Acceptance

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for women. She hopes the men are told about it before they come to school.

"Living around here, I've always been intrigued by the school," said Painter, a graduate of Natural Bridge High School who plans to major in computer science. "It's just a very, very good school.

"I can't wait to get my Washington and Lee sweatshirt," she said. "That's the first thing I'm going to get."

"That's the kind of spirit among the freshmen, both men and women,

that pleases faculty members like Jean C. Dartner, an assistant professor of English who was on the coordination steering committee. "They wanted very, very much to come here," she said of the incoming freshmen, "and they're obviously not后悔verse."

Dunbar was one of the women in the first coed class at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, in 1968. It was closer.

Andrea Rickman, 18, was one of Kim Painter's classmates from Natural Bridge and will be joining her at W&L.

Rickman has wanted to go to W&L since she was in the fourth grade. "I kept that dream," she said, "I was so amazed that the very year I graduated, it went good."

In the fourth grade, she wanted to be a lawyer. Now she's more interested in sociology and anthropology.

During the debate at W&L over coeducation more than a year ago, Rickman remembers walking by a fraternity house and seeing a sign opposing the admission of women.

She said she's a little nervous about coming to W&L, but she thinks any male fees will soften. "I think the guys will really start appreciating it after a while."

Michael J. Black, a senior and student leader from Steevesport, La., hadn't been very enthusiastic about the idea of women at W&L until he was served on the coeducation steering committee. "I was more against it than I was for it," he said. "But I recognized I was more interested in the school than the (male) tradition.

Now he's an outspoken booster of coeducation.

He's worked on the draft of a school policy against sexual harassment - a sexual slur now can bring about suspension or even dismissal - and worked on a plan to speed women's involvement in student government.

For too long, he said, W&L men have known women only on a party basis. "dressed up, pretty."

Except for a few women exceptions, "you see women only at a social function," he said. "It's all small talk. You're playing on first impressions. I hope guys are more respectful. I know some guys are downright rude to them. I guess that's true everywhere."

One of his friends from a women's college had come to W&L many times, always "dressed up." One day, she threw on jeans and a T-shirt, he said, and W&L men didn't know how to relate to her.

Now Black is looking forward to more all-around friendships forming between the men and women at W&L. "I think we will see women in a new light," he said.

He hopes the men won't treat the first women as "unapproachable, nor as "celebrities." "Just treat them like a W&L student," he said.

"I think a lot of the guys have this nightmarish attitude of these women coming in here and drastically changing things," Black said.

In his opinion, the experience of other newly coed schools was that the women were quiet the first year and only in subsequent years did they let their true feelings about their treatment be known.

The traditional weekend influx of dates from such area women's colleges as Hollins and Sweet Briar will continue, said Black. "We've got strong bonds with the girls schools that I don't think can ever be broken."

There will be some tension between the W&L women and those "imported" on the weekends from the women's schools, said Kathleen Plante of Great Falls.

A transfer from Hollins and a former exchange student at W&L, Plante, 21, will be the only woman in this year's senior class and a dorm counselor for 12 freshman women. She's majoring in East Asian studies.

"It's great to have certain things about the Hollins and Sweet Briar girls. I see that as happening forev-

tions of W&L," she said.

Wiant said that latent hostility among those first women didn't surface for a few years after the novelty of them wore off.

In 1977, women at the law school protested what the student newspaper called a "generally sexist attitude toward women." An editorial denounced "sexists" remarks made in and out of class by "members of the law school community." Some of the women threatened to withdraw applications that W&L's environment was "uncomfortable to women."

Angeline Didier Lloyd of Roanoke, one of the first women law students and now a consumer law specialist for Norfolk Southern, remembered some of that early awkwardness, which she said quickly dissipated.

In her first torts class, she recalled in the alumni magazine piece a male classmate asked, "In all seriousness and with no maliciousness whatsoever, 'Do you really think women can understand law?'" She answered, "Yes, I think we'll all do all right. He's now one of my closest friends and became that way during law school.

Sally Wiant is eager to help the new women at W&L. She's a network of women at the university listed on a recently prepared pamphlet giving the women undergraduate an idea of the resources for health care, counseling, athletics, and just plain human understanding.

"There still exists a mentality about women," Wiant warned. "It's an offensive mentality. It still exists and it exists on the part of some faculty members too."

"There are still a handful of underclassmen who, even as long as they teach here, will be resistant to the notion of women."

"I really think there are so many more people committed to making this work, that it will work."