

Letter to the Editor

Broken Windows, Caveat Delinquentes.

The Broken Windows Phenomenon is playing out today at W&L. This is the direct result of President Dudley's total failure of moral leadership at the University. His Administration simply gives campus victims of Woke Cancel Culture the 'Euro Shrug/palms up'. His failure to go public after the Rodney Cook, Jr. is the latest example; demonstrators crowded the outside entrance of Lee Chapel, then commandeered seating inside to abandon so as to prevent other interested persons from seating. President Dudley has abandoned The First Amendment. He grants Cancel Culture protesters the right to obstruct and intimidate any speaker not up to Woke standards.

Members of the radical left can always be counted upon to 'one up' each other—striving for their own 15 seconds of fame and a Street Theater Oscar. A W&L student recently marked a new low among the Woke Wave crowd at Washington and Lee University. This student issued a death threat to all fascists who might want to hear the Matt Walsh speech scheduled for March 30 at Lee Chapel on campus. (Note the irony here.) This student's threat included a WWII photo showing dead, upside down, hanging 'fascists'. For those interested in why this is also a serious legal matter, peruse Virginia Code § 18.2-60 (A)(3). Note the student's death threat may be a Class V Felony. [Boldface by this writer]

"VC § 18.2-60 (A)(3). Any person 18 years of age or older who communicates a threat in writing, including an electronically transmitted communication producing a visual or electronic message, to another to kill or to do serious bodily injury to any other person and makes such threat with the intent to (i) intimidate a civilian population at large; (ii) influence the conduct or activities of a government, including the government of the United States, a state, or a locality, through intimidation; or (iii) compel the emergency evacuation, or avoidance, of any place of assembly, any building or other structure, or any means of mass transportation is guilty of a Class 5 felony. Any person younger than 18 years of age who commits such offense is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor."

Whether President Dudley's Administration, by taking no public stance condemning this behavior, is culpable to its student community for this downward spiral toward violence, is a question every rational University student and alumnus should seriously consider. The First Amendment is not carte blanche for Cancel Culture Wokes to threaten murder. Now is the time President Dudley should go public and issue a strong statement, drawing a line in the sand about The First Amendment, The U. of Chicago Principles, and closer to home, 'conduct unbecoming' of a W&L community member including students, faculty and administrators, ahead of the Walsh event.

Caveat Delinquentes.

J. Lane, W&L, Class of 1974