

Crowd rallies to protest decision; Graves responds to fee inquiries

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Rallying under various banners and signs, a crowd of William and Mary students gathered on the front lawn of the Wren Building Sunday to protest the recent Board of Visitors decision to upgrade the athletic program.

The rally began at 1:00 and lasted a little over an hour. The program featured several speakers and an appearance by President Thomas Graves culminated the addresses. WCWM had planned to cover the affair, but sabotaged the night before took the station off the air.

In addition to Graves, the crowd contained Board of Students Affairs chairman Dave Ryan, Student Association executive vice president Bob Ott, Student Senate speaker Dave Fedeles, and SA president Sharon Pandak. James C. Livingston, dean of the undergraduate program, looked on from the steps of Wren.

Pandak described the rally's organizers as "a group of interested students," adding that they were endorsed by major student leaders. In scanning the crowd, she observed "I think this is the silent majority we haven't heard from for the last few weeks."

From all outward appearances, the silent majority wasn't silent Sunday. The spectators milled about beneath signs proclaiming "Education, not entertainment" and "Policy II won't do," while students from the Asia House sang a self-composed protest song. In response to questioning about the rally in its early stages, Graves remarked, "What I see of it so far, I like."

Most students present expressed frustration when sounded out about their opinion on the Board's decision. One student stated that "the whole thing seems unfair," and another was overheard to remark "What gave them the right to do this to us? They just shut off everything we said."

These were the predominant attitudes of the speakers. Dave Oxenford, sophomore BSA representative, opened the assembly from the steps of the Brafferton. A banner announcing William and Mary "a college of the students and faculty by the administration for the alumni" served as a backdrop.

Oxenford cited specific points of dissatisfaction with the Board's decision. These included the raising of the student athletic fee beyond the amount specified in Program II, preferential treatment accorded athletes in registration and admissions, support of grants-in-aid by student fees, and the dependen-



Crowd gathers around the Brafferton to protest the Board of Visitors' decision to upgrade athletics.

Kieffer Photos

dence of funding for non-revenue sports on money raised by revenue-producing sports.

Additional grievances concerned the possibility of students supporting the athletic program beyond four years, should outside revenue not materialize, and finally, the disregard for student and faculty input in the Board's decision.

Kevin Hoover, one of the rally's planners, spoke after Oxenford. Speaking of football players, he stated "It is doubtful these people would be here if they weren't paid to come here. In my opinion, a paid athlete is a professional athlete." He added that in lieu of supporting the football team, the students might be required to watch the NFL games on Sundays, thereby "substituting excellence for mediocrity."

Alumnus Jim Taylor presented his remarks, contending that many of the alumni did not support Policy II.

Student Jim Klage spoke out against

Thomas Graves and his board of visitors. Klage proposed withholding a portion of the student fee on the part of the students, suggesting that the \$440,000 raised in this fashion over the four-year period should be considered a loan. Students would be issued promissory notes and paid back with interest.

Bob Ott concluded the student speeches by issuing a challenge to Graves to answer some of the questions raised earlier. These primarily centered about alumni control over the College community, the student fee, and preferential athletic treatment.

Graves prefaced his address with a comment on the rally itself as a healthy expression of student concern entirely in keeping with the Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. He assured the assembled students that recruitment and admission of athletes would fall within the regular system of admissions.

Graves also maintained that the fee increase will fund only men's and women's non-revenue sports and the intramural program. He further insisted, that this increase will be discontinued in no more than four years.

Graves held, however, that pre-registration is a valid concession to athletes. He feels that if a student is admitted to the College because of certain skills and abilities, he should be permitted to participate in related activities, unhindered by confining class hours.

Before leaving, Graves told students if they had any further questions on the new policy, to let him know of them concluding, "We'll get the answers to you, I promise you."



Graves addresses rally.

WCWM back on air

After an absence of 39 hours, WCWM began broadcasting again yesterday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. The station had been unable to broadcast since last Saturday night when the crystal was stolen from the transmitter located in Phi Beta Kappa Hall.

The crystal was returned sometime Sunday night or Monday morning, according to station manager Rick Krizman. Krizman said the crystal's presence is vital to the station's operation, saying, "the crystal is to the station what the human heart is to the body."

Saturday's incident was the third incident of sabotage on the station's transmitter this month, all of which forced the station to leave the air for a period of time.

Krizman said the campus security force along with other outside authorities is handling the investigation. The manager explained that