitious – and at the 1st Brigade Ranger Challenge competition at Fort Knox, they came out with the win, defeating every single Senior and Junior Military College in the country. They will be heading to the national competition at West Point hosted from

April 16-17 where they will compete against international teams and other Ranger Challenge brigade champions.

Cadets with an aspiration to join the US Coast Guard took it upon themselves to organize a USCG detachment. While young, it has grown to include many Coast Guard-aspired cadets, thus further increasing Vision 2039's plan to commission 70% of VMI's cadet population. The detachment prepares cadets for commissioning through the Coast Guard's OCS program by granting certifications, inviting guest speakers, conducting physical training, introducing internship and networking opportunities, and serving in the USCG Auxiliary. In their first FTX, the Cadets in charge organized the landing of a Coast Guard MH-60 helicopter on the parade field, traveled to Smith Mountain Lake, conducted aviation training, small boat training, and delivered safety and Homeland Security briefs.

Cadets were shocked and saddened to see that less than four hundred Rats matriculated in August. After the most successful Admissions Director in VMI's history resigned, members of the Class of 2024 worked with the new Admissions director to develop a New Cadet Recruitment Program. The extent of the program's goals was aligned with LTC Hagy's (VA) "tiger teams" plan and were meant to provide the Institute with resources to travel to high schools across the state and the nation to put a face to the uniform and introduce high schoolers to the Virginia Military Institute. The Admissions office placed a goal of two high schoolers filling out interest forms per visit, with a stretch-goal of five. A cadet's most recent visit to Buckingham County High School garnered over twenty. Still, VMI cadets are hired to be "cold callers" for the Alumni Agency to solicit donations, but no compensation greater than an optional formation and a weekend is in sight for the members of this program.

These examples barely scratch the surface of the hard work that Cadets put in each and every day to protect and support the Institute and its traditions

that they deem sacred and valuable to what they have become: leaders. While VMI will continue to take credit for its system developing these proud men and women, it is by the Cadet's dedication and ambition alone, as well as the teachings of their Dykes and the Ratline, that they succeed in the classroom, lead their peers, and create a better Institute for the classes to come.

It is time for VMI to make an official statement regarding the defense of our traditions, system, and the handing over of greater responsibility and authority to the Corps of Cadets. They have earned it. This is a call to action directed at Smith Hall and the office of the Commandant to begin the final phase and fifteenth point of Vision 2039: **developing and fostering a Cadet-Run Corps**. The fourteenth point of Vision 2039 has excluded cadets for far too long, and Cadets' inclusion is the only way VMI is to survive in any capacity familiar to the readers of this article at this moment. This is a call to action to VMI alumni and benefactors: support VMI clubs, scholarships, and the funds of Cadet classes. The money is earmarked for their benefit and growth. The Cadets of VMI are proud of their accomplishments and proud of their school, no matter who they are. If Cadets are treated like children – they will act-out like children. If coaches are allowed to insulate their players from the VMI system, creating a massive divide along athletic status when they should be promoting the hard work their teams put in as masters of the VMI military system and athletics; if the cadets lose their motivation to continue building a better future for those that come after them due to the demoralization, stress and anger they feel as a result of being undermined; and if cadets are continually treated like children imbued with self-importance, egoism, racism, and immaturity, the Institute will not make it to 2039. Create an environment for a Cadet-Run Corps to thrive, and VMI will reach heights that we never thought possible.

VMI Loses \$1 Million Bequest



From A2

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) program. Recently I was appalled to see a social media posting apparently from the Superintendent's personal account describing an alumnus and his own Brother Rat as "looking desperate and racist".

For these things I blame the Superintendent, Maj. Gen. Cedric Wins and some members of his Administration, as well as public statements by the Board of Visitors and the VMI Alumni Association for supporting them, vilifying alumni who have contrary views, dismissing them as being misinformed or simply disgruntled whose criticisms are ignorantly made without any foundation. Other improvident actions include taking authority from the Corps in running barracks; and splitting the VMI Family. The complex challenges VMI faces require serious, skilled leaders who love VMI and we do not have them. Fortunately, none of these ill-conceived changes are carved in stone. They can and must be reversed. For that I look to Gov. Youngkin, hopefully sparked by coordinated action of my fellow alumni. Fortunately, we are beginning to see real pushback over issues of free speech, possible misuse of curriculum funding,

and perhaps, defiance of the governor's directive not to teach divisive concepts and ideology all by a growing number of concerned alumni and cadets rather than isolated acts by some "small group" as the current administration endeavors to have everyone believe.

Protect Honor, The Spirit of VMI, and many concerned alumni are encouraging resistance to these divisive policies and ideologies. I have noticed that The Cadet newspaper is giving the Corps back its independent voice and we must all come together to truly return control of the Corps system, class system, Ratline and, especially the Honor Code and Honor system to the Corps under the traditional leadership of the First Class. The Corps, as it has in the past, must govern itself and be among the agents of whatever change may be necessary to restore and even improve the VMI experience.

We are not a "a group of unhappy alumni who want to stoke the worst fears and sow seeds of discord about the training and education of students" as Maj. Gen Wins stated in his October 18, 2022 letter to Alumni. We grow in numbers daily. We are dedicated to preserving that which is good in VMI while evolving what is needed to make VMI better for every cadet regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, belief or background. But this

must be done through transparency and openness to all ideas, all essential elements the administration, BOV leadership and Alumni Association leadership represses.

It is time for action. For my part, and for a start, I revealed above that I have rescinded the \$1,000,000 bequest to the Institute from my Will and am working to re-commit it to The Cadet Foundation or another charity separate from not under the thumb of the VMI administration and the Alumni Association, so that I know it will be used by alumni and cadets working together in the true spirit of VMI and not to support policies that divide alumni and cadets and that do not discredit VMI in the public arena. I urge more alumni to review their donations and act similarly.

Many thanks to The Cadet and all its' staff and supporters for standing up for freedom of speech, fundamental values at the Institute, and working to address the serious questions and issues facing VMI. The administration must accept, unconditionally, that the First Amendment is non-negotiable. The Administration must immediately stop all actions to control and restrict The Cadet newspaper, The Cadet Foundation, and the newspaper's staff. It must stop distorting the facts surrounding the re-

start of The Cadet by cadets with alumni support as the independent voice of the Corps and immediately restore the historic privileges of The Cadet as they've requested.

Next, return control of barracks, the Ratline, Honor Code and Honor system to the Corps without caveat or conditions. These are great young men and women who deserve our help and advice, but ultimate they must run the Corps.

Finally, the administration, BOV and Alumni Association must stop vilifying alumni while deliberately censoring and dismissing or otherwise repressing contrary views and the personal attacks against those who do not share "management's views".

Your actions against free speech, reducing the authority of the Corps to run itself and your divisive approaches cost VMI my \$1,000,000 and if others follow my example, hopefully it will be much more.

Sincerely,
Douglas R. Conte M.D. '75

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OPINION

True to the cadets and alumni who created it, cadets have 100% editorial control of all content independent of VMI or any other influence.

A Professor's perception of DEI and its impact

- By a current VMI Professor

Editor's Note: The Cadet prefers all contributors are identified with their submissions. However, given some experiences by Cadets and alumni after advancing alternate viewpoints on these issues, we understand the need to protect them while their voices are heard. We are particularly sensitive to the experiences of faculty and their concerns over losing their positions.

Since then-Governor Ralph Northam ('81) fell into disgrace over his own racist medical school yearbook pictures and ordered an investigation of VMI's alleged racist and sexist culture to save face, VMI leadership has implemented a radical new social activist program under the guise of increasing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Unfortunately, this new pursuit is killing the school. The dismal enrollment numbers from this fall furnish the most undeniable evidence of this. There are, of course, multiple reasons for the decline in enrollment numbers from overall decline in college enrollments nationwide, to serious issues with admissions and recruiting. It is encouraging that leadership is trying to address these issues; however, the administration recalcitrantly refuses to accept that its own policies and new social agenda are at least partially, if not significantly, to blame for the decline in not only enrollment but also applications. As a VMI faculty member, this causes me great concern since my job and livelihood are at stake, but also because part of being a professor means I seek truth: tough answers to tough questions. Much evidence exists that Virginians in particular, and Americans at large are sickening of the kind of aggressive



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

wokeness that masquerades under such titles as "Inclusive Excellence." We are told to "open the window" widely and accept all notions of right and wrong, good and bad—or more accurately to deny the existence of such notions, except for that great sin of intolerance—in the name of inclusivity. Yet, the very acts of the administration seek not to widen, but to narrow our view of ourselves and the Institute's view of itself by advocating a race/gender/class-based system of "equity" (proportional representation based on these distinctions) through social engineering and re-education. Unfortunately, this approach fails some tried-and-true tests of logic on several fronts and should be rejected in favor of neutral, merit-based systems of evaluation across the Institute.

First, assuming racism and sexism or any other kind of -ism explains any disparity begs the question because doing so entails assuming a conclusion without giving an argument. Even the rigged (I know because I participated) "audit" by Barnes & Thornburg produced no verifiable proof of systemic racism or sexism at VMI. Yet, the administration implemented its Unifying Action Plan (UAP) in response to a "crisis" and sets the action plan up as a "remedy to any perceived wrongs that may exist":

See A5

Editorial staff statement on DEI viewpoints

- By The Cadet Editorial Staff

The conflict surrounding the DEI office and the application of its program has become increasingly controversial yet remains of great importance. The following two articles were provided by two individuals and written based on their own experiences with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) program at VMI from their different positions within the Institute. The intent in publishing

these two differing viewpoints is to provide a dialogue rather than refute DEI or agree with it. The inclusion of DEI at VMI has become increasingly complicated and by presenting various experiences with the same program, we hope to shine light onto the subject and the problems surrounding it which may or may not exist.

A Cadet facilitator's perception of DEI and its impact

- By a DEI Cadet Facilitator

I was approached by an editor at *The Cadet* to write a short article on how the DEI training impacts me as a cadet facilitator. It was so that the Corps can read a point of view different from most of those so far published. Before I continue forward, I want to commend all those who chose to write on this topic in *The Cadet* previously. It is important that people share their viewpoints and are participating members of our Institute, even if we disagree. At the end of the day, we are all BR's and we need to treat each other as such.

I sought out the opportunity to be a cadet facilitator for the DEI program simply because it is where I think I can do good. I want to see that there is a fair meritocracy that continues at VMI. Where those who come into VMI are viewed as rats and nothing more. From that point on everyone should have the opportunity to choose their path at VMI based on the content of their character and the measure of their performance.

I think that at VMI and in most of the society people have been caught up with buzzwords and fear about what DEI is supposed to bring. These concerns are completely valid. We as humans are afraid of the unknown especially when the direct outcomes of an action do not seem to benefit us. With this in mind, I think that we need to go forward with empathy and understanding, not condemnation and judgment. I think that both sides need to have more understanding of the concerns of the other. This is a hard ask. I struggle sometimes in taking a step out of the scenario and looking in. Both sides have valid concerns that should be discussed and talked about.

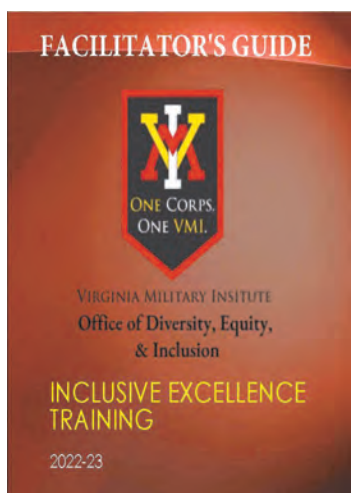
My goal as a cadet facilitator is not and never will be to tell someone what to think or believe. My goal is to promote an atmosphere where dissenting opinions can be spoken about in a respectful manner so that both sides can go away fully understanding where they agree and disagree. Chances are in these conversations you will find that people agree on 90% of the information. It is a few key distinctions that cause

disagreements.

The training this year centers around this fact. It is a set of exercises that try to teach the skill of having a discussion about tense topics that we all may not agree on. It does this by assigning cadets a position to represent on a topic and then flipping that point of view. Allowing them the chance to discuss the topics from both sides. While deliberately seeking to not expose personal opinions if the cadet does not feel comfortable. This will enable cadets with the ability to see an issue from both sides. Then hopefully, later in life give them the experience to handle leadership challenges connected to tense issues.

At the end of the day, it is important that we remain engaged and try to solve the issues we see at our Institute. It's easy to just shove off responsibility, but things can never improve if we do nothing to help. VMI is a special place that breeds the leaders our country needs, and I for one am going to do everything I can to continue what VMI has always done. Please read this as a call for unity and a request to lead with empathy. Stay motivated, respectful, and engaged. Everyone's viewpoint is important and does matter to try and help our "humble abode".

Editor's Note: A copy of the current Facilitator's Guide for the DEI training is available on *The Cadet* newspaper website AT THIS LINK or at: <http://cadetnewspaper.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/DEIGuideOctober22.pdf>



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SCAN TO DONATE

The legacy of Jamison Clark '23

From A3

Clark family. However, in true VMI fashion, cadets, and Rats, were expected to return to VMI to a regularly scheduled Ratline. However, this love, support, and encouragement did not end once the Rat Mass of 20+3 entered the arch; it multiplied. In particular, it was the First Classmen, the Class of 2020 that made sure the Class of 2023 was okay. The night the corps returned, the entire Rat Mass filed into Jackson Memorial (JM) Hall, where the GC President, Sam Trepp '20, spoke. It is impossible to portray to you, in words, the pain that comes with losing a loved one. Even those who wish to offer their support may not be able to fully do so. In spite of this, the Class of 2020 did what they could. And with tears in their eyes, they comforted their Rats as best they could. In the days that followed, there was a memorial service in JM Hall. Jamison's father was in attendance in full uniform, and the Pipe Band played 'Amazing Grace' in Jamison's honor.

Though the time of mourning ended, the Class of 2023 never stopped honoring the memory of their loving, kind, and joyful Brother Rat. On the day of '23's Breakout, the Alpha Company Commander offered Alpha Company a red brick - reminiscent of the brick the Class of 2020 had purchased for Jamison Clark; the one that still takes its place as the first of '23's bricks outside of barracks. Around this brick, was a red bracelet with the words: Jamison Lane Clark, forever our Brother Rat. It was the

same bracelet that was gifted to '23 in addition to a pair of dog tags with the same quote. Alpha Company would go on with their day, passing this brick between each of the Alpha Rats and, after a long and hard fought day, would break out with their Brother Rat Jamison Clark by their side. In the coming years, this brick would continue to be carried by Cameron Cavanaugh, Frank Azzarello, and other members of '23 for every breakout, every class unity event, and even ROTC rucks. As a Rat, I even remember the brick being passed among each of my corporals. When asked, they gave the simple answer: "It's for our Brother Rat, Jamison Clark."

However, these memorials would not end here. November of 2021, when the Class of '23 took their place as Second Classmen and received their class rings, they would still remember Jamison Clark. As Ring Figure was the next big milestone in a VMI Cadet's career, '23 saw it only fit to bring along the red brick; the embodiment of the Class of '23's brotherhood with Jamison. Just as he had broken out with his class, Jamison would also receive his ring with his class. '23 invited Mr. Clark - Jamison's dad, a Marine Corps veteran, President of his VMI Class and the Regimental Executive Officer his 1/C year - to be their honored Ring Figure Speaker. But the tribute would not end here. As a class, '23 purchased Jamison's rings - both the formal gold and the combat - and offered them as additional gifts to Jamison's dad and his twin sister. The gold ring was

sized to her ring finger and acted as the ring Jamison would have worn with his class. Throughout all of this, the red brick followed and occupied an empty chair at the table; thus representing and embodying Jamison as he attended Ring Figure with his Brother Rats.

Every memorial and every gift meant to remember Jamison Clark was not done to celebrate the Class of '23, but rather to celebrate the memory and the impact their Brother Rat left behind. The people whose lives he affected now hold the responsibility to be a part of carrying on his legacy. And while the support and love given to the Class of 2023 was well appreciated, their singular goal has always been to cherish the memory and honor the values that Jamison Clark has instilled within them. Every memorial that has passed and has yet to come, will take place with the purpose of displaying the respect and love the Class of 2023 has for Jamison and his family; and it will also speak to the character of '23.

As the Class of 2023's time in barracks comes to an end, the question must be asked: what will be done in the future? The legacy of Jamison Clark will not end once our beloved members of '23 graduate. It will continue on in his Brother Rats wherever they may end up. Even the Rats that now seek guidance from their Dykes, will receive a part of his legacy. So while '23, and Jamison Clark with them, will graduate and clear from barracks, the values he embodied will remain embedded in the walls of this institute. Many will remember this man



Jamison Clark '23

- Photo by Cameron Cavanaugh '23

in the years to come. Some parts of who he was may not always remain as clear as they do now. However, in the words of Cameron Cavanaugh '23, the pivotal pieces to remember are "his sense of humor, his ability to make people laugh, his care for those around him...and just the fact that he will always be a member of the Class of 2023."

A word from the Class of 2023: "We are blessed to know Jamison and are grateful to call him our friend and Brother Rat. God bless Jamison Clark and God bless VMI! Rah '23!"

A Professors perception of DEI and its impact

From A2

presupposing to answer a question before it was even asked. Such language begs the question of racism and sexism at VMI by responding to an accusation that the administration cannot even confirm as true. Everything is "perceived" and "may" (or may not) actually exist in reality. Still, the action plan goes on to act as if the accusations are true: embracing a basic tenet of Critical Race Theory that anyone who disagrees with accusations of systemic racism is wrong and can be dismissed without consideration. No evidence can exonerate the critic of the action plan or, by extension, criticism of its Office of Diversity and Inclusion. It is the way forward simply because the administration says it is. Such dismissal of the possibility of criticism sets up an irrefutable dogmatism and disqualifies itself from rational discussion.

Secondly, the UAP and current DEI approach to race/gender relations embraces an ad hominem argument. Instead of addressing actual data and trying to understand the underlying reasons for that data, the UAP proposes to achieve a predetermined notion of racial diversity and inclusion at the Institute by

"ensur[ing] we are using appropriate and achievable benchmarks which reflect VMI leadership's attention to diversity in the Corps of Cadets, faculty and staff." This intimates that current recruiting, admissions and opportunities for success at VMI are race-based to the detriment of people of color. That simply is not true. To advocate for merit-based, race-neutral standards is not racist; it is the opposite. Resorting to name-calling to put down one's opposition reinforces divisions and does nothing but vilify critics. This extends to anyone on Post who would adhere to traditional views of gender, sexuality and marriage as well. As evidenced by the administration's recently vaunted invitation of Kimberly Dark to speak at an event for the Corps to promote extreme views of these issues without any counterbalance, those who disagree are accused of homophobia or transphobia—labeling the opposition as both sick and immoral.

The UAP and DEI initiatives at VMI set up a false dichotomy: either you accept the teachings and tenets of the vision or you think racism does not exist or is not a problem. There is a third option (and probably more): disparities in achievement need to be understood

without limiting the only explanation to racism/sexism. Thinkers such as Thomas Sowell and Carol Swain have demonstrated time and time again that race actually has very little to do with outcomes when other factors such as personal choice, family, culture and values are taken into account.

While we could also detail the hasty generalizations and the use/mention fallacy inherent in the current dominant approach to race and gender relations at VMI, we will stop there. The real issue is not even that the UAP or DEI initiatives are illogical or based on unsound reasoning. They actually divide the Corps in unintended ways by separating it into various identity groups based on race, gender, gender identification, sexual proclivities, class and yet-unknown markers. Instead of focusing on the great things the Institute has achieved through the unity of the Corps, we are now fixated on addressing past wrongs and living constantly in them—unable to acknowledge and move beyond them. Cadets (and faculty) are subjected to a never-ending barrage of sensitivity trainings, cultural events that emphasize differences and leaders who only present one side of an argument and call it

diversity. Of course, it is good to have one's beliefs challenged, but there must be balance. Just because an idea is received or traditional does not mean that it is wrong on its face. Just because there is perceived disparity in achievement does not mean that racism or sexism is to blame. That kind of thinking forecloses the possibility of arriving at truth and of making corrections that will address the issue in the long term. College students today are clamoring for true debate and dialogue, but VMI is stifling such exchange and falling in line with the other Virginia four-year public institutions of higher education in its pursuit of DEI. As VMI becomes more like these other institutions, there will be fewer and fewer reasons for the Institute to exist. Why put up with the regulations and requirements VMI demands of its Cadets when you can get the same woke experience anywhere else in the Commonwealth? As an alternative, leadership should set its eye toward articulating and maintaining merit-based and race/gender-neutral standards that call on Cadets to rise above the divisive fray that characterizes our fragmented society.



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