The Advocate (Vol. 17, Issue 1)
The Deans Speak
Spong Discusses His Future . . . and M-W's

William B. Spong, Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, will retire on September 1. In this interview, Spong recalls his three years and discusses his post-retirement plans. A letter from Dean Spong appears elsewhere on Page Three.

Why did you choose this time to retire?

We're in our early 60s, the age of retirement. Also, I think that it's a good time for someone else to take over the leadership of this law school. We need a fresh perspective periodically. After all, the average tenure for a school dean in this country is three years, and I've been here for nine.

What were some of the greater controversies you encountered as Dean?

I wouldn't call it a controversy, but it has been difficult to convince the William and Mary administration that law professors' salaries at William and Mary weren't nationally competitive. I pointed out that we couldn't develop a first-rate law school without higher compensation and support for our faculty, Faculty salaries here are now above the national average. I hope they'll remain there.

What about private support?

I hope this year's Annual Giving campaign will yield more money for faculty development. Also, the Marshall-Wythe School of Law Foundation, going into its third year, should provide more money for scholarships and the library. Is a law school dormitory a possibility in the near future? The graduate council and a committee appointed by President Graves approved the construction of a student residence hall behind the law school. This project is in line for funding and construction in 1985.

Could you discuss your role in the Dalkon Shield controversy?

Last December, the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Virginia appointed me as a Special Master to develop a way to settle some of the Dalkon Shield claims pending in that Court. They asked me to structure a method of alternative dispute resolution, so plaintiffs can submit claims more quickly than going through the trial process. If that Court adopts my recommendations, other suits across the nation might transfer suits here for resolution. I've been working on this matter on weekends. If they accept my proposals, I could continue for another two or more years.

Is there anything else you wish you had accomplished here?

I don't know who will teach Uniform Commercial Code. I like to have more money for legal ethics next year, and will continue to teach Contracts next year, but not the Uniform Commercial Code. I would like to have more money for student aid. I'd like to improve the placement program—I have a different perspective on the placement program, because I experienced it as an undergrad, and I know we've come a long way. But we still have a ways to go.

As far as the faculty, I'd like to provide an atmosphere that reinforces personal aspirations. I'd like to have more money for research. I'd like to involve the alumni more in all aspects. I think they sometimes feel that all we want is more money. We must recognize that we also need the advice and counsel that they can provide through their years of experience. That kind of support is as important as money.

What relationship should the law school bear to the rest of the college?

Obviously, I feel law school is the most important part of the college—but it also is a part of the college. We should work toward a cooperative effort with the other faculty.

How does William & Mary President Verkuil view the law school? What course does he want to teach here at Marshall-Wythe?

President Verkuil views the law school positively. He is deeply impressed with the program here. He gives Dean Spong great credit. He feels, however, that we can do more and I agree. President Verkuil's field is administrative law, and we have not worked our whether he will teach here.

Many professors have mentioned the need for a course in agency law at Marshall-Wythe. Do you have plans for such a course?

A: We are looking at the curriculum as a whole and have not decided whether that may be one of the courses.

Do you think you'll stay in Williamsburg?

I can't really tell at this point. My son hopes to receive his bachelor's degree from William and Mary next year, so we'll probably stay in Williamsburg at least until then. I've been asked to join several law firms, and, also, to do some teaching. I don't know for certain at this point. The success or failure of the Dalkon Shield matter may be determinative. I don't know how much time I'd have to keep teaching.

Is there anything else you'd like to say?

No, I've tried to express myself in the letter to the students.
Get Out of Law This Summer!

Not counting Farm Fresh or Hardee's employees working in their professional capacity, how many non-law students did you talk to today? And of those who weren't law students or law professors, how many were students in some other school of this college?

A certain amount of isolation and social inbreeding is inevitable here. The classes we share, and our common need to use the library, make keeping one's sense of humor a necessity. The majority of Earthlings are not law students. Most are not even in college. Letters to the Editor from some of my best-read, most intelligent friends; only rarely - repeating, though - do I receive a letter from an MCAT candidate.

Even if you get a legal job this summer, make a concerted effort to meet those who rarely if ever contact the law. Non-lawyers' perspectives on life are indispensable. He who sees no point of view in this world but the lawyer's is more to be pitted than scolded.

Letters to The Editor

Reduce Merrimac Trail Speed Limit

On April 1 I was running down Merrimac Trail and I passed another runner - a young man, student probably, about 25 years old. We nodded hello and continued our run for about two seconds. That was all the time that elapsed between our hello and the impact of the car. The car hit the runner at full speed and sent him to the street. I will never forget the screaming of the car, the blood on the runner's face, or his screams for help. Whose fault was the accident? Maybe his. Maybe the driver's. Maybe, and most likely, the city of Williamsburg.

The speed limit on Merrimac Trail is 45 MPH. 45 MPH on a well-known residential street? I guess I'm expecting "easement," "negligence," or "counterclaim." Yet the world would be poorer without them, and they have as much right to do what they like on Merrimac Trail as I do.

Sincere ly, Joanne Moloney '86

Immature Humor

Sarcasm is a sophisticated form of humor, and one I enjoy. You should have concentrated on the humor form in the April Fool Advocate instead of lowering yourself to printing the juvenile attempts of Harold T. Barrel. This is a law school, not a grade school. Hopefully the maturity of humor, and one I enjoy, of the students and adults who have matured beyond the need to write "cute" stories about sexual experiences and the road. I don't know.

What I do know is a young man was struck by a car traveling at about 45 MPH on a well-known residential street. I will never forget the screaming of the car, the blood on the runner's face, or his screams for help. Whose fault was the accident? Maybe his. Maybe the driver's. Maybe, and most likely, the city of Williamsburg.

The speed limit on Merrimac Trail is 45 MPH. 45 MPH on a well-known residential street? I guess there is a reason. Isn't it important for the cars that come flying off Route 64 on to Route 143, Merrimac Trail, to continue flying down the street before slowing down onto the empty 35 MPH Capital Landing Road? Or maybe the city doesn't want anyone's milk to sour as they drive from Farm Fresh to enter one of the many apartment complexes on the road. I don't know.

I hope someone takes the responsibility and does something to remedy a dangerous and frightening situation.

Sincerely, Joanne Moloney '86

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National Moot Court Team Wins

The two Marshall-Wythe School of Law Moot Court Teams fared very well in the annual Irving R. Kaufman Securities Law Moot Court Competition. The tournament was held 23-27 at the Fordham University School of Law in New York City. The M.W. tournament has a field of 36 teams representing 28 different law schools to reach the semi- finals. Team B, consisting of Bob Acosta-Lewis, Mark Allen and Scott Sheets, survived the semi-finals and defeated host team Fordham to win the competition. In reaching the finals, Team B argued against Suffolk Law School, Pepperdine, Brigham Young, and St. John’s. Team A, consisting of Jeff Barnes, Jim Hoffman and Jerry Kilgore, entered the final four after opposing Temple University-New York Law School and John Marshall (Chicago). Team A fell to Fordham University in a very close semi-final match that was decided by only a fraction of one point.

Toxic Torts by Doug Klein ’87

“Ah!

Oh, the life of a nonsyn- dicated columnist for a nonrevenue-producing newspaper is not an easy one. Let no man be fooled. Last night, the editor of The Advocate, John Stop/The-Presses Alderman with his leather jacket threw me up against the lockers in the lounge and raged his hand around by threat.

“Alright, Kline,” he said, mispronouncing my name, “I want a column by five tomorrow or I’m going to beat up your roommate from last year.”

“But I don’t even like my roommate from last year.”

“I know,” he said, “Make my day.”

So, here I am. It’s after two on Tuesday afternoon, and my creative brains are already finished for the semester. I decided to do what people do in class when they don’t know the answer and defer to their colleagues. So, that’s what I did.

Somebody suggested I write a column on the dearth of cuteness here at the law school. You see, I got the comment “Don’t go overboard with cuteness” on one of my legal writing assignments. This comment has shamed me emotionally, and I am left with nothing. As long as I write a column on the subject of cuteness I will draw me, sort of like Mozart writing the Requiem in Amadeus, but not quite.

Another suggested I write something radical. I toyed with the idea of espousing one of my pet- wing causes: socialized lunch. All men and women, regardless of age, race, creed, religion, political ideology, sex, material wealth, height or ethnic affiliation, should be entitled to a bite to eat between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. everyday of their lives. Yes, and I include Sunday Brunch. Happy Hair could even be included in this scheme. I toyed with the idea of writing such a column, but who, save for a handful of Federalist Society members, could object to such a program?

A classmate proposed that I write an allegory that throw the cartoon Tom and Jerry to law school. She told me that Tom went hunting for a mouse to please his girlfriend. Tom was willing to kill for sake of love. This idea fascinated me, but I felt I could not deal adequately with such a complex human being in the confines of my column.

Another idea which I considered at some length was one to write about summer vacation, since this is the last issue of the year. I have always been fascinated by something summing in Indo-China with the Khmer Rouge. I am also considering something as a legislative aide for Senator Paul Trible or something equally ab- surd. However, I have already written about my Winter Break, and I felt I couldn’t be artistically- satisfied by such a bullish- endeavor.

Then I talked to Charlie, and what did Charlie say? He told me to write a column about all the suggestions I’ve gotten. Pretty cute idea, huh? Maybe too cute.

At any rate, I am sure the reader will come to sense a certain cir- cumcision in this column. I’m sure, it was a cheap shot, but I just couldn’t help it.

Keenly Watched: Low-budget Biblical epics that you can make at home.

Sullivan

Continued from Page One.

Do you foresee Marshall-Wythe among the top law schools in the nation? Or is it just a matter as Dean? How does Marshall-Wythe compare with UVa?

A: I would argue that UVa is the school—that’s all a Dean can do. A Dean needs the cooperative ef- fort of all who are working together. Only this can make a unique law school. If we create a unique law school which strives toward a higher atmosphere and continues to develop, we can’t do any better than that. It’s irrelevant how a law school places. We must focus on what we want to be and overcome weakness.

In comparison to UVa... I have a great appreciation for that institution and it was a source of pride to me to be on the faculty at the University of Virginia. But your institution. Its size allows us to offer something a larger school cannot. I am satisfied over the next decade the state of Virginia will have two national and distinguished reputation. I expect Marshall-Wythe to be one of them.

April 11, 1985

The Advocate

Page Three

Faults to Head Moot Court Board

Ted Fauls ’86 will serve as Chief Justice for the Moot Court Board during the 1986-1987 year. Fauls was elected to the Board on the basis of his competitive performance in the Gilmer Invitational Moot Court Tournament held in Washington, D.C. Fauls' performance earned him a seat on the Board, where he will assume the duties of Chief Justice. Fauls is the sixth and last member of the Board to win the competition.

The Moot Court Board is an independent organization that operates under the supervision of the School's Board of Visitors. The Board is responsible for the selection of cases and the scheduling of oral arguments.

Mary and William Elects Officers

By EMILY RADFORD ’86

The Mary and William Law Society met on March 28 to vote on minor revisions to its by-laws and to elect new officers. Congratulations to Ray McNichols, president; Susan Hettler, secretary; and Kathy Heyd, treasurer.

Spong Invitational Moot Court Tournament February 1986

The tournament, one of the most prestigious Moot Court events in the nation, is noted for having federal district, circuit court, and state supreme court justices preside. National Moot Court Board member Robert Acosta-Lewis says that William and Mary enjoys an excellent Moot Court reputation. He attributes much of this apparent success and recognition to the law school's rigorous selection program and faculty support. He also pointed out that teams may have as many as 10 practice arguments to prepare for a tournament.

On April 14, 1986, the Spong Invitational Moot Court Board officers will announce the winners of the tournament. The winners will be awarded a trip to the National Moot Court Competition and a cash prize.

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The tournament, one of the most prestigious Moot Court events in the nation, is noted for having federal district, circuit court, and state supreme court justices preside. The tournament is open to law schools throughout the United States.

More Information, Less Stinkiness

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Letters continued from Page Two...
Volleyball Teams Have Mixed Success

Men's volleyball season is well underway, and the Hardrockers, coached by Jon Huddleston, leads Dvorak league play. The Hardrockers started off with a quick win over "Fred" and continued to roll over "The Jets" and "Team X." The Hardrockers are led by Donnie Lascara, Ted Fauls, and Jeff Barnes. The other two law school teams in the Dvorak League share the cellar. Ray Nugent's Something Legal have dropped three matches, two by forfeit. And according to Team X's Captain Steve Schooner, Team X could be the worst law school volleyball team. But Team X stands at 1-2. (Don't kid yourself: they didn't win. They took a forfeit from "Something Legal").

In the Timmons' League, the Paper Chasers still have playoff hopes. After an early loss to the William and Mary Volleyball Club Team (Hard F it Balls), the Paper Chasers have rebounded to defeat Random Exclusion. The Paper Chasers are led by Bob Louthian, Bruce Gibson, and Scott Arison. Like Something Legal and Team X, the first year team NADS occupies the cellar in Timmons League. NADS stand 0-5 for the season.

Three teams from each league will make the playoffs. Playoffs begin on Monday, April 22 (yes, exam week). Take a break and go cheer your favorite law school team on.

Women's

By MIKE HOLLERAN '86

Under the dynamic leadership of coach Miles Prillaman, Public Nuisance has vaulted to the top of the standings in women's intramural volleyball play. The squad appears to be peaking for the playoffs and is determined to bring another intramural championship to the law school.

After a sluggish start, the predominantly second year squad has jelled in the recent weeks. Second-years Helen Cox and B.G. Brooks have excelled as servers while Ivana Terango, Anne Bugg, Donna Larsen, and Dawn Johnston have provided strong front line play. Kim Copa, Trish West, Lynda Butler, and Alison Vadnais have provided outstanding defense and setting abilities, while "Twin Towers" Sue Hekster and Patty Hulley have been dominating as spikers.

Unfortunately, the squad has lost the services of all-star Columbia Barrosse who injured her ankle in the last game. Coach Prillaman said Barrosse will probably be "redshirted" as to obtain an extra year of eligibility.

The team would appreciate the support of any fans who could come cheer the squad at their next game this Friday, 6 p.m. at Adair Gym.

To Remember

Special Times . . .

I BEG you to ask me out! Signed: A First Year.

Terry or Jerry, One of you must shave your beard! Sincerely, Chairman of the "I Still Can't Tell the Killgores Apart" Committee.

O, You have the most beautiful blue eyes in the world. Signed:"

SF undergrad seeks law student with high earning potential. Prefer cute Law Review student with good sense of humor. Send resume, name of law firm you're working for this summer and salary, c/o The Advocate.

Students elected Raymond Nugent, right, to be SBA president next year. Terry Costello, left, will serve as SBA vice-president. Other officers elected included Tom Cook, treasurer; Gregg "Froggy" Lehman and Terri Reichel, third-year representatives; and Chai Richardson and John Davidson, second-year representatives.

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