

CHARLES FULLAM

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

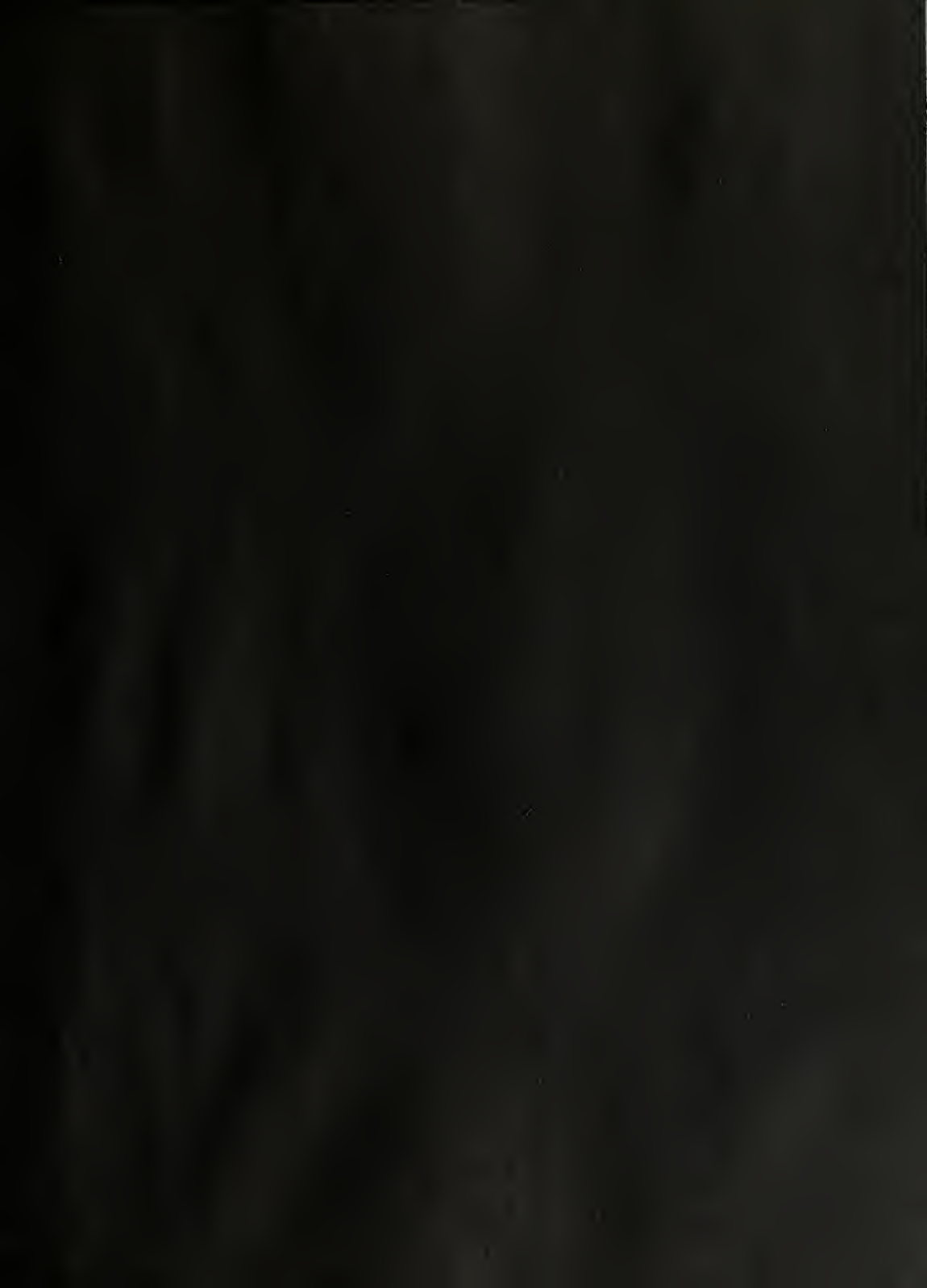
# BOMB



*Dedication To*  
**EXCELLENCE**

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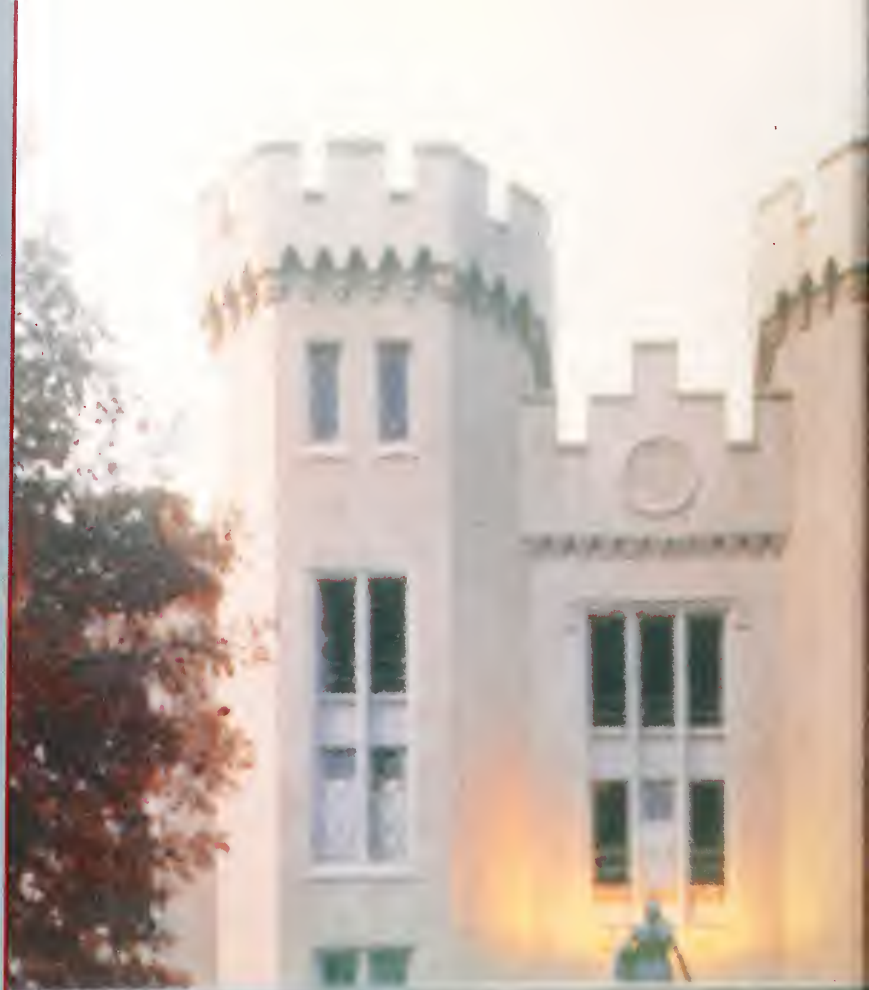
# BOMB 1998



Virginia Military Institute

Lexington, Virginia

Volume 104



**O**n an autumn night, observing the Parapet with the George Washington statue looking upon the cadets in barracks. This spectacle certainly emulates an impeccable theory of a citizen soldier by Colonel J. T. L. Preston

A PARAPET...  
...OF HIS...  
...ATTACKED TO...  
...IN EVERY TIME...  
...OR DEFEND...  
...PRESTON

# *DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE*

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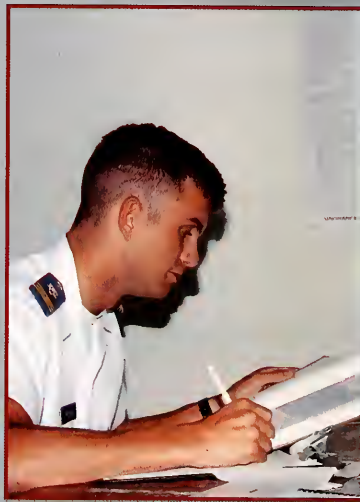
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# TRADITION

The Virginia Military Institute has its roots based upon other military schools, but with one distinct difference. VMI established a mission that was unique from its counterparts. The mission is to produce cadets who are ready to lead in civilian life and to be prepared as citizen soldiers in time of need. On 11 November 1839 the Institute became the first state military college, by transforming the Lexington Arsenal into a military college. Here the students would protect the arms while also pursuing an education. Cadet Private John B. Strange was the first to start the tradition of the citizen soldier, when he relieved the last of the Soldiers guarding the armory. Twenty five years later cadets from the institute practiced the military aspect of the mission. On May 15, 1864, cadets from VMI engaged in the Battle of New Market where ten cadets lost their lives on the field of honor. This started a long line of VMI alumni serving for their country in such wars as WWI, WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam and Desert Storm. This history became the foundation for which VMI has prospered so well.

Along with the history and the mission there are other aspects within a cadet's time at the Institute. The honor system has bound the VMI community together for 156 years. The focal point throughout every cadet's life is the Honor Code, within barracks and in society upon graduation. A Cadet does not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do. This is not a rule that we must obey by, but rather an ideal which makes the VMI man stand out among his peers. This ideal presents a high standard to live by, which few can manage. However, those who do, become stronger and excel at life and overcome obstacles that they may face after leaving the four walls of barracks.

There are many physical and mental rigors that VMI puts a person through during their cadetship. It all begins with the matriculation into the ratline. Cadets are bound with one another through the tradition of the hardships endured by this stage at VMI to become a citizen-soldier. After break out more dilemmas come about with balancing the three major aspects in a cadet's life,



Cadet Mark Redman diligently studies as the everpresent Honor Court sheet provides the strict guidelines that a VMI cadet will follow.



A tradition that is long standing is performed with a first classman's dyke preparing him for parade.





Alumni gather on top of the sentinal

box to join in with the corps during the old yells.

academics, Military, and Athletics. But with all the rigors there are payoffs. Two of the most important times during a cadetship is to feel the overwhelming satisfaction of receiving the Ring and the diploma from the Institute. Outcomes like these and many more are what make the hardships of VMI seem so brief, and insignificant.

After graduation, unlike most colleges, the involvement of the alumni is prominent. The institution forges a bond between cadets, alumni, and their families, on account to their laborious past, fabricated by the Institute. Forming a tradition of brotherhood lasting their entire lives, that compels the VMI family to eternally assist those in times of trouble, bringing about the ideal, One Corps, One Spirit.

Many may not understand, or accept the traditions of the Virginia Military Institute, but those who see and feel the spirit that embodies the VMI community appreciate what results from it. The mission is made clear and obtained by graduates, producing educated and honorable citizen-soldiers. They transmit the excellence that is gained, and it is regarded by the people exposed to them. The Institute continually overcomes obstacles it has faced because of the traditions it embraces. These traditions will support the Virginia Military Institute and all who embrace it, into the future with unbound achievements.

Written by Eric Martin



Above: The Ring, the pride and joy of every cadet and alumnus at the Institute.

Right: Friday evening Inspections are one of the many traditions that cadets wish would disappear.



# DRILL

Coming to VMI from different walks of life, we as men and women share nothing but diversity. Throughout the monotonous weeks that follow, the implementation of various drills replaces the disorder with a certain amount of symmetry. The drilling of the corps of Cadets has been an integral part of this casting process since the founding of the institute in 1839. The Corps of cadets drill every week on Tuesday and Thursday for CTT, honing and sharpening their parade skills as citizen soldiers. During parades the Regimental commander takes command of the Corps and drills them in rifle manual. The "snap and pop" echoes across the parade ground. This is a harmonious display of their unit and excellence, which has been finely tuned by Cadre and hours of practice.

As the weekend begins, most cadets prepare to depart for two days of fun and freedom at other colleges throughout the great state of VA. All leave but those woeful souls who have previously violated the rules and regulations of the institute. This is a golden opportunity for them to take their rifle and marching skills to a higher level. After completing their penalty tours (PT's) cadets feel extremely satisfied and realize PT's are not a waste of time after all...really!

After the Ratline, cadets sometimes forget what has carried them through their times of trial. Parades, CTT and PT's quickly remind those that have forgotten. They are one through their shared experience and pride of being a part of the Corps of Cadets. By the end of the four years, most cadets will have successfully completed their journey by means of one essential quality: unity.

Written by Jason Duffy



The change from  
the civilian world to  
the disciplined life  
at the "I" takes only  
days to notice.



Above: Rats perfecting their skills in the art of fixing bayonets while marching PTs. Right: Perfection is the direct result of endless hours of training during CTT.



The parade is the Corps' time to display their unity in the public's view.

# BROTHERHOOD

Through a system filled with adversity and challenge a spirit of brotherhood rises from the corps, and it is undisputed. The Virginia Military Institute creates a bond among cadets that lasts until death. From the final stages of the ratline to tailgate parties before the football games, "Brother Rat" is more than a phrase, it is an essence that defines a special part of the system at the Virginia Military Institute.

Every member of this brotherhood knows the undying sacrifice that four years at VMI draws. It establishes a person who is dedicated to his fellow man and to the outright success of the mission, civilian or military. "Truly a gratifying spectacle," there is no doubt that a group of VMI cadets can turn a boring Saturday night at the "Institute" and make it memorable.

The likes of General Thomas Jackson, General George C. Marshall, and General George Patton have graced buildings of Virginia Military Institute. This creates a legacy for cadets to follow and be proud. These men and the ones before and after them demonstrate, through individual accomplishments, what VMI has given them. They are special and rendered the utmost respect from alumni and present cadets.

With such a distinctive aura, VMI cadets and alumni represent two outstanding qualities. One is the love and adoration of their institution, and the second is a religious devotion to each other. It is difficult to describe the total picture of the VMI system in just a mere collection of words, but Tradition, Drill, and Brotherhood are definitely imbedded in its history.



Written by Aaron Frazier



Rah Virginia Mil... Alumni weekends are always enjoyable at VMI. It is a time when old acquaintances rekindle the memories of good times in barracks. Alumni are the true strength behind VMI. They are the ones who made the traditions and live the brotherhood.



*Right: The bonds we make are unchallenged. These young gentlemen are anxiously awaiting one of VMI's most exuberant traditions, the class ring. This is a true builder of brotherhood. Below: An extreme precision establishes a sense of pride in all facets of life at VMI. Parades are just another form of how precise a VMI cadet can be. These cadets also demonstrate what a regimented system produces.*



Football games are the events that bring the corps together, and truly show what type of presence they have. These games bring parents, alumni, and tailgaters together, which makes a Saturday at VMI most enjoyable.



# CADET LIFE

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

The Virginia Military Institute is not just another school of higher learning. There are many requirements that fill a cadet's schedule and leave a minimum amount of time to do little else. Here, cadets quickly learn to be self-sufficient, and those who do not fall by the wayside. Life is regimented and activities in which enjoyable as well. strictness and sys- at VMI, and expe- eager person for world. From the a cadetship, not cease. ing college grades ties or a first between a job Committee duties, with sleep time. third classmen are Figure and those vinned their class Even though their dets still seem to monster". Extra- very important in even more time is ments, they are The VMI hosts throughout the the norm. Alumni weekends, homecoming hops, and NCAA sports provide much enjoyment for an over-worked and under-paid" cadet.

All and all a VMI cadet, through his or her experiences, derives what it takes to achieve success in later years. The system is a guaranteed hardship, but it works. Four years of VMI gives adversity a whole new definition, but the sacrifices one makes here carry that person to a level of secure preparedness for what awaits when graduation has past. Truly, cadet life is a dedication to excellence.

Written by: Aaron Frazier



# THE CALL OF DUTY

May 15, 1864

New Market Day - a day the Corps sees as a time of final parades, final hops, friends, and family. This day is also a day of remembrance - remembrance for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and died on the Field of Honor.

Some may call them boys since they were only in their teens, but they were men, they were cadets. The Corps was awakened in the dead of night to help stop the Federal advance and marched 80 miles to the battlefield of New Market. In action, the Corps not only stopped the Federal Army, but charged forward under heavy artillery fire. Through hand-to-hand combat they overtook the artillery embankment. These selfless acts are what the Corps thinks about while marching in parade to honor those who died on the field. These young men have helped to guide the spirit of the Corps. Over two hundred years later, we continue to emulate those courageous and honorable acts of service to our school, state, and country.

Written by Tyler Sheibert and Bill Fallon



The statue of Virginia mourning her dead serves as a constant reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



The ten New Market Cadets are honored every year with a ceremony paying homage to their dedication



and sacrifice for their country and school. This day of remembrance is an integral part of the VMI Tradition.





Before the pass and review of the corps, the honor guard renders the proper twenty-one gun salute and lowers their head in respect to the cadets.

Right: The Corps stands at attention while waiting for pass and review. For most it is their last parade, but for all it is a time of remembrance.

Below: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta companies report the missing cadets who died on the Field of Honor.



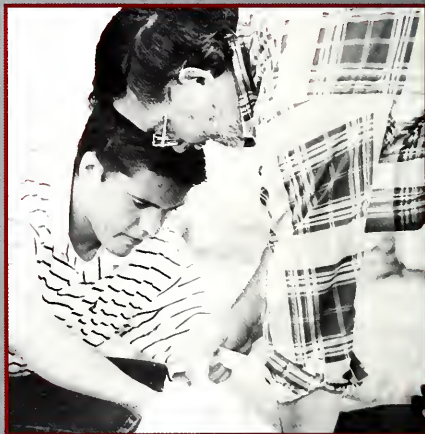
### **The New Market Cadets**

- Corporal Arwill.....A Co., Virginia
- Private Haynes.....B Co., Virginia
- Private Jefferson.....B Co., Virginia
- Private McDowell.....B Co., N. Carolina
- Private Stanard.....B Co., Virginia
- Private Wheelwright.....C Co., Virginia
- Sergeant Cabell.....D Co., Virginia
- Private Crockett.....D Co., Virginia
- Private Hartfield.....D Co., N. Carolina
- Private Jones.....D Co., Virginia

# MATRICULATION

Departing from the safe confines of home for college is never an easy thing to do. But leaving for VMI is even worse. The handshake from dad, or the tears of mom, all tear at the already anxious hearts of the young men and women. Walking into the dark arches of the unknown, the mind begins to question whether or not the decision to enter VMI was the right one. But for many of the incoming men and women the feeling of homesickness and self-pity is forgotten quickly as the cheers of the upperclassmen and the bark of the cadre rips through the silence. The journey has begun!

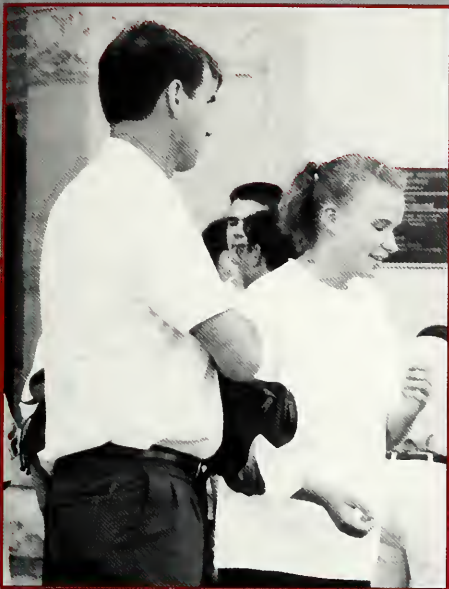
Written by Jason Duffy



A father gives his son a helping hand before saying goodbye.



Loneliness and confusion begin to creep through a rat's mind of what the unexpected may be.



A rat receives encouraging thoughts from their dad.



Saying goodbye to the past, upon entering the arches of the unknown where one  
"May be whatever you resolves to be."



The time has arrived, and the journey begins!

# CHANGING TIMES

## BRIDGING THE GAP

In the 1990's, the world has taken drastic social and political changes that have affected history's past, present, and future. New dimensions to these social and political entities have been created to maintain stability. In 1992 the Virginia Military Institute began aiding these changing times by hosting the Middle East and United States Policymakers Conference. Now in its sixth year the conference has seen a great deal of growth and development. Keeping the public informed has always been an important function of this event. Trade policies, economic agreements, and acts of pro-terrorism were some discussed. This conference was projected to such information as the "Impact of Global-Arab Relations" given by the U.S. Ambassador to the U.S.



The Middle East is not a country of social instability and military disasters anymore. Economic opportunities in this region of the world are shouting and the rest are adhering to these possibilities. While times may still be questionable, together the United States and the Middle East are bridging the gap. Making the world a better place through peaceful negotiations and positive reinforcement with conferences as this one at the Virginia Military Institute, establishes the good fortune for the people, not only from the United States and the Middle East countries, but of the world as well.

economic agreement against terrorism was substantive speeches by the Kuwaiti



U.S. Ambassador David Ransom and Joint Chiefs of Staff Colonel Gerald Thompson listen in on one of the conferences given. They were just two of the many dignitaries who attended this year's conference.



The Virginia Military Institute's Corps of Cadets displayed their parade ability for the many attendees. Pictured here are General Josiah Bunting, U.S. Ambassador Phillip Wilcox, and Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Muhammad Hussein Al-Shaati.

# HOMECOMING



*Miss Anna Hickman*

*Escorted by Cadet Christopher Stroock*

The 1997 Homecoming Queen is Miss Anna Hickman. Miss Hickman is a student at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, Virginia. She is from Blackstone, Virginia.

Rats experience their first home game and join in with the rest of the corps in cheering on the Keydet football team.



The second weekend of September turned out to be the homecoming weekend for the corps. It turned out that this was also an Alumni weekend. Many waited in anticipation for this weekend. Rats had their first opportunities to see their dates and families. Alumni were awaiting the chance to reunite with their brother rats. Most of the corps looked forward to the first home football game. The weekend was to be filled with many activities for the corps to participate in, which broke the normal rigorous day-to-day activities of cadet life. Hops, concerts and the football game were all about to take place.

The weekend kicked off with the first hop of the season. This year there was a plan to do things differently. Instead of the normal VMI hops there would be a concert atmosphere, in which all surrounding colleges were invited to attend. That day cadets and rats met up with their dates and were able to have a night on the town. The Alumni began to collect, and parties at Moody Hall were heard all over barracks. The band Cowboy Mouth, was the main event for the weekend. Cadets gathered to be entertained by the band, and they were happy to oblige. One cadet explained, "I was very pleased with the new style for the hops and enjoyed them both very much." They probably were one of the most well-known and entertaining bands to come to VMI. Many were happy by the way the night turned out.

The next day was to be the most important of the weekend. Saturday the Jay began with a crowd pleasing parade. Alumni, families and other onlookers were pleased to see the corps take center stage on the parade deck. Following the parade the Alumni classes proceeded into barracks for the moral boosting old yells with the corps. Afterwards cadets marched down to the stadium, where they were greeted with cheers and a hum from the crowd while they marched onto the field. The corps filled the empty spaces between the bleachers and awaited kick-off. William and Mary were the opponents for the Keydets.



Alumni and cadet families cheer on the corps of cadets as they take center

stage on the football field in the game against William & Mary.



**Miss Amanda Baker**  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
Escorted by Ian Boblitt '99



**Miss Mary Mason**  
Bedford, Virginia  
Escorted by Brian Long '99



**Miss Ellen Garrett**  
Middlethian, Virginia  
Escorted by Kenneth Sykes '00



**Miss Lucy Williams**  
Richmond, Virginia  
Escorted by Charles Clemens '98



**Miss Catherine Regalbuto**  
Chesapeake, Virginia  
Escorted by John Jackson '00



**Miss Leslie Pepe**  
Hampton, Virginia  
Escorted by Jason Hennigan '99



**Miss Gina Olsten**  
Middlethian, Virginia  
Escorted by Christopher Robinson '98



**Miss Elizabeth Fortney**  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
Escorted by Jason Crigler '99



**Miss Cassie Dufany**  
Forked River, New Jersey  
Escorted by Brian Lee '00



One of the more anticipated events for the alumni and families is watching the cadets during the homecoming parade.



The Keydets started off strong in the beginning to make what would become an exciting first half. However, William and Mary would come back and pull ahead, and maintain the lead to the finish. The Keydets' "Stone wall defense" made a valiant effort to hold off William and Mary, never giving up, no matter how far behind we were. That's the VMI spirit. After the playing of the Dixieology, the team standing tall and proud, walked off the field with their heads up. During half time, the traditional homecoming court was elected by the Corps. With an entry from each company, there amounted to be nine to choose from. It ended up that the Alpha Company's nominee, Miss Anna Hickman, would win to become the 1997 Homecoming Queen. Now it was off to the last hop in the weekend. Having a more formal appearance to it, the Corps once again danced the night away to the beat of a new land. Alumni activities also continued on through the night.

On Sunday the weekend would come to an end. Cadets would have to say good-bye to their dates. Alumni began to depart, and say far well to their brother rats. The corps would soon begin returning back to its normal regimented status.



Alumni weekends are some of the most cherished memories of all. These weekends allow us to get together with others in our lives, and enjoy the day. No matter how long we stay apart, we are always together.



Be reassured VMI, the future of the key det football team is in good hands.





As football games begin, coxets enjoy hanging out and having a good time at tailgate parties.



Generations of the VMI family come together before the football game to relax and talk of the past and present.



The rats unite together as they pass the mascot up and down the stands. This exemplifies the bonding with their brother rats.

# 158<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDER'S DAY

The 158<sup>th</sup> Founders Day started off its festivities with a speech in Cameron Hall by Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough. Mr. McCullough, a noted biographer, teacher, historian, and lecturer, has also authored many highly-acclaimed books such as *Truman*. After a short speech, Frank A. Liddel, Jr. '49B and Charles S. Luck III '55, were presented the Distinguished Service Award. This award is given each year to alumni who have displayed distinguished professional achievements. They contribute and serve the Institute in monumental and profound ways helping VMI carry on its traditions of excellence in the field of education, service, and leadership. Frank A. Liddel, Jr., a native of Houston Texas, has practiced law but has gone on to pursue business endeavors and is also currently an advisor for the law firm Liddel, Sapp, Zilvey, Hill and LaBoon. Liddel also served in the U.S. Air Force as an officer and





is a member of the VMI Sports Hall of Fame, and served on the VMI Board of Visitors.

Charles H. Luck III, a native of Richmond Virginia, was an officer in the U.S. Air Force, served two terms on the VMI Board of Visitors, and is currently the CEO and chairman of the Luck Quarries. Mr. Luck has also served on the boards of the VMI Foundation, Keydet Club, and the Alumni Association.

After the completion of the ceremonies in Cameron Hall, the corps of cadets put on a parade and Founders Day came to a successful end.

Written by Daniel Alvarez

# CORPS FTX

This year's Fall FTX was one of the best ever. One of the most important aspects of the Corps FTX was being planned entirely by cadets. FTX weekend gives cadets a chance to participate in an activity of their choice, where they can enjoy a trip out into the brush or better themselves and the community. This time around, Cadet Rob McGrath ran the show, and a grand spectacle it was. The various ROTC's did their thing: the Army and the Marines went out in the bush, where as the Navy and the Air Force stuck around barracks and watched some movies. However, the rest of the Corps chose from the different activities available -canoeing, mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, Red Cross classes and an FTX tradition, community service.

For this year's community service, cadets were separated by company and sent away to do several helpful chores for the County of Rockbridge. Cdr. Riester helped the cadets organize activities within the county. Some of the chores consisted of hard, manual labor and, in some cases, near-death situations. Fortunately, no one was injured (with exception to some bee stings). Everybody enjoyed themselves and took pride in their work, while benefiting the loving population of Rockbridge County. F-Troop made the year for some local children as they repaired and repainted some area playgrounds. The most exciting project had to be North Mountain, where cadets pulled up cars, refrigerators, ovens, and other appliances. Cadet Hicklin came away with a special surprise as he captured a rattlesnake in an intense struggle of man against beast. Using his hunting skills, Cadet Hicklin was ultimately victorious.

The Red Cross class was taught by Cdr. Riester, where cadets learned important lifesaving skills. The class consisted of a series of lectures, after which the cadets had to pass a test in order to get certified by the Red Cross. The hikers and mountain bikers headed out to the trails, where they spent Friday and Saturday night fending for themselves as they trekked across the Shanandoah ridge. Fifteen trained rock climbers set out to meet the challenges of the cliffs as they scaled up mountains at New River Gorge in West Virginia. The canoeing FTX took place on the intense rapids of the James River where, for the most part, the cadets stayed dry until a storm on Sunday. The raging river made it difficult to maneuver around rocks causing one of the canoes to capsize.

Aside for the rainy weather, the Corps FTX was quite a success. Cadets that participated enjoyed their weekend out in the rough, hanging out with brother rats, and drinking from the nectar of the gods. All in all, this years FTX was a grand success.

Written by: Joseph Lowman



West of House Mountain, basking in their triumph of tackling this challenge with ease.



First classmen, Jon Brant, encourages his rats to "Heave!" This was just one of the many obstacles the North Mountain crew had to overcome in cleaning up the area .



Whoever said FTX weekend was boring must have been hanging out with the wrong crowd. These cadets will tell you otherwise as they let lose after a hard day of hiking.



After a hard day of work, these three guys have the right idea! Sitting back relaxing and just hanging out.

# Alumni Weekend

As the last rat company passes the reviewing officers, the army of alumni march with their wooden banner ornated with the red, white, yellow, and the magical number signifying their class.

As the gaggle of alumni show that their marching skills are still as sharp as the day they graduated, they make their way into the old courtyard where the first class president awaits with the Corps. Rats line up on the stoops preparing their lungs to honor those that have preceded them. The roar of the Old Yells echoes through barracks and extends to the far reaches of post.

Alumni weekend is a time for cadets and alumni alike to reminisce about life-shaping experiences provided by the Institute. No matter what happens or what changes here at the "I", alumni remain true to their alma mater. Their return gives cadets hope that there is life after VMI and that it will be worth every ounce of pain and suffering we may have endured during our four years. But, most of all, Alumni return to reunite with brother rats, brag about the "Old Corps", and to celebrate with each other; making the Institute once again something more than just memories.

Written by Joseph Lowman



Alumni pass the reviewing officers during Saturday's parade.



The class president presents the superintendent with a sizable contribution.



A future VMI prospect sits high above his predecessors.



The first class president stands on top of the sentinel box leading the Corps in Old yells for the alumni.



Alumni cheer for the VMI Keydets in Alumni Memorial Field.



Whether the Keydets wins or not, alumni, cadets, parents, and VMI supporters pay their respect while singing the doxology.



Alumni are anxious to participate in the day's activities.

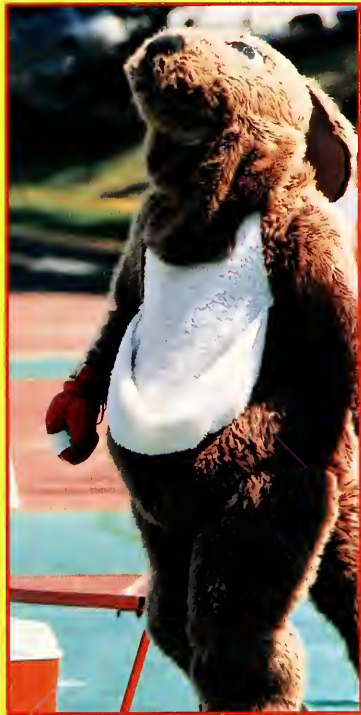


The class of 1987 bare their class guide-on, heading toward barracks.



Alumni head into the old courtyard to be honored.





The VMI mascot prepares to bring spirit to the Corps of Cadets.



For some the Institute is just a college where one wears a uniform. For others, it is place where Pride, Honesty, and Brotherhood reigns.



A familiar site on the Parade deck on Saturday with cadets, parents, and alumni enjoying tailgating before the game



Running back Avi Hopkins evades a tackler while trying to break free for six.



The VMI keydets fight for those hard earned yards.

# PARENTS WEEKEND

## LOVE AT THE "I"

October 10-12 1997, Parents Weekend. The One week end where the family and friends of VMI cadets ascend on the Institute in mass. It is a weekend filled with trips to Academic Advisors, picture taking on the parade deck as their cadets passes in review, runs to the bookstore to buy anything with VMI on it, and a chance for cadets and family to put the parade deck to another good use as they tailgate before the football game. Parents Weekend is a chance for parents to talk with other parents, and also gives families an opportunity to see barracks first hand. For some parents this is the first time they have seen their son or daughter since they dropped them off in front of Jackson Arch months ago. For most cadets Parents Weekend is the only time they really want to spend the weekend at the Institute. Parents Weekend gives the cadets a chance to really spend some quality time with their family and friends. For some, like the First Class, this is their last Parents Weekend as cadets. One last step to a long and hard four years at the Institute for the First Class, but for the Rats it is just a beginning.

Written by Tyler Shelbert



*Above Left:* Cadet Redman's mother and girlfriend pose for the camera, while wondering where Mark is. *Above Right:* After making a quick run to the VMI Bookstore, these anxious parents wait for the parade to start. *Right:* Parents weekend is not just an opportunity to see your family, but a time to feast on the tons of food and beverages that parents bring with them. Feast while you can for tomorrow you will go back to Crozet Hall.



*Right:* Cadets Shelbert and Brown wondering when all the picture taking will end. *Below:* Once again loyal friends and family gather to support the Corps at another perfect parade.



*Below Left:* These parents are taking a break after getting down to the music of the band. *Below Right:* This lonely, yet lovely lady awaits the arrival of a cadet.



# RANGER CHALLENGE

One of the army's department most rewarding programs, the ranger challenge team promotes teamwork and athletics in a stress induced environment. This year's squad was composed of two competing teams-VMI Black and Gold. Each team, composed of eight to ten people, is open to all army cadets. Their primary focus is to win the Colonial Brigade Ranger Challenge Meet, held annually at Ft. A. P. Hill, Virginia.

The competition consists of seven events. These are the army physical fitness test, one rope bridge assembly/disassembly, weapons assembly/disassembly, BRM, grenade assault course, land navigation, and 10k ruck run. This year the Black team not only gained third place overall, but got the best time in the 10k run-a VMI first. Although the Gold team did not do as well, they gained a lot of experience that they can bring back to next year's squad.

This year's squad began a new era in training and overall doctrine. By focusing more on land navigation and the physical fitness test, the Black team was able to grasp third place in the annual competition-the best VMI has done in three years. Such changes in training involved PT with a 45 lb. Rucksack, instead of the usual 25. Also, more emphases was placed on stadium running and using the surrounding hills for distance runs. To say the training was challenging would be a huge understatement.

The coaches for this year's squad were Capt. William Cantrell, M.Sgt. William Jackson, and SFC. Paul Turner. All three worked together to hone the skills of the teams with their invaluable experience in the army. The team captains were First Classman Dan Gibson (Black team) and Second Classman Tom Hannifen (Gold team). Another good aspect about this year's squad was that they were mainly comprised of second classmen, this means an even stronger program with more experience for next year.

Although VMI was unable to beat JMU (AROTC rival of VMI) this season, they overcame tremendous challenges and learned that the most important aspect of the program is not winning but building teamwork. In that aspect, they definitely took the number one seat.

Written by Steve Nichols



**Gold Team**



*Back row:* Pat Pembroke, John Rogers, Patrick Meyers, Jason Hanuigan, Ted Cobelli, Paul Turner, Captls. Adam Giroux. *Front row:* Mike Nelson, P. Pesare, SFC Turner.

**Black Team**



*Back row:* Jesse Holmes, Steve Pruitt, Pete Pembroke. *Front row:* Pete Ou, Chris Varner, Wade German, Mike McDermott, Barry Williams. *Not in picture:* Chris Forbes, Dan Gibson, Ed Clarke, Steve Nichols, Capt. Cantrell, Msgr Jackson.

# RAT

# CHALLENGE

Looking back on Rat year, many cadets recall immediately the physical training regimen known as Rat Challenge. Twice a week during the fall semester, rats and a select group of cadre members take to the woods behind VMI to increase their physical strength, stamina and self confidence. They develop leadership and teamwork skills to help tie together the bonds between brother rats. From obstacles such as the repelling cliffs and high ropes course, the dreaded circuit courses and obstacle courses, and from House Mountain to the Ranger Pit, the rats quickly learn that they can do much more than thought possible. Rat Challenge instills in them a keen sense of pride and accomplishment which contributes to the molding process of rats into cadets. The semester culminates with the Rat Olympics, pitting the rats of each company against each other's company in a series of events drawn from the Rat Challenge matrix. The champions of this esteemed competition will hold well-deserved bragging rights for the remainder of the year. Nonetheless, all rats take away from Rat Challenge self-confidence to attempt to achieve things which may seem to be out of their reach. Rat Challenge truly challenges the rats, physically and mentally, to succeed in any environment and stand proud of their accomplishments.

Written by Bill Fallon



No matter how hard and painful the event may be, rats always support each other, and give it their best effort. Just remember that "Pain is just weakness leaving the body"



Above: Rats learn the essential skills necessary to survive in combat. The objective is not to destroy your brother rat, but to see where his weaknesses are and take advantage of them.

Left: The ranger pit is one of the most grueling events that the rats await. Here, no rules apply. Several go in and only one is the victor. It is also one of the only events where you get a chance to abuse your cadre.



# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The Honors Committee of the VMI Sports Hall of Fame selected six alumni for induction at ceremonies November 21, 1997 in Cameron Hall. Four of the inductees were from the class of 1986, one from 1980, and one from 1984. Also inducted in the category of "Special Citation" were Robert J. "Bob" Thalman, former VMI head football coach (1971-1984) and Giles H. Miller Jr. '24 Chairman of the VMI Sports Hall of Fame Committee.



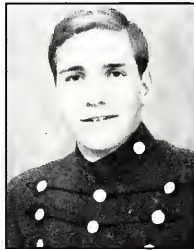
**John J. Shuman '80**  
Football

A three year starter at offensive tackle and one of only five VMI football players to win the Jacobs Blocking Trophy as the best blocker in the Southern Conference. Schuman was a sophomore starter on VMI's '77 Conference co-championship team. He was selected first team All-conference his senior year as he led the Keydets to a 6-4-1 mark. Shuman was a leader both on and off the field. A team captain that season, he was also regimental executive officer (the fourth highest ranking cadet in the Corps.) Shuman was 1979 honorable mention All-American and was selected by VMI's athletic council to receive the Frank Summers Team Leadership Award.



**John R. Munno '84**  
Wrestling

Munno was a three-year captain of the Keydet wrestling team from 1982-1984, compiling a 99-26 record competing in both the 118 pound and 126 pound weight class. He was 21-12 his freshman season (second on the team in victories) and placed third in the Southern Conference at 118 pounds. In 1981-82, he posted a 21-5 mark (second on the squad in wins) and reached the finals in both the state and Southern Conference tournament at 118 pounds. Munno was awarded the Intercollegiate Sports Award along with football player Floyd Allen in 1982. He led the team in victories on VMI's undefeated 19-0 squad in 1982-83 and reached the finals of the state tournament at 118 and later placed third in that weight class in the Southern Conference meet. As a first classman in 1983-84, he went 24-9 and won both the state championship and the Southern Conference Championship at different weight classes. The state title came at 118 pounds and the Southern Conference championship was won by Munno at 126 pounds. Munno was named the most outstanding wrestler of the 1984 Southern Conference meet, later advancing to the NCAA's where he fell 15-8 to the eventual 4th place finisher in his weight class.



**Gay Elmore '86**  
Basketball

Elmore is VMI's all-time scoring leader with 2,423 points. He broke the state division I scoring record, a mark which stood for three years, and was twice named Southern Conference Player of the Year (1986,1987). Elmore earned all-Southern Conference and all-state honors three times and holds 11 school career records including most points, best scoring average (21.4), and 50 consecutive games scoring in double figures. He was selected 1984 Freshman of the Year, and in 1985 led the Keydets to the Southern Conference Tournament finals against Marshall, being named the tourney's most valuable player. During his senior year, he averaged 25.5 points a game and following the season participated in the Portsmouth Invitational Tournament. Elmore was drafted in the sixth round by the Milwaukee Bucks. He ranked seventh in the nation in scoring as a senior and was selected First Team District IV All-American by the National Association of Basketball Coaches and also became only the seventh VMI athlete to receive an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship for academic excellence. Elmore currently ranks fourth in the Southern Conference in career scoring. He was awarded in the Intercollegiate Sports Award for 1987.



**Sheldon Johnson '86**  
Track and Field

Johnson transferred to VMI from Texas Southern and had never thrown the hammer or 35 lb. wt. until he arrived at the Institute. He produced prolific results in the weight events, placing ninth in the '84 NCAA's in the 35 lb. wt. and earning All-America status. During the course of that season, Johnson won both the state and Southern Conference 35 lb. wt. in record fashion, and also set a school record of 62' 7 1/2" which still stands today. Later that spring, he claimed the Southern Conference hammer throw with a mark of 171'8". Johnson competed in just part of the '84-85 winter season, but still qualified for the NCAA's in the 35 lb. wt. with a throw of 62'7". He ended his conference career by winning the 1986 35# weight and later the hammer throw with a conference and school record 199'8".



## **Benjamin D. Walker '86** Wrestling

Walker compiled a four-year over all record of 107-29-1 and won nine tournament titles which included two state championships, a Southern Conference championship, and three trips to the NCAA National Championship meet. He began his career with a 29-7 mark as a rat on VMI's 19-0 team (1982-83) and reached the finals of the 150 pound class in the Southern Conference meet. Walker's record was 30-8-1 as a sophomore and placed third in the Southern Conference meet. Walker received a bid to the NCAA's in 1984 and lost 8-7 to the eventual 4th place winner. He went 24-5 in 1985 and captured the 150-pound state championship, being named the meet's outstanding wrestler. Later that year, he dropped to the 142-pound class and reached the finals in the Southern Conference meet which VMI won for the first time since 1957. Walker again earned a NCAA at-large bid in 1985. He posted a 24-9 record in 1986, won the Southern Conference Championship at 150 and was named the meet's outstanding wrestler while securing his third trip to the NCAA nationals. Walker also won the state 150 title in 1986. He lettered and started four years in baseball, hitting .355 as a senior with a team leading 42 RBI's. He was selected All-Southern Conference in 1987 as a designated hitter and ranks 4th on the VMI all-time charts in runs (106), stolen bases (42) and fifth in RBI's (104). Walker was co-winner (with Greg Weddle) of the 1996 intercollegiate sports award for all-around excellence.



## **Greg W. Weddle '86** Baseball

Weddle holds eight VMI season and career batting records and was a Triple Crown winner in 1986 when he led the Southern Conference in batting (.446), home runs (14), and runs batted in (62). During his record setting season of 1986, he had a 22-game hitting streak and drove in at least one run in 15 consecutive games. Weddle was selected All-Conference in both 1985 and 1986 and was a second team All-Southern Conference pick in 1984. A career .328 hitter, he hit only seven home runs and had 43 RBI's his first two years, but emerged as a formidable power hitter in 1985 when he socked a school record 16 home runs, hit .320, and drove in 41 RBI's. Weddle also holds the single season school records for hits (66), RBI's (62), batting average (.446), and total bases (324), and he also ranks fourth in career doubles with 37. Weddle was awarded, with wrestler Ben Walker, the 1986 Intercollegiate Sports Award for all-around excellence.



## **Robert J. Thalman** Special Citation

Thalman served as VMI's Head Football Coach from 1971-84, the longest tenure of any Keydet Coach. His teams captured two Southern Conference titles (1974-77), being runner-up in 1979 and 1981. The Keydets competed against and won the respect of major college football programs, excelling against state competition. VMI defeated Virginia three straight years from 1976 to 1978 and won 10 out of 14 games with Virginia, Richmond, and William & Mary between the 1976 and 1980 seasons. The 1981 team went 6-3-1, including road wins over Army and Virginia Tech. They remain the last Keydet football team to post a winning record. Off the field, Thalman has stayed busy raising funds for the Keydet Club, reinstated the Alumni-Varsity Football Spring Game, started the summer VMI Football Camp, encouraged the formation of the Sports Hall of Fame, and formed the Big Brother Program.

His Coach of the Year honors came from The American Football Coach's Association, The Southern Conference, and civic and sports clubs in Virginia and other states.

Athletics Director Tom Joynes said, "No man ever worked harder or did more for VMI in time of need than Bob Thalman."



## **Giles H. Miller, Jr. '24** Special Citation

Known to the Institute community as "Mr. VMI," Miller's support and service to his alma mater have been unprecedented. A native of Lynchburg, Va., Miller served as class historian and was a member of the Honor Court and basketball team. He was graduated from VMI with a degree in liberal arts. After graduation, Miller served VMI in a number of prominent leadership roles. From 1954-62, he was a member of the VMI Board of Visitors and in his last two years was president of the Board as well as director of the George C. Marshall Research Foundation. From 1967-69, he was president of the VMI Alumni Association and a trustee of the VMI Foundation, Inc. Miller was president of the VMI Keydet Club Board of Governors (1975-77) which in 1986 awarded him his highest honor, the Spirit Award. In 1972, Miller received the Distinguished Service Award from the VMI Foundation.

Miller currently serves as Chairman of the VMI Sports Hall of Fame Committee and has presided over selection meetings for over two decades.

# TIS THE SEASON



**V**irginia Military Institute is a symbol of consistency. Throughout most of the year VMI looks, smells and tastes the same, with few exceptions. But, for a few short weeks during the year a passer-by would notice a strange glow emanating from the rooms in Barracks. The gray walls appear red and the dark cloud that hovers constantly above barracks strangely enough turns a cheerful green. The time is, of course, Christmas, and once again cadets are eager to return home and plant their eyes beneath the sparkling, decorated, giving tree. Oh yes! The time is at hand for cadets to begin unraveling the lights of freedom and hanging them from wall to wall knowing that the taste of Christmas cookies and homemade meals are near. One does not necessarily need to believe in Santa to temporarily lose control of his or her emotions because all can find happiness and peace of mind in the knowledge that in only a few short weeks VMI will be reduced to a far-away nightmare.

Written by Jason Duke



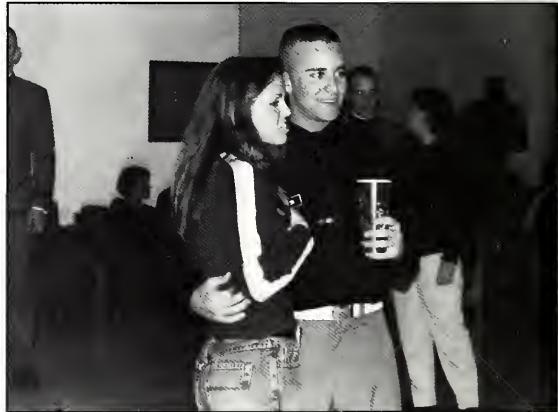




# AT THE HOP!

Hops are a favorite focal point of cadet life. They offer cadets an opportunity to bring a date and hit the dance floor. A diversion from the rigors of cadet life, they give cadets a chance to relax and have a good time. This year's hops had some outstanding bands come to VMI due to the success of the Cadet Program Board. Although one band in particular went to Lexington, Kentucky by mistake, they eventually managed to get to Lexington, Virginia. Other events this year included a concert on the parade deck on Parent's Weekend that was enjoyed by many, as well as a great performance by the band Cowboy Mouth, made popular by their one hit wonder "Jenny Says!"

Written By Drew Cannon











The celebration of King Figure  
is comenced by a formal ball,  
where Cadets realize the rewards of  
their long journey.

# RING FIGURE

Human nature is to hold on to the past. We take pictures of family and friends to remember them forever; collect small treasures so we always have something tangible to hold on to, and in death, give away our belongings to those we love.

The VMI ring is one of the most important belongings to a cadet, not because of its monetary reasons or beauty, but rather because of the memories and accomplishments that it stands for. It stands for a brotherhood that is unmatched by any fraternity or group, because it is a symbol of the "Road less traveled". No cadet can complete this treacherous road without the support of his brother rats. When a young boy chooses to enter the four walls of barracks,

he is not just saying that he wishes to become educated, but he is also making a statement that he is ready to become a man; not a man of "machismo" but a Citizen-Soldier--dedication, honor and integrity.

It is assumed that the class of 1848 was the first to start the tradition of class rings. On the rings belonging to John Mathews and

James Council '48, is the inscription, "Mizpah," which means "The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent from one another." Even then the concept of a close knit family was alive and well.

*From Drawing Out the Man by Henry Wise*

There are a number of intriguing tales of the discovery of rings which disappeared under bizarre circumstances. One particular story that takes place in 1954 when a Mr. Gerard Martine, a U.S. government agent, saw an unusual article of jewelry in a store window in a Korean village. Curiosity was aroused, and he satisfied himself that it was a VMI ring class of '49, although the owner's name had been erased. Mr. Martine bought it, and, on returning to the States, notified the alumni office and sent the ring there. Colonel Jacob concluded that it belonged to John W. Timmins, Jr.,

'49C, killed in Korea November 19, 1950, and delivered it to Lieutenant Timmins' parents in Dallas. They established the Timmins Music Room in Preston Library in memory of their son. Later his mother placed the ring in the VMI Museum.

Written by: Daniel Alvarez  
Researched by: Jeb Cox



# 1999







Center Left: Henry James leads the second battalion down to the football game. Center Right: Cadet's Randy McMath, Rodney Daniels, and Matt Morelewski show off their rings. Bottom Left: Ned Frothingham sizes up another opportunity.

*Middle Right:* Courteous  
Brother Rats help Pesare  
get up in the picture.  
*Bottom right:* BR's  
Forever.







# *CLASS OF 1999*



*WELCOME TO THE  
BROTHERHOOD*



*Jacob M. Abell  
Mindy Smith*



*Christopher L. Alligood  
Nichole Evers*



*Brian A. Arnold  
Lale Nlamaux*



*James M. Ayers  
Margaret Broughton*



*Kevin G. Azar  
Jamie Muchler*



*Matthew C. Bagwell  
Jamie Foote*



*Kenan Baluken  
Charlynda Kelly*



*Wesley A. Barrow  
Wendy Bricher*



*Foster S. Beeker*



*Charles R. Bennett  
Melinda Minnick*



*Jason B. Berg  
Lindsey Perkins*



*Trent H. Blair  
Michelle Vollmen*



*Ian M. Bobbitt  
Amanda Becher*



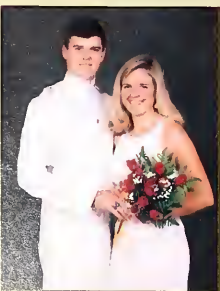
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Tamara Gullichson*



*John D. Bott*



*J. Wescott Bott  
Anne Sherrey*



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Jennifer Johnson*



*S. Jordan Brandon  
Chrystie Franklin*



*Jacob J. Britt  
Evelyn Drewry*



*Jason M. Brown*



*Paul A. Brown  
Keirsten Lerr*



*Randy L. Brown  
Catherine Pressly*



*Matthew A. Bryant  
Amy Stephenson*



*David R. Budlong  
Mary Knupp*



*Alan S. Bull III  
Patricia Hargraves*



*Scott E. Burris  
Susan Barney*



*Stephen J. Burton  
Paige Genhry*



*Aaron P. Bush  
Kennon Paynter*



*James L. Camblos  
Erin Carney*



*James P. Campbell  
Lacey Barber*



*T. Coley Campbell  
Jamie Springs*



*Matthew S. Carman  
Krista Wigginton*



*Douglas V. Carson  
Laura Horne*



*Joshua R. Cazadd  
Carrie King*



*Joshua S. Chance  
Allison Fleming*



*Maxwell P. Chance  
Christine Blanchard*



*Benjamin A. Chang  
Keri Mannebach*



*Trevor J. Chesler  
Paula Kodosky*



*Joel C. Christenson  
Emily Moyer*



*Dallas B. Clark  
Amber Brooks*



*Ezra W. Clark  
Michelle Bailey*



*Theodore H. Coberly  
Ashley Adams*



*Christopher A. Colbow  
Carmen Oulihan*



*Thomas E. Collins  
Adrienne Bender*



*Michael J. Condon  
Stacy Luchado*



*Brent T. Conley  
Melissa Cobb*



*Christopher D. Copenhaver  
Jessica Charles*



*Jabari B. Craddock  
Jarina Walker*



*Jason C. Crigler  
Elizabeth Fortney*



*Ralph W. Cromley  
Denise Weltzien*



*Wirt W. Cross, Jr.  
Laura Fox*



*Thomas N. Cruz  
Jennifer Binford*



*Andrea J. Curtis  
Erica Pleasants*



*Brian J. Curtis*



*Joshua Cuscaden*



*Tuyen G. Dam*



*Rodney C. Daniels  
Amanda Hall*



*Ryan E. Debouchel  
Meredith Bonnell*



*John A. Deem  
Nancy Smith*





*Troy R. Denison  
Rachel Jones*



*Nicholas A. Devincenzo  
Kristy Wilson*



*David F. Dixon  
Gretchen Nicely*



*Matthew C. Dixon*



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Marcia Jannes*



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Paula Evans*



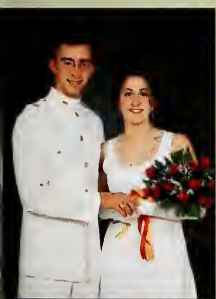
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Kathryn Bond*



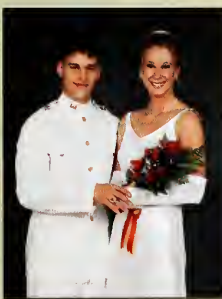
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Vakerie Sledd*



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Allison Teevan*



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*Andrew D. Fuller  
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Maria Scherer*



*Michael N. Gallo  
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Holland Rivers*



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*Eric M. Greene  
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*Christopher M. Hale*



*Shaun C. Hall  
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*Richard D. Hallett  
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Jenna Jamison*



*Thomas J. Hanifen  
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*Robert C. Hardee  
Melissa McManama*



*Edward E. Hardy  
Kristen Staiger*



*Gene R. Hare  
Jean Doe*



*Brent N. Harns  
Tiara Morehead*



*B. Powell Harrison  
Susanne Werth*



*Matthew P. Hart  
Rebecca Hall*



*Roger O. Hart  
Lisa Heifer*



*Filip E. Heist  
Daleena Neal*



*Heith M. Helms  
Jennifer Sleve*



*J. Patrick Henderson  
Heather Williams*



*Kevin P. Henderson  
Abigail Ferguson*



*Daniel W. Hendrix  
Esther Kay*



*Jason D. Hennigan  
Leslie Pepe*



*Roy A. Hindley  
Shannon Hare*



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Katie Hornburg*



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*Matthew B. Howle  
Ashley Woody*



*Wen-Jeng Huang  
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Shanna Alexander*



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Ryan Knott*



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Pam Lowry*



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Amanda Bradford*



*Jan  
Elizabeth*



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Melissa Jacobson*



*Corey S. Kearse  
Kathrine Stewart*



*Matthew M. Kerr  
Kristi Craig*



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Rebecca Gillespie*



*Joshua B. Kling  
Elizabeth Melvin*



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Jessie Scherrews*



*Chinkerd Krisada  
Nuning Murphy*



*Matthew A. Kuhr  
Lindsay Keddell*



*Jae H. Kwon  
Mary Gregory*



*Jeremy S. Labore  
Anna Lowden*



*Nathan P. Lada  
Katherine Thomas*



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*Moabi Lesole  
Juanita Kalane*



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Xaviera Dace*



*Jared L. Linkous  
Xaviera Dace*



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Frances Hurl*



*Christopher S. Lowery  
Frances Hurl*



*Chi-Heng Lu  
Dagney Pitts*



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Kim MacLeod*



*Michael P. Maire  
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*Charles E. Marr  
Meghan Taclet*



Alexander Marrone  
Naomi Hibshman



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Mary Kenney



Sager A. Marshall  
Sara Aiman



Eric B. Martin  
Jessica Walsh



Matthew C. Matheny  
Reagan Flaherty



Gregory G. McDearmon  
Stephann Belhe



Micheal J. McDermott  
Gretchen Covert



J. Wyatt McGraw  
Kimberliee Timberelcke



Christopher P. McGuire  
Marelena Dearmon



Jonathan P. McMahan  
Tera McClellan



John R. McMath  
Margaret Carroll



Graham P. McPherson  
Blythe Roberts



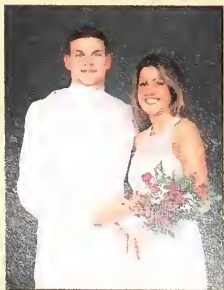
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Genevieve-Ashton Graham



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Susan Covings



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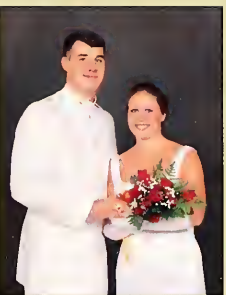
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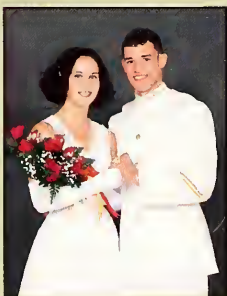
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*John L. Pitts  
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*R. Harden Robinson, III*



*Rene A. Rodriguez*



*Eric M. Roed*



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Allison Woods*



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Heather Motadda*



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Catherine Golden*



*Sean A. Ross  
Shayna Hoppe*



*Benjamin C. Rowe  
Frances Harper*





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Katie Zeller*



*Kevin M. Ryan  
Mikal Bennet*



*Craig L. Sanslow  
Maredeth Rosenbaum*



*Andre D. Sapp  
Kristen Olloch*



*William P. Sarsfield  
Heater Royall*



*Andrew C. Smith  
Monica Campalongo*



*Jason L. Smith  
Abby Schmidt*



*Lance J. Smith  
Larrie Chin*



*Jeffrey D. Snyder  
Roxie Wallace*



*Jeffrey T. Sprague  
Kaiti Reil*



*Anthony M. Stafford  
Sherri Sharpe*



*Andrew D. Staples  
Evangaine Estherly*



*William F. Steinbach  
Teresa Ball*



*Matthew K. Stephens  
Erica Johnson*



*Shane G. Stille  
Kerri Acherman*



*Sean P. Stockwell  
Lindsey Dawson*



*John P. Stutts  
Caryn Studham*



*Pronpattaraporn Surapap*



*Cameron K. Tabor, II  
Jenefer Huston*



*Sean A. Tahsma  
Wendi Taylor*



*Willis P. Tatterson  
Melody Andreola*



*Wesley Taylor, Jr  
Lisa Fleece*



*William Z. Taylor*



*David S. Thompkins  
Tara Terpstra*



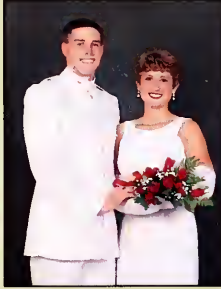
*Jason B. Tomlinson  
Theresa Redd*



*Shamus M. Toolan  
Amanda Monaco*



*Carl S. Trask  
Amy Kane*



*Robert L. Trent  
MarAnna Lemon*



*Jason R. Trubenbach  
Amanda Young*



*Kristopher S. Turpin  
Kristie Smith*



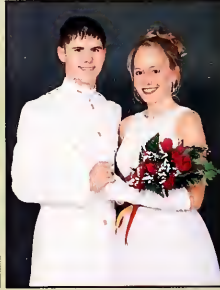
*Matthew J. Vanhoose*



*Chad A. Varanese*



*Christopher L. Varner  
Kathie Burns*



*Shawn M. Ward  
Krista Morris*



*Trent A. Warnecke*



*Jason D. Wells  
Adrienne Vane*



*R. Keith Webster  
Susie Wilson*



*Micah T. Wei  
Alice Chan*



*Jason W. Wells  
Laura Lamb*



*Michael A. Weyler*



*Jason C. White  
Dineo Moyapi*



*Courtenay J. Whitman  
Blaire Shelburne*



*Daniel C. Wilbun  
Anna Carmicheal*



*John M. Wilcox  
Lauren Delpizzo*



*Barry L. Williams  
Mellisa Richards*



*Dylan S. Williams  
Lauren Peacock*



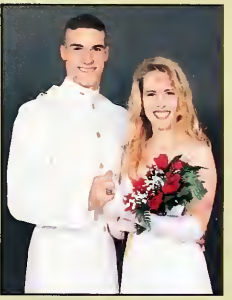
*Paul F. Wills*



*Michael H. Wilson  
Amanda Kotke*



*Michael P. Wilson  
Dana A. Jones*



*Bradford A. Wineman  
Karin Rodgers*



*Cardell A. Winfield  
Latasha Branch*



*Brain T. Withers*



*Jay A. Witt  
Melody Walker*



*Brain S. Wolfe*



*Christopher S. Work  
Holly Pasqueriello*



*John W. Wright, II  
Kerry Koger*



*Micheal A. Wright  
Kerry Koger*



*Bei-Chuan Yan  
Melissa Birmingham*



*John A. Yates  
Melissa Fernett*



*SGT. Percell Artis, Jr  
Retine Artis*

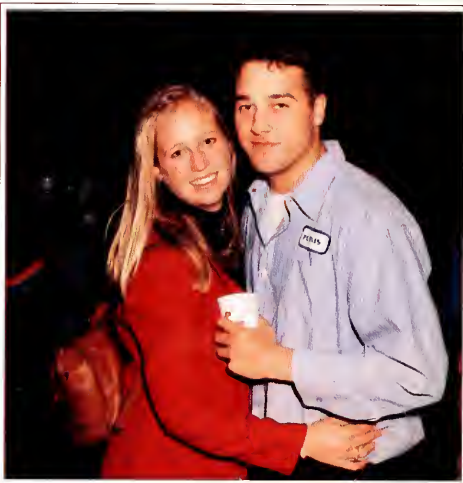


Top Right: Honorary Brother Rats, Seargent Lyons and Jackson present their rings. Top Left: Marine corp Lt. Col. Schultz delivers the Ring Figure key note speech. Center Left: Edward Frothingham, IV receives the distinguished Douglas Carter France award for brotherhood.



Top Left: Love in Paris.  
Center Left: Getting  
down and dirty.

Top Right: The rat mass attempts to storm the field and steal the oppositions mascot during the Second Class football game.



Top Left: "I'll show you mine if you show me yours" Bottom Left: "This Buds for you" Top Right: Leslie Apedo and Matt Irving do it Keydet style. Bottom Right: "Are you looking at me"





Top Right: Another Ring Figure date evasion attempt. Top Left: (No Caption needed!!!) Bottom Left: The love train. Bottom Right: Charles Marr and Yan double fistin it.

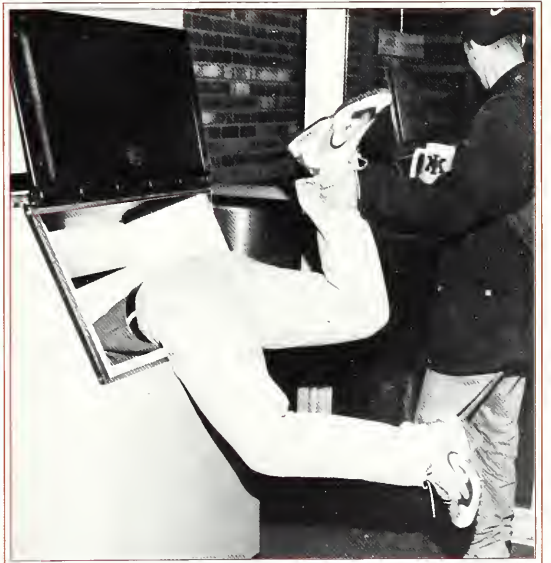
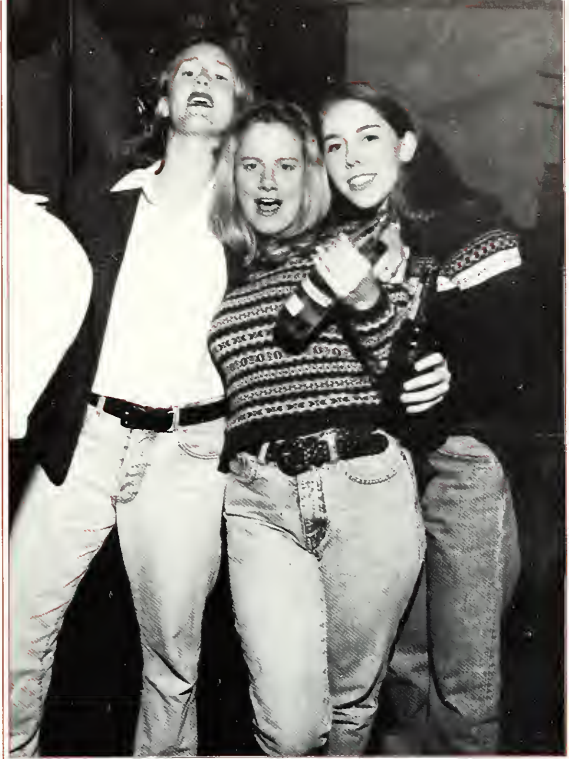




Center Left: Randy Eads doing his duties as drug and alcohol counselor. Center Right: Twistin the night away.



*Top Right: Mike Purdy takes time out of the festivities for a cool beverage. Top Left: Dave Janeka and Ryan Johnson bringing out the demons. Center Left: "Ooh Yea" Bottom Right: "Who are you?"*



Top Left: Schwing!!!!!!! Center Right: A VMI man shows his date where to go and get ice for the beer. Bottom Left: "Decisions, decisions, decisions"

# *WELCOME TO THE INSTITUTE*

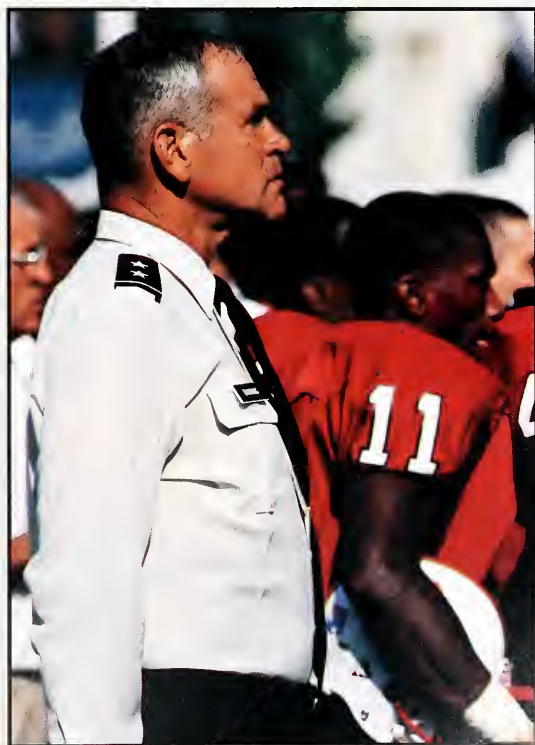
Here within resides the Corps of  
Cadets - the life and spirit of  
Virginia Military Institute, and the  
faculty and administration - the  
sources of all wisdom and  
discipline.



## *"The Faculty*

Who see with a watchful eye  
And rules with power from on high  
The kingdom of the V.M.I.  
Who loves to see us double-quick  
And when he gets a chance to stick  
He lays demerits mighty thick."  
Author Unknown

*LETTER FROM  
THE  
SUPERINTENDENT*



# CHAIN OF COMMAND



**Governor George F. Allen**  
Commander and Chief

The VMI chain of command is an intricate part of life at the Institute. The chain outlines the leadership structure from the Governor in Richmond to the lowly Private. Most of the following people can be found in Smith Hall beyond the eyes of the average cadet yet they determine and outline the military duties for the Corps. This year the Chain was responsive to the Corps. In particular, General Bunting was seen frequently on post asking Cadets for suggestions, complaints and solutions to various everyday problems at the Institute.



**Josiah Bunting**  
VMI's 13th Superintendent



Two of VMI's most prominent leaders are seen above discussing matters concerning the Institute.



**Col. Allen Farrel**  
Provost and Dean



**Col. Leroy Hammond**  
Executive Officer



**Capt. Julianne Fultz**  
Assistant Director of Cadet Affairs



**Col. Mike Strickler**  
Public Relations

# COMMANDANT STAFF



Colonel Joyner  
Commandant

This year the Commandant's Staff grew in size, establishing three new active positions in barracks. Major Powers, Captain Avilla and Command Sergeant Major Jackson filled these positions. These three additions became important components of everyday activity for the Corps. Major Powers was the S-1 assisting Col. Williams in demerits and accountability. Captain Avilla was the S-3, in charge of all training activity during CTT and Military duty including Saturday academic duty. CSGM Jackson was the S-4 for the Commandant staff ensuring that the proper supplies were available and that all unauthorized articles were properly maintained and inventoried in the confiscation room. These additional positions made the commandant staff as a whole more efficient and ensured the hectic ways of life in barracks went smoother than ever.



Colonel Ronald Williams  
Deputy Commandant



Alvin Hockaday  
Sargeant Major of the Corps.





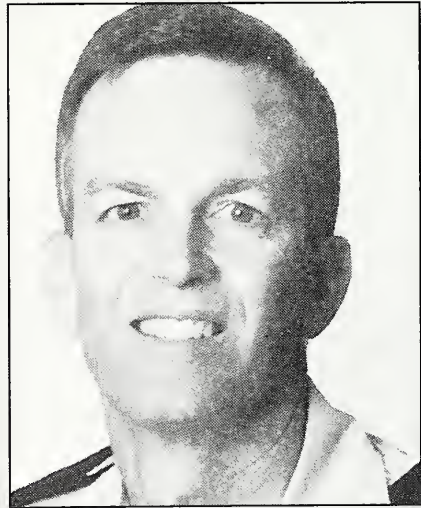
**Major Sherrise Powers**  
Commandant S-1



**Captain Eric Avilla**  
Commandant S5



**CSGM Jefferey Jackson**  
Commandant S-4



**Lt. Col. James Park**  
Chaplain

# REGIMENTAL STAFF



**Timothy Trant**  
Regimental Commander



**Michael Lorence**  
Regimental XO



Regimental staff on parade.



**Brian Pearson**  
Regimental S-1



**Michael Runyan**  
Regimental S-2



**Marcus Schweigert**  
Regimental S-3



**Charles Dewey**  
Regimental S-4



**Reed Warburton**  
Regimental S-5



**Joseph Neibert**  
Regimental S-6



**Donald Rauch**  
Regimental S-1 Lieutenant



**Andrew Lewis**  
Regimental S-5 Lieutenant

# REGIMENTAL SERGEANTS



David Kaczmarek  
Regimental S-1 Sergeant



Rodney Daniels  
Regimental S2 Sergeant



Jefferey Snyder  
Regimental S3 Sergeant



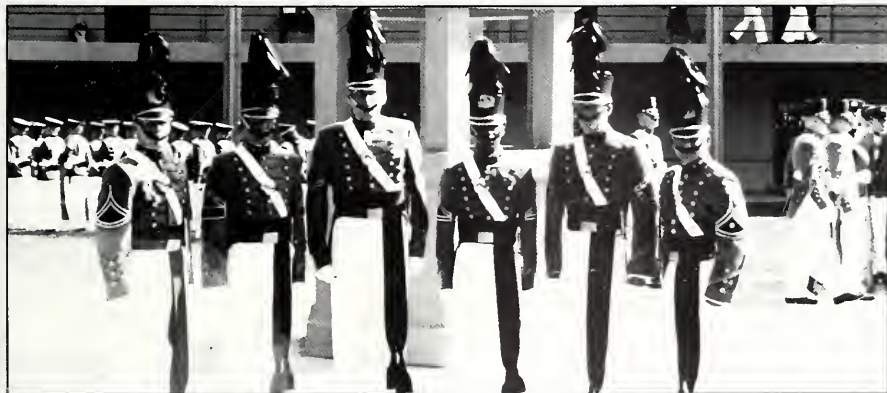
Gordon Overby  
Regimental S-4 Sergeant



Conor Powell  
Regimental S-5 Sergeant



Wirt Cross  
Regimental S-6 Sergeant



Regimental Sergeants displaying their pride.

# FIRST BATTALION STAFF



**Jabarr Bean**  
1st Battalion Commander



**Mark Pruitt**  
1st Battalion XO



**Thomas Smith**  
1st Battalion S-1



**David Benedict**  
1st Battalion S2



**Brady Gallagher**  
1st Battalion S3



**Wallace Taylor**  
1st Battalion S-4



**Chris Floom**  
1st Battalion S-5



**Alfred Lester**  
1st Battalion S-6



**Henry James**  
1st Battalion Sergeant Major



First Battalion Staff looking impressive as usual on parade.

# SECOND BATTALION STAFF



**Michael Baumgardner**  
2nd Battalion Commander



**Caleb Taylor**  
2nd Battalion XO



**Peter Pembroke**  
2nd Battalion S-1



**Greg O'Hare**  
2nd Battalion S-2



**David Nash**  
2nd Battalion S-3



**James Blanford**  
2nd Battalion S-4



**Gardner Mundy**  
2nd Battalion S-5



**Paul Moosman**  
2nd Battalion S-6



**Benjamin Chang**  
2nd Battalion Sergeant Major



A highly motivated Second Battalion staff on parade during the fall .

# COLOR GUARD



**Bradford Wineman**  
Regimental Sergeant Major



**Randy Brown**  
Regimental Color Sergeant



**Matthew Carman**  
Regimental Color Sergeant



**Matthew Franks**  
Regimental Color Sergeant



**Kevin Ryan**  
Regimental Color Sergeant



**Jefferey Sprague**  
Regimental Color Sergeant

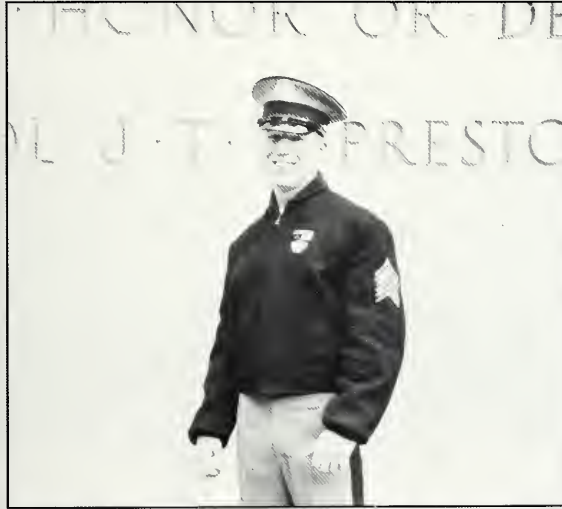


**Barry Williams**  
Regimental Color Sergeant



VMI's distinguished honor guard on parade

# REGIMENTAL COMMANDER'S ADDRESS



I must begin by giving my regards to those that have sacrificed so much for so little. I thank the Cadet Officers and NCOs of the 1997-98 Corps of Cadets for discharging their duties in a manner in keeping with the finest principles of leadership. I especially thank Cadet Captains for their patience, cooperation, and tireless effort in always insuring things were done right.

On a broader scope, I thank the Corps of Cadets as a whole for performing above and beyond the call of duty. At a time of great change, the Corps was unified in its resolve to not only survive but to prevail. This performance during the most delicate year in the Institute's history exemplified the nobility of the Corps. Nothing short of the combined effort of Cadets of all classes and interests made this year successful. Every member of the Corps took personal ownership of what was occurring, and in that coming together my ultimate goal for us was achieved.

By the leadership, followership, and influence of the 1997-98 Corps of Cadets a great service has been done in furthering the mission of the Virginia Military Institute for years to come. That service went far beyond how shiny our shoes were or our performance in parade; which, in the grand scheme of things, is quite trivial. It was our greater purpose to focus upon what would happen to VMI after 6 May 1998. It has been recognized by many that we have accomplished that mission. It is my sincere hope that you may return some day to find the Institute continuing to reap the benefits of our moment in time. On that occasion, I hope you will take immense pride in the fact that you were not just a Third Classmen, or Cadet Captain, or First Class Private; but rather something more special; you were a member of a group which prevailed -- a Member of the 1997-98 Corps of Cadets at the Virginia Military Institute.

Timothy O. Trant, II  
Cadet First Captain

# *THE GC FIRST CLASS*

## *REPRESENTATIVES*



Aside from the honor system, the Class System is what distinguishes VMI from other military institutions of higher learning. The Class System is what makes VMI unique and follows an Alumnus for the rest of his life. For it is the class system that runs the ratline, barracks, handles matters which reflect upon the appearance, discipline, and reputation of the Corps, and binds Brother Rats together.

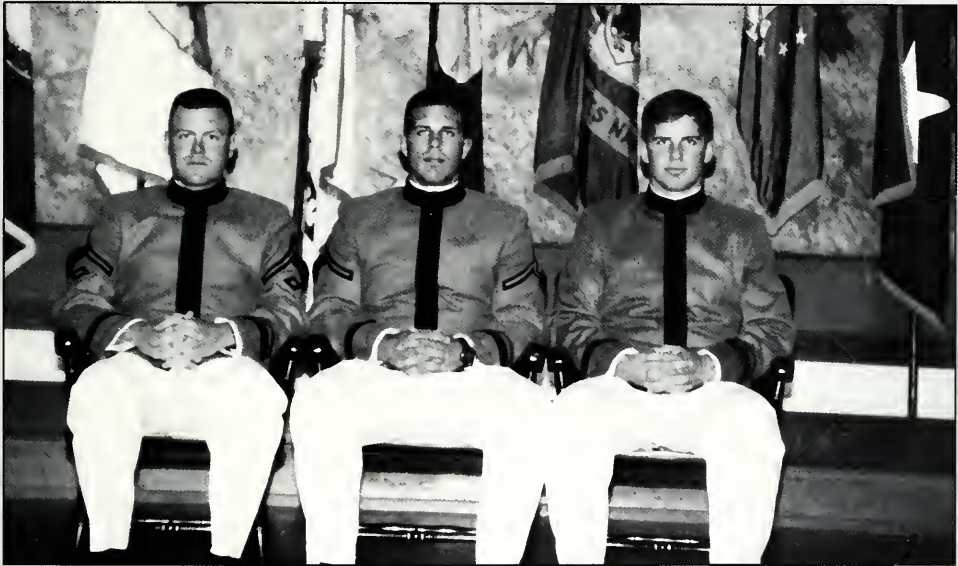
Barracks is a unique experience and one that is different for each of us. The experiences will forever be ingrained in our memories. The Class System is a part of VMI and one that each cadet should be proud of. As the Institute continues to be challenged, we must concentrate our efforts on continuing to strengthen the system that we hold near to our hearts.

Written by Kevin Trujillo



# THE GC SECOND CLASS

## REPRESENTATIVES



Our cadetship at VMI is half over now and for most of us it has been a trying task. The class returned in the fall ready to face yet another year of academics and most obviously the exciting time of joining the brotherhood of the ring. Fall semester started off on the wrong foot with the overcrowding barracks. Our brother rats were strung out all over barracks, but we managed to work through it. Right from the get go the Class of '99 was looking forward to the big weekend of Ring Figure. I had more people stopping to ask questions than I knew we had in our class. The week of Ring Figure finally came and the first event, the class dinner, went off without a hitch. The rest of the weekend fell neatly into place, except for parade getting canceled (for most of us that was good). We did have

a few misfortunes and a few people spent the night in places other than their room, but in all the weekend went well. Fall semester quickly came to a close and the class went home to show off their newly obtained treasures.

When the class returned for spring, spirits were not as high. More people left to study abroad and some returned, but in all there was nothing big to look forward to. The class celebrated its birthday on 9 February with a tremendous amount of pizza. The class is going through a change of sort with the election of a new class historian and the election of the OGA and RDC members. A large part of the class is becoming involved in the task of preparing to take over barracks when the class of '98 departs on May 16.

# THE GC THIRD CLASS

## REPRESENTATIVES

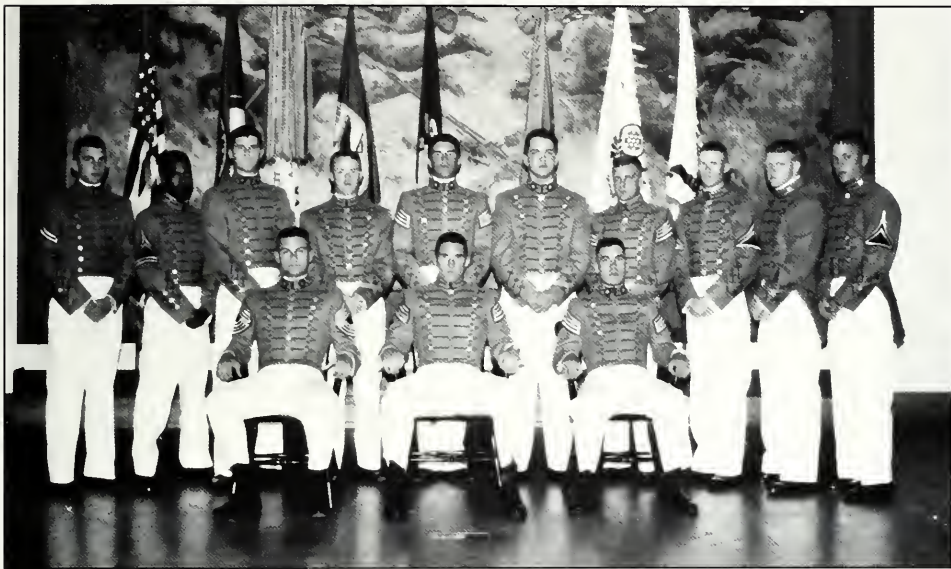


The General Committee has evolved over the past fifty years into an organization that its founding fathers never could have foreseen. From its conception, the General Committee was a society of discipline and intimidation, and could be compared with the modern Rat Disciplinary Committee. Out of these rudimentary elements has grown the modern class system, the fixture which separates Virginia Military Institute from other military schools. The class system empowers the Corps with the responsibility of maintaining its standards both inside and outside of barracks. The Corps carries out the duties of this responsibility in adhering to the standards

set forth in the blue book as well as through a system of privileges which correlate with a cadet's seniority. The General Committee is the medium via this class system is enforced and these standards are kept. The hierarchical system administered by the General Committee assists in the growth and development of VMI men. The GC is based on a 'for the Corps, by the Corps' principle. The discipline which a cadet learns from this democratic structure is something that he takes with him as a leader in the dawn of a new century.

Written by Kelly Underwood

# THE HONOR COURT



VMI demands strict adherence to a system of unique traditions. The life-style chosen indicates your will to succeed and sets you apart from the average college student. To abide by the VMI system, certain rules and standards must be met. Throughout your cadetship, you will find, as your knowledge of the system grows, that VMI's rules were made to be broken when the opportunity arises. The Honor Code is not a rule, it is a way of life and is an integral part of each cadet's character. The Code is not confined to the boundaries of post and a cadet does not stop being honorable during summer school, when studying abroad, or after graduation. Honor is something the cadets and alumni cherish with fierce pride and is not something to be questioned or taken lightly. The Corps does not tolerate a dishonest cadet.

The members of the Honor Court have been elected by their classmates because they have shown a high sense of honor and character. As members of the Honor Court, our first responsibility is to educate the Corps. Cadets need to know the difference between the VMI rules and when something is a violation of someone's honor. Our focus on education this year is toleration. Without respect for toleration, we diminish the rest of the code. Every time toleration occurs, the system fails, for the VMI Honor System relies on the reports of cadets with any knowledge of a violation of the Honor Code. The slightest suspicion of a violation must be reported to the Prosecutors, or the tolerator is at fault and will be dealt with accordingly. Your loyalty should be to the Honor Code, not your DYKE, ROOMMATES, COMPANY, or TEAM!

The Honor Court's second job is to investigate possible honor violations reported to Prosecutors. If sufficient evidence is gathered, a trial will be held in which the accused is tried by a jury of his peers. The Honor Court's third responsibility is to conduct the trial procedures. If the cadet should be acquitted, he or she is completely exonerated of all charges and bears no stigma. Should the accused be found guilty, he or she receives only one penalty, immediate expulsion from VMI.

-----Thomas M. Wirth; Honor Court President, '97-'98

# THE RAT DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE



**T**he RDC is a subcommittee of the General Committee. It is elected by the First Class to serve as an acting body, which adjudicates violations of Rat restrictions and guidelines set by the First Class. The mission of the RDC is to assist the transition for the Rat from high school student to VMI Cadet. Through this committee the First Class directs the formation of a class which will one day take the same responsibility on itself and perpetuate the tradition of adversative training which characterizes VMI. Thus, the RDC has the responsibility to the First Class of guiding the transformation of the high school graduate into the VMI Cadet, and solidifying this group into a unified VMI class.

To the Class of 2001:

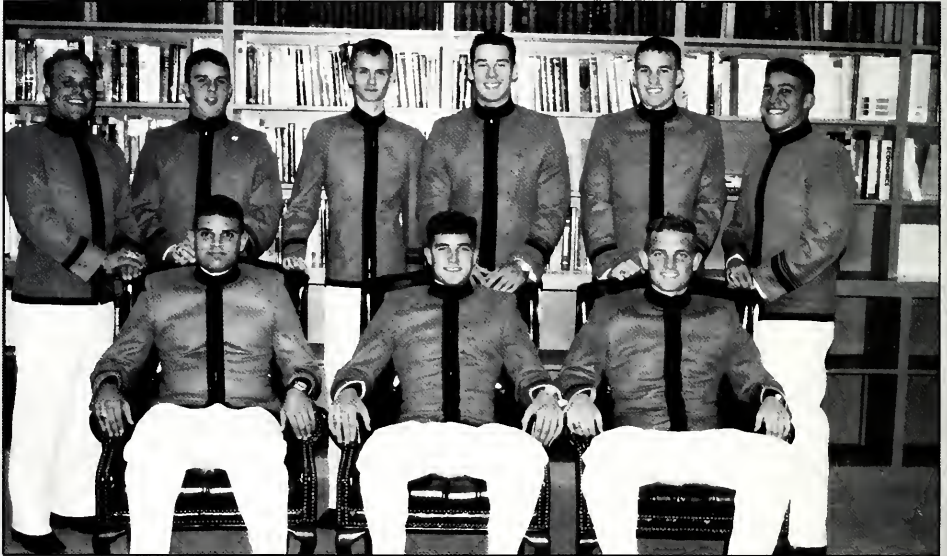
You have met and conquered one of the first challenges of your life by deciding to attend our fine Institute. It is vital that you find within yourself the mental and physical fortitude that will enable

you to survive the remaining years of your cadetship at VMI. The lessons learned in the Rat Line will be with you for the rest of your life. You will recollect these memories with pride, for you have accomplished what not many can. The unity that you have formed with you fellow Brother Rats is the foundation of which every class is built upon. It is this tenacious principle of class unity which sets VMI apart from other schools. Remember that all things you do are in representation of the Virginia Military Institute, and you are the continuation of the Class of 1998.

Jonathan W. Spitzer  
RDC President, Class of 1998  
USMC



# THE OFFICER OF THE GUARD ASSOCIATION



When I was elected onto the Officers of the Guard Association in the Spring of 1997, I was immediately bombarded with "Old Corps" stories from Alumni about what the OGA was in their day. To my amazement, the OGA was among the most active, visible and trusted organizations within the Corps. They were essentially in charge of the Rat Line (before the RDC was formed) and were very much involved in fighting injustice from the administration.

For my entire cadetship, I viewed the OGA as a more secretive organization, whose sole purpose was to investigate matters of hazing and gross misconduct within the Corps. They were the First Class Privates that earned their positions through their private status. Of course this was a misconception, but I think there was something to this image which worked against what the organization stood for.

For the 97-98 school year, the OGA made a conscientious effort to become more active in all aspects of Corps life. We donned T-shirts and did stoop patrols through all of Cadre week in an effort to discourage any action deemed unauthorized and participated in all rat functions. We had thousands of meetings with the Administration to try and change policies and fight their inclinations to throw around outrageous penalties for minor infractions. Our time was dedicated to helping people when they were in need of it. Spending hours

on end in the Commandant's office, we took the Corps' complaints to the Administration. The OGA fought tooth and nail to try and give our Rats a difficult Ratline, and to get the second and third classes some concessions. And of course, we had the heavy-hearted job of policing the Corps and investigating for the Executive Committee. For those who believed the OGA didn't do anything other than investigate the occasional case, you couldn't be further from the truth. For us this year, it was a full time and sometimes thankless job, but I hope that what we accomplished, both for the Corps at large and the Institute in general, speaks for itself. In addition, I hope the members of this organization can know that they made a positive difference that will not go forgotten.

This year, being such a ground-breaking year at the Institute, the OGA decided that this was the year to attempt to bring the OGA back into the public eyes of the Corps. We attempted to dispel the misconception of an organization that suspended and dismissed, the organization of "Rat-Daddies". Whether or not this was achieved will be discovered with the OGA of years to follow. If this organization



remains as active next year as we were this year, I will consider our effort a success. The OGA has such potential to be one of the strongest organizations in Barracks, and I would like to send my heart-felt thanks out to all the members of the First Class and those in '99, '00, and '01 who supported us in doing something that hadn't been done for years.

I believe we made amazing progress this year, and I attribute it all to the wonderful, industrious and dedicated people I had the pleasure of working with. Jimmy Stanley, J.C. de los Reyes, Tom Barnhill, Dan Smith, Demetri Poulos, Brad Arnold, Mark Cox, Andy Gehring and Tim O'Bryant were the best mix of guys that I could have hoped for. Without their tireless efforts, we would never have accomplished what we did. They all sacrificed their time and effort, dealing with things we never thought we would see, and undertaking a job of a magnitude we never imagined. To them, I am forever grateful.

To the OGA of years to come, there is still a lot of work to be done in redeveloping the OGA, and trust me when I say it is some times a thankless job. But hopefully like me, when you look back in retrospect, you won't regret a minute of it.

Sincerely,  
 Bradley R. Cooke '98  
 President, Officers of the Guard Association  
 1997-98

# ALPHA COMPANY

## HARD CORE ALPHA

When a CO performs an about face and gazes upon the ranks of Alpha Company, he is reminded that throughout the year he will not act as a leader, but as a servant. He sees platoons of confident tomorrows and an immense pride earned and shared by the ghosts, alumni, and cadets of VMI's most distinguished company. Through the ranks he sees the faces of duty; of laughter; of honor; of friendship, of tradition; and of magnificence. The Class of '98 has been smiled upon by fortune and striven to ascend the Olympus of VMI; history will tell us we have been successful. To the men of Alpha Company, who are as an integral part of VMI as Stonewall Jackson, George Marshall, a gray barracks and Matthew, Mark, Luke and John: it has been an honor and a privilege. I could not have served alone: recognition of superb excellence in the Lt's and NCO's is in order. Recognition to XO Daniel C. Gibson; the finest XO I have ever seen or heard of. As an outsider, I cannot express my gratitude for the cooperation offered from Alpha; nor can I describe the feeling of passing in review with such an astounding display of personified history in the ranks behind me. It has been sublime. I wish each and every one of you the best of luck in the future. To the class of '98, let us listen for the sounds of trumpets. To Cornett, Obadal, and Medlin: we stand ready gentlemen.

Written by Clark S. Twiddy, '98







Clark Twiddy  
Company Commander

Daniel Gibson  
Executive Officer

Joseph Brown  
Guidon Bearer



Tyler Shelbert  
Platoon Lieutenant

Brendan Toolan  
Platoon Lieutenant

Doug Whalen  
Platoon Lieutenant



Cliff Flournoy  
First Sergeant

Sean Ross  
Operations Sergeant

Joel Britt  
Master Sergeant



# First Class Privates

# *BRAVO COMPANY*

## *BALL BUSTIN'*

### *BRAVO*

**B**ravo Company has always produced great leaders. Since my rat year, members of Bravo Company have been Regimental and Battalion Commanders and have held various staff positions. Bravo has produced an RDC president, for whom I remember straining fiercely, a class Vice-President for '98, and two Honor Court Presidents. However, Bravo Company's strongest assets are its privates. A company can not have a successful leader without privates willing to support and follow them. Bravo maybe one of the most diversified companies, housing an even mix of athletes, academic stars, bomb and newspaper editors, and ROTC Nazis, but we are bound by heart and pride. Long gone are the days of the Ball Busters. Now we must teach and support a new era of Butt Kickers so they can carry on the Bravo Company tradition of leadership.

Written by Cadet Thomas Wirth, '98





Thomas Wirth  
Company Commander

Matthew Staton  
Executive Officer

Neil Holloran  
Guidon Bearer



Christopher Chan  
Platoon Lieutenant

Joseph Anwah  
Platoon Lieutenant

Phantom Prompal  
Platoon Lieutenant



Gregory McDearmon  
First Sergeant

Alan Bull  
Operations Sergeant

Cameron Tabor  
Master Sergeant



# First Class Privates

# CHARLIE COMPANY

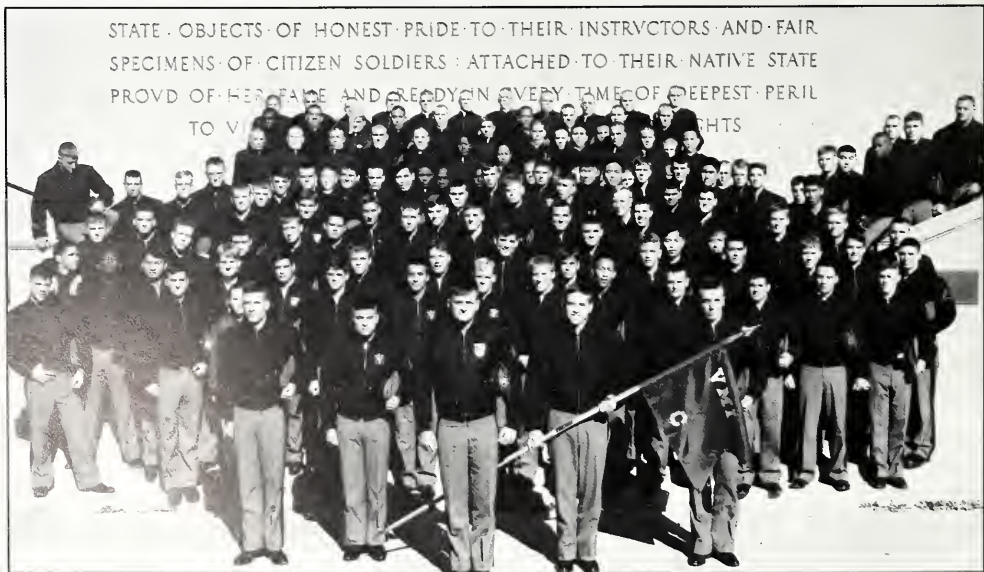
## COLD STEEL CHARLIE

In encapsulating four years with you, I cannot begin to express my pride and respect for the Cadets of the last Old Corps company. Charlie has been misunderstood and maligned, but we've never backed down an inch and our results serve as a prominent testament to your tenacity and dedication.

What makes this all the more special is knowing that it was a united effort. With a few exceptions, the privates have done everything that was asked of them. The Lieutenants, Sergeants and Corporals performed well despite the demands of both the Administration and myself. Hands down, Col. Meriweather is VMI's best TAC. To the Cadre, you have been impressive to watch. Without a doubt, the company has been blessed with the talents of Joey Bates as a disciplinarian and a teacher. There is no finer X.O. in the Corps. Chris McGuire, Chris Alligood and Andy Stafford did exceptional jobs. They weathered the difficult times and always stood up for the company. The Cpl. stepped in and learned what it means to administer the toughest company Ratline. Finally, Tom Barnhill was a resource and a voice of reason as the OGA rep. These few lines are in no way an adequate compensation for all that you have endured and offered as members of Charlie.

As another class departs the Institute, I leave you with this. Those of you who still have some time left in your Cadetship, remember what you have been taught by those above you in order to maintain the traditions and values of Charlie. Never back down and accept anything less than what you know is right. Understand that it's imperative for Charlie to remain an island of stability and intensity for the Corps. to take inspiration and direction from, and know that you have been part of something very special indeed.

Written by Cadet Brett Thomas McGinley, '98





**Brett McGinley**  
Company Commander

**Joseph Bates**  
Executive Officer

**David Killian**  
Guidon Bearer



**Carl Hallen**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**Henry Ehr Gott**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**Chris Buchness**  
Platoon Lieutenant



**Chris McGuire**  
First Sergeant

**Anthony Stafford**  
Operations Sergeant

**Chris Alligood**  
Master Sergeant



# **First Class Privates**

# DELTA COMPANY

## MAD DOG DELTA

"In thy faint slumbers, I by thee have watch'd, and heard thee murmur tales of iron wars". I thought of this passage from Shakespeare whenever I turned and glanced at Delta. No other company demands a higher sacrifice from a CO. Constant battles and tribulations with peers and administrators have made this year a challenge in leadership never matched before. Speaking with Alex, I always said everybody has an opinion how to run Delta. It was amusing to see how other cadets looked at Delta as pariahs; I suppose Gertrude Steir's quote "You are all a lost generation" was fitting for us. In the end it will be us who will laugh last because the corps will never know the tie which Delta forms. A tie which cannot be described in prose, but only in the ethos which the company brandishes. I'm sure our presence has given Col. Hammond and the Commandant a bit of discomfort. It's alright though because in the end it wasn't how well you drilled, just whether you stood up and approached the line. To the Old Corps & Rats, I give thanks for the trials you offered that no other company would have; it has prepared me for the future. To the next Delta Commander, always put Delta first...they never turned their backs on me.

Written By Cadet Lucas J.A. Braxton, '98





Picture  
Not  
Available

Lucas Braxton  
Company Commander

Alexander Blanton  
Executive Officer

Jordan Dolan  
Guidon Bearer

Patrick Roberts  
Platoon Lieutenant



Sean Hicklin  
Platoon Lieutenant

Andrew Trout  
Platoon Lieutenant



Theodore Coberly  
First Sergeant

Brian Withers  
Operations Sergeant

Robert Trent  
Master Sergeant



# First Class Privates

# ECHO COMPANY

## TIGER ECHO

It has been tough being the company commander for the best company on the hill, despite the many distractions which faced our company staff throughout the year (for example the ever present girl school threat which so often depleted our ranks). I think we accomplished our mission of surviving yet another year at the "I". Because the Echo ego is as large as ever, I have no need to revel any longer on the accomplishments of the company. Instead I would rather wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors. To those that will lead Echo Company in the future I would like to impart two words of wisdom. First, do it right the first time. Chances are that at VMI, you won't have time to do it a second time. Second, I would suggest that you teach, lead and inspire using only the highest ideals (such as honor, integrity, and a constant devotion to perfection) as your foundation. Trust your spirit to guide you and listen well to its teachings.

May God Bless all of you and keep you safe until we meet again.

Written by Cadet William T. Stann, '98





**William Stann**  
Company Commander

**Lucas Miller**  
Executive Officer

**Daniel Dunn**  
Guidon Bearer

**Shawn Ting**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**Greg Moseley**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**Gabe Hubble**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**Ryan Debouchel**  
First Sergeant

**Chris Varner**  
Operations Sergeant

**Jason Berg**  
Master Sergeant

# First Class Privates

# F-TROOP

## THE MIGHTY F-TROOP

This letter is to all F-Troopers past, present, and future. It's been a real pleasure working with all of you this year, and the majority of my cadetship. By being the quality cadets that you are, you made my job quite easy. I can truly say that the men and women in the company are the heart and soul of VMI. You range from scholars, to athletes, to military regimented, to everyday private. A quote about The Troop, from a former member of the company, which has stuck with me over the past couple of years, "F-Troop is the slackest of company on the hill, but when something needs to be done, you can count on us." I think that quote really says a lot.

I would like to thank all of the members of F-Troop before us, who have given us the coveted traditions that we hold within the company, and all of the future members of F-Troop that will uphold these highly regarded traditions. Most of all I would like to thank, and extended a challenge, to all of you in the company that will be here at VMI next year: keep the traditions going and make the future members of the company proud to be in F-Troop!!

Written by Cadet Bryan E Bailey, '98



**Bryan Bailey**  
Company Commander

**Brook Barbour**  
Executive Officer

**Scott Reid**  
Guidon Bearer

**Wade Germann**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**Joe Seiler**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**Jim Peay**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**Matthew Stephens**  
First Sergeant

**Matthew Vanhoose**  
Operations Sergeant

**Ali Morales**  
Master Sergeant

# First Class Privates



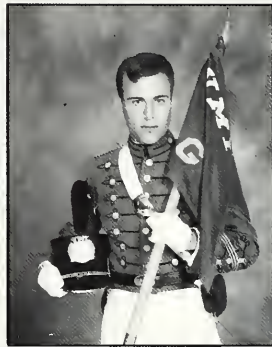
# GOLF COMPANY

## BLOOD AND GUTS GOLF

To the members of Golf Company: I had some trouble figuring out what to write in this "CO's Letter" for the Bomb. I must first say that it was an honor to serve you during my final year at VMI. The lessons of leadership that I learned could not have been done without you and I hope to carry on what you have taught me for the rest of my days. Although we have had some rough times, the positive far outweigh the negative. I hope I was able to provide you with something as well. To my Golf Co. Brother Rats of the Class of 1998, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to lead our company through the challenges of 1st class year and this "new era" of VMI that we pioneered. This letter cannot be completed without recognition to the excellent service that the Officers and NCO's provided. For without them and the Ranks, Golf Company would not have the character that we so earnestly developed. To the members of '99, '00, and '01, pass on what you have learned and ensure the success of Golf Company. Once again thank you and Semper Fi.

Written by Cadet Stefan Barr, '98





**Stefan Barr**  
Company Commander

**Robert Paxton**  
Executive Officer

**Eric Eisemon**  
Guidon Bearer

**Greg Ellen**  
Platoon Lieutenant



Picture  
Not  
Available

**Jason Lamb**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**John Brant**  
Platoon Lieutenant

**Christopher Magee**  
First Sergeant



**Christopher Forbes**  
Operations Sergeant

**John Witt**  
Master Sergeant



# First Class Privates

# HOTEL COMPANY HARD CHARGIN' HOTEL

Although my time in Hotel Company has been short, I have enjoyed every minute of it, and will remember it for the rest of my life. First and foremost, I wish to thank all of you for making my transition into a new company as comfortable as it was. I can honestly say that you never made me feel like an outsider. Thank you for welcoming me into your ranks. I have learned a great deal from working with the fine groups of cadets that constitute "Hard Chargin' Hotel." Although this was the most difficult, time consuming, and stressful job I have ever been tasked with, the sense of pride I have marching you all onto the parade ground makes it all worth while. I wish to thank my staff for their selfless service, hard work and dedication: John Hamilton, Mike Rust, Jochen Dunville, Paul Brown, and all the corporals—job well done. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank my first-class privates. No company on the hill can function without privates, and the remarkable attitudes that you have shown has made my job much easier than it would have been without your support. Finally, to whichever one of you carries this company into the future I want to wish you much luck and remind you that if you give these cadets in Hotel Company the respect that they deserve they will reciprocate it back to you tenfold. Thank you for the honor and privilege of being your Company Commander, and good luck to each and everyone of you in your future pursuits.

Written by Cadet Mark Patrick Glancy, '98





Mark Glancy  
Company Commander



Jonathan Hamilton  
Executive Officer



Matthew Watson  
Guidon Bearer

Timothy Hough  
Platoon Lieutenant



Pol Ou  
Platoon Lieutenant



David Poularis  
Platoon Lieutenant



Michael Rust  
First Sergeant



Paul Brown  
Operations Sergeant



Jochen Dunville  
Master Sergeant



# First Class Privates

# BAND COMPANY

## BLOOD THIRSTY BAND CO

As a Corps, we have opened a new chapter in the illustrious history of our beloved "I". We have performed honorably while integrating the newest class of cadets into our ranks, remembering always to maintain the integrity of our company and our Corps. It is because of your hard work and determination that this goal reached with minimal error. Few others can boast of a professionalism and an efficiency of which our company maintained throughout the year. So often it is a "hit and miss" effort to try to attain perfection, but never before have I seen such a large group of people strive so hard to achieve it. To do this requires much time and energy, two commodities which are not overly abundant at VMI. Seldom is the work which we put into practices and performing ever fully compensated. Most often it is the self-satisfaction and the special bond which only members of the Band can share that proves to be our motivation to keep going. I want you to know that I am very proud to be one of an elite group of people and it has been a tremendous honor to be the Commanding Officer of the same. I wish there was a way that I could thank everyone and share the joy I have had in receiving high praises and numerous compliments on the behalf of the Band. We have much to be proud of and much to cherish.

To my brother rats: I am eternally grateful for your support and strength that you provided me and the company. Never forget that you were the true leaders of this company.

To the upper classes of '99 and '00: One must learn to follow before one can lead. Though growing pains are to be expected, you proved to be the backbone of the company-the integral part that held us together as a unit. It was your determination that allowed us to carry out our many tasks efficiently and professionally.

To the class of '01: You have a tremendous weight upon your shoulders. You are the future of this company and this corps. With strong wills and leadership you will learn in the years to come, you will come together to carry on the proud tradition of the Band and the Corps.

Written by cadet Ryan K. Betton, '98







**Ryan Betton**  
Company Commander



**Matt Baldwin**  
Executive Officer



**Sean Williams**  
Guidon Bearer



**Matthew Bertsch**  
Platoon Lieutenant



**Melvin Bonifacio**  
Platoon Lieutenant



**Kwabena Gyimah**  
Platoon Lieutenant



**Mike McDermott**  
First Sergeant



**Stephen Burton**  
Operations Sergeant



**Ian Bobbit**  
Master Sergeant



**Kevin Thomas**  
Drum Major



# **First Class Privates**



OCT 29 - OCT 30  
C CO GUARD TEAM  
OC CDR RIESTER  
OD BERNIER ST  
OG REDMAN M  
SOG JAMES HSM  
NSOG ESTES J

**S**am Bernier and Mark Redman demonstrate a little pride while serving guard duty. The Officer of the Day and the Officer of the Guard are two important positions that a first classmen is responsible for in their tenure. Needless to say with these two fine cadets, the Institute was safe from harms way.

# PERSONS OF WISDOM

## THE FIRST CLASS



Finally the year we have longed for. The Class of 1998 has finally had the opportunity to display our strength in leadership. We have been faced with more challenges than any class in quite sometime. Our class has done exceptionally well with every task it has been faced with. Under our leadership and careful guidance, the assimilation of women into the Corps of Cadets has gone smoothly. Once again, when the Class of 1998 was faced with strife, we have risen to a new level and performed flawlessly.

I have done the very best job I was capable of and I hope that your class officers met your expectations. I would like to thank each of you for support throughout our cadetship. This statement is a bit trite, however the Class of 1998 will go down in history as a class with conviction and closeness. I have been honored to serve each of you. Thank you and best wishes always.

Yours in the Spirit,  
Kevin M. Trujillo  
President, Class of 1998

# THE BEST OF '98



*Top left:* Funk and friends bonding over some beer and planning Funk's Field '98.  
*Above:* The Latin Lover and friends take a rest from the rigors and mud of break-out.  
*Right:* "Brother Rat, do you have a smoke?" Simon and Jim pause for a quick photo op.



*Top Right:* A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, being the first rat sentinal is an interesting, and messy, experience.  
*Above:* Keeping the traditional rivalry alive, Jimmy Stanly borrowed the Citadel class of 1998's class blocks, but he left a note.

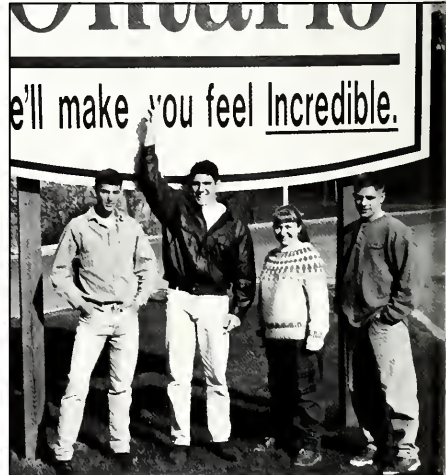


*Top Left:* Model First Class Privates  
*Top Right:* Members of *The Cadet*  
meet with the beautiful reporter,  
Tabitha Soren, from MTV while she  
filmed a documentary here at VML  
*Above:* "What do you think? Should I  
lose the glasses?"  
*Right:* Avi Hopkins shows how to lay  
some hits during practice.  
*Below:* Brett McGinley and the  
founders of the 'Clamp-Head Club' in  
all their glory.





*Top Left:* Justin Wolfe doing his best monkey imitation.  
*Top Right:* Who has the harder head, Charles or Chris?  
*Above Left:* 'Spider Man' Nash shows us his stuff while hanging around.  
*Above Right:* Ring Figure '97!!!  
*Right:* The typical cadet hotel room during the typical hop and barley weekend.  
*Far right:* Andy, Bill, and Ryan entering Ontario, Canada for a week of study, booze, and all around debauchery.





*Top:* Alpha Company '98 gathers together to demonstrate the 'Brotherhood of the Ring'.  
*Above left:* Tim and friends doing what comes naturally....partyin!!  
*Right:* Will Stann demonstrates exactly just what VMI can do to an otherwise normal person.  
*Far Right:* This is not an efficient way of feeding Carl Gummi bears.





**Geoffrey D. Alexander**  
"Cool Rat, John Lennon, Alex"

**Van Buren, Arkansas**  
History / Special Student

Geoff came to VMI under the assumption that he was going to Boston College. Little did he know that the institution he matriculated into was 700 miles from the BC exit. Though this slight miscalculation in the travel route was rather disheartening to the cynical Scot, he entered the Spartan life-style of the "Y" and brutal rigors of the Rat Line with the same determination he would of brought to BC.

I first met Geoff in the Rat Line on the Washington Arch side of Barracks. Despite the insect-like appearance he had back then, I had the chance to become roommates with Geoff. Known Rat Year by upperclassmen as John Lennon Rat, I can say that Geoff is one of the most laid back people I've met during my illustrious stay at VMI. His BRs could always depend on him to be the most lighthearted of any group.

Second class year was when Geoff and I became roommates and as a new roommate his job was one of great importance, to keep me out of trouble. Exemplifying the Brother Rat Spirit, Geoff, on countless occasions, kept myself and others from throwing up on ourselves. I can even imagine how many favors/money I owe him. First class year was the end of a journey for Geoff and even though a misunderstanding with the Army Department disqualified him for a commission, he still strived forth. During his cadetship he often questioned why he remained at VMI, but he knew that no matter how bad things got as a cadet at the Virginia Military Institute, he wanted to be a graduate from the Virginia Military Institute.

Pvt 4,1; Cpl 3; Ops Sgt 2; Fencing 3,2; Eagle Scout Association 4,3,2,1; Tanker Plt 3,2; History Assistant 1; Sleep Preservation Society 2; The Big Ten 2; IHITP 4,3,2,1; IHITFArmy 4,3,2,1; Out of State, Out of mind club 4,3,2,1;



**Edward M. Allen**  
"Big Ed, Hua, Monney"

**New Kent, Virginia**  
Civil Engineering /Army

In High School, Edward Allen was only a myth. I had heard about him through mutual friends and through baseball. He was supposed to be this great baseball player and total dog (to girls). My first impression of Ed was at a basketball game where, yes, all of these myths were confirmed. After knowing him for three years I know it is not true because Ed has a great girlfriend in Katherine and isn't that great at baseball (just playing).

Coming to VMI was an easy decision for Edward, because this is the only college that he applied to. Once here he has always wanted to leave (who doesn't). He struggled through baseball for two years, where he started to see his grades fall and decided he should hang-up the cleats. This was unfortunate for the team because Edward had done real well his second year, and absolutely loved the game of baseball. But since he became a "regular corps member" he has raised his GPA back-up and has had fun playing intramurals. For the past two years of my cadetship, it has been hard to go to practice when I look over and see Ed knocked out on his rack. I guess I was just jealous. Even right now he is at home on a weekend and I am getting ready to go to lift for football.

We've had some fun times at VMI and it is going to be weird after this year not being with Ed and Brian everyday. Ed is all that you can ask for in a roommate and I am glad we have become great friends. Good luck in the Army, Fight Light, Fight Naked, Long live Domino's, late night talks, and homework. I wish you and Katherine the best in life. Peace. Yo. GCEP  
Pvt 4,3,2,1; ASCE 3,2,1; Army 4,3,2,1; Katherine 4,3,2,1; Big Red 3,2,1; Baseball 4,3; Tau Beta Pi 1; Dean List 4,2,1



**Jesse A. Althouse**

**Parksburg, Pennsylvania**  
History / Army



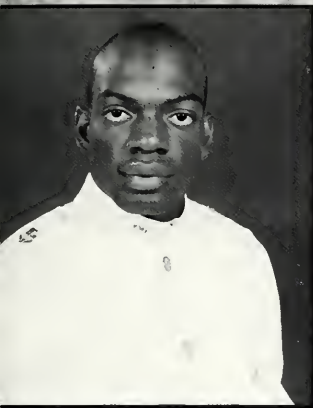
**Dykes:**  
1995: Mark Fulk  
Quincy Meade  
2001: Kevin Fromm



**Dykes:**  
1995: Mark Fulk,  
Quincy Meade  
2001: Richie "Rich" Joyner



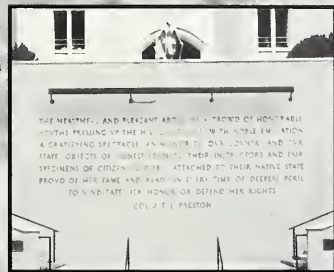




**Joseph E. Anwah**

**Centreville, Virginia  
Biology / Air Force**

"I came, I saw, Thank God for being with me all the time.  
4,3,2,1 Track; Promaji 4,3,2,1; Monogram club 4,3,2,1; CIG 3,2,1  
group B Vice President; Sgt 2, Lt 1, American Chemical Association  
2, 1.



**Dykes:  
2001: Chukwu Emeka.**



**Bradley C. Arnold**  
"Schwartzinager" "Sarge"

**Max Meadows, Virginia  
History / Special Student**

Well, the time has finally come for me. It has been a long and hard journey, but I know I will miss this place. I thank Almighty God for getting me through this place. Without Him, I am nothing and can do nothing. To all my past roommates: Brian, Ryan, Paul, —Thanks for the memories. I had a good time with y'all even though I could have killed you every second of the day. Thanks for supporting me, especially when you got me into trouble all the time for using my computer for illegal activities. Blood Thirsty Band and Co: Without you, I would have had to be a gun monkey. Us beaters and blowers have to stick together. Major, LTC, Col. Brodie: You are my mentor, sir. Thanks for teaching me how to play the trumpet. Steel Panthers rule! Mom and Dad: I love you guys. Thanks for backing me through these years, even when I had a not-very-good GPA. Carrie: "You know." Ring Figure was my best year for 2 reasons, only one of which being my ring. To the Class of 1995: Rah Virginia Mill! Brian Lyerly, see you in life to come. You know it is impossible for us to be separated. Thanks Geoff, Jeff, and Tuna. To the mass of 1998+3: David, Jarrett, David, Sammy, Dean, and Robert—Hang in there, Dr. Spencer Tucker and Dr. Beverly Tucker: Thanks for everything. I will forgive you for being 3 years late in coming here. To the Gouge and Somers families: You made my 1<sup>st</sup> class year bearable with all of your packages. You should be VERY proud of my boys. I thank all my friends that I do not have room to write about. You know who you are. And YMI: Thanks for the past 4 years. May the Institute be heard of today! Private 4,3,1; Sgt 2; Band Co. 4,3,2,1; Bugler 3,2,1; Head Bugler 1; Trumpet Section Leader 2,1; Insrutite Brass 4,3,2,1; OGA 1; Ac Pro 4,3; Dear's List 2,1; Victim of Rack Monster 3,2,1; Hen-pecked 4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:  
1995: Geoff Goff  
2001: David "bone-rat" Gouge  
Jarrett "I'm fromLuray"  
Somers**



**George M. Ashman III**  
"Trey Victim, Tray Dawg"

**Amelia, Virginia  
English & Philosphy Minor / Special Student**

When I arrived at VMI for the first time on August 15, 1994 I thought I knew what I was getting myself into. Yet, after about 30 seconds of seeing the cadet marching in to the beat of that god forsaken drum, I quickly realized that the worm had definitely turned for me. Now that I look back there isat much I remember from my routine since I've blocked the majority of the experience out of my stream of consciousness. Being a third, as most know, is by far the worst year here. Simply stated: Places to go and no way to get there. It was during this year that I called upon forces from above, as well as BR, Blanton's Mustang, to get to bigger and more happening places. Thanks for the rides Alex. Several times a year was alright, we got our rings and had a Friday alcoholic feast that surpasses any other event I have experienced at the "T". I took second semester off and traveled to London, England in a study abroad program. That experience changed my life forever and opened my eyes to the vast potential and harm that the world has to offer outside the boundaries of VMI.

Most importantly I'd like to thank my parents and family for their love, support, dedication, mail, food boxes, and especially the obscene amount of money they have invested in my education. You all have worked hard to give me a good chance in this life. I know I won't let you or myself down. I also have to give special thanks to my roommates of 4 years Brendan Toolan and Andy Beaman for just being themselves. I doubt I'll ever meet two other people as genuine, decent, and true to their convictions as they are. To the rest of Pervert Corner, you guys are the best and I could not have asked to be surrounded by a more entertaining group of people. I wish all of you the best in life and know that each of you will succeed in your future endeavors. Remember, in the words of Rufi Coolan: "Pervert isn't a place, it's a state of mind". To my good friend Baumann: NO, appreciate your consistent persuasion and devotion to the "best level". It'd also like to thank the parents of many BRs who all displayed kindness and hospitality whenever I visited. Oh, and by the way Keith, a "back country mail" is just what our sounds like! Of all the things I've learned at VMI the one revelation that stands out the most in my mind, is that there are no endings in life, only new beginnings.

Ac Co. Private 4,3,2,1, Preston Society-2; Big Red Club-3,2; English Society-2,1; Racquetball team-2; Rat challenge cadre-3



**Dykes:  
1994: Rob Brumley  
2001: Jack Hagel**

McKeesport, Pennsylvania  
Civil Engineering / Army

Well, I can't believe that my time at VMI is over! It's been an interesting few years that I'll never forget. When I came to VMI in August '94, I didn't know what to expect, but I could sense that this place was for me. Looking back on the Rat Line, it was somewhat fun, but something that I wouldn't care to go through again. Following the Rat Line, I didn't think this place could get much worse until first semester grades came out 3<sup>rd</sup> Class year... 2<sup>nd</sup> Class year was a great experience with Ring Figure and studying abroad in England, especially with Matt and Jimmy! 1<sup>st</sup> Class year was a huge test, but it was a good time. I'd like to thank my Mom, Dad, Jim, and Chris for the support through my time at VMI, even when I sent for the Penn State application! I'd also like to thank TJ, Parback, and Meadsman for being great roommates, always being there, and always cracking a joke when needed most. I'm going to miss you guys... To Chris, Yulia, Sean, Tennille, Delton, "Pete," and Melissa, remember to do the right thing and use the tools that we've given you to be successful. Carry on the traditions that you've learned, and continue to make this place a great institution. *"The Institute Shall Never Die"*  
HC2, 1; Corporal-3, 1<sup>st</sup> BATT SGM-2, F-Troop CO-1; Ghetto Member-3, 2, 1; Presidential Advisor-3, 2, 1



**Bryan E. Bailey**  
"Beetle"



Dykes:  
1995: Michael S. Johnson  
2001: Yulia B. Beltikova  
Christopher M. Gaddy

Carlisle, Kentucky

History & Psychology Minor / Special Student

The infamous Pat Baker was born in central Kentucky in a small town known as Carlisle. This character, known as "Bake" to his friends, is never lacking in the joke category. Once he gets started, you might as well pull up a chair and stay a while, because his stories will dazzle you and his impressions will make you roll with laughter. By the time you leave the room, your stomach will ache and once again, you will have done no work for the night. There is another side to Bake... The Bake that's serious about getting an education and starting a career. He is focused on his future and I have no doubt he'll be successful in whatever he does. It is hard to believe that our stay at this H#%\$ hole is almost over. Pat and I only spent about four semesters together and during this time we were almost inseparable due to the fact that we had very similar backgrounds and interests. Over this short time period we have had some wonderful experiences, great road trips (Morgantown, etc.), and other good times that will not be forgotten. The hardships at this place have also taken their toll, but we have overcome them with extensive conversations about sports or the combination of days and long none productive weekends. Our good times will only grow in number once we leave this place. Go Cats! More importantly though Go Mounties!! It was HUGE, Baker!! Best of luck Bro! Love, Rich and Will. I want to say a few things before I leave this place. VMI has been an interesting experience to say the least. Although the past 4 years have been a grind, the bonds and friendships I have established here were worth it. I can't thank my parents enough for all their support and love; this achievement is just as much theirs' as it is mine. To my one and only brother Paul, I love you buddy. I want to thank Karen Beth who has stood beside me and made this year great, you're the best KB. Thanks to my dykes who helped me survive my first year and provide the foundation on which to build. Finally, thanks to all my family and friends who have placed their support behind me. In closing, I would like to leave with a quote that sums up my experience at VMI, "I'm so tired of being tired" Tom Petty... Virgin Private, Cadet Staff 3, Asst. Sports Editor 2, 1; Big Red Club 3, 2, Tres. 1; Football 4, 3; FCA 2, 1



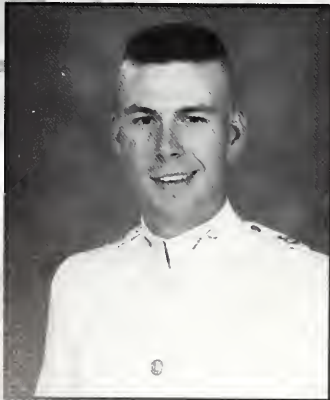
**Patrick R. Baker**  
"Pat, Bakes"



Dykes:  
1995: Jeremy Ingram  
2001: Clayton Llewellyn

Ft. Washington, Maryland  
English / Army

"I have a 10 inch tongue and I breathe through my ears." Those are the words that Paul used when asked to describe himself, and if one gets to know Paul, that description isn't that far off. Paul came here as a locked on, squared away rat. In May, Paul will leave as a prime example of what a first class private dirt-bag should be (not that it is bad). Paul is known for counseling those rats who seek the advice of one who is learned in the system, but doesn't care. He will always be there in times of need with lots of sarcasm and bad jokes. However, in the end Paul will always come through, and is a good man to have on your side. Well Paul, good luck in the Army, and may your flair for leadership bring you fame and fortune in the future.  
Private 4321; Glee Club 4321



**Paul C. Balassa**  
"Uncle Paul"



Dykes:  
1995: Disowned Twice  
2001: Tom Graham



**Matthew R. Baldwin**

**Roanoke, Virginia  
Computer Science / Army**

Finally, the light at the end of the tunnel isn't a train coming the other way. I can't believe that this saga is soon coming to an end. The Institute has taught me a lot in the ways of life. The most important lesson learned was no matter how bad it is, it could always get worse. I have to thank the administration for this lesson. I guess the secret to this place is the friendships that you establish in this hellhole. You guys know who you are. To the members of the WBC, Sac, Ryan, Todd, Sean (my nigga), Brian (HEEEB), Deter, Rauch, Pearson, and Blanford, You guys are the best. Steve Burton, we are an unbeatable team. Summer school marathon, Pins and needles, and knowing every crack in the road between here and Alexandria. Just remember, "You guys concentrate on grades, we will come to you. I will always remember everything we've been through. FEES! You might be gone right now but never forgotten. Hamel!! Jesus where do I start? You have been my mobile support team for my cadetship. I guess we should have cleaned that footprint of paint. Get outta here soon, so we can go to plan C. I owe the majority of my thanks to my parents. "Every plane needs a strong wind to fly, and you two were always there. Kiss!! You are my everything. I can't wait to get outta here and spend the rest of my life with the girl that I love. I love you all and I will be there for you, because you have been there for me.

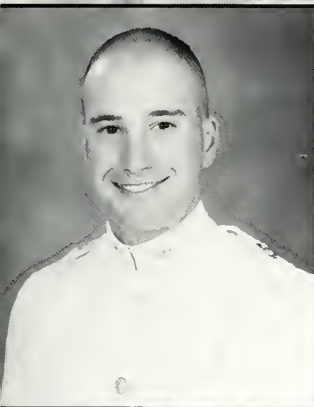
To Andrew and Jenny, work hard and everything will come your way! I am always an email away.

Band Company 4,3,2,1. Commanders 3,2,1. Corporal 3. Sergeant 2. XO 1. WBC (OD interceptor) 2,1. Dog Pound 3,2,1. Big Red 3,2,1. Pep band 4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:**

- 1995: John Christman
- 2001: Andy Rogers
- Jennifer Boensch



**Brook W. Barbour**  
"Brooky, Barbwire"

**Marshall, Virginia  
International Studies / USMC**

What can be said about a man named Brook? Barbour BW is a quiet person, though his thoughts are extensive. Living the motto Semper Fidelis, Brook will follow in the footsteps of his father into the Few, the Proud, the Marines. Whether high in the sky or deep in the trenches, he will serve our country well. Those who know Brook always admire his consistent social candor and deep-seated loyalty to his friends. We could not have asked for a better partner in enduring the degradation of VMI. Seasons have changed, mad things rearranged, yet our friendship has always remained constant. Good times, bad times and ALL the times in between. Though we all have our differences, we are very much the same. Whether we were climbing the Smokey Mountains or basking on the beaches in Florida those memories will always mark the lives we have lived together. May your life after VMI be filled with good fortune and good times. We wish you the best of luck. Your friends always.

Rat 4; 1<sup>st</sup> Cpl 3; 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt 2; Co, Xo 1; India Co, Preservation Society 1; President Semper Fi Society; Club Cocoa 4; Hell 3; Club Panama 2,1; Tool 4,3,2,1; Hell of a guy 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Ryan Feeney
- 2001: Mat Wright



**Thomas M. Barnhill**  
"The Guy Behind the Guy"

**Roanoke, Virginia  
International Studies / Army Special Student**

Tom has had a very successful time here at VMI. He has managed to master the "three legged stool". With academic stars, occasionally burdened by rank, and an accomplished first class private, you might have thought Tom had done enough, but not so! He also managed to be a personal work-out genius, never failing to defeat the VFT and never actually having to go to the hospital afterward, though he did scare us a couple of times! Tom has become a master of disco. His unparalleled "pistol hip shoo" move, reminiscent of John Travolta in "Disco Fever", was the envy of all of us in Gold Coast corner. Second and Third class years Tom could usually be found buried in his studies, and the hard work paid off. As a first classman, with his outstanding GPA well in hand, Tom has been free to study his favorite subject, romantic intrigue. With a ready smile and a witty rejoinder he spends countless days (Ac days, S-5 days, OGA days, First class days) sweeping ladies off their feet and into his spider web of seduction. In barracks Tom has always been ready to help out a friend with an honest opinion or a patient ear. With zooted on his nametag and in his soul, Tom is always handy with a crazy story to brighten even the darkest hours. Needless to say, Tom was a headliner at Gold Coast B.S. sessions. Many of us learned to use the bathroom before Tom started to talk. Tom is articulate, cultured, has a keen wit, and is a gentleman of the highest standard. I cannot imagine him getting involved in anything and not making a success of it. With the exception perhaps, of a singing career. Those of you who have heard his rousing rendition of Neil Young's "Keep on Rockin' in the Free World" know exactly what I'm talking about.

Pvt. 4,1; Cpl. 3; Sgt. 2; S-5 Counseling Staff 2,1; Sexual Assault Response Team 1; OGA 1; Hop and Floor 3,2; Gold Coast Corner 4,3,2,1; Big Lick Revival Chairman 4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Tom Brashears
- 2001: Paul Thompson
- John Humphries
- Gussie Lord



**Stefan R. Barr**  
"Schlemp, Col. Barr, Pappy"



**David A. Bates**  
"Rash, Hoss"



**Joseph L. Bates Jr.**  
"Pond Water, Uncle Larry, Inbred"

**Lynchburg / USMC**

Eisenhower once said of General Patton: He was one of those men born to be a soldier. Stefan was a Marine before he knew what one was; considered it a revelation upon finding out that there was an organization built specifically for him. His cadetship is the architecture of wonderful achievement. His reputation is Gibraltar. His friendship is light and shade. Those that know him best will be surprised least by his success and to others it will come as expected. When President Harding spoke of "quality of citizenship, the vanguard of his hopes was and is formed by people like Stefan: protecting those who cannot protect themselves; fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves; conjuring only the ghosts of Duty and Honor to his guiding light. He is a phenomenon. Like Freeman said of Lee, there is no mystery with Stefan: Like Lee, we just may remark of Stefan some day. To our friend, we say: Never let thy soul be the cold and timid one familiar with neither victory or defeat; may the road rise to meet you, let fortune smile upon you, and let your friends be unto you what you are unto the world. Semper Fi, our friend. And so he passed over, and the trumpets sounded on the other side. 4-Rodent, 3-Cadre Col., Rat Challenge Cpl., 2-Golf 1st Sgt., Rat Challenge Sgt.; 1-Golf Co. Cmdr, Rat Challenge CIC; Semper Fi Society 4,3,2,1; Bulldog-2,1; Ac Stars-2; Dears List-4,3,2,1; Co-Education Committee-2; YGBSM-4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Bill Percival  
2001: Matt Meyers  
Amanda Kaufman  
Steve Brown  
Happy Winters

**Yorktown, Virginia**  
**Computer Science Minors: Spanish, Mathematics**  
**/ Air Force**

... All that you see now, that is the corps performing drill and ceremony, is only the facade to the Institute David. What is most important, is what happens behind those walls. -- George B. Colonna '44  
This is how I began my "history" here at the Institute. I was watching my cousin, John T. Newton '97, in parade and I had just commented on the appearance of the corps and how well I thought that they looked marching. I was so proud of my cousin, and I longed to be wearing a uniform and marching in the ranks with him, like my grandfather and my uncle, David M. Colonna '78. Wow, was I in for a surprise. The first few days as a Rat made me think that it wasn't so neat to be in a uniform after all. However, I pushed on, but there were many people that helped me get through not only the Kaitline, but also through the true meat of the system, the post-fourth class years. Mike Baumann, without you as a roommate, I think that my sentence here would have been half as stressful, but twice as..... Chris "Patty" Darden. All I can say is, "Keep the faith, and graduate." Thanks for all the trips to Chowen, Patsy, Jimmy and Double-Duce, you guys were the Pervert x12 roomies. I enjoyed all the great times we had.... Patsy, "I attended the funeral of my best friend, but we got.... best time of my life!" Double-D - "In front of the mirror, were you born with that nipple that way?" Jimmy D - "Oh boy, the most cynical cadet that I have knowns, I wouldnt be surprised to see you in ten years... still working off those Pitts." John Dillard Cooke IV, thanks for the countless encouragements and words of encouragement like, "Remember it's only for 4 months", John, my partner in crime... watching all those pep rallies. Using the Weez and Buddy arch. W.E. Wigs, by the way, Are you Jesus Christ? Zolomans - Ring Dykes? Whatever lets party with Sean Burke and the Nimousquad. -Bates. - Fatty what is that rash? Ring Figure '98 Club Pervert '95, '96, Valencia, Espana, Ootro, '97. Thanks to all of family, I couldnt have done any of this without you. Thanks Mom, for getting all those forms in for me, Dad for all the rides to and from school and our "chats", Grandmomma, thank you for all the support, Granddaddy - This is for you.... I love you all!



**Dykes:**  
1995: Justin "Weez" Bogaty  
2001: MJ "Ears" Christensen

**Buena Vista, Virginia**  
**International Studies / Special Student**

Well it's finally here! It seems like we were matriculating yesterday. These four years have been very eventful, and I sometimes wish I could start over. It was a wild trip! First, I want to thank my MOM!! Words cannot express how much you mean to me and how much you have done for me. I LOVE YOU!! Dad, thanks for everything. Junior, thanks for making my mom happy. Kristin, thank you for all the short John Mac, Drace, Pridge, Sweet Daddy, Big Irv, Hime!, you are gone, but not forgotten! I owe you more than you realize. Thanks! Randy, thanks for teaching me everything that I know. Dykes, keep your head up. The end is closer than you realize. Chris, you're the best rat I could have gotten. Thanks!! Allgood, remember to pick and choose, you're the best...now. I will miss you guys in August, give 'em hell! Brett, it was a great working relationship and friendship for four years. Dale, Huck, and Fathead thanks for all of the memories (good and bad). I am sure that we have only begun. Huck, I want to be the Aryan ambassador of death in your nation, 2032. Fathead, I have never met someone so "experienced" in this world. Aunt Silkie, I owe you a lot. You came and got me all summer, embarrassed me, and even woke me up with your "little massage." I'll miss ya bro! I'll see you guys on Port's Creek with a cold Bud Light. Huck and Dale, don't forget the nipples. We're the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have been doing so much, for so long, with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing. Charlie Company rat, 1<sup>st</sup> cpl., 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt., X.O.; Rat Challenge Cadre 3; Ring Figure-Honor Guard 3; Ring Figure Chairman 3,2; Douglas Carter France III memorial award 2; New Market Wreath Detail 3; Firing Party 2; Library Cadet Asst. 3,2,1; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Career alcoholic 3,2,1; Power Lifting-Team 1; Elected RDC 1; Administrations target 1; Club Hell 1;



**Dykes:**  
1995: Randy Agee  
2001: Chris Simpson



**Mike O. Baumann**

**Quinton, Virginia  
Economics & Business / Army Special Student**

Four long years. Actually three long years. And what have I learned? I have learned that there are people in this world you will come to love, come to hate, and the rest, if life is anything like VMI, become completely indifferent to. So here we go:

To those I love: Mom and Dad-Thank so much, for everything. You both know there is just too much to list, but in retrospect thank for believing in me and always giving me a second, and in some cases, a third chance. To Molly and PJ- look forward to the chance of growing old with you guys. Molly, you have wisdom beyond your years. PJ I hope you have learned from my mistakes and if you ever have a question about anything, cause as you know I've been there, just ask. To Pervert Corner. What to say and where to start. Forgive me for those I don't specifically name, but you know who you are. Hoss, Dillard, and Farty. The original I12, and brothers eternal. To Mr. Neptune and Jimmy. Keep lifting and find that never ending source of protein. Jimmy, keep pissin' em off cause no one is as good at it as you, and remember you will always be the 5th roommate. To Douce, Billy, Trey, Strock, Dick, Schwanke, Motor, Toolan, Bman, Spinelli, Nate, and Burns. Thank for sharing in the love. And last but not least my good friend and constant source of sanity, Trey. You guys all take care, keep in touch, and never forget your all CHUMPS. John, best of luck with your journey at VMI. Keep Pervert alive, and try to keep all things in perspective. Now, to those I hate and am indifferent to. Do whatever it is you do, or have done while at your beloved "Institute", and perhaps one day you will come to realize just how petty and trivial your actions are/were. Try to open your eyes, think for yourselves, and actually live life, for I believe that one day, if you continue to follow the path you are on, you will only be left with regrets. No memories of good times or good friends, simply regrets. Collectively, you all have much to learn. And I'm out. Member of Pervert Corner and The House of Pain



**Michael T. Baumgardner**  
"Mike, Yank"

**Bethel Park, Pennsylvania  
Economics & Business; Psych / Marine Corps**

Almost four years now and I have finally found the light at the end of the tunnel. Thankfully it was not an oncoming freight train. This has been quite an incredible journey and thanks are owed here to many. Above all else I am grateful to my parents, without you none of this would have been possible. Mom you have endured a great deal and I am certain that many more stories you would rather not hear await you in the future. Dad I can honestly say that everything I have accomplished so far in my life has been a direct result of your influence. Your example, direction, and advice has provided me with a foundation upon which I will build the rest of my life, thank you.

To those whom I count among my true friends, our bond as brothers will endure long after we draw our final breath upon this earth. This journey could not have been made without each other. I thank you for when you have helped to carry me in times of need, and for the fun we had along the way. Amazing that we managed to enjoy things here so much here together, something an outsider will never understand. Life would have been unbearable without you. My door and my heart will forever remain open for you; anytime, anyplace, anywhere.

To the MEN of the Class of 1998 it has been a privilege to call you my Brother Rats. To those MEN who we leave behind to face an uncertain future, never lose sight of the way VMI should be, you must accept nothing less.

4<sup>th</sup> Cpl 3, Sgt Maj 2, Bn Co 1: Rifle 4, 3, 2, 1; F-Troop 4, 3, 2, 1; Cader Investment Group 2, Chairman 1; Firefighters 2: 1; Semper Fi 4, 3; USMCR 4, 3



**Dykes:**  
1995: Chris Barkocyc  
2001: Eric Burleson  
Jim Morroe



**Andrew W. Beaman**

**Roanoke, Virginia  
History / Special Student**

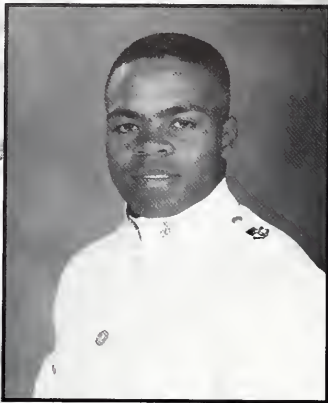
Considering the amount of time I have spent here, it would seem like I would have a lot to say. It has definitely been a long road, and I hope it was all worth it. I must admit that there were some fun times along the way, I think.

Of course, I couldn't have made it without the help and support from my family. Mom and Dad, thanks for the mail, money, food, phone bills, and everything else you have done for me. Scott and Missy, your generosity knows no boundaries. You have been two great parents and I can never thank you enough. Nancy, we are two of a kind, and that is scary. You have been a great listener and guide, thanks.

Toolan and Ashman, I will never know how we survived four years together, but I want to thank you both for everything. Toolan, the army should be easy compared to the hell you have taken from me. The time here has been worth it just to meet a friend like you. I still havent forgotten about that boxing match yet. Ashman, I know you will be as glad to get out of here as I will. Good luck with life away from the 1. Timmy, the RTVP, I will never follow you anywhere again. I hope your force marches are less dangerous in the army. We found the airport though, and those sure were some nice runways. Dick, I hope your "General Missions" take you far, and I hope they dont release our VSP Psych tests. Casino, 122 good luck in your post VMI lives. I know where you can get a few coaching positions if you need some jobs. Good luck to the original Pervert Corner guys, you know who you are. Good luck to the 110 rats, only three years left. Summer School 4, 3, 2, 1; Football Manager 2, 1; SPI '97; A Co. PVT 4, 1, 1; Pervert Corner 3, 2, 1; RTP 2, 1;



**Dykes:**  
1995: Sean Burke  
2001: Mike Conlin



**Jabarr D. Bean**

**Amityville, New York  
Mechanical Engineering / USMC**

I would first like to give honor to GOD, and all that he has done for me because without him I would not have made it. Its been a long four years and its hard to believe its finally over. Mom and Dad, Mema and Pope thanks for the guidance throughout my life and most importantly bringing me into this world. I love you very much! Les, Mayo, and John thanks for helping me through a tough Rat year. Al and Dre, we started together and we are finishing together. We've been through the toughest times together and this is only the beginning of the end... To the fellas in 113, O'Neal, and TJ thanks for being true friends and being there when I needed you. T-Bird, the Navy Dudes, and the rest of the fellas in the corps keep going on and never give up. To my dykes, Ebony, Mike, and Aaron its tough but you all can make it. I am now moving on to a life of death and destruction! Semper Par!

**Matinge:** Football(4-year letterwinner); Class Vice-President; Battalion Commander; Promag Club



**Dykes:**

- 1995: John Mayo  
Lester Johnson  
John Cross
- 2001: Ebony McElroy  
Mike Washington  
Aaron Yarbough



**Charles J. Beirne**

**Roanoke, Virginia  
History / Army**

VMI has been an interesting experience. For every bad instance that occurs, usually a good one follows. I have made strong friendships throughout my four years here. It is through these people that VMI's hardships are lessened. The comical commentaries and humorous stories are what keep you going and make the place as fun as it can be. I am thankful to have been given the opportunity to attend VMI and hope that I will be a good representative of the school in the future years. I am happy that I will attain the goal I originally came to the Institute for in the first place. In the end I will probably look back on the hardships and laugh, but for right now I am a little bitter. Although, everyone who signs the matriculation book knows this isn't a vacation. All in all, I will be very happy to move on and start my career.

**Ranger Challenge** 2 yrs; **Big Red Club** 2 yrs; **Tanker Platoon** 1 semester; **Band** 1 year **Virgin Private** 4 years



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Benji Bird
- 2001: Tillman Bowling



**Jason E. Bell**  
"JB, J Poppa, J-Bell"

**Dale City, Virginia  
History / Army**

Where has the time gone? I cannot believe that it is time for the Class of '98 to move on to bigger and better things. I would first like to thank the Lord for guiding me through these four years. I would also like to thank my Mother and Father for always supporting me during my strenuous VMI experience. I would like to say peace to everybody on the basketball team, especially my dykes Nick, Richard, and Adam. It's been a fun ride. I've really enjoyed beating all of you up in practice and in the ARENA! Just remember that I hold the Belt and if you want it, you can always come and get it. I love you all! Don't let all these "player haters" out here worry you guys or death. Y'all know how we do! I wish all you guys all the success in the world, both on and off the court. I have to give shoutouts to all my roomies, past and present. I would like to wish my rat roommates, Justin and Todd, the best of luck in all that you do. I still remember the days when we would stay up late at night and talk about being First classmen. TAKE CARE!! I now have to say hey to my peoples Nate Dogg, Big Scott, B-Taeueggy, Darius, Daryl and last but not least Little Clameme. (We've gotta go, its checkout time) It's been a fun year fellas! You best believe that I rap lives. (In our room anyway) Me and Taeueggy have enjoyed winning the Spades Room Championship Belts. We will always wear them proudly. I don't know how all of us made through. We've been through a lot. (Capers & Ass whippings.) All I have to say to you guys is I Love You and you will be forever be in my heart. I really appreciate the way you guys always looked out for me and never let me get in trouble whenever we rolled out. You know how we do!! If you ever need anything at all, I ain't hard to find! To my dykes Anthony, Adam, Mike, Nick, and Richard, good luck to all. I want to come back in three years and see you ALL graduating. You guys did a good job of keeping us from getting bonded. (Most of the time anyway) Take care!! To the rest of my Brother Rats, take care of yourselves and God Bless you all. (Even the ones that I couldnt stand and that almost caught beat-downs)



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Lester Johnson
- 2001: Nick Richardson



**David M. Benedick**  
"Dicky, Untouchable"

**Valley Forge, Pennsylvania**  
**International Studies / Special Student**

As I sit down and try and reflect on my thoughts of the Institute, I realize that I am writing this very much like I have done most of my assignments here - at the last minute, not following directions and because I have to. It's not that I don't trust my roommates and friends to write this for me, but there are just some things I did not want to go without mentioning. First and foremost is a big THANK YOU for my parents. I would never be where I am or who I am today without you. I love you both.

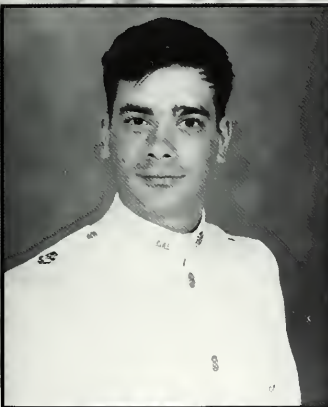
Secondly, instead of trusting my friends and teammates with writing this, I would like to write what a privilege it has been experiencing these four years together.

I have had many ups and downs these four years, from the day I chose to come here to the time I filled out that transfer application to Penn. I am not real sure what made me come here and have even less of an idea why I stayed, but for some reason I chose to finish what I started. Maybe I remembered what Teddy Roosevelt said: "It is not the critic who counts. . . The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena." My arena has been a combination of barracks, the classroom and the lacrosse field and I have stuck it out, because I was afraid that somewhere there is someone who didn't think I could. I am not sure what I have achieved here, but there are two things I would not trade for all the frat parties and dates that I missed: the pride of my parents and the friends I have made.

Pvt. 4, 3, 2; S-2 Lt. 1; Lacrosse 4, 3, 2, (Captain) 1; Pervert Corner 3, 2, 1; Spain 3; Preston Society 2.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Todd "Flash" Glasser  
2001: Mike Martyn



**Samuel T. Bernier**  
"Sammy"

**Charlottesville, Virginia**  
**Biology / Navy Special Student**

Sams time at VMI hasn't always been smooth sailing, but at least it's been interesting. If you don't think that eight years of military school can bring a man down, go talk to this guy some time. Then of course, there were the demerits. There were a lot of demerits. Yet Sam never let it stop him. With a brief respite here and a slightly less brief respite there, Sam trudged through the muck that comprises much of Institute life, as he would say, like it was his job.

If we can't be certain that Sam always enjoyed his time at VMI, we can say that he made it a lot more enjoyable for the people around him. With a warm heart, a terrific sense of humor, and a finger on the pulse of what VMI is all about, Sam has been a source of strength for all of those who know him well. The up and coming classes should consider themselves lucky that he'll be sticking around a little longer.

A madman on the rugby pitch, a genius in the biology lab, the only guy who can make thirty minute brownies in twenty minutes, the final link to ultimate perfection in Gold Coast corner, and a whiz with animals and children; yes Sam is all of these things and more. We hope to God that he don't go changing, and were waiting for the best that's still to come.

Pvt. 4, 3, 2, 1; Cadet Waiter, 3; S-5, Usher Staff, 1; Wrestling, 4; Rugby Football Club, 3, 2, 1; English Society 3, 1; Goldcoast 1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Rick Franco  
2001: Scott Smith  
Drew Law



**Matthew J. Bertsch**  
"Bee-atch, Reb"

**Chatam, Virginia**  
**Electrical Engineering / Air Force**

It's been an interesting experience to say the least. I couldnt have done it without the immeasurable support of my Mom, Grandpa, and Grandma. You have always been there no matter what. I love you, thank you. The friendships that have formed here are indescribable and unfathomable by outsiders. BJ and Jimmy, we've had some unforgettable times together, I wish you were still here. You two have been greatly missed since you left. Mike the amount of money we spent is unbelievable but we had a hell of a time and J-Luv will never forget it. BEE-ATCH, Sloth, Twinkie, Curt-what a combination. Paullie, Meadsman it was a fun summer, if you ever need a roommate give me a call. Nesto, Wally, Jeff well never forget Fuji. To the WBC WOW, whers our next convention? I know I didnt mention everyone so friends, family, BRs were done, thanks for everything, none of us could have done it alone.

The one thing I want to pass on to all is the best advice I have ever been given, "DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF, thanks Dad."

AFROTC, Band Co, Pistol Team; Eagle Scout Association; Platoon Sgt.; Platoon Lt.





**Ryan K. Betton**

**Collinsville, Virginia  
Biology / Navy**

My, my, how time does fly. I can't believe it's our turn. It was only 4 short years ago when a timid little teenager, bearing only a slight resemblance to myself, signed my life away in some book... Not knowing what was laying ahead, I simply stepped back and went with the flow. I have since questioned my decision of attending this institution and wondered why I stayed. Yet, even more dumbfounding, why I always looked forward to coming back. The answer to these questions surround me everyday— friends. I know I have evolved to become the young gentleman that VMI strives to produce. This weight to uphold the values, the ethics, and the image that is portrayed by this young man is a tiring endeavor, which needs constant work. What I have learned about myself in this short time is startling; my abilities and my limitations; my desires and my dislikes; my values and my peculiarities. Yet, the gains I will cherish the most from this place are the friends I have made along the way. I could't possibly express to all of you your importance to me, but know this: friendship is forever. Todd- from co-dykes to roomies and best friends always, thanks for always being there; Paul- 'bout damn time you came 'round. Jobn and Sean- you're practically family anyway, raise the roof, boys; Kris- 'Brown leather shoe stomps it.' Don- 'Hey goat, see you in the files.' Brian B. and Brad- can you believe it, from Lenny Crazito to dirty habits and we're still here, 430 is a long way away, but thanks for always being there. Both Martz— thanks for covering my back. I owe you guys bigger than I realize admit, you did it right, Brian L. and Paul M. - heré to the late nights vs. Pedro, 'Dog Pound' and WBC what the hell were we thinking? Heré to the late nights, the bright lights, the Tac outta sight and borded down right. Ham- get it in gear, bud I miss ya. How 'bout them skirts. Mom, Dad, and Tory thanks for supporting me, tolerating me, and maintaining the Chateau de Betton. Angelo, Nick, Mike, and Jaro- give'em hell 'buds, good luck- you'll need it. For those not mentioned above, you're not forgotten, I just want to get the hell out of here.

Reg Band 4,3,2,1; Pep Band 4,3,2; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Pipe Band 2,1; NROTC Midn Barra X.O. 2; 2nd CPL 3; MSGT 2; Bd Co C.O. 1; Biology Summer Scholars Program 1; WBC Prez 2,1; Dog Pound Pres. 3.

**Lexington, Virginia  
History / Army**

When one first sees Brandon Bissell, the first thing that must come to their mind is, "God, would you look at the size of that kids head." We have given you a lot of flack over the last three years, but you know it was all in good fun. We had countless memories that will last forever and we are both now better people for having lived with you. We both can recall many times where we have needed your help and you were always there... yadda, yadda, yadda. O.K. enough of the garbage... this is the truth. Rat year came and Brandon and Jimmy took on the pressures of being a legacy in 447. I need one volunteer? Bissell, good, you are going to the RDC's... Smart Kid. Third Class year found Brandon and Jimmy with a new companion, 'Jut, need we say more. This addition to the room broadened their views on many different subjects (we will leave it at that). Second Class year is quickly summed up over the intercom one chilly BRC, 'FMT please report to F-Troop, ASAP!!! There is a piper down, I repeat, there is a piper down'. After a HUA summer, Brandon returned to the 'I' for his First Class year, "Tell your brother we want our VCR back". Thanks Head, we both love you more than you know, and we hope life is as good to you as you have been to us. (JHBP & JKM)

I guess I should start out first by saying thanks to the entire Bissell clan. Although if I had the choice to make all over again it might have been Tech, sorry dad. Seriously though, I appreciate all the support and help you gave me... Jut and Jim, all I can say is it's been fun. Jut...the eggs and the tobasco and Jim...the greatest question of all, how fat was I? To all my friends from Richmond, I've got one thing to say... 'In Cities suck! Lynne all I can say is thanks for the patience and the unwritten Dear John letter. Rich thanks for everything and to Ben keep your head up. Marshfields not too far away and your years here will pass just like that. Thanks to anyone and everyone that helped me.

Football 4,3,2,1; Virgin Private 4,3,2,1; Big Red 3,2,1 Summer School '96, '97; F-Troop 4,3,2,1;

**Chesterfield, Virginia  
Economics & Business / Special Student**

VMI was an experience which shall be with me until I breathe my last breath. It has taught me a great deal about myself. I may say I hate this place now, but in my heart I truly cherish the memories the 'I' has given me. From the tailgates (Cherokee Row) to the skintie study sessions I will look back and feel a sadness. This place(hell on earth) has left a mark on my heart for the friendships and trips which have shaped my path in life.

First of all, I must thank my father for all he taught me and taking care of me from up above. Dad, I love you and I know you been my guardian angel throughout our life apart (keep watching because I've only yet begun). I also would like to say thank you to my grandmother for taking my father's place and doing everything for me she knew how. Stephanie, you are my heart, soul, and mind- Everyday I thank God we met and I dream for the day I can wake up to see your beautiful face. I love you, more! Where can I begin to say thanks to all the "fellas" I've embarked on adventures with? Well, TK, your gone but far from forgotten. Thanks for being a great brother. Dan, you and I have been called "Grumpy Old Men" but I'll always love you for being a great friend. See you at our bar. Adam(Wayne), thanks for the laughs and liquid(I hope you find your next one). Troy, I'll see you from the grand stands and then here we'll toast to your victory in the pit. Heath, you might yell and turn red but never change from the Moose. "Fellas" I look forward to our cockouts and seeing our families grow up together. Much love goes out to the boys from G31 Tony, Derrick, Derren, and Don thanks for the Dukes at 4:20, and always going to see 'Me' with me. Buck, I'll always remember timunins and our talks. Jay, I still can't see the white of your eyes, I'll see you on our next drive down the mountain. Butrs, toje bomba. To all those who I haven't mentioned thanks for the memories. Good luck Samora and all the G34 rats!

Virgin private, Track and Field 4; writer/photographer Cadet, Dears List, No. 1 Club Officer, 90210 4,3,2,1, Brownie/Eun-Guys 4,3,2,1; Long Hair Club 3,2,1; 2-00 Bed Check Club 3; 24 Hour Door Crew 3,2,1; Chill Spot 3; Rattles Crew 2,1; RoBoyz 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:  
1995: Ralph Rogasta  
2001: Angelo Sakellariou**



**Brandon A. Bissell**

"Head, Cabeza, Biss, Missile Willow Ollie, Mask, Umpa-Lumpa, Noggin"



**Dykes:  
1995: Rich Pitchford  
2001: Ben Norris**



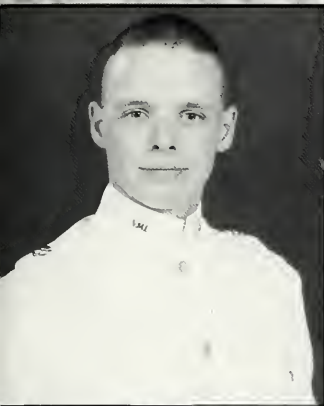
**Nathaniel W. Blackburn**

"Nate, Whitefreeze, Pickford"



**Dykes:  
1995: Chad Tester  
2001: Samora Leacock**





**James A. Blanford**  
"Jizzo, Dirty Limy Guy"

**Portsmouth, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / USMC**

Semper F-troop '98

James came to VMI a quiet kid from Portsmouth, VA. He claims his roots in New York. That may be part of the reason I refer to him as "jacked". However, the quiet BR 1 sat next to in Calculus I was quite the annoyance to upperclassmen in Barracks. He was especially loved on the 3<sup>rd</sup> stoop after telling a third, "It doesnt matter whats for dinner."

After rat year he became more of a menace to rats. But while a third he did not stop annoying BRs by getting a B in statics from his rack. Revenge came second semester from Mallory Hall with KY 208. Remember James?

Second class year James then did the same thing with academics. As Master Sgt., when he was present, he was mean. But he spent most of his time where, the rack.

King Figure came and went. His girl friend of three years did too. James showed how much of a heart he had when that happened. He also showed his ability to adapt and overcome. He drove on and became a player like the rest of us. James also managed to get another high rank with no real responsibility. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion S-4. He was good at keeping in touch with the corps. He loved duty jacket, no shirt, and hated tying his shoes. He even decided one parade to not march with a saber by dropping it in the middle of the parade.

As with all of the other Master Sgts. James was nominated to the RDC. He was so enthused in making lives hard he didnt stop with rats. Between single jingle OD and football games he was a real treat for upperclassmen. James, you're a faithful friend. Thanks for all of the laughs. Your Skinny WOP Roommate. BJ

7th cpl., Master Sgt., 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion S-4; VMI Firefighters 2,1;RDC 1; Rack Challenge: 3,2,1 SOB 4,3,2,1; Bullet Sponge: life



Dykes:

- 1995: Chris Wills
- 2001: William Boulware  
Erich Miller



**Alexander G. Blanton**

**Front Royal, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineer / Special Student**

Alex is what may simply be described as a cantankerous, erudite, and farcical individual. And we mean that in the best possible way. Alex came to the 'I' already a military grad spending the better years of his life at a military high school. His peregrination through VMI, what a long strange trip its been. We have had some crazy times, some hazy times, and a lot in-between. Alex is one of the only individuals that we know that can make partying a science. He sure knows how to press up that hill of science.

B.R. Blanton is a great friend to all who know him. He will defend his friends to the bitter end, and strike down those who attempt to poison and destroy his brothers. Alex is one friend you can always count on. He will always stand up for his beliefs, no matter how skewed they are.

And now for the mushy stuff. Alex has the strongest convictions of anyone you could ever meet. These convictions are what will make him so successful in life. Alex never expects handouts, and he knows how to get what he wants. He is a man of commanding presence. He is never one to follow the pack. We wish you the best of luck in all your endeavors, even though we know you won't need it. When God throws the dice, they are loaded and they are in your favor. We don't just mean when you're gambling!

Your pals, Brooky and Kefus.

Rat 4, Cpl 3, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. 2, D Co Xo 1, Jerky 4,3,2,1, Club Cocoa 4, Hell 3, Club Panama 2,1; ASCE 1; English Society 4,3



Dykes:

- 1995: Josh Strickler
- 2001: Stanley and Britton  
Armstrong



**Melvin L. Bonifacio**  
"Pretty Face, Happy Filipino"

**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**  
**Electrical Engineering / Air Force**

When Mel first arrived here, he did not realize where he was at. He thought that he was going to Boston College. Well, he obviously got on the wrong bus because he ended up at the "I". When he entered the matriculation line, he was snagged by yet another civil force: THE BAND. He thought things could not get any worse. Then he entered the rat roars at the "I". Before him stood a mountain of walking flesh, Perez. This began one man's term in Hell. Third class year arrived and Mel had escaped both Band and Perez by becoming a color corporal and changing rooms. The pain did not end here. The "I" reinforced with Nutty (Barnett), Novanutt, and the Fuzz Bunny. Second class year began with thoughts of King Figure and another year away from band. The Rings arrived and from the ashes of this wounded, pained man arose the Happy Filipino. A being capable of climbing hotel walls and bouncing of walls. This ended another year at the "I" and his freedom from the Band as a sergeant major. But the honey-moon was over and the "I" was taking its revenge. It thrust him back into the Band and forced him from his old room. This last attack was defeated by the new front door in Room 185 and frequent trips to the local watering holes. With freedom in the air Mel managed to survive his fourth years at the "I" with no visible scars and a smile on his face. He looks forward to flying in the Air Force and God save any that try to get in the way of his wild and crazy plans.

IEEE 4,1; The Kwon Do Club 2,1; Newman Club 4,3,2,1; NJ Club 4,3,2,1; Avoid AC Pro 4,3,2,1; Block Running Society 4,3,2,1; W&L Frar Assoc 4,3,2,1; Avoid Con Pro 4,3,2,1; Completion of all mixed drinks at the Palms 1.Rat-rat, 3- Reg Clr Cpl, 2- Batt Sgt Mar. 4-PVT



Dykes:

- 1995: Rich Hauben
- 2001: Brad "Lowrider" Purcell  
Rashad Aiken

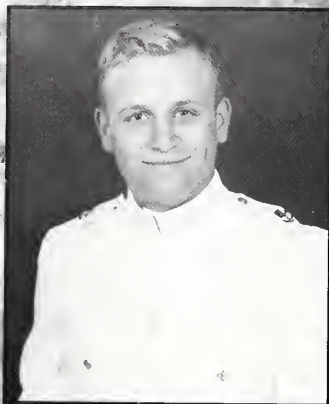
## Pulaski, Virginia

### Electrical Engineering / Army

When I came to the Institute looking for the college experience, I never would have imagined what I was in for. Early on in the rat line, I learned what the restrictions were for going uptown and partaking of some plain old cigars. I also got to meet some great friends that first year. A special thanks goes out to Dave Killian for helping me down to the hospital after I had a collision with the spirit banner.

Third class year, Brady and I moved into the cave with the rest of the animals. It was a great living with you guys. Caleb, sorry that it didn't work out first class year, but I will always think of you fondly whenever I see somebody going ape-shit. A/Ron, I am glad that we made the switch to the 05 room. I feel that I am now ready to go out into the world and argue with anybody after your intense training sessions. Brady, it must have been some kind of good luck that put us in the same rat rooms. I can't believe that we have been roommates for four years. But we always had fun, no matter where we were. Ken, you make an excellent addition to the den. It is too bad that you can't finish out the semester with us, but you can still come and visit.

The fact is, I think I could not have had a better bunch of roommates. We stuck together and stuck it out, which is the important thing. It is kind of sad finally getting ready to leave the I, but I am looking forward to testing that old theory that VMI is a great place to be from.



**Robert A. Bopp**

"Be Bopp, Smoker, Dr. Death, Gator"



Dykes:

- 1995: Nithya Sieu
- 2001: Joe Wunder
- Mike Butterfield

## Amundale, Virginia

### Economics & Business / USMC

My years here at VMI have been without a doubt interesting. I can say I will go away having learned a lot. To my roommates of 450, it was a blast. My second and third class years were full of fun. Getting the number one for running the block and losing rank were among the highlights. To all my friends it has been real. To my boys in 18F, thanks for taking me in, I was put in a bad situation. Korn and Yo Diggity will last forever. We have had are good times and our bad, but through it all we seemed to make it. The WBC showed us all a few good times. Cheers, to all of our members. Cameron and Chris thanks for showing me the way. Noah, I know you were always looking down on me. I will never forget you bro. The gang misses you a lot. Carl and Victor show your rats what we showed you and never ever give up. Jen, Andy, Seong, and Justin hang in there and get through. Make us proud. While, this school has seemed to fade away from its past ways, it still stands above many other schools. I came here seeking a challenge and a challenge is what I got. All of us in the class of '98 survived and will go on to become very successful people. Thanks for all the memories. This has definitely been one experience I will never forget.

Regimental Band; Commanders Jazz Band; Pipe Band; 3<sup>rd</sup> Corporal; Semper Fi Society; 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Sergeant  
Intramurals: W.B.C.



**Brian R. Bowes**



Dykes:

- 1995: Cameron O'Neil
- Noah Stoyko
- Chris Myers
- 2001: Carl Haas
- Victor Zoltig

## Richmond, Virginia

### Civil Engineering / Special Student

"Endeavor to persevere" and "Do or do not, there is no try", my favorite quotes, certainly embody this enigmatic VMI experience.

These are two maxims by which I have survived the past four years. Without a doubt, I could not have made it without the unwavering support from my family, Christina, Ken, and my BR's. To the WBC and Dog Pound, our work is not over with graduation; keep the traditions, brotherhood, and old times alive. Edward and Greg, thanks for the patient help and putting up with my cursory visitation schedule; let's go fishing one day. Paul, you have certainly come a long way and I am honored to have spent our final year as roommates and look forward to more in Richmond with the other *ARRAPES!* Ham, I cannot wait to see you walk the stage; I will always be grateful for all of the support and time you gave me. There's a spot in Richmond for you. Ryan, four years of knowing you has opened doors to a different world. You are a brother to me; showing me how to really have fun and be myself. I cannot thank you enough. Good luck in the NAV, and be myself. I cannot thank you enough. Good luck in the NAV, Mike, Slaw, Nick, and Ang, keep the fire going and your heads up. Mom, Dad, and Jenny, you are the best family anybody could have. Your support has been unlike what anyone else has had. Christina, you are something special, something that I have not and will never see an equal to. I love you and look forward to our years together. To VMI, you have showed me what to be and not to be. Thanks.

Honor Court 2, 1; RDC 1; 1<sup>st</sup> Corporal 3; 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt 2; #1 Club 2; Pvt 2, 1; Lieutenant 1; Deans List 4; Regimental Band 4, 3, 2, 1; Pep Band 4, 3, 2, 1; Semper Fi Society 4, 3; Non-YUT 3, 2, 1; Big Red Club 3, 2, 1; Commanders 3; WBC/Dog Pound/Club '69 3, 2, 1; Christina 4, 3, 2, 1+++



**Todd R. Boykin**

"Bubbles"



Dykes:

- 1995: Ken Jambor
- 2001: Mike Duker
- Jarek Dyhouse

Stanton, Virginia  
Civil Engineering / Air Force

In August of 1994 a very confused and bewildered young man found his way to the Virginia Military Institute, the same school he swore to his dad that he would never attend. Well needless to say, but his initiation into this great institution, did little to prove his father right and him wrong. From the lessons in straining, courtesy of Obadiah and Company to DRGs on the "forbidden stoop along side the now infamous "Low-roller" Lawson. Being in Goulet Co. made everything fun though; from listening to "Z" Wilson preach about life to being amazed by Eisemort's antics, there were no dull days, only painful ones. Well it was all more than worth it, cause I came out with some of the best friends I've ever had: Cookie, Funk and the crew.

I can't begin to start my history without first mentioning my roommate of four long and joke filled years. Eric "Seamer" will live in infamy as the meanest man I ever had the pleasure of living in a tiny cubical with. Although I have by now compiled a list of nick-names for him as long as he has for me they must go unmentioned and left only in the past, with memories of long lonely nights at VMI. I must make mention of the fact that Eric is the only man I know who actually spent more time on his rack than off it. And finally to Eric I have one last question, exactly where is the magical disco sweater? And what would a class history be without my long lost friend in Richmond who is the only guy I know that can walk ten miles and just not know how he got there. Of course I am referring to Aaron "Fatworn" Edmonson, my companion in struggling through Engineering. Through the fishing trips and many nights with "D.O.G." we have philosophized and tried to show our confused and misled brethren the path of "righteousness", however I think we were just always dismissed as having partaken in too much spirit consumption.

To the "I" I must leave with this. Although life here was hard and more often than could possibly be thought tolerable, monotonous, I am glad I came. When years have passed and memories faded, I will never forget the friendships I found here and the times we had.  
RDC, Powerlifting, ASCE



Jonathan A. Brant

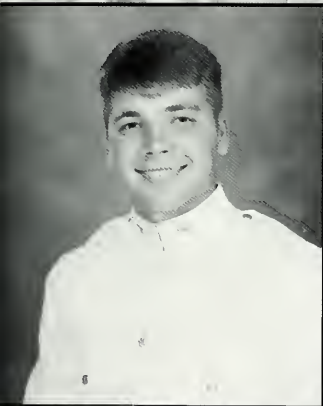
Midlothian, Virginia  
Economics & Business / Special Student

Senior year, Midlothian High School, Chris stunned many of his peers after announcing his acceptance to none other than the Virginia Military Institute. He came to VMI to be whatever he resolved to be, and to play tennis. After the military told him he couldn't be an officer, Chris's next best thing was to become a gentleman. If you talk to the girls that he knows, you will find that that is just what he has become.

Braun is the most laid back and understanding guy, who can handle just about anything, and he doesn't let many things get to him...usually. After four years of VMI, many people would think that maybe the Rat Line bothered him (nope), maybe the classes and his grades (no way, many a nights he loved to just sit and stare at his desk), or maybe it was the fact that this school resembled a prison. But the only things that would ever bother him were his roommates and open windows. Many nights after escaping to nearby schools and participating in activities with the Reverend, Chris would come back to the wonderful "I", and engage in wonderful conversations with his fellow friends of room 331, 231, and 150. These discussions usually ended, when something in the room became broken. But, the nachos on the floor were not bad, nor was the attempt to play catch with a shoe. Chris soon found the value of Duck Tape.

Well, Braun, you going far in life because you makes things look so easy. I hope that you are successful in all your endeavors. Remember that when and if you need anything don't hesitate to call. And don't ever forget not to sweat the small stuff, and in life pretty much everything is small stuff.

Virgin Private; Tennis Team 4,3,2,1 (captain 2,1); Dears List 3,2,1; CIG 1; Big Red Club 3,2; academic & athletic scholarships 4,3,2,1; Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll 3,2,1; beer 3,2,1.



Christopher R. Braun  
"Brauny, Braundo"

Fayetteville, North Carolina  
Chemistry / Army

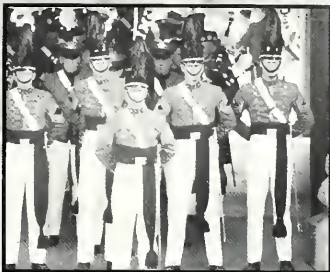
The last of four years is finished, and I truly regret having to say I will never live inside barracks again. The superficial covering of VMI is nothing more than bones, meaning-less rules, and officers berating you on every move. The core and meaning of VMI are the challenges you defeat and the brotherhood you forge. A bit of a cliché, but nonetheless it is true. Barracks were where I spoke as a child, and acted as a child, but when I became a man I put away childish things. I am now leaving VMI, and I realize this is where my journey starts. However, VMI will always be with me the rest of my days. And yes, I will always come back to try to live a fantasy where I am able to do the one last thing I never wanted to do as a cadet. Great, Pat, and Jesse are my brothers. You three have been a boon for me, and I can't think of the words to write to accurately express how I feel. One day will be those old guys who show up on the parade deck, dressed in a yellow jacket and red pants. The leaves will fall and the wind will gently move through the valley and it will only carry the memory of what we experienced. I leave you, with this passage from Henry V, the passage contains words and feelings which come closest to evoking the emotions which represent our experience.

"If we are marked to die, we are now to do our country loss; and to live, the fewer men, the greater share of honor... That he which hath no stomach to this fight let him depart, his passport shall be made And crowns for convoy put into his purse; We would not die in that company that fears his fellowship to the with us. This day we will end the Feast of Crispian. He that outlives this day, and comes safe home, will stand a-tiptoe when this day is named, And muse him at the name of Crispian. He that shall see this day, and live old age, Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbors And say, 'Tomorrow is Saint Crispian.' Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars. And say, 'These wounds I had on Crispian day.' Old men forget, yet all shall be forgot, But he'll remember, with this衫 company, What feats he did that day. Few, we have heard of brothers, for he today that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother. And gentlemen in England, now a-bed, Shall think themselves accursed they were not here; And hold their manhoods cheap while any speaks That fought with us upon Saint Crispian's day."

Sixers; Academic Honor Roll 4,3,2,1; Honor Court 2,1; Boxing 2; Powerlifting 2,1; Hampton-Sydney 0; Lived with Par and Greg's "Party Tricks" 4,3,2,1; Wished I majored in English 4,3,2,1; Violated by Dietrich in Lab 1; "Easy Edo" 4,3,2; dragin Delra 1; BONED SENSELESS 1



Lucas J. Braxton  
"Luther, Gus"



Dykes:

1995: Mike Bernard  
2001: Eric Poole  
Jim Bourie



Dykes:

1995: Rick Blaylock  
2001: Tappan August,  
Jarrett Blevins



Dykes:

1995: Eric Schwartz  
2001: John "Dan, Ike, Ratline  
Storyteller" Turner

Port Republic, New Jersey  
History / Navy Special Student



**Joseph C. Brown III**  
"Josh, Brownie"

To Josh life is just a big adventure: involving the love of his life Cheryl, boats, fast cars, surfing, and motorcycles; VMI is just something he does on the side. Personally I think Josh is the kind of guy that lives in the wrong decade. Anyone that has been in room 143 forever went to one of Josh's parties would know what I mean. I think that is one of the reasons why we got along so well as roommates, we are total opposites. I mean he is unorganized, unprepared, and messy. He is so laid back about things like papers, tests, and about anything else that comes his way. He has this ability for knocking out 5 page papers the day before they are due, or sitting in class and not taking one note, but still finding a way to pull out a good grade.

I tried my best to do what Josh's parents wanted, and make him more like me, but in the end he changed me more. In a lot of ways Josh made a bigger impact on me than VMI did. He taught me what it is to be a real friend, or find something good or funny in every VMI bad deal. He showed me how to relax more, and look at life from a different perspective. He has this crazy ability to always make me feel terrible by telling me how much better his weekends and summers were than mine. I could always count on him to be the devil's advocate, and tell me how stupid an idea of mine was, like the first time we met. I can honestly say if it were not for Josh's friendship I might not have made it through VMI.

Rat 4, Cpl. 3, Sgt. 2, First Class Private; Big Red Club. Rat Challenge Cadre 2, Pre-law society 2, Palms Hospitality Comm. 4, 3, 2, 1



Dykes:  
1995: Barry Miller  
2001: Steve Pasiak,  
Luke Damiani

Rustburg, Virginia  
Economics & Business / Army



**Jason P. Bryant**  
"BUDDY"

I really don't know quite what to say about old J-Bird. Seems ridiculous, considering that he's been my roommate for going on four years now. He's definitely a unique personality, one that I'm both surprised and glad that I stumbled upon. He was always everyone's "buddy" and unless it had to do with a penalty he would help anyone out, and unless it had to do with a penalty he would help anyone out, and unless it had to do with a penalty he would help anyone out. Hard worker too. I've never seen anyone spend more time on homework. Actually, I wish I had his ethics. I think that without him constantly on top of me to clean up, return pink slips and specials, sign confinement checks, adjust PT balances, get to formations and study, I would have failed or been boned out of school by now.

At the beginning of the ratline, nobody would have thought that the biggest redneck in school would have roomed with an infidel yankee. As it turns out, it rubbed off on me, and I'm now an aspiring redneck myself. I can drink a case of Budweiser a day, watch an entire NASCAR race, and eat chili at the "T" Room. Not bad for someone from Connecticut, huh?

Jason, you and your family have taken me in over these past four years, and given me a home away from distant home. You're my best friend and only brother, and I wish you the best of luck in everything. If you or your future family ever need anything, I am always ALWAYS there. Now go on, brotherman, before I have to beat ya. Les-Thornbury, '98

Rat: 4, Cpl. 3, Ops. Sgt. 2, PVT: 1, Rat Challenge Cadre: 3, Big Red Club: 3, Second Class Coeducational Com.: 2, VA Historical Society: 1, Ranger Company: 4, S-5 Usher: 1, Budweiser Club: 4, 3, 2, 1



Dykes:  
1995: Matt Reiner  
2001: Dave "The Love Muscle" Russel

Bel Air, Maryland  
Mechanical Engineering / Special Student



**Christopher D. Buchness**  
"Butch, Steve, Taco"

How Chris and I became roommates will forever be one of the greatest VMI mysteries; how we remained roommates for three years will be one of the Institute's biggest anomalies. I first met Chris in Club Crozet. We were sitting across from each other eating breakfast, prior to meeting Cadre, and Chris was expounding on how he was prepared to bludgeon my man who mistook me for a urinal. I found it hard to take him seriously—probably because of his wavy hair-cut (which incidentally is the only instance his hair was longer than mine), but I would soon learn that Chris' initial reactions were also his most humorous. Fortunately, Chris' ire never came to fruition and he remained at the "I" and an integral part of the '03; and, only once did he try to inflict bodily harm on me, but then again only so much damage can be done by a man in his underwear wielding a Shampoo bottle. But, Chris brought us all together, literally and figuratively, and in the end none of us could have survived without him. He is a true friend. Good luck in life—well be there when you need us. Who has got the chocolate?—SMF

I would like to thank my parents for always being supportive of my endeavors. Even though you never really had the idea of my trekking to the "I", you always supported my right to choose my own path. Jennifer, I will always love you. Love you a huge debt for always being there for me through the difficult times. To my roommates, Shane, Demetri, and Vinnie, I will never forget the good and bad times that we have shared over these last three years.

Cpl 3, Sgt. 2, Plt Lt 1; ASME 4, 3, 2, 1; ASME Sec 2; Nat'l Guard 4, 3, 2, 1; Got Shot 3; Big Red Club 3, 2, 1; '03 3, 2, 1; USS Buchness 2, 1



Dykes:  
1995: Scott Gowland  
2001: Palmadge "Squigg" Fe  
Pat "Pig Pen" Hurley

## Richmond, Virginia English / Air Force

I remember being hunched over the 1994 Raps and Taps with Errett in Prestno Library during our Rat year. We tried to re-live our high school days in a book bound full of black and white glossy photos, laughing at high school antics and good times. After practically memorizing the whole thing, we realized that St. Chris was behind us, and for whatever reasons we were stuck, at VMI for a totally different experience.

As a Rat, Errett like all of us thought about quitting. But Mr. Buis told Errett on the phone, that he wasn't going to come and pack him up, so Errett stayed, for he already had a shaved head. Despite an injured foot from track, the crazy antics of J.P. Mahafey, and the women of UVA, Errett got by okay, and managed to sprint down 64 East for a summer full of plush luxury. He attended J.Serg, and got two Spanish classes out of the way, but never was in class for more than thirty minutes. I still can't figure that out.

Third Class year meant being roommates. "Elected" that Errett cannot fall asleep when any light or radio is on, and that room 309 would be a total blast all the way down. It was this year that Errett took track by storm, coming back from his injury with full force. In addition, Errett somehow managed to become as close to being a brother of a frat while at VMI. He was selected for the VMI English Honors Fraternity Sigma Tau Delta.

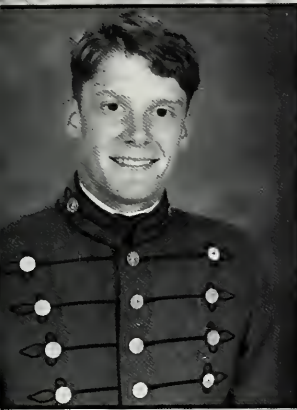
Although the males never hooked up with the women, Errett made up for it during the summer of his third class year. While living with Brew, Wolfe, Braun, and Guise, Errett fumbled around the VCU campus to avoid a required Bedell class. It was here, amongst all the VCU Rams, that Errett drove through an interesting Southern State. All was fine & dandy until the landlord threatened court, and August rolled around, and it was time again for VMI. Second Class year started so well. "King Figure was crazy, and everyone got shot." But after Christmas, Ryan and I left Errett and studied abroad. He got some crazy mail from us, and I even got a VMI card from him despite the completely wrong address. Anyway, Buis let Braun move in, and they hit the books, and made some crazy GPAs. Now we are Seniors. Buis is still the comedian he has always been. He's given me more advice about toothpaste, to hair-dos, to girls at all girls' colleges, to the struggle we all face here at VMI, and the conversations over a six-pack in the '83 Bronco, and the quotes for life: he can rectify off hand. Errett is the laid back guy that we all should try to imitate especially at VMI. He has learned how to do the juggle: outstanding athlete, Dears List Cadet, and a damn good laugh to have around. And like Mr. West said, he never let this place change who he really was. JLM

Activities: Private 4,3,2,1, Track and Field (Pole Vault) 4,3,2,1, Deans List 3,2,1; Sigma Tau Delta 3,2,1; Sounding Brass Editor 2,1; Monogram Club; St. C.



Dykes:

1995: Chip Rex  
2001: Armstead Blanton  
Christopher Sandlin



**John E. Buis**

"Ferret, Bueese, Carrot Top"

## Boston, Massachusetts History / Special Student

For the past four years people have wondered how a person like me ended up at a place like this. And I assume in the coming years people will ask me how I made it through. The answer hasn't changed and it never will-DIVINE INTERVENTION. The Lord carried me through every BRC, parade (well the few I marched), and penalty our. MA you are the best! I couldn't have asked for a more supportive, loving, and neurotic mother. You willingly took my burdens as your own and sacrificed so much so I could have the things you didn't have. Tom you made me a believer in miracles. You're my ambassador to KWAN. To the Mary I love y'all who would have thought I'd make it like this. To Jarid, listen kid don't follow my example nor many people can live like that. To everyone back in GTOWN EG, SM, PO, AM, JS, CG, JO, EB, in the dink BB, Dad, PA, RA, PC, JP and at the AIG@MY, MB, BTC, JH, JD, RT, AR, NP, JC, AH, DR, JS, NB, DS, CB, IO, JL, CC, AT you got much love. Love you nana. Mike is my crazy roommate who defied all the odds fourth floor Maury Brook could dish out, Mike is the only person I know who could maintain a 4.0 and be considered a regular at the Palm's, Mike is one of the most giving and wholeheartedly honest people I have ever met. Mike is the only 6'9, Mountain climbing, hippie-cowboy I have ever known, Mike is the classiest dormroom romantic I have ever seen in action, Mike is good people, Mike is my best friend.

Eddie has got that Latin fire running in his veins. When it comes to friendship he is a true friend. He would give you the shirt off his back if you were cold and the last burrito of his plate if you were hungry. Alex is a lady girl because that boy has some strong love to give. But no one could complain quite like Eddie. He has this special talent to bitch in an uninterrupted flow for hours. But I still love you TICQ. The future is definitely bright for this kid. El Tico's folks can hold their heads high, because their boy has definitely become a man.

Bursig Tennis 4,3,2, Cadet Staff 1, Editor 1, Boxing 3, Pragne 2, Israel 3, Virgin Private 4,3,2,1, Superintendents Council 1, Chapas Crew 4,3,2,1, Confinement 4,3,2,1, Running Shit 4,3,2,1, Chillin with Spider 3,2,1, Sessions in 318.



**David M. Burns**

"Gravy, Pidge"

## Hampton, Virginia

### Economics & Business / Special Student

My time at the Institute has been interesting to say the least. What seems to stand out the most however are the friends I have made during my time here. The friendships I have made since coming to VMI will be important to me for the rest of my life. Starting in room 458, we helped each other through the pressures of the rat line and even had some laughs at the expense of others (thanks Tom). More recently however I have realized how much my friends have taught me about myself as well as life in general. On a less serious note, we have had some good times along the way. From getting my number one which taught me never to do shots with Ryan again, to the trip on the squad with Paul, which taught me never to let Paul talk me into anything, I have had a good time. To one of my top dogs Matt, we survived that summer session somehow, and we even managed to have a few laughs in the meantime. We have also had an interesting time finding rides to DC. Was it all worth all the long drives? I know we agree on the definite yes to that question, but I still think one of us should write a book about it all one day (pins and needles) HA! Todd, what can I say, even though you do not have a real major like Paul and I do, you are still a pretty good guy, good luck next year. To Pat and Coley, you are both good friends. We had some good and bad times but you helped me when I needed it. Thanks. Last but not least I want to thank my family. I could not have survived without your support.

Regimental Band 4,3,1, Second Corporal 3, Pipe Band 3,1, Operations Sergeant 1, Arnold Air Society 4, W.B.C. 4,3,1, College Republicans 1.



**Stephen J. Burton**



**Thomas S. Butler**

**Newport News, Virginia  
History & French / Air Force**

Tom Butler came to VMI as only a soccer player. His only interests here were to play soccer and do the best he could. All this changed after the realization that sports wasn't everything. He soon decided not to play soccer, like many others, based on coaching quality. He then began to undertake what would become a great mission. He double majored in history and French, with an environmental leadership minor. To obtain this degree in only four years, and being on the dears list for all eight semesters, is a feat envious of anyone who truly understands what it really takes to obtain a degree here. During his rat year, he decided to pursue and receive an Air Force commission, as well as obtaining a navigator flight slot.

In addition to his studious ways, Tom had much more to offer to us all. During the rat line he was known as Beavis. Since then he was known to all of us as The Tree Hugger. His conservative, yet persistent, environmental ways has annoyed all of us who call him a friend. A fond memory we all have of him is stopping us from throwing our trash where it belongs, out the window. Since then he has been known as Tree Hugger.

Tom was a good friend to all of us. He was a person anyone could rely on no matter what the conditions are. It has truly been an honor to be his roommate for 21 years. Tom is an exceptional friend, competitive sportsman, stout environmentalist, and most important, a brother I wouldn't trade anything for. My advice to you Tom, is forget about it, go hug those trees.



**Timothy J. Butler**

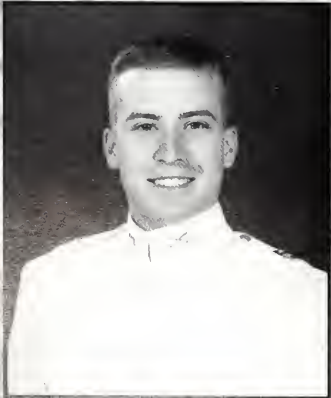
**Newport News, Virginia  
Economics & Business / Air Force**

Known to many as "Fudge," "Casper," or the "Bruise," Timothy John Butler has made a permanent mark on the Institute. An Economics Major from York County, Virginia, Tim is remembered for his persistence, his unique tactics of persuasion, and his boisterous knowledge of unimportant, economic rhetoric. He is a mirror image of the Citizen Soldier, always remaining true to his beliefs and never hesitating to challenge anyone trying to provoke otherwise. Upon graduation, Tim's economic prowess will lead him to a successful career as an Officer in the United States Air Force.

Tim's sound judgement is remembered in his quick exit from the soccer team. Though his friends were close and dear to him (Scotty, Ryan, and Myself), he could no longer be a member of an organization that had ruined countless soccer careers. His abilities are still seen from time to time from his solid indoor and outdoor play. Though his quickness and speed have disappeared, the essence of his name "The Bruise," has not. He will always remain the best sweeper I have ever played under.

He leaves the Institute with many accomplishments but none compare to his beautiful, compassionate fiance, Army Gilley. Both have opened their hearts to a life long, profound love. We all know his future will be shared by many little ones, a task both seem eager to begin.

The Ghetto corner will never forget its palest member sounding off a familiar "yea dwag," because his actions are sketched in all of us. No cadet has had more of an impact on my life and countless others. A man all trust and believe in my "Big Brother," Timothy John Butler, is a cadet I will always strive to emulate. —Thomas Sean Butler '98



**Sean M. Casto**

**Warrenton, Virginia  
History / Army**

When I came to the "I" I was a young idealistic dreamer who wanted to serve his country. Well thing have definitely changed! I had a vague idea about the ratline but not the whole picture. Well, I learned, not so fast and never the easy way. Rat year was definitely a turning point in my life, and at times it seemed that I took the wrong turn as usual. But Third and Second class years and the friends I made showed me that I made, for once, the right choice. Mom and Dad, I can never thank you enough for encouraging me to stay and do my best, usually with a swift kick. Mel and Geoff, it was interesting. Scott I hope you do well and that I never face you as a defendant, you'll lose. Jason, I'll see you sooner or later in the Army. I know... scary thought. Doug, Horsepower and Mustangs, its not a hobby, its life, spoochie. Drew and Steven, bang in there. I know there will be times when you want to quit but remember, in the end staying is worth it. To the Rest of the 147 rats, behave, or you'll go on confinement, like me. PVT Tanker Platoon 4,3,2,1 VMI Theater 4,3,2,1 Fencing 4,3,2,1 PVT 4,3,2,1

Team Mustang 2,1 Misfit Battalion 4,3,2,1 CLF 2,1



Dykes:

- 1995: Billy Eger
- 2001: Steven "Tossed salad" Simon
- Drew "Dude it wasn't me" Conover



**Jonathan W. Catlett**

"Dirty, D.O.C., Chewie, Wookie, Chief"

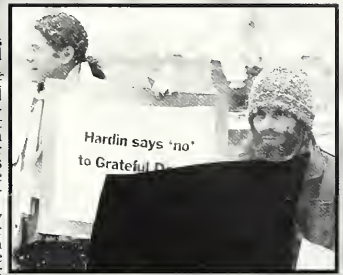
**Poquoson, Virginia  
History / Marine**

I remember the first time I ever met John "Dirty" Catlett. I was coming back into my room and saw this rat with my bathrobe and ball cap on with a stiff Beard & Coke watching Jazed and Confused. Looking back I never thought that rat would have ended up as one of my closest friends. John has been there for me through the good and bad, from the Georgia road trips to my being suspended. As everyone knows being a friend of Jonathan's brings your GPA down about a point, but I wouldn't change a thing. I think this is one of the main reasons why we became English Knights of the O.E. during summer school. It's been great working for the Chief of His Mess Hall this year. I can't wait to have a beer with you once we get out of this hole in the ground. Hey, and remember when you make it in law enforcement, don't confiscate my shoes. -- Freebeer

I would first like to thank GOD, for all that he has given me in my life. I would also like to thank my Mom and Dad for all of their support, I sometimes think VMI has been harder on my mother than me. While at VMI, I have met some of my best friends that have made this place a lot of fun, considering it has resembled a prison for the majority of my cadetship. Friends like Free Beer, Scotty, Moder, Reedy, The Brothers Butt, and Fat Head, I have nothing but love for all of you. I would like to thank the Cooke brothers for allowing me to complete my cadetship in the beautiful ghetto. As my last year comes to an end (hopefully) I would just like to thank my friends (especially Amanda) for making VMI fun for a change.

Private 4,3,2,1; Cadet Battery 3; Cadet Waiter 3,2,1; Conduct/Academic Pro 4,3; Tuesday-Thursday Gun Club 4,3,2; Procrastinator 4,3,2,1; Ghetto 4,3,2,1; Va Historical Society 2,1; Pork Chop Platoon 1; The Society of English Knights 2,1;

"Where and when is Funks Field '99, look out Doc, here comes Dirty!"



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Alexis Bouchard
- 2001: Tom "Ronald" Sebrell
- Mike "Drabble" Andrilunas,



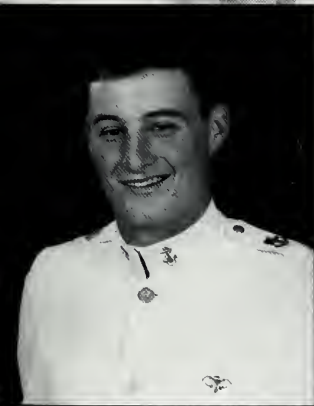
**Christopher Chan**

"Biscuit, Limey"

**Reading, England**

**Biology / Army Special Student**

4 Rat, 3 Cpl; 2 Sgt; 1 Lt; Rugby 4; Boxing team 3,2; VMI Firefighters 2,1; National Dears List 4,3; Dears List 4,3,2,1; rack monster 3,2; scholar 4,1; Juliette 2,1.



**Jonathan N. Charbonnet**

"Nutz"

**King George, Virginia  
Civil Engineering / Navy**

If you saw Jonathan Charbonnet on the streets, you would have never guessed that he had attended a military college. Nevertheless, "Nutz" earned himself a Navy scholarship during his rat year and unlike his peers, he was able to keep that scholarship all the way up to his 1<sup>st</sup> class year. Throughout the four years here, Nutz was also a two-year letter winner on VMIS swim team. Academically, Nutz specialized in the field of Environmental Engineering; although, we are all sure he had tremendous doubts after registering for the Enviro II class taught by the infamous LTC Schneider. Nutz always wore his 1<sup>st</sup> class privates belt proudly and you could always find an exuberant, mouth-opened expression on his face for the cameras. Although a highly praised member of the Goucho Club, Nutz was a tremendously respected party animal, but when his mugs were off duty and bodies properly hydrated, Nutz hit the books just as hard.

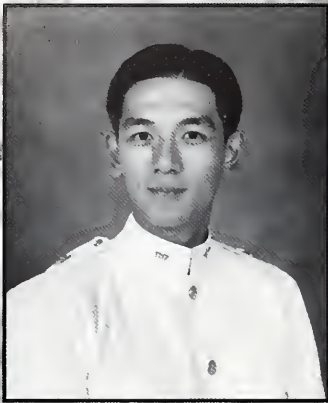
With all of Nutz's attributes and his pedal to the medal attitude, he will effortlessly carry himself to the apex of life, professionally, physically, and socially. With all of this said and done, another view of Nutz will be relayed. During 2<sup>nd</sup> class year is when I really got to know Nutz, being in most of the same classes and then eventually partying together into our 1<sup>st</sup> class year. The times that we shared together, whether studying for tests, helping one another out, or spending time at the Staircase, will never be forgotten. These times were shared with one of the most carefree of all people at this school. There are those times that we often wonder how Nutz keeps up with his crazy lifestyle, but somehow he manages to get the job done right. It will be interesting to see Nutz at all of the Goucho club reunions and other times that we might see one another in the future. Chris.

Swimming 4,3, Private 4,3,2,1, Staircase Entrepreneur 4,3,2,1, Goucho Club Lifetime Member.



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Matt Chapman
- 2001: Dan Schindler



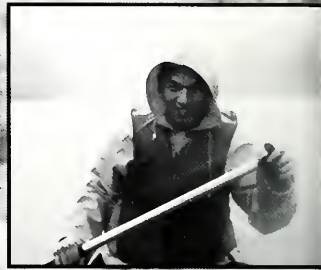
**Chen Jr-Iang**

**Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China  
Electrical Engineering / Air Force**

I have made a lot of memories during the last four years here at VMI. I have also had lots of new experiences. Coming to VMI was my first time to seeing America. I thing my English has improved since I came to VMI. My BRS always asked me "What are you talking about?" and the cadre always told me "No English no break out" during my ratline. But now I can put fluent in Chinese and English in my resume. I also spent most of my vacations for visiting the United States. I am glad that I have had this chance.

After graduating from VMI, I hope I can use what I have learned here and do something for my country. I will miss all of my BRS, dykes, teachers and the people who gave me unforgettable memories during these four years at VMI.

F-troop: 4,3,2,1. Deark List: 4,3,2,1. Air Force ROTC: 4,3,2,1. Member of International Club: 4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Shuenn D. Shieh
- 2001: Lin Chi-Wei



**Cale L. Christiansen**  
"Ogre"

**Reistertown, Maryland**

**International Studies / Air Force Special Student**

Well the time has come for me to say good bye to this place finally, even though I'll be here another semester. The adventure has been very long but full filling at times. When I first saw this place it was on a recruiting visit with Jut and Heath and none of us thought that we would come here. Well I've been here almost 4 years now and I still hate this place as much as I did then. There were many people that where betting against me making it here and to be honest I did not think this place was for me after the first month or so but I stuck it out. However, even during all of the shad I have managed to make some of my closest friends Brad who will always be a sissy, Billy (what more can you say), Jut the pervert, Heath (Big fussed) and of course there is Jimmy, Darius, Jordan, Brandon, L.A. Rith (hope to see you on MTV someday), Greg and the rest of the football team and all my other friends. Speaking of football there where definitely some good times but many more bad ones. Hey we are all Dalaney Field survivors (g.m). Who could forget Stew. The nights at the Palms (thanks Kelly I would have been broke otherwise). Dragging certain people out of there, Summer school, Sasquatch Club '97. Hey no smoking in this theater. I also want to thank some of the most important people in my life. First off my parents who have put up with all of my shit over the years. You are the best friends I could ever ask for thank you for being so understanding all of these years!!!!!! My little brother who will hopefully follow in my footsteps but at a different school. By the way I'll still beat on you when I'm old and decrepit. To all of my friends at home that are reading by me through this and thank you especially Mike and Sara. THANK YOU!!!! Then of course there is Jaime- my sweet heart and my future. Thank you for making me realize many of things. The time will come!

To Tim and Cabell the journey through this place sucks but do not give up, keep focused and do your best it all ends eventually I promise. If you guys ever need anything just call me. Hey if I can make it through here anyone can. BYE, BYE NOW!!!!!!  
Football 4,3,2,1; Big Red 3,2,1; MARINE 2,1; Tim Hackler, #1 Club 4; AC Pro 4,3,2; Stewart Regime 4,3,2; BR RDC 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Dave Johnson
- 2001: Cabell (Flabio) Brockman



**Jordan S. Clark**  
"Smalls"

**Dallas, Texas**

**Business and Economics / Air Force**

I would first like to tribute to my parents and brothers and sisters who have been supportive and thoughtful towards me through my cadetship and more importantly life. Thank you Mom and Dad for your love and support. You have been an inspiration to me in my life. Your own accomplishments in life have taught me to endure and fight to the end. My sister Amberlee who has always been there for me with open arms. Thanks for looking out for me. Sara and Dallas, my best friends thanks for choosing to come to VMI, it has made being here a lot easier. Our friendship has meant the world to me and I am so thankful to have brothers like you. Also for supporting me in football and keeping my spirits up when I seemed to be down. I wish you success in your first class year. Lang, well what can I say. You have been a great friend. I hope that while living with you, you learned to relax a little bit. But, I seriously wish you the best and I am thankful that we were able to live with each other for 3 years. Gabe and Tim I also would like to say how nice it has been to become better friends our 1<sup>st</sup> class year. I wish you the best in your future endeavors. "Jut" thanks for being such a great friend. For the many rides to the airport and staying at your house. It been a Cooooooool time!!!! Brandon thanks for the many superbowl parties and your friendship. Jim, listening to football games on the radio our third class year. Crowder "The Total Package" lifting our third class year (our best year at the D). Kelly Cook it has been fun playing with you. You could always make me laugh. Tom Curran (Why dont Suck It! You Sucker) Ghetto corner- always remember who the boss is and you will be o.k. Catlett and Brad Cooke the best punching bags around. Ha Ha Ha  
BVT 4,2,1; Cpl 3; Football 4,3,2,1; Track 4; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Texas Club 3,2,



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Sid Mitchner
- 2001: Tom O'Brien  
Matt Prokop



Glen Allen, Virginia

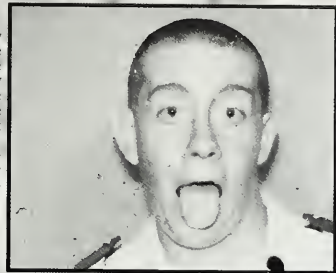
Civil Engineering / Special Student

Dennis. Well what can I say about Dennis. He lived next to me my Rat year on the 5<sup>th</sup> strop. I knew him then as the guy who had on the Pantera hat matriculation day. After a while and a lot of cigarettes we became friends. Dennis defines the word driven. He proved this by going from Academic Probation to Dear List. His laid back attitude always brought a smile to the room, and attitude towards Air Force was always positive. Dennis is a very intelligent guy with a bright future in front of him. Hopefully we stay in contact. Later "D".  
I'm now addicted to smoking. Not that I smoke, its just that I live with Dennis. Have you ever inhaled fumes from a weight gainer container full of dip? I have, and I won \$5. One of my best memories of VMI is walking to morning classes with Dennis while making fun of CE professors and all the cadets we have nicknames for. He may be the most laid-back person I know but it is amazing how well I get along with him. We have the same sense of humor and I think more like him than I care to admit. You're a great friend. Make millions and be happy.

Dennis, you are a wonderfully unique character and I am lucky we have spent the better part of four years together. I'm sure you will agree that we are both quite different people then we were on that pre-strain weekend when we sat talking to Short (Short). I have been able to witness your maturation as an individual and I was continually amazed at your level of success once you dedicated yourself to something (Jack Nicholas Abs— 48). I consider you a wonderful friend and I wish you the absolute best throughout your days. — EWS. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Private, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Private, intramural softball, 1<sup>st</sup>: Private, Rat Challenge



Dennis C. Claytor



Dykes:

- 1995: Rick Gambrell
- 2001: Andrew Dannenberger
- Steve Kolenich

Norfolk, Virginia

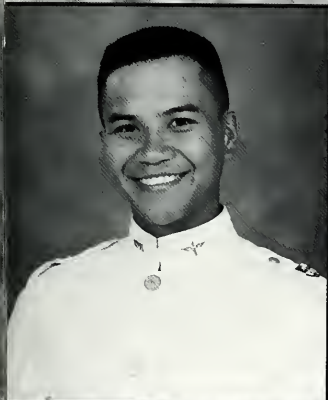
History & Psychology / Air Force

Marc is a certain kind of individual that is hard to find in society today. He is a rare combination of talent, compassion, resolve, fortitude, intelligence, and just an attitude of looking out for the other guy. Honestly, it's hard to say that not too many men in the cadets at the Institute fit a certain expression that someone will say that they will do something for you, in general, and usually do it. Marc is the exception. I've been through some very difficult times in my life and Marc has been there through thick and thin. He has been there for anyone that needs it. His parents and family have showed me with their love and acted as my own parents. It's sickening to know how selfless this guy really is, no point he neglects himself. He actually takes from his own mouth to help out a person less fortunate than himself. He is not tremendously bestowed himself, yet he gives what he does not have. He often mistakes that others are like him, when in actuality they are not. Marc is the kind of guy who would take fries from your plate without asking, yet either before or after the incident without even thinking about it he would have given you back about ten fold in whatever. He has the future ahead him in more ways than one. He's about to be a commissioned officer in the Air Force and plans to get a graduate degree. He plays five instruments, yet has never received the recognition he so much deserves. If his cadetship has been marred in any way, it has been a shining by his superiors to recognize Marc for his accomplishments and talents. However, I believe his rewards lie in the future of this very special person. I'm so very proud to call this individual among one of my closest friends, because I know he defines what a "friend" is, in actuality, really is. A caring, loving, committed, and incredibly talented person with the utmost integrity whom I could trust with any aspect of my life. I don't know anyone like him, nor do I believe I shall find such a well rounded person or friend in the future, because people like him are so very hard to find. I consider myself extremely fortunate to even be an acquaintance of this individual, let alone one of his good friends. Yes, I am a lucky man.

I just wanted to personally recognize some important people who helped me through this God-forsaken place: Drs. Sheldon, Thomas, Richards, Miles, St. A. Phineas C. Walker, Charlene, Mags, Aldering, Hiringer, Capt. French, USAF; The Drs. Brodie, Julia and Rachel; The Barroos; Burr, Dutz and Clay; Richardson '96; Dorothy Sweet and Bill Johnson; Monk Mitchell; Avi D. Hopkins, Todd R. Boykin; My Rat's Adam Woytowich, John Koubaroulos, John Kitt, Dexter Lopez— love you guys; Jennifer Boensch and the Bandrats '98— love 'em all. My "brother" heart and WILL BE forevermore— love you, man. Everyone I've ever loved, know that you ARE in my heart and how grateful I am for all your everything. Love you, love you, love you.

Rat 4, Corporal 2, First Class Private 1, Newman Club 421, ME 2, Big Red Club 321, V. Historical Society 2, Ultimate Frisbee 2, Cadet Wing 2, 1-4-81, Club 321, Emerald Club 21, 5 Our Guide 1, Rat Challenge Ass. 1, Pipe Band 321, Regimental Band 4321, IHATP 4321, Rat Daddy 4321.

I had my world strapped against my back. I held my hands, never knew how to react.



Marc P. Clemente

"Mouth, 'Mente, Roberto, Little One, Chlamydia, Littlest Lit, Bong"



Dykes:

- 1995: Kevin Hoffer
- Pat Monahan
- 2001: Adam Woytowich
- John Koubaroulos
- David Lopez
- John Kitt
- Jennifer Boensch

Richmond, Virginia

Economics & Business / Marine Special Student

First I thank God for all the gifts in my life. I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to my entire family who suffered numerous trips along I-81 to offer me their company. Sunday I would have failed each week miserably without the cookie monster toothbrush you so graciously sent me. Mom and Dad I could never of made it through all the ordeals and torture if it wasn't for your countless visits and abundant care packages. Thank you to all the Clemons Courier drivers who went out of their way to deliver all those envelopes stuffed with cash and the innumerable batches of cookies from my Mom. Dad your advice is priceless and has kept me on the right path from day one (we are going to make a great team). I love all of you. THANK YOU. Within the confines of this miserably dump, I found some of my most treasured friends. One with short arms, one who was just short, a couple illegal aliens, a jarhead, an outlaw from Caroline, a flock of sky-hawks, a Yankee with a fetish for fat women, a naive Bernhard fan, the New Jersey ninja, a hopeless romantic from Virginia Beach, the Montebore man from Winchester, an old male stripper, and the boisterous rouser of Shawshank. I love all you guys.

I need to give special thanks to the Gonz for lending me his ear, to Timmy T for keeping it real and reminding me where he comes from; to Sonic and his contributions to my delinquency, to the Lexington bureau of police for their outstanding service to the community; and exceptional sporting abilities; to my gal Lefty, most importantly to my faithful roommate Mike (you were the best).

Westing 94-95; Rugby 96-97.



Charles T. Clemons

"Buck"



Dykes:

- 1995: Pat Monahan
- 2001: Froggy Mustjan
- Darla Wade

## Montrose, Alabama

### Economics & Business / Special Student

I never would have made it through VMI had it not been for hardheadedness and the best friends that one could ask for, not to mention the unending support of loved ones. I would not say that VMI taught me a great deal more than I had already known before about myself. Rather it was the people that I met while here that have opened my eyes even more than I thought that they had been. It was fun, at times, and I will always take that with me. The good times that we had here will always over shadow the long hours, late nights, and frustration that we endured day in and day out. It is like the song goes, Its bittersweet, more sweet than bitter. I guess that is just life.

To all my dear friends in Pervert. Y'all have been the best friends that anyone could have asked for. I actually thought about staying until May just to have one last semester with y'all. However, the thought of freedom is a little too appealing for me to stick around. To my Co-Dyke and Forever Roommate Hoss! For being two old men we did all right for ourselves at this place and managed to stay fairly sane while doing so. I never thought that we would ever make it but somehow they never managed to kick us out. I won't be upset about leaving this place, the Southland is calling and it is time for me to head back. To everyone who was there for me and for those whom I leave behind; thank you for the memories. *Pervert; Its not a place, but a state of mind.*

Mama, Mama,  
Many worlds I've come;  
since I first, left home.

Jerry Garcia

Pervert Corner 3,2,1 House of Pain 4,3,2,1 Virgin Private 4,3,2,1 Racquetball Club 4,3,2 Cadet Investment Group 2,1 Cadet Program Board 4,3,2,1 Tour Guide 4,3,2 College Republicans 3 Movie Club 3,2,1 TSGT Hudson Most Wanted 3,2 Barracks Lawyer 4,3,2,1



**John D. Cocke, IV**  
"Cocker"

## Butler, Pennsylvania

### Civil Engineering / Army

I will try not to be bitter...well...DARNTHIS SCHOOL!! Whew, glad I got that out of my system. OK, on the positive side (yeah, right), I would like to thank Scott Ship high for boring the hell out of me for the first two years, and NEB for tolerating me for the last two (3?). Col. Williams, thanks for all the confinement, without it, I might have had some fun. As for the rest of the administration, got some real jobs and stop bothering us.

OK, there are some good points. Col. Buckner, Col. Jamison, and Col. Pappari, three professors, who have made a lasting impression on me. I only wish that could have worked at the level you expected. As for the Army Dept., I am sorry that my hair was a little too long, and that I didn't say HUA as loud as some, but I promise you, I won't turn out to be too bad an officer (knock on wood). To my family on post, you guys on the rugby team kept my head up and provided some good times when I sorely needed them.

Speaking of good points, I would like to thank a cast of real characters for tolerating my sorry (ssy) ass. To my old roommates who didn't make it though, I truly wish you could have crossed the finish line with me (Darius, you are too slow to cross any line scrub). To the guys (EA! guys) who did take me in; Cale and Billy, I consider you some of the best friends I have ever had. To the summer school crew, you all provided some of the only fun I have had at this school. RANCOR, and proud of it! To friars L.A. With and Nedagidy (Kraft, thanks for my baptism at the church; I hope to have more York sensations in the future. Inda Co, Midgets and Assans, what more can I say, God, you never give me what I want, but you always seem to give me what I need? To my parents, we have been through some tough times, but we always seem to bounce back. Thanks for always being there to pin my tail back on when no one else would. I hope that I have made you proud of me. RICH, you have always road ahead, but I know you can do it. DON'T GIVE UP, EVER!

Pervert 3,2,1 Col 3: His. Major 4,3: Conduet Pro 4,3,2,1

## Etrick, Virginia

### Economics & Business / Army

I told y'all you can't see me !!!! That's why I'm not pictured. I have been through the storm Ma !! I guess I proved all those haters who thought I would be locked up or something wrong. Mach Disrespect to you all. Peace to all my real boyz: An Blers open bins) Big Mike, T-bird, Dale, Dre, Thea J Boyz, Hill, Bi-lo, the boyz on the defense, all the real ——— That I have drunk plenty of Brews with you know who you are, My girl Avis and her family for keeping it real with me, some of you haters ought to take notes, A special shout ought to D-Los, Big Rell, DJ, Tex ( not you Yarborough), My boy Ron Stud, Chuck Reed, Black Ticks and your little bad a — boyz, Kool G. Mr & Mrs Smith my second family, Both my sisters, Jeff, my brother speedy, Dempsey R.I.P Tre, Xavier, Kendra, my new niece Nandi. Hove you Mother & father. I love you Jesus. I even love all y'all HATERS. Now we can take it to the streets, punk. The GC cant save you now. Bet you wont talk sh— now!!!!  
Megaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!  
N.T.B.C.



**Bradley E. Cook**  
"Cookie, Ehor"



**Kelly M. Cook**  
"KC, Oak, Cook, Mega"



**Dykes:**  
1995: Buddy and Weez  
2000: Scott Hillyer  
2001: Ears



**Dykes:**  
1995: Eric Swartz  
2001: Rich Hodges



**Dykes:**  
1995: Kendall Clark  
2001: Larry Beasley  
T. Austin ( both pending)

Richmond, Virginia  
English / Air Force

One word that unequivocally describes Brad throughout his cadetship is controversy. Rat year he endured a tough Ratline while living with two psychotic roommates, who have since left VMI for greener pastures. Third class year included escapades like getting caught by the Virginia police while driving off post, after Taps, in civics, drunk, while on guard, and not getting a DUI or a penalty for it. Also, as a Third, Brad had two different women grab him in the biscuits with very different results. One wooed him with the sights and sounds of Charlottesville, and the other squint him the proverbial cupid's arrow to the granum on Valentines Day. The other woman, after surviving a summer rift with Brad in which she threatened to drive through the arch and kill him and his summer school roommates, has remained his girlfriend and consistently put up with the charms that come with dealing with dating a Keydet.

Second Class year, Brad began his journalistic career by becoming the News Editor for "The Cadet", a position that usually quickly moves you to the top of any faculty and staffs' Cadets That I Want Dead List. Surviving these controversies, Brad took on his toughest job yet, OGA President. Brad has deftly led this committee, which handles the especially choice cases that no one else wants to get near. Brad has handled these cases with professionalism, integrity, and an overall drive to do the right thing. While having these high pressure and time consuming jobs, Brad continued to amaze on social occasions, like having women delivered to Canoeing PFX and having world renowned throw downs at his Richmond home, including Funks Field II.

It is in Brad's bloodlines for to be full of controversy at VMI, he has heard stories about from women and some friends from the past. It's a good thing, Cooke '0. Overall, Brad has been a hell of a lot of fun to party with, an inspiration to watch work, and one of the true friends who has gotten me through this place with my sanity and an occasional smile on my face.

Private 4,3,2,1; Rat Challenge 3,2; Blood Drive Committee 4,3,2,1; News and Features Editor, The CADET 2; OGA President 1; S-5 Counselor 2,1; English Society 4,3,2; Funks Field Executive Committee 3,2,1; Founder;Ghetto 40 Club 3,2,1; Chimney and Roof Scaling Society 3,2,1; 140 Exchange Program 1; Jordan Regulation Society 3,2,1.



**Bradley R. Cooke**

"Bradhead, Cookie, El Presidente"



Dykes:

1995: David Griffin

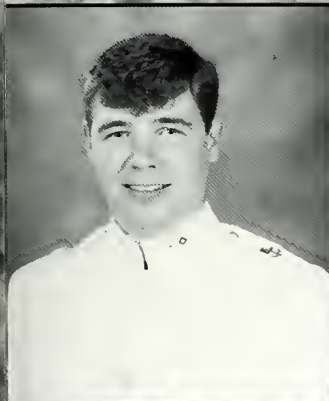
2001: Taylor Mawyer,  
Sarah Williams

Richmond, Virginia  
History / Special Student

"You two are brothers AND roommates?" That is probably the one question that has dominated my cadetship. Todd and I have always been close. We had the same friends in high school, even though he is two years older than me, we enjoy the same activities, and we have lived together since third class year, surviving roommates like Al Carr, Ben Cox, Phil Toumazatos and John (Dirty) Cadet. To define Todd's cadetship in a word, it would have to be "fun". He can say no to anyone, and I, too, thank I have met a person that does not like him. In the hours that he spends awake, (which is only about eight a day) he bobs around barracks, playing golf in the C&Yard, or a computer game. Known to his friends as the "Big Stud", Todd has amazed all with the development of his unique exercise programs (eating and sleeping) and his ability to crank out countless sit-ups in a row. He surprised the Ghetto by taking the rank of Cadre Cpl after returning for Early Return Guard, then in the middle of his first class year, by accepting the rank of Platoon Lt for Delta Company. But besides all these stunts, Todd has always been a private at heart in keeping with a long outstanding family tradition. I got arrested, Todd got rank, and my dad was more angry with him than me. Todd has made this place bearable for all those that knew him. His disposition was always passive, and he kept order in an otherwise crazy room. Aside from a short sabbatical the second semester of his third class year, during which he decided that History was the way to go over Biology, and building a reputation for a semester was better than C&Y and Bendly Tours, Todd has been a true friend and a supportive brother. For me, Todd has been the one constant throughout an ever-changing, sometimes horrible cadetship. I always knew where he stood, and I always knew where I'd find him (usually in his rack). He'll be married within the year, and out in Colorado being a ski bum if all goes as planned, and I wish him the best of luck dealing with life without his rack. —BRC

There are many people who deserve my thanks, if not my life. First, my parents for giving me multiple chances to straighten my life out, I finally took this one and made it work. My brother Brad who has been with me through all of the thick and thin (he did it), and finally my girlfriend and best friend Sallie, who has delt with me and the institute for the entire four years. To the class of 1998, I love you all and wish you all the most happiness in all this god damn world. It is only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy, and resolute courage, that we move on to higher and better things. —Theodore Roosevelt

Rat 4, Cadre Corporal 3, Lt 1; Theater 3, 2nd instructor 1; Volleyball 4,3; VA HS Soc 2,1, CPB 1; Sup's Council 1; Ghetto 40 boy 3,2,1; Funksfield exec com 2,1; Pork Club Platoon 1, Victim of ractor beam 4,3,2,1.



**Kenneth T. Cooke**

"Cookie, Toddness, Fatboy, Rackweight, Brad"



Dykes:

1995: Jim Finbach

2001: Chad Christianson

Roanoke, Virginia  
Mechanical Engineering / Special Student

Ratline gave the Institute a very valuable asset in Mark. The rat line brought us hardships on him and with some self inflicted stress, he graduated into fourth classmanship with a good foundation to build his final three years on. Always willing to help out a fellow BR or lend some comic relief when needed. Third class class came along with a melange of roommates from different parts of the country. Each one had me motivate to give his name to the Institute (some raise the others. Mentions), Physics, Dynamics, and AC. Pro traced his cadetship with the culminating special stemming from the unauthorized nightly hydration of the Sentinel on Post #1 from the 2nd stool. Second Class year came in with more of the same M.E. ratline (no we didn't altogether break out in Feb of '95). Mark and I led the dungon and late night trips back to barracks, maintaining the illustrious Dungon Master titles. Ring Game marked one of the better times we had here in the past, thriving Lexingtonian metropolis. First Class year came with a ridiculous amount of responsibility. We migrated to S-11 and had an easy trip to the shower. Deep down, he knew that it was always a nice mix living with a toolbag ranker and another private in the room. Also, being the old and careworn of Arthur's advice group, we knew that we had something to be proud of going into first class year. The OGA enjoyed having him because he was always donating his time at the most inopportune moments. Then came something which will always be a part of his life. The question, the rack, and the yes from the Hodge. It goes without saying that Stephanie and I developed fit into this whole grand scheme of things, intricately intertwined or somehow connected with it. — Every ounce of his happening here at the glorious "I". Mark was one of those extremely rare cases where his high school sweetheart didn't furnish the dear John letter during the ratline. I have become closest to Mark probably more so than any other Ratber Rat in these last four years. His good sense of humor and amazing ability to improvise was one of the ME faculty, with extreme accuracy always kept me laughing, his singing of adjectives all during my furious tirades were always worth a good chuckle. Looking back, I have been able to relate to him more than anyone else because he is the only person that I know who is an anal retentive (towards school work). Four years ago, I would have never thought that I would be in the same room as the notable bonds of friendship that I have made with him will certainly become stronger with time and I get no fewer class reunions in Moody Hall. Thanks Mark for all your help—I owe you so much.

Brothers all the dear—  
Brian Cox OGA Rep (1), Rat Challenge (2), ASME (4,3,2,1) President (1), Corporal (3), Sergeant (2), College Republicans (2), All Poo (4,3), Club 38 (3,2,1), Stephanie (4,3,2,1), B&B/B&HAT 4,3,2,1; GI/AB&H 4,3,2,1; AW&AB&S 4,3,2,1.



**Mark R. Cox**

"Tub, Dick"



Dykes:

1995: Erik Bauserman

2001: Nathan "Cocky Rat"  
Charles  
Mike "Hollywood" Swers



**Christian D. Craft**  
"Head, Q-Tip"

**Richmond, Virginia**  
**Economics & Business / Special Student**

I remember seeing him for the first time with his head shaved!!! — a large cranium. Craft dodged routine activities through his "war face." A rat got sent to the G.C. for standing in front of his window naked. Guess who? Craft. Well, it doesn't end there. He spent a night in the hospital after some Ring Figure activities. Bev was not happy. I had a few classes with Craft, or "Rip Van Craft." He switched majors by the end of his rat year.

Third class year = battle zone in 331. Between the instigator and the biggest mad, things got crazy. Craft's duct tape came in handy to fix shoes and fans. He was sixth corporal for D Co. Craft decided to become an EMT for the ERT. Chris learned to rack. Second semester came and 331 lacked the weekly room inspection. The room got a little nasty from running the block or whatever extra activities Craft participated in. Third class year = rest and relaxation.

Second class year meant a new roommate—Daren Rose. By putting his head through windows, Daren kept us entertained. Craft was a Platoon Sergeant, but 231 called a him "Guide Sergeant." Craft managed to get his ring and raise hell during Ring Figure. Thank You-Robin for the memories!!! Craft continued to rack. While I was in England, Crafrscape up short in Business Finance. Only with Chris for one semester, he still made me laugh.

First class year is finally here, and Chris has made minor changes to his life. Instead of racking his life away, he visits other colleges three to four days a week. Craft is a private this year... that rack stuff is for the birds, or the "bird chest. If you see him in person, you'll know why. Craft is more relaxed this year. Thank you for putting up with my stressed-out moods. Whatever it is you do, I'm sure you will do it well and be successful. Good luck. Thanks for all the memories....Guse.

3 Corporal, 2 Platoon Sergeant, 1 Private, 3,2,1 ERT member, 2 Vice -President, 2,1 S-5 Tour Guide; 1 S-5 Parade Staff; 3,2,1 Big Red Club; 3,2,1 Intramural with D Co.; 1 Cadet Investment Group



**Dykes:**  
1995: Trey Tyson,  
Sam West,  
Justin Rubino  
2001: Sydney "Sid" Hazelwo  
Pat "Maniac" Brewins



**Jason A. Crowder**  
"Package"

**Brodnax, Virginia**  
**History / Air Force**

First I would like to thank God and my family for getting me through the past four years. Many people tell me that once I graduate I will miss VMI. Those people are very wrong. I would also like to thank my roommates for an interesting four years. Ben you still owe me for taking your guard third class year. spit that dip out. Mike, we lived together all four years and I am glad I will not be joining you for five. Try not to make a fool out of yourself at the Palms again. Leave your shirt on because I am the only diesel one in the room. Between Ben's campfire and Mike's early rising for BRC, its a wonder I ever got any sleep. Tivris, thanks for being a good sport and taking all my wise cracks without killing me. If I had never met you my GPA would be much higher. To all the guys on the football team, we made it through Wild Bill and Plain and managed to win a few. I still have one good arm to punch my brother in the mouth with. Bearman, Barnhardt still has not won Daytona, and we both know he never will. Toolan, you hook nose go back to Phillie. The last four years have been a real m\*\*\*\*\* f\*\*\*\*\*, and I am glad they are done.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Chris Yates  
2001: Adam Maldonado  
Rusty Briley



**Brian A. Culver**  
"Pookie, Culver B"

**Sandston, Virginia**  
**Electrical Engineering / Special Student**

Not much has changed with Brian since High School. Didnt do work then, doesnt do work now. Just Playing. Seriously, Brian may just be one of the smartest (and also laziest) people I know. He works hard on the things that he enjoys. The reason he came here and studied Electrical Engineering is beyond us. VMI was just a stepping stone for Brian to get into Seminary. He has had his hard times while at VMI, yet has stood strong and managed to always come out on top. This comes from his life long devotion to God. No matter what was wrong, or right, Brian was always giving thanks to the man upstairs. Brian would be the first person to say a prayer for a person whom he did not even know. This is quintessence of Brian's character and his cadetship.

When Brian matriculated, he made his first mistake... JOINING BAND COMPAY. And, we have never let him live it down. Brian came to VMI hoping to continue his wrestling career, only to be sidelined by a back injury that put him out of the sport. As roommates we have learned a lot about each other. We learned Brian could not stay with one girl for more than six months at a time and his strong religious background took precedence over every other activity, including homework. He is also not a very good basketball player, yet man hustle more than anyone we know. Through the cracks on Band Co., grades, and everything else, Brian has took it in stride and has been a great roommate and friend. Brian will succeed in whatever he does because of his caring and positive attitude towards people. Well, Brian the last three years have produced many interesting memories and we wish you the best of luck in making your own memories in what you choose to do. GCE - EMA III. I want to thank the Lord first and foremost. Without Him I am nothing. I also want to thank my family who has given me support though it all. Greg and Ed, you guys encouraged me to study. And to the SBFC, you kept me humble and accountable.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Dan Williams  
2001: Stuart Patterson, DGI

Private: 4,3,2,1; wrestling manager: 4,3,2; OCF: 4,3,2,1; Jackson Prayer Brigade: 4,3,2,1; prayer marshal: 1; Christian: eternity.

## Kingsport, Tennessee

### Biology & Mechanical Engineering / Air Force

Rodney came to VMI as a preppy frat boy from N.C. State looking for structure and a more fulfilled meaning in his life. Rodney has excelled in both academics and athletics during his cadetship. His strong perseverance to complete his work has often kept all of us up to the early morning hours. There was a period of time when Rodney really had to ask himself: "Why the heck did I give up a life of women, freedom, and parties? I think he's come to the realization that VMI was the best choice he ever made. Room 276 has had some incredible times together, ones which we know will be relived again. Having W&L so close to the "H" gave Rodney the chance to see if he still had the touch. The chance to see Rodney in rare form is quite a spectacle. In his defense I must say it doesn't happen often. Hooters, Corned Beef Co., Top Floor, and the Staircase all know him by his first name! (just joking!) Randy."

Why did I come to VMI? That is the question I've been asked more often than any other. So, here's my answer: "Come here, and maybe you'll understand" For, I don't believe a person truly understands the advantage of "suffering," as some would see it, as a cadet. It truly does demand an exemplary character and sheer drive. So, do I believe there is a better institution to prepare men in this nation? There is none. In this case of gratitude and humility, I owe VMI more than I could ever repay. However, I do leave the following to my closest companions: To Randy, I leave spontaneous nights of manning to Hellins in the middle of the week, forgetting homework and status checks, praying not to get caught. To Will, I leave a life's subscription to J-Crew and the poster boy nominee for their next cover. To Roger and Matt, one more year! Party on. To Kevin and Stewart, I leave the "traditions" passed on from me to you, and your own "unforgettable" and "forgettable" moments, and the game *Operation*. Play it with pride. To all of you, I leave my friendship and all the weekends I never got to take. Go have fun. It's essential, and keep on the Roanoke tradition. Finally, I owe my own-ship to the following: Mom, Dad, and Tammie, thanks for always being there through all the years no matter what and always believing in me. To Amanda, Thank you for a shoulder to lean on and encouragement to carry on. I love you all. And, finally, to God, without whom none of this would be possible.

**Rodney C. Daniels**  
Redken, Doogie Houser, Hot Rod



Dyke:  
1996: Brandon Porter  
2001: Kevin A 'Cuervo' Ryan  
Stewart 'Sergio' Curcio

## Hagerstown, Maryland

### Economics & Business / Air Force

Four years ago I came to VMI from Kentucky, not knowing anyone and I met Richie Daughtridge. After about a month, Rich and I began a bond that will span the rest of our lives. During these four years, I have realized that Rich Daughtridge is one of the finest people I know. I would love to tell some stories about Rich, but they are too long, and in several cases better left a mystery. Rich has been a great friend and roommate, but in many ways, Rich has been like a brother to me. Thanks Rich, I wish you and Susan the best in life, and I know that this end to VMI is only the beginning.

It's kind of weird thinking about how small this world actually is and how two people's paths can cross at different times. Rich and I first encountered each other years ago when we played, as rivals, in a variety of soccer tournaments in multiple states. His love for the game obviously grew more than mine did and he developed into the greatest soccer player and truest goal scorer I have ever seen in a person. It is truly amazing to think about what he has accomplished here at school and on the playing field. His career will continue to a higher level because of his persistence and overcoming determination. You and Susan will have a wonderful life together because good things happen to good people. Good Luck! Love, Will

Private 4,3,2,1; Varsity Soccer 4,3 (Captain) 2,1; Dears List 4,3,2,1; ECA 4,3 (Pres.) 2,1; Economic International Honors Society 1; Big Red Club; Susan 4,3,2,1

**Richard E. Daughtridge**  
"D. Mrs. Doubtfire, Richie D"



Dykes:  
1995: Brian Uccardi  
2001: Justin Harber

## West Palm Beach, Florida

### History & International Studies / Air Force

To borrow a line from the history of Colonel Dayhull '31: "This is to announce to the world the arrival of Juan Carlos de los Reyes". For some time, the man affectionately known throughout simply as "J.C." has toiled endlessly to attain what he so richly deserves: a college diploma. I feel bad for J.C. because he asked me to write this history for him. No words I could ever put down on paper could do him justice. J.C., the college student, is a model of perseverance for all. His determination in attaining a degree in History and Int'l Studies in the face of so much adversity is admirable. J.C., the man, could reach anyone on any level whether professional or personal. He could discuss anything from the Bay of Pigs Escalade to Cuba to the Marlins pitching last Friday night. I've always thought that being "J.C." was like having the front page of the USA Today in your hand, ESPN Sportszone on the computer screen and an Eddie Murphy CD in the stereo. If these attributes weren't enough he also had some hidden talents. He's unflappable in times of stress, able to maintain a sense of peace about him. He possesses a great sense of humor, finding a way to make anyone smile is one of his gifts. J.C.'s a very good basketball player with great outside touch and a fine singer with a voice that only Darius Rucker could peer. Yes, he's that good.

My only qualm about J.C. is that I waited so long to get to know him. Rat Year, he was simply the funny Cuban BK from Florida who lived two doors down from me and at TAPS would say, "BICOOLA!" Third Class year he was noticeably absent from the stoop and Second Class year he was asked into the system that was Room 204. I was quite fortunate to befriend him at the end of the year and room with him our First Class Year. You're my brother now, man, and don't you forget it. You're gonna dance at my wedding and be "The Godfather" of my children. I will continually pray for you and the success in your future endeavors in Law School.

J.C., you called yourself lucky for knowing me. I'm telling you now, the WORLD is quite blessed for having YOU. Juan Carlos de los Reyes. That's little d, little T, spelled "A".

God, what a experience! For the most part it was blissful! However, I'm not some incredible friend, I can't believe this moment has actually arrived, it's been a very long road. To hell, not some advice to my dykes, endure this place. It's a real son of a bitch to go through, endure! Know each of my own can cheer and have the confidence that each of you will be outstanding cadets.

Air Force ROTC (2 years), Army ROTC (2 years), Young Republicans Club, Spanish Club, Promontory Club, Cadet in Charge Lejeune Hall, Asst. Sports Editor of Cadet Newspaper, Prep Team Basketball, Baptist Student Union, Drill and Ceremonies, Guard Team Member, Officers of the Guard Association Vice President, Pre-Law Club.

**Juan Carlos de los Reyes**



Dykes:  
2001: John Kitt  
Dave Lopez  
John Koubaroulis  
Adam Woytowich

**Indian Harbour Beach, Florida  
Civil Engineering / USAF**

In the military, there exists a difference between the word pilot and the word aviator. Dew has shown us what it is to be a pilot. After four years on top of the pyramid, he has heard the chiming of the bells at midnight and will seek his entertainment elsewhere. When he leaves, we will notice that during his cadetship few things remained elusive to him; it would seem as though Gershwin scored his step and the Spartans of empire whispered to his ears. Along with the other Kings Men of 117, he has gained that most elusive achievement, recognition at VMI after graduation from VMI. His achievements will blend into memory as not so much a list but as a personality—"suited generals"—from within oneself. We know that since the men who do not adapt to society are the ones who make the greatest progress, we shall wish him fair winds and following seas. An individual always, remembered always, a pioneer and a traditionalist, and a treasured friend, to Dew we say: "Fly low, fly fast, our friend—all speed is life."

○ The land of cloudless days  
○ The land of an uncloudy sky  
They tell me of a home where no storm clouds rise  
○ They tell me of an uncloudy day.  
Pvt. 4, Cpl. 3, Reg. Sgt. Maj. 2, S-4 Capt. 1, Ac Stars 3, Dears List 4, 3, 2, 1, Arnold Air Society 3, Tau Beta Pi 2, 1, Tau Beta Pi, Presidential 1, Regimental Color Guard 2, Virginia Program at Oxford 1, YGBSM 4, 3, 2, 1



**Charles J. Dewey**



**Dykes:**  
1995: Curt Webster  
2001: Angelia Pickett

**Roanoke, Virginia  
History / Marine Corps Special Student**

"Evolution of the Big Nasty"  
Dick was made for life at VMI; unfortunately, the administration didn't always agree, however. As a Rat, he thrived on the administrative system, and in some ways he, even now, misses the chaos and fury which could energize the Ratline; that could be why he found himself on the raggy pitch for a few semesters. His third class year started as a cache corporal with "tough to buckled, and ended with a trip to Baldwin while unfortunately on confinement. In between all of that, thankfully, were the times that would bind Brothers. However, Dick was forced to spend his second class year at schools other than the Institute. Back for his first class year, Jason was "home" again, with new vision and a ticket aboard the 189 train. Jason lives by his own strict code. Advice often consists of "you gotta do what you gotta do or one word, 'fahgettaboutit'." He's not about sitting around waiting and talking about doing, he's about getting out, having fun and doing whatever it takes. So while he may be a bit psycho, he's just doing what he's gotta do. Sure, he may be "big, and he may be nasty," but down inside you won't find a better man or closer friend. He all goes back to his set of rights and wrongs, and that's why I'll never doubt whether or not Jason will be there when needed. He always is, and that's damn rare. I hope I'll be there for him like he's been there for us. And, maybe someday, we can find some girls, shake a tail feather", all go down to Cliff's Club, drink some George Dickel and sing "I just wanna get..." till everything is right. "And there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" - Proverbs

Rat Challenge 4, Ranger Pit 4,3,1, AAAA 4,3; Rugby 4,3,1; Cadre 3; Busted 3; Conduct Pro 3; Suspended 3; Radford 2; Private 4,3,1; Big Red Club 3,1; Virginia Historical Society 1; Summer School 4,3,2,1; The Train 1



**Jason T. Dickerson**  
"DICK, Big Nasty"



**Dykes:**  
1995: Scott Southall  
2001: Adam Maneen

**Murray, Utah  
Chemistry / Special Student**

What can I say? It seems like it has been a long endeavor, somehow you were always acting in my best interest. Mom, you changed my life forever, and you are my mother. Dad, I will try to emulate you, but it will be hard. You taught me things VMI didn't and couldn't.

To all of my friends that made this place bearable, thank you. The New Science Gang, you all helped me out a lot... Buddha, "Go my children and heal the world"; Hungarian, "Put it on the balance and weigh that sucker."; Goller Jr., my offer for a good time still stands; Mr. Keys, you helped me out the most, thank you; Farundich, you head is the biggest I have ever seen. W.B.C., Ry, Snake gnawls across the grass... Paul, Todd, Sean, Matt, and Ham, Dominos? Room 174; Big Ed, Multi-position player (#7), and Brian C., I love you guys. Don, living with you was not always easy, but we got better at it. Love ya, baby. Timmy, I didn't think I could finish without you, and it wasn't easy, but I did it, and so can you. So get yourself back, and do it. You are in my prayers, and I will never let you slip out of my life, you mean too much to me.

To my dykes, Brad, Cambell, and Ken, good luck! Make the best of it.

PVT 4,3,2,1; Baseball 4,3; W.B.C. 2,1; DNGAFF 4,3,2,1; Unsatisfied Customer 4,3,2,1



**Kris J. Dietrich**  
"Dieter, Petus, Dieterich, Deet"



**Dykes:**  
1995: Phil Moore  
Geoff Taylor  
Ed Boyette

## Taiwan, Republic of China

### Mechanical Engineering / Special Student

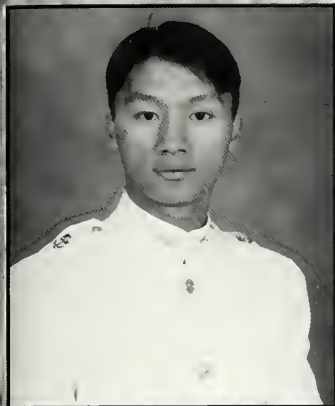
It was a hot August afternoon in 1994, when all of the sudden I had a new roommate. Vinnie had no idea what was going on, but he learned quickly. Now it seems like Vinnie is teaching me what is going on. I have had the honor of rooming with Vinnie for the past four years. Not many people can say that. I don't know what I will do without antics of Vinnie. I will never forget what could be one of the funniest things I have ever seen here at the "I". The steam trolls were busy at work one night our third class year and Shane decided that he could not take the incessant noise any longer. He got a combat boot and began to go medieval on the radiator. Then Vinnie suddenly shot up from a dead sleep and took a shot from the boot to his skull. He later told us that he thought his wall locker was falling on him.

Vinnie has also been known to talk in his sleep. The funny thing about it was that he would talk in Chinese in his sleep. I can never say that it has been boring living with Vinnie. He is always bringing laughter into '03. Vinnie I can honestly say that I will miss you old friend and I know that I speak for everyone when I say that. I have never met a more personable person from Taiwan than you. I hope that maybe one day we can all meet up in Taiwan and celebrate the old days, perhaps with a little saki. Until that day, I wish you the best in all your endeavors.



Dykes:

1995: Josh Strickler  
2001: Lin Liu "Bubba"; The shrimp captain



**Kuo-Liang Ding**

"Vinnie, Vinny, Dingo"

## Clayton, Georgia

### History / Air Force

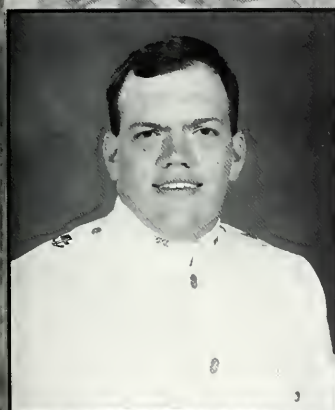
I have had a few goods time in my years at the Institute, but for the most part I have been miserable. The first year was terrible to put it nicely. Third class year was not much better, except for the new roommates that I picked up that year. Their were some good times that year, Mike throwing the rack out the back of barracks in the middle of the night. I will never be able to forget the setting of land speed records with Crowder as we tried to make it to the Southern Conference basketball tournament in Greensboro. Second class year was a little better. I was finally able to wear the ring. Second semester of that year I spent most of my time in Roanoke with Beaman or at the local race tracks in the area. First class year has been great so far, but it will be even better once football is over and graduation is here.

I would like to thank my parents for the support they gave me and without it I would have never made it. I would like to thank Crowder for making everyday interesting with his comments and jokes, even though I was the butt of most of them. I would also like to thank him for hurring my grades by making me watch Monday Nitro or sit around and talk when I wanted to study. Toolan remember the next time you need a car stolen give me a call. Ben I want to wish you and Monica good luck, Mike all I can say is that it has been fun. Bryan remember do not follow the way that I do things if you want to be a good cadet.



Dykes:

1995: Todd Chambers  
2001: Bryan Dalton



**Robert T. Dixon II**

"The Dream, Tidy D, Mad Dog, Inbred"

## Sussex, New Jersey

### Economics & Business / Navy

It figures that throughout my four years here I had a million things to say and now when I have the opportunity to reflect upon my days at the "I" I am at a loss for words. It goes without saying that these have been the most difficult years of my life and if not for the love and support of my family and friends, and the good Lord to watch over me, I don't know if I would have made it. I would like to thank my parents who have stood by me every step of the way and encouraged me to hang in their each and every day. I know I did not make it easy for them. I would also like to thank the Lord for looking out for me and giving me the strength to carry on. Finally, I would like to thank my friends for always being there through both the good and bad times. To my boys in room 102, Brett, Jon, and Timmy thanks for always keeping it real.

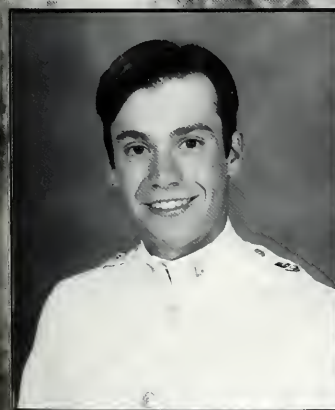
Through my stay here at school one thing was for certain I never had to go far to find a good laugh. Every time I entered the room I was bound to laugh whether it was my unfunny Mexican roommate telling another one of his tasteless jokes, listening to Timmy talk about being one of the finer upstanding gentlemen from Prince George County, and I always had BET to clean up after me and make due with sloppy seconds. Of course I cannot forget about Buck, the most high class redneck I know, who could always be counted on to bring a little country to the situation. Lastly, I would like to wish all my friends, you know who you are, good luck and remember no matter where you go after this fellas it can't get any worse.

Cadet Waiter 4,3,2; Trident Society 4,3,2



Dykes:

1995: Jonathan Craig  
2001: Brian Donald

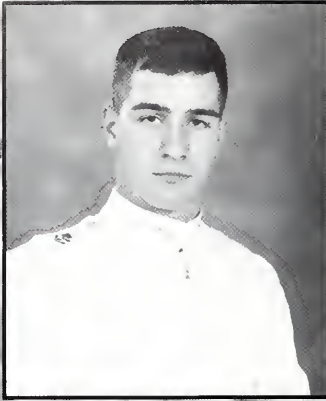


**Kenneth C. Dohanish**

"Kennedy D., Danish, Sonic"

Pasadena, Maryland  
Economics & Business / Special Student

It has been a hard journey. I can't say I'm really seeing the benefits at this point. To tell the truth, if I had to do it again, I would nr. I want to thank my parents. They are really the only ones who kept me here for these long years. I know they know I'm not happy here but its still good to know they will back me in anything I try to do. To die "I" and all those involved with running this place. Catch a cue. The one real thing that I've learned about this place, not including what I've learned about myself, is that this place is a lot of smoke and mirrors. Anyways, my rats name is Josh Hurley. He's a good guy and will probably glide through this place. My dikes name is Cameron O'neil. He's also a pretty good guy. THANKS AGAIN TO MY PARENTS. I LOVE YOU ALL MORE THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW.



Jordan E. Dolan



Dykes:  
1995: Cameron O'Neil  
2001: Josh Hurley

Baltimore, Maryland  
English / Marine Special Student

Jason, I do not know where to begin. I have sat here for hours pondering for meaningful words that will describe your cadetship and our friendship. There are so many things to talk about, but I don't know how to put them all onto paper. Its hard to believe you started out as a die hard Marine, then took a year off at a hippie school, and now you're back at the "T", finishing up as a English major. You will always be remembered around here for your guitar jam sessions, and the midnight squalls that would pierce the still night air that came from 392. As for me, I have some fond, and not so fond memories of the many nights when your infamous T-shirts came flying across the room and landed on my bed, all your "little babies" on the wall, our Erik-Dogg Whistles, go-cart racing with the little girls of Lex, staying in the homeless shelter in Staunton, the many visits to Spunkie's 3rd class year, your cabin, and Gaoada. Most of all, I will remember our many talks and drives through the countryside sharing our ideas, problems, dreams, fears, and of course-Spirits. We have had our ups and downs, but we have managed to keep a strong friendship thru and thru. You have brought much excitement to this dismal place, and you have helped me to get through these past three years. As for Duff-Luck, hang onto it and I hope you never will lose it. I wish some of it would rub off on me! Duff, you are truly my best friend and I thank you for all of our good times. You are talented in so many ways, and I know you will be successful in all that you do. Keep in touch! Your friend, Mark. Always remember the secrets of life. Without only loss and a world of strife. Forget what you've heard, remember this. To give into temptation takes away bliss. Take no talk that degrades your soul. If such talk occurs dig him a hole. When hard times arise and life is a pain, Take to a new project and forget what is insane!



Jason T. Duffy  
"Duff-Dogg, Satan, The Evil One, Duff"



Dykes:  
1995: Mike Rainwater  
2001: Alex Kipp

Explore all that is impossible For you can make it true. Listen to your heart. Because you are the love!  
Pills - February 9, 1996  
Activities: Cadre 3, English Society (Pres.), Hop and Floor 3, Bomb 1, Oxford 3, LAX 3, Timmer Society 3, 1, Water Polo 3, Hobart 2, Evil 4, 3, 2, 1

Charlottesville, Virginia  
English / Very Special Student

It's difficult to put into words my feelings about the past four years. It certainly cannot be done in a single column of simple words. This place has created so many emotions, from pure unadulterated anger and hate, to respect and commitment. If anyone says this is the real world, they are quite full of s\*\*t. Never before have I willfully endured suffering such as this, and never shall I again. I would not have made it through this God-forsaken place without my friends. 239, Pervert, especially John, Dicky, Toolan, Dave, Possum, Moder, Doc. Ya'll are the best people I could have ever hoped for to have as friends, and I will never forget what we have shared.

Mom, Dad, Sis - Thanks for everything, once again, words will never be able to capture the gratitude. No one could steer me right, but Mama tried. Mama tried to raise me better, but her pleading I denied. Mom, you done good. The 1 in 6 rule remains in effect, but the 1 has had an invaluable effect on my life, one that will never change. I would not be the same person had it not been for my friends here. I don't know if that's good or bad. I have hated this place every day I have been here - but I wouldn't trade it for the world. Was it worth it? Perhaps. No life, no freedom, fun that even the most demented inmates would find absurd - but the best friends anyone could ask for. I was in 25 years. Pervert Rats - be sure the tradition continues.

Cadet Program Board (2,1), Saucy Editorial Writer, (2), Editorial Editor (still saucy), (1), General Weasel and Master of the System (4,3,2,1) Club Pervert Corner (3,2,1), Virgin Private



James E. Duncan  
"Papa, Nugget"



Dykes:  
1995: Dave Mitchell  
2001: John Sirhal



**Lorton, Virginia**  
**Physics / Air Force**

What can I say? Four years ago two co-matriculants met at the physics table in Cameron Hall. Three semesters later, I switched out and went down the slippery slopes of Scott Shipp. Dan stuck to physics, even when others said that he would be one of the first to leave the major. Four years later, Dan is still there and will graduate in May (on time). From all nighters in the lab in Malloy Hall and the "Dungeon", through Rms. 373, 296, and 196, we've been through it all. Dan's determination, dedication, and drive is very prevalent in his years at VMI and has made him a better man. From countless hours spent into the early hours of the morning in Malloy Hall, to dealing with an operation and then for a commission, and striving to better his GPA; when things got rough, Dan didn't quit but went head on into the challenge and beat it.

Spending many a weekend up at Mary Baldwin College has also paid off, since he met the future Mrs. Dunn and will be standing at the altar at the end of May. To Sara and Dan, may the two of you always be happy.

It would also figure that Dan would pick up two Rats from the Staunton area. To Matt and Elijah, learn from your Dyke, follow his lead and you'll make it through VMI with no major problems.

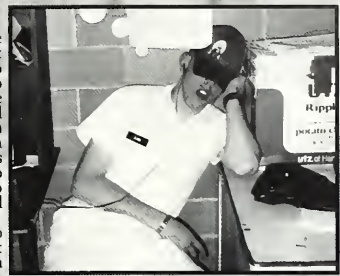
I'm very privileged to have met him, know him, and call him my friend. Dan, it has been an interesting four years to say the least. I'll see you at your wedding, being Best Man I have to be. Besides who else would throw you a bachelorette?

Activities: PY Survivor - 4,3,2,1 Cult of Sara - 4,3,2,1 Corporal-Private - 4,2,1S.P.S. - 4,3,2,1E.S.A. - 4,3,2,1 "Sauderized" - 3,2,1



**Daniel D. T. Dunn**

"Shaggy, Ralph, Dan, Fly Boy, The General, the Rhino"



Dykes:

- 1995: Rick Gambrell
- 2001: Elijah Ward
- Matt Dotton

**Burke, Virginia**  
**History / Army**

If you had to sum up Rob's cadetship in one word, it would have to be CONFINEMENT. If Rob was paid minimum wage for the number of hours he has spent on confinement, he could probably pay his tuition in full. This may seem a sign of immaturity. Yet, anyone who has been confined to the limits of post for a weekend can tell you, it takes an astounding amount of perseverance, self-control, and nicotine to survive at VMI on confinement as long as Rob has.

Rob's cadetship is an example of the VMI spirit. His "Never Say Die" attitude pulled him through the Ratline, a suspension his 3rd Class year due to demerits, the threat of suspension twice for demerits and grades, both of which were narrowly avoided after much groveling and begging for mercy to the powers that be. Through it all Rob's determination pulled him through.

It was during 1st Class year that I truly got to know Rob. I spent many late nights arguing with Rob over anything you could possibly think of to argue about. (Hey Rob, how many licks does it take to get to the center of an Oreo cookie?). I lived with Rob's constant need to be tinkering with one thing or another. I felt like it was **ROB VILLA, THIS OLD BARRACKS** or something. I tolerated his never ending pile of sloviness, as long as it didn't overflow into my side of the room. Rob you are great roommate and friend, and if you ever graduate, knock on wood, I know you'll find success and prosperity in everything you do. Ra Da Tra!! - Scott Reid.

Pvt 4,3,2,1; I.H.T.F.P. 4,3,2,1; Cadet Waiter 3,2,1; Barracks Tobacco Kingpin 3,2,1; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Uncle Rons Extended Furlough 3; Ranger Company 2,1; All-Pro 2,1; CWRT 2,1; Yeah Yeah 2,1; Staircase 1; J.M. Hall Night Watch 1; The Four Horsemen 1.



**Robert P. Eddy**

"Ed, Big Ed, RobVilla"



Dykes:

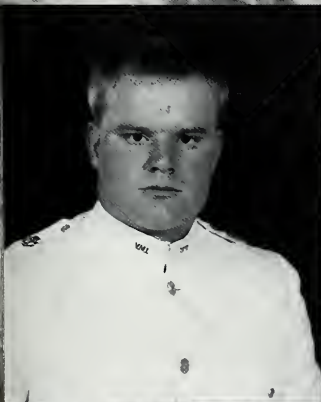
- 1995: Rich Hauben
- 2001: David "Spock" Khalek
- Chad "Pink" Lloyd

**Chesterfield, Virginia**

**Civil Engineering / Special Student**

Thanks to everybody for putting up with my moody @\$#\$ for four years. First, I would like to thank my parents for supporting me throughout my long strange trip called education. From 5 years in high school to this hellhole, you were there. Secondly, to the boys from 225, I owe a lot of good times too y'all. Beason - I owe you bigtime. Thank you. Brew-Don you don't understand! Karpis, are you alive? Sorry they couldn't last. G31 - Nate turn off the G\*DDA \*ED lights!! I felt so small. I owe you for talking me into coming to this place pethe\*! Rith- La-tat-tat-tat. Thanks for the Smith factor in all our classes. Roids-hardt, you anger me! I always up for a round with you, Rith and Perry-P. Wain, time for us to make a road trip down to Daytona. Keep throwin' em and I keep catching. Jut and Cale, up for another Beam & Coke, shot of chilled SOCO, Jagermeister, tequila.....etc? Go get a smoko treat. Thanks for dragging me back to barracks 11/16/96. Peay, drag the HEAD out to the Palace and tie one on. Angry Dwarf...thanks for the great attitude, LIGHT IT! Jay-Bird...open your @\$%&8 eyes! Derek, rewind it and we'll watch it again. Commander Reister, thanks for all the runs to the HUT. Thanksgiving 1996-DON'T LET THE BROWNIES!! To all those who I've forgotten, thanks for making this place halfway bearable. Leng-Leng, stay out of trouble and you'll do alright. It's 4:20, do you know where your kids are? Goodnight John-Boy.

Private 4,3,2,1; VMI Football Starter 4,3,2,1; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Rat Driving Class 4; VMI Monogram Club 4,3,2,1; Team Captain 1; Bears List 3; BRDC 4; AA 4,3,2,1; Alcohol #1 Club 4; 90210 Club (VP) 4,3,2,1; Long Hair Club 2; Sasquatch Club 1



**Heath B. Edmiston**

"Moose, Big Pissed, Opie"



Dykes:

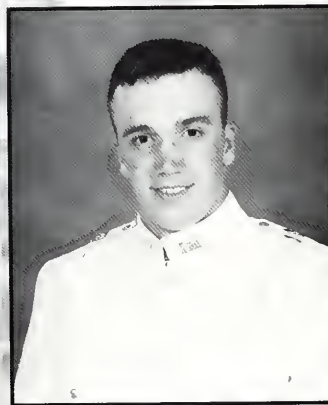
- 1995: Jolyon Constable
- 2001: Brian Lengvarsky



**Aaron G. Edmonson**  
"Fatworm" & "Fathead"

**Lexington, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Army**

My acceptance into VMI gave me the chance to be what ever I resolved to be and to experience a world that no other member of family every has. I entered my rat year with ignorance in the concepts of hard work, discipline, pride, and honor, but quickly learned in the fun filled ratline. Probably the finest moment in my life was the moment when I reached the top of that famous "hill" on that cold, bleak, February day, because it was the first time in my life that I felt a true sense of pride and honor glowing within my soul. Shortly after this, I entered my dreaded third class year at the "I", and although this year was tough and demanding, due to the Academic Line, I somehow emerge with my head barely out of the water. The following year was one of the best years of my life. In my second class year I accomplished many things, which included an acceptance of a commission in the Army, a revived G.P.A., and my class ring. The receiving of my ring at Ring Figure was one of the proudest moments of my life, because it stood for my everlasting partnership with the Institute and with my B.R.s. Finally in my last year at the Institute, I received the glorious honor of being a First Class "Private". This year symbolizes the end of the beginning for my brother rats and I, but we will "Seize the Day" before we enter that hellish, real world. I will always miss the camaraderie and "intelligent" discussions that my friends and I had within those walls of our beloved institute.  
Football team - Rat Year, Power lifting Team - 2nd Class



**Henry S. Ehrgart**  
"Hank, Spank, Hen'ri"

**Bailys Crossroads, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Special Student**

"Nothing in the world can take place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated failures. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." - Calvin Coolidge. I believe this quote is what our class is all about. The past four years all us was persistent. With three different commandants and rules that have gotten worse and more stupid, somehow we still stay.

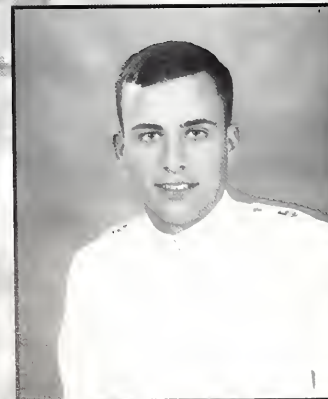
Roeder thanks for always making me laugh and for putting up with me for four years. I don't think I will ever forget the last day of pre-strain summer and the condom over the head. They will always be a conversational piece. Dirt if I ever had a little brother I wish he would be like you. All the crap and beatings that you took over three years by us will still be funny. Thanks for sticking it out with us and good luck in the future. Gooney thanks for the Blazer second class year, the computer games, movie night on Saturday night, and don't forget that time in Old Town. The boys (Dale, Huck, Joe, Doug) thanks for the bullshit sessions on countless days and the drinking at Sparky's. Spey thanks for helping me when I was a rat and just listening to and trusting each other. Mom, sorry for all the money I wasted but hopefully it will all be worth it and thanks for being mom. Joy, thanks for all you did and I will never forget your generosity and caringness. I wish you could have seen me graduate. To my rats keep with it and soon you will be where I am at.

Rat 4; Cpl 3; Ops Sgt 2; Lt 1; Ice Hockey 3,2,1; Rat Challenge 4,2,1; Big Red Club 3,2; Cell Block 72 3,2,1; ASCE 2,1; Mess Hall Slave 4,3; Late Nights 4,3,2,1; In HELL 4,3,2,1;



Dykes:

- 1995: Brett Badgett  
Jack Baker
- 1998: Charles "Big Ed" Noll  
Mike "Dummy" Graber

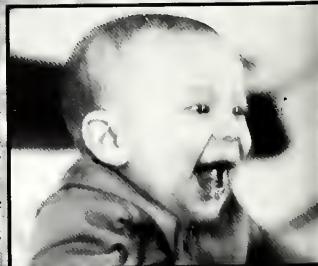


**Eric O. Eison**  
"Ice, E"

**Falls Church, Virginia**  
**International Studies / Army**

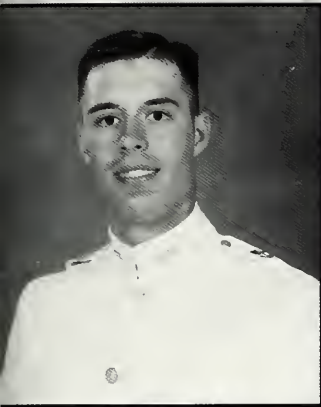
The concrete structure of barracks seemed to me as both barren and unforgiving when I matriculated on August 15, 1994. And, with sunglasses in hand, I signed the matriculation book and headed in. Like the rest of us, I was unaware of what I would find. What I would learn in the following days, was that VMI was quite different from what I once thought. From this striped-down Spartan life style, I have met and come to know people of truly impeccable character. It has been within their shadow that I have grown. I am very thankful to my parents. Without their love and support, I would never been afforded this opportunity.

"The wilderness and solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose" - Isaiah 35 Vs 1.  
- EKI 3,2 VP,1; S-5 2,1; Rat Challenge Corporal 3; Heat Shield 4; Priv. 4,3,2,1;



Dykes:

- 1995: Richard Pitchford
- 2001: John Martin  
Melissa Williams



**Gregory C. Ellen**

**Highland Springs, Virginia  
Civil Engineering / Special Student**

For Greg, VMI was a choice to say the least was a surprise. Greg left Highland Springs High School with the aspirations to play football and get a degree in Civil Engineering. After four long years at the "I", Greg has accomplished both. On the football field Greg played quarterback, receiver and punter along with a number of roles on special teams. In the academic arena, Greg has been named to the Dears list every semester and earned academic stars in one of the Institutús toughest majors.

As a Rat Greg established himself as a scholar athlete. Throughout Rat year, Greg juggled the demands of football and school. As a Third, Greg did very well academically, barely missing academic stars; however, he did something much more important, he met Jenny. Second Class year, Greg finally got his ring and earned his academic stars. First class year, Greg finished off his final year of football and continued to maintain good grades. For his entire cadetship Greg has always been there for his BRs. There have been a number of nights when Greg took time out of his busy schedule to help a fellow BR with homework and not stopping until the cadet understood what was going on. Now Greg is getting ready to go to graduate school and then on into the "real world". He will leave VMI behind but take Jenny and all of the important lessons he has learned and continue to succeed in all that he does.

Well Greg, as you can see, you have been a great cadet and an even better friend. I want to wish you good luck in all that you do and remember that if you ever need anything you know who to call. EAHH Rat 4, Cpl 3, Pvt 2, Lt 1: Football 4,3,2,1: ASCS 3,2,1: Tau Beta Pi 1: Big Red Club 3,2, Sec. 1: Jenny 3,2,1: Dears List 4,3,2,1: Ac Stars 1: Southern Conference All-Academic 4,3,2,1.



Dykes:

- 1995: Shannon Lucas
- 2001: Will "One Position Wonder" Alley



**Donald J. Evans**

**Alexandria, Virginia  
Computer Science / USMC**

It must have taken a legion of God's Angels to do it, but I am writing my 1<sup>st</sup> class history. Its taken the love and support of my Mom & Dad. For that I am eternally grateful. No one can understand the mental strain that I have gone through to make it more than my roommates. To Lud-Dog and Henley your pranks and humor have survived in my laughter and black eyes. To the new victims of the crew Kraft and Slieme, I could not have asked for a better replacement. Not only did you survive, but you added to our torturous tradition of ridicule. Tony youre the life of the party; keep searching bud.

Then there were three. To Phantom and Jay. Oh my God, its a six foot Asian, Call Guinness call Guinness. Bubble boy Roderiques when is the next show? To see such a room of misirs come together as close as we have shows me God really has a sense of humor. Our close friendship has allowed us to belittle each other to lower maturity levels. Our unique characters and distasteful ridicule has honored me with memories that I refuse to forget. There is only one answer to the question "What kept me coming back to such a dreadful place?" My Brothers.

To my native little rats "Duké & "Slick". What little do you know what is in store for you, Maintain the humor and it will come. Keep the traditions alive and by the grace of God may you be what ever you resolve to be.



Dykes:

- 2001: Brandon Crane
- Shane Vinales



**Anthony I. Ezell**  
"Tony, Ez"

**Midlothian, Virginia  
Biology / Army**

Tony came to this fine institution four long years ago with much ambition and drive. The trouble was, it had no direction, no inner pilot to guide him on his course through life. The only thing he knew for sure was a nagging but vague sense that he was not meant to be just another face in the crowd. He also ran into a minor speed bump on the slippery slope towards academic success. After a brief respite in the civilian world until his GPA was sufficient, apparently the Institute doesnt believe in rounding up, he rejoined his Brother Rats in the final charge towards graduation with renewed confidence and vigor about life and the world beyond these sheltered walls. Thus, for Tony the individual, life holds endless promise and, in the words of Walter Bagehot, "The great pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do."

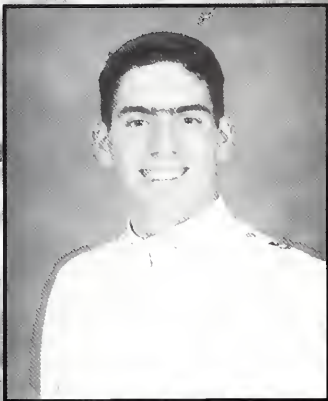
Private 4,3,2,1; Cheerleading 1; Radford 2; Funky 4,3,2,1



Dykes:

- 2001: Jermey Griffin

Virginia Beach, Virginia  
International Studies / Navy



**William P. Fallon**  
"Bill, Chewie"

Like almost everything I do, I am sitting here at the last minute procrastinating and attempting to write some profound statement to describe my years here at VMI. After four long, brutal years and a couple of summers between, I can finally see the finish line. Even though I will be crossing that line with a different degree than I had originally pursued, I will have accomplished my main objective - becoming a Naval Officer. It was a rough path to get there with almost being thrown out more than one occasion, but with a little luck and by the grace of God I avoided the "Kilbourne Keehaul" and stuck around a little bit longer. Graduating from the 1<sup>st</sup>, I can see that this place is totally different than what I first thought. Not necessarily bad (though there are some things), but I see things now in a different perspective. Of course, it doesn't help that I have become extremely cynical and realistic in the past few years, but I think the reality check has been beneficial to my personal development.

During my sentence at VMI, I met some of the best people I have known, or will know, in life. We have had lots of good times, a few bad times, but they have all been fun and we usually avoided getting in trouble. Lee, JC, and Jon - we had a blast in the room from drinking and watching movies to middle of the night dance parties and the broad range of discussion topics we talked about. Mike, we have had our share of fun and I have learned a lot from you (even though it's not obvious) and I respect you the most. Good luck in the Corps and see you soon. Fresh, what can I say but "GOODNESS!" and have fun in the Air Force. To my fellow Navy boys J-Dog and Gooney, I'll see you in the fleet. To Alpha '98, it has been fun and good luck to you all. Rod, Par, and Kevin - thanks for the help. To my rats, have fun, study, don't do stupid stuff like me, and I'll see you GUYS soon. Last, but not whens close to least, thank-you Mom and Dad. I know any time here has made you feel like you were on a roller coaster, but I think I made out ok. Thanks for pushing me and believing in me when I wanted to call it quits. I love you. All that being said, it's time to pull checks and roll out...the biggest challenge lies ahead.

Hard Corps Alpha 4,3,2,1; Col 3; Sgt 2; PRIVATE; Rat Challenge 4,3,2,1; Platoon Leader 1; Rack Challenge 3,2,1; Rugby 4,3; Trident Society 4,3,2,1; Navy Scholarship 3,2,1; Almost lost Scholarship 3,2,1; Cineplex 3,2,1; Bomb Staff 1; Mechanical Engineer 4,3,2; International Studies 2,1,1; Summer School 3,2,1; Block Runner 3,2,1; Big Red Club 2,1; Dean's List 1.



Dykes:

- 1995: Rod Thompson  
Pat Monohan  
Kevin Hoffer
- 2001: Conner Curtis  
Jay Douglas  
Jack Dempsey

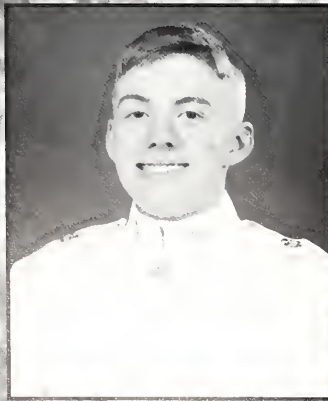


**ADarryl K. Faulkner**

Greenbelt, Maryland  
Economics & Business / Air Force

First of all, thank God for allowing me to return to school, and finish what I started a long time ago. I must say there were times when I wondered if it were meant for me to return, but my short-term goals have been achieved, and now it's time for the final goal-graduation. Now I want to take this time to thank all the Haters who doubted AD and threw pounds of ineffective salt in the game for the motivation and the challenge to be the certified player that I am today. Without you all, there is no game. I want to say peace to all my dawgs in barracks, keep ya heads up, cause if I can finish, you know you can. To my teammates, I wish you the best next year, I hope you makes it fatter than this year's team does. AQ it's your show now my dawg!! To my roommates Tauge and J-Poppa, thanks for letting me and Darius perfect our spades game at your expense HA-HA! Thanks for making it worthwhile. To the dykes in rm.121, keep ya noses clean, and get dem damn grades up!

All-American Procrastinator, All Pro Player, Monogram Club 4,2,1



**Rick A. Feese**  
"Gooney Bird, Goon, Caesar Feese"

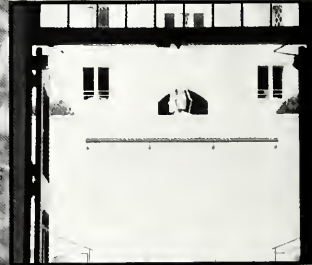
Kansas City, Missouri  
Computer Science / Navy

Honor is like an island, rugged and without a beach; once we have left it, we can never return.

-Nicolas Biouleau-Despreaux

Thank you mom and dad for everything.  
Good luck BRs.

VIRGIN PRIVATE, Trident Society 3,2,1; SCUBA Club 4,3,2,1; Water Polo 2,1; Norwich Exchange Program 1; Club #41 3,2,1



Dykes:

- 1995: Matt Chapman

**Bloomington, Minnesota  
English / USMC Special Student**



**Shane M. Finley**

"in, Fin-Dog, Furious, Milwaukee, Shamus"

Well Shane it is hard to believe that the last four years have already slipped away, and you are off to Law School—so what if D, and I are coming back here. I think our friendship began when you entered 409 during the wee hours of the morning with "Ditches-Poes", but along with the good comes the bad—so we let it slide. Later the '03 club was formed. We will never forget coming back to our racks after studying late and suddenly ending up on the floor (especially D) thanks to you, and also your bludgeoning Vinnie in the middle of the night. When the time came to get our rings, we were kinda nervous about meeting the hellions that you call Dave and Chuck. Shane, you have always been that little voice of reason that made us think twice. The strange thing is that most of the time you were right. If we take nothing away from here we will always have the memories of our good times together. Good luck in your endeavors, you will be missed in the coming years more than you will ever know.—CDB & JPP

Mom, Dad, Kell, Pat, Justin, Trenton, Stacy, and the rest of the Finley and Hofstedt clans—I love y'all. Maj. McDonald: For once I am without words—I love you more than I can ever repay. The EN faculty: Thanks for all the time, effort, encouragement, and support. Mrs. A.: Luv ya! The men of the '03: Thanks for being there; I know it could've been easy. Finally: These years have been either a protracted nightmare or a sadistic practical joke—either way I still got screwed. P.S. If I'm nowhere to be found in ten years I've gone home to Ireland. "They wanna label me a menace 'cause I'm sitt'n here sippin' on Guinness; 2PAC *Me Against the World*."

—S. Michael Finley, Esquire  
PVT 4,3,2,1; Academic Stars 1; EN Society 3,2,1(VP); Sigma Tau Delta 2 (Sec); 1 (Pres); Pre-Law 3,2; TMS 1; VPO '96; Cadet 1; Fire-fighter 3; MN Club 4,3,2,1; Anti-College Republican; Bottoms-Up Club; Irish 4 Lite; Just damn glad to be here!



Dykes:

1995: Mike Johnson

2001: Daniel "The Assassin" Lee

**Poquoson, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Air Force Special Student**



**Jarrod A. Fitzpatrick**

"Potato, Not a VMI Man"

The end has finally come. God knows that you have been eagerly waiting for this day. Throughout the years that I've been here, I have never known a person who has hated this place more than you do. Unfortunately, only a select few people know what you have been through and the main reason why you despise this place. (I happened to be one of them.) Whether I liked it or not, you have shared your opinions, complaints, and problems with me. From, "I can't open my eyes," to "I hate my dykes, if there was a complaint, you said it. Now, I'm not implying that you dislike VMI, I'm making sure everyone knows about the hatred you had for this place. But one thing is for sure, you never quit. Your determination and willingness to "stick-it-out" was amazing. Whether it was academics or wrestling, you worked your butt off trying to succeed, and by God, you did. I know that the accomplishments you've had here made your Mother, Father, Sister, and Brothers proud. Throughout the years, you have become more than a friend to me, you were my confident, a person to share my problems with, workout partner (okay, once or twice), and a great roomie. I know from your work ethics, if anyone is going to succeed after VMI, it will be you. All I can say is, thanks for always being there for me PAL, I hope our friendship lasts throughout our lifetime, or until you get fat, whichever comes first. To Anthony and Albert: I tried to warn you, but good luck anyway, you'll need it. Virgin Private; Wrestling 4,3,2,1 (Team Captain); Cadet Waiter 2,1; Rat Daddy Committee 3,2,1; "Hate My Dykes Club" 4,3,2,1 (Co-Founder); Study Committee 4,3,2,1. Ready to Leave 4,3,2,1; Hate This Place 4,3,2,1 and then some.



Dykes/Sons:

1995: Scott Neville

Mark Wysong

2001: Anthony Ashley

Albert Bowden

**Farmington, New York**

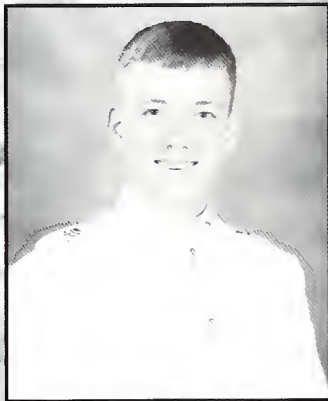
**International Studies / Special Student**



**Chad Flansburg**

Having lived with Chad for two years, I kind of got to know him pretty well. Chad came to VMI wanting to swim and swim he did. After third class year though, he wanted to experience the life of a Cadet. Chad learned every aspect of the VMI system, especially how to get off confinement early. Chad spent his extra time that was used for swimming and excelled academically. Chad has departed VMI after last year and it just is not the same. Having Chad around added another dimension to whatever he went and produced enjoyment for everyone, well for almost everyone. Chad was always on the move with studies and extracurricular activities. Chad always had time thought to have a good time with his friend. Swimming 4,3, Cadet Staff 2, Virginia Historical Society 2, Dean's List, Private 4,3,2,1, # 1 Club 2.





**Christopher M. Floom**  
 "Flooooooom, Floomdigity,  
 Floomhead"

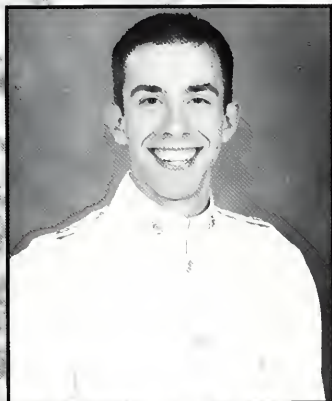
**Dumfries, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / U.S. Marine Corps**

VMI to Chris meant two things, becoming a Marine Corps officer and graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering. He has spent the last four years making that dream a reality. Chris has always been very diligent in his studies and active in the Navy ROTC unit. However, let's not forget that there is also a deviant side to Floooooom. Affectionately known as Norm and Cliff at the Staircase, Chris and I have spent many fruitful nights and chuckers at the bar. Unannounced to his parents, the two of us have had to carry each other home, one as drunk as the other leaning against his BR for support, from numerous pitchers too many of frothy beverage. Chris has always been a jokerster full of innocent curiosity making the jerk sitting next to you feel welcomed and appreciated. He goes to great effort to be as loud as possible during any moment of silence that may warrant yelling, which is usually most of the time. However, Chris's brilliance and intellect never ceases to amaze me. He has the utmost respect for his professors by always referring to them by the proper title, Ned; completely sober and orderly during football games, I never heard put him in a body bag Johnny or smelled bourbon in his cup; always displayed sportsman-like conduct, that fat cow at the Lee-Jackson Lacrosse game deserved its never partook in class disruption, Muller's dogpound and Materials bartecry; God; respected dangerous objects, "let's see what happens when I stick your head in this compressive strength machine; and of course his undivided attention during prayer, he always gave a hearty Amen. None the less, he is still a faithful and honest friend, even when he is throwing food at from across the table. Chris, you are one manipulative son of a bitch and I admire that; never forget where it all started! - Nutz

Rat 4, Corporal 3, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt 2, S-5 Lt. 1, Rat Challenge Station Cadre 3,2,1, Semper Fi 4,3,2,1, Blood drive Committee 3,2,1, ASCE 4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:**  
 1995: Dave Tillar  
 2001: Cory Bond  
 Beth Hogan



**Aaron R. Frazier**  
 "Blue Tick, Fraz, Redneck"

**Marion, Virginia**  
**History & Spanish / Special Student**

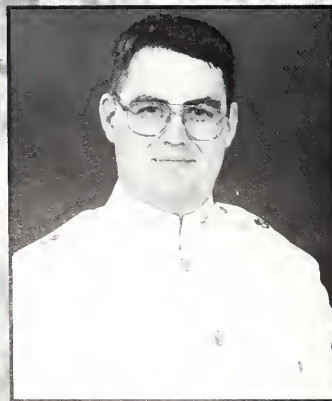
When I was a rat I studied in Scott Ship Hall. I took a rest from my work and looked at the desk that I was sitting in, and the words "When you reach the gates of hell present your VMI diploma and get four years off" were inscribed on the desktop. I wrote those words in the cardboard of my cover and they remain there still. These words do not totally sum up my cadetship, but give great insight to how I feel about the teachings here at the "Institute".

I hope my departure from VMI will be in good aspiration, but if a true confession must be known it is probably doubtful. Although, on a positive note, I am able to say that there is something very special about the people who have persevered four years here. A strong and steadfast love and appreciation has captured my heart for the men before me and the men and women after me. They are the characters in this world that play the role few are barely able, and for this reason I am grateful to be apart of such an esteemed club.

I bid many a fond farewell, and God speed to a complete reunion. Cadre 3, 2; Kicked off Cadre 3, 2; Private 1; Spaz-boy 4, 3, 2, 1; Foreign Traveler 2; Redemption of Grades 2, 1; Lover of Liberal Arts 4, 3, 2, 1; The Cadet 2; Bomb Staff 1.



**Dykes:**  
 1995: Jeff Ryan  
 2001: Doug Hoffman  
 Jason Whitaker

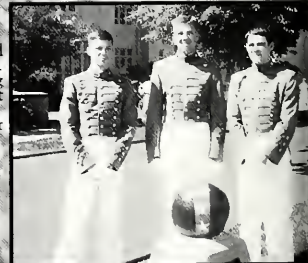


**Charles O. Fullam**  
 "Chuck, Prince of Darkness"

**Martinsburg, West Virginia**  
**History / Special Student**

I wish to thank my parents for with out your help I would never had made it this far. Steve thank- you for giving me a goal to shot for. And Cindy thanks for giving me all the hard times you did preparing me for my VMI experience. I also give thanks to T-Bug for without your encouragement I would have never made it.

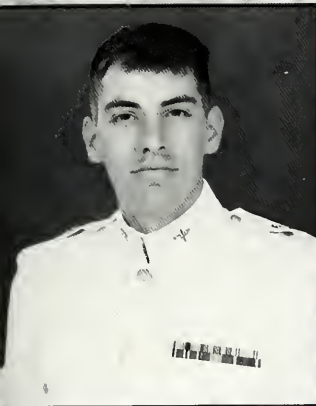
4: Rat. 3: Theater. 2: Our of here 1: Environmental Club, Theater 4, 3, 1: Eagle Scout Association



**Dykes:**  
 1995: Chris Meyers  
 2001: Brian Frank  
 Brett Carter

## Ottawa, Ohio

### Computer Science / Air Force



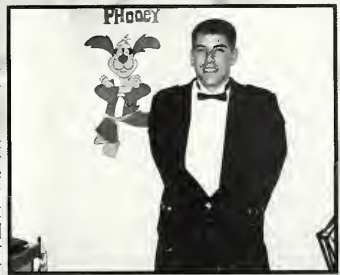
**Jason M. Fye**  
"Supah, Super Fye"

Allow me to first get the stereotypical First Class history out of the way. Rat year. It sucked, but we UNIFIED and came together as a CLASS! Hua! Third Class year: We ate s# #t, but we ate it TOGETHER as a CLASS! Hua! Second Class year: We got our rings then did some binge drinking! AS A CLASS! HUA!! First Class year: Graduated! Going to Moody Hall to do some more BINGE, DRINKING! Hua, BRs!

Enough cheese. My time here has gone fast and, admittedly, hasn't been as bad as, say, falling into a pit full of sharp sticks. It's been four years of a very thorough education, both inside and outside of the classroom. I escaped to Scotland for a semester on a Guinness Appreciation Scholarship. I've ran around wearing only combat boots, a jock strap, and a shower cap while people doused me with shaving cream and God only knows what else. And I met a man named "Funk". I've done a lot and can honestly say that I leave here a better man. However, nothing will ever compare to the unequalled generosity that comes with the friendships one makes here. One act in particular sticks out in my mind and has changed my life in countless positive ways. Mark... Thanks for the underwear, pal. You're a real BR.

In all seriousness, I have made some amazing friends and even after four years can still honestly say that there was nowhere I'd rather have been. No regrets. I have truly been blessed. Thank you. I love you all.

Pvt 4,3,2,1; Golf 4,3,2,1; Cadet Staff 3,2,1; VMI Firefighters 3,2,1; Timmins Society 3,2,1; English Society 1; Study Abroad/Drink and be Merry 2;S-5 Rat Daddy 2,1; Moders roommate 4; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Beer Drinking Dynamo 4,3,2,1

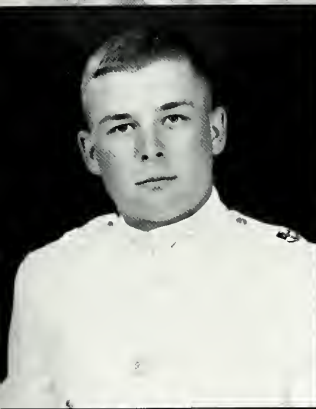


Dykes:

1995: Jeff Ryan  
2001: Roger Imhoff

## Wahiawa, Hawaii

### History / Army



**Brady A. Gallagher**  
"The Bear, Brady Bunch"

I came to the great Institute with high hopes and aspirations of being nothing more than a Keydet. After years of being here I finally figured out that there is more to being a Keydet than standing tall in parade and marching post. I found out that being a true Keydet entailed spending countless hours in the rack and doing anything else to pass the time. Well, I guess the time has finally passed and I know I will miss the friends and experiences that I've come to know and love at the Institute. I especially want to thank my parents and my brother for supporting me through these years at the "I". Most of all though I think I'll miss hanging out in the cafe with the animals of the O's series the most. To Robert, Justin, Kendall, and Caleb you guys were the best cellmates ever. Lastly, the Corps roots the loudest, and it always will! The Bear 2,1 Hua Army 4,3,2,1 Ranker 4,3,2,1



Dykes:

1995: Yong Kim  
2001: Justin Prior

## Frederick, Maryland

### Chemistry / Special Student



**Andrew P. Gehring**  
"AP, G, Anrrhew, Hermann"

"Abandon hope, all ye who enter here!" The prophetic words of Dante make me wonder if he was peering at the gates of hell, or merely looking in Jackson Arch. VMI has been a classic love-hate relationship for me. I hate being here, but damn if it doesn't feel good to be from here. The friends I've made here cannot, indeed will not, be replaced my whole life. Who else could I mention first, but TJ? Bud, we've been friends ever since I first asked you to say "Wicked awesome" on that early evening in August 1994. We've truly been best friends, and part of me is gone when we part ways. Anybody could pick us out walking across campus. Who else looks like two human cartoons walking along laughing a little too loud, having a little too much fun? I mean, who else but Laurel and Hardy, Bert and Ernie, TJ and Andy? We will always have to set time aside each year to visit one another and keep in touch. Lucas, Jeff, Kris, Nick, Robin: you guys have been the best. Qual parties, the Motown Boue, ambiguously non-threatening behavior (and not so non-threatening), tricks like contact, dead chicken, alien brain, and raisin can (Look out Lucas!!!), and countless heckling sections with chemistry professors are just a few of our many antics that have haunted the halls of the Science Building. The chemistry class of 1998 will be heard from today, and tomorrow, and the next day... F-roop Crew 98: the best of times, the worst of times, that's what we've had. It seems like yesterday we had bald heads and hated life, and now we've got hair, and were hating life. Wait a sec. Never mind, that's just the way it is. You guys have been the best!

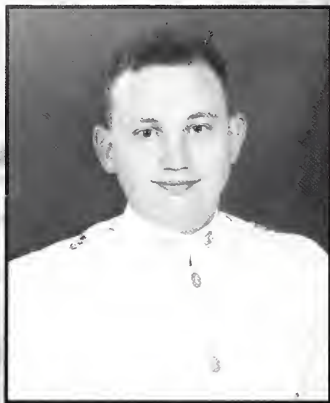
Without the love and support of my parents, I'd not be here at all. I truly have to thank you for putting up with me during furloughs, the mood swings, the grade reports, you name it. I couldn't begin to repay you... Both you've been the biggest motivation in my life to complete this horrible year of duty. I love you, forever, and that's what kept me going all four years. I'm ready to close this chapter in my life and start the next, with you. Damn, I can see the finish line. We're almost there! Just two quotes before I go, and everyone must forgive my excesses.

"Hey, we're all on the Hindenburg, there's no use fighting for the window seat."  
"Hey, I'm a pretty girl, make 'em in their spare time."  
Virgin Private 4,3,2,1. Aggravated Pitypus 4,3,2,1. Rack Challenge 3,2,1. Seven dollar Simpsons Club 3,2,1. Motown Four 2,1. Qual Party co-chairman 2,1. Bald 4. Bidding 3,2,1. Ernie to TJ's Bert 4,3,2,1.



Dykes:

1995: Phil Moore  
2001: Jason Co  
Ryan Colvin



**Robert J. Gelinas**  
"Rob, Genitals"

**Oak Harbor, Washington**  
**Electrical Engineering / Navy**

Rob came to the "I" an old man, fresh from Nuke Power School, to take up residence as a proud member of 439. He immediately fit the military system; his exquisite marching skills, coupled with his impeccable uniform appearance, gained him much notoriety among the Cadre. Rob returned as a Third-Classman with a pair of corporal bars and a new outlook. Over the summer, Rob realized that his overzealous efforts at room maintenance during his Rat year would balance out the remainder of his cadetship. Thanks to his naval training, Rob learned and utilized the art of room warfare. Over the next three years he violated every Geneva code within the room as his forces infiltrated his roommates' perimeters. Slowly, as in a game of Risk, Rob's tactics led his roommates to take up defensive positions because he had raked over every strategic location, including the spare wall locker and all outlets of power throughout the room. Aside from his room envelopment, Rob has given much of his time to various other activities, most notably the spirit squad and the "NAV, outside of the toughest major at VMI, EE" (Evenually English). Returning First Class year with an ironing board and military creases, Rob was set to make the best of the year. Although these four years with Rob have been a constant battle to gain and hold territory in the room, he has proven to be an indispensable companion. As he endeavors to sail the seven seas, we hope that these four years together won't be forgotten. His age truly equated to wisdom in the room, good luck Rob, you and the "NAV, full speed ahead.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Bryan Crothers  
2001: Joel Cintron



**Wade A. Germann**  
"79"

**Annandale, Virginia**  
**English / Army**

Wade came to the "I" with a dream in mind....or so he thought. His rat year began with him being initiated into the 5th stoop F-troop club. His third class year Wade made himself known as a pathfinder during his spring break go-a-way in the Smokey Mountains where he and his comrades took the scenic route instead of staying on the path. He took full advantage of a get out of jail free pass to consume the nectar of the gods at Spanky's. He awoke the next day finding himself in a puddle of stale beer with chunks in it. Towards the end of his third class year with two tries at PY 207 and a valiant effort at Calc. III, Wade decided that the true meaning of C.E. was Contemplating English. In his second class year BR Wade moved in with his permanent roommates, the "Fish Twins", Joe and Ed. This year had its ups-and-downs, and down-his FSU "Homecoming Queen Ring Figure Date"! His first class year Wade, having more free time because of him sking down the hills of Slack-Shipp, opened his mind by joining the "90 Simpsons Club with his partner in crime "G". Throughout my tenure at the "I" now, I know anyone else to procrastinate more than Wade. I have come up with this phrase to describe this phenomena, "Sleep is to Wade as Fish is to Water". But some how, Wade always seemed to pull a paper out of God only knows where. Wade always tried to play in the fish twins games. His determination for achieving the best and my dedication in nurturing his study skills will someday allow him to earn the name "FISH". Wade was a great roommate and a great friend.  
7th Cpl. 3, Guide Sgt. 2, Plt. Leader 1, Ranger Challenge 3,2,1, Ranger Co. 2,1, P-trooper, Big Red Club, I.H.T.F.P 4,3,2,1, English Society 4,1, Timmins Society 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Bob Staley  
2001: Robert Magruder  
Brooke Green



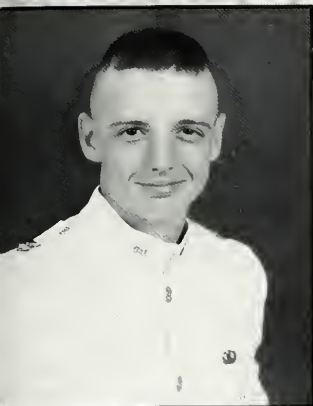
**John F. Getgood**

**Fredericksburg, Virginia**  
**Electrical Engineering / Army**

John came to the Institute from Fredericksburg, Virginia. It turns out that various members of his family had close associations with the Institute, and it therefore came as no big surprise as to why John decided on the "I". As a rat, John, was a member of the rifle team, and we therefore didn't see that much of him. He blended in, didn't do anything to attract attention, and was by definition a sort of ghost rat.  
John, has since matriculation been my roommate, and has consistently complained about how hard his major is, and how that if he was any other major he'd have outstanding grades... WHAT-EVER!! John, has always managed to stay on top of things during his cadetship, and has most of the time kept out of trouble. Whether this had anything to do with his grandfather having taught both "Uncle Ron and "Si", I don't know, but John has always been sure to put, My grandfather, Col. Wilson... etc... etc on his Specials, and Form 24s!! Nice try, John, but we know your tricks!!  
As a roommate, John, was always aware of his responsibilities, and was the other half of the reason why, Joe, didn't get kicked out because of excess demerits. From what we saw, John, was also very good with his hands!! It therefore didn't come as a surprise to us that he got a pilot slot. I am sure he will make it successfully flying for the "Chairforce", Lord knows, he really can move that joystick of his!! In fact, I blame both his computer, and all the games he brought in, for the lack academic stars on my uniforms!!  
However, in all seriousness, John has always been very reliable, dependable, and generous by nature. He has always been sure about his goals, and how he was going to get there, and I'm sure, as we all are, that he be an asset to the Airforce.

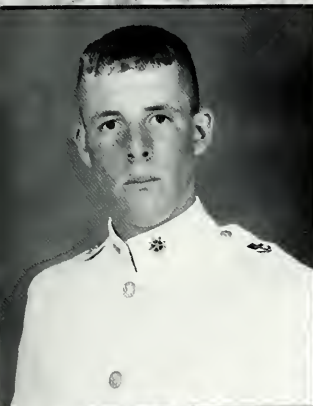




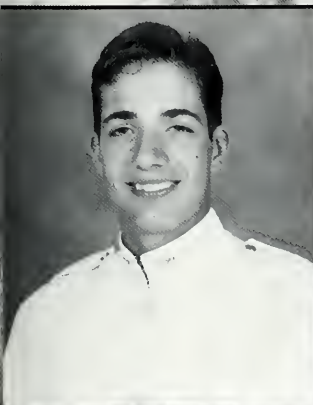


**Daniel C. Gibson**

**'Kermit, Thunder Dan, Dannyboy, Gibby, Air Mobile, Ranger Danger'**



**Mark P. Glancy**  
**"Duke"**



**Jonathan E. Gonzales**  
**The Gonz, Gonzò, Speedy'**

### Stafford, Virginia Mechanical Engineering / Army

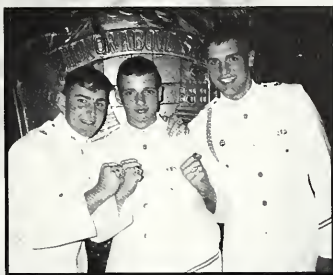
Dan came to VMI as an Institute Scholar, soon to be brainwashed by the army department into joining their ranks. Little did he know what a great decision that would be. We dyked next door to each other in the illustrious outskirts of pevert corner rat year and I joined his M.aybe English, M.aybe E.conomics team spring of my third class year. Our destinies were finally realized second class year after I begged to be his roommate, and scaled my fate as a new barracks freak. The rest is history. Dan loves the army and hates it here. I would have to say having him as a roommate has only kept me from going crazy. And off AcPro. The best thing about him was his intensity, also his worst trait should you try to bother him while he is neck deep in design homework, running the army dept., and coming back from a weeklong vacation. That intensity saved me from many a late homework and lab assignment. As a third, well, Dan ate it with the rest of us. Nuff said. During our second class year, Dan and I and our friend Glenfiddich bud to know each other real well. We debated transferring to UVA, dated girls from UVA, broke up with girls from UVA...drank at UVA. Dan also lead me to the promised land of Oxford, England. Having already made the pilgrimage himself the year before, he passed his great knowledge down upon me. It was unbelievable. Dan, thanks, I do owe you a pint. Turning 21, having put it off for as long as he could, Dan put on a display Baryshnikov would have been proud of. How long did you lie in that doorway? Having both found our spirits in Oxford, we moved into first class year. Dan coming off network ops with the Pentagon, charged straight into Hell Week, as Mephistopheles (who?), Alpha Compaoy XO. Rats dropped like flies. Despite it all, Dan has persevered through this hole, even through his first real penalty which he wormed out of in the grand tradition of permit writing, and dragged a few guys, like me, along with him. Do you have the number to that truck driving school we saw on TV, Max, TruckMasters I think it is? I might need that. So as Dan transitions from a block-running, confinement-checking, hard-charging, beer-drinking, heart-breaking cadet to life-taking, heart-breaking, ranger danger FA, in the rear with the gear alumni, I can only say this... HUA! Vallia con dios bro, see ya on the flipside. -Neil Holloran  
A Co. XO-1; Color Sgt-2; Ranger Challenge-3,2,1; Tau Beta Pi-2,1; MNMB S-3-1; Skydive Club-1; Rock Climbing Club-2,1; ME Firefighter-4,3,2,1; H. U. A. -4,3,2,1;

### Centereach, New York International Studies / USCG

The first words that come to mind when I think of Mark Glancy are not laid back. Instead, I might say uptight, or rather I should say extremely focused. In my past four years at the 'I', I have not seen anyone as focused as Mark Glancy. I mean that as a compliment. Mark came here with certain objectives that he has worked hard at. Some, like Company Commander, have been fulfilled and yet others like, U.S. Army officer, were not attained. Mark didn't let that stop him. He instead is pursuing a commission with the U.S. Coast Guard. I am confident Mark will reach that goal. He has the traits of a leader that make him a valuable asset to any branch of the military. Mark, we have had some of the best times of my life together. We went through the rat line together in the best company on the hill, India. We found a similar love for cigars and that. So as Dan transitions from a block-running, confinement-checking, hard-charging, beer-drinking, heart-breaking cadet to life-taking, heart-breaking, ranger danger FA, in the rear with the gear alumni, I can only say this... HUA! Vallia con dios bro, see ya on the flipside. -Neil Holloran  
All I can say is "wow" where have the last four years gone. I would first like to thank my family for their support. Without them standing by me I would never have been able to see this through to the end. I have made many friends during my stay at the 'I'. I will be very sorry to see you all go. To my roommates, Jeff, Jesse, Pol, and Eric, we have shared the best and worst times of my life together. Thanks for always being there for me and putting up with my mood swings. I will never forget "team 139". Not to forget you Demetri, thank you for all the good times. I don't think I will ever smoke a cigar without thinking of you and the times that we shared, and wasted, on the stoops after taps. Finally to my Dykes, all of them, don't ever give up on your dreams and always keep hope. Value your time here, for it will be over before you know it. Good luck.  
Cpl 3; Msgr 2; Hotel Co Cmdr 1; College Republicans 4,3,2,1; India Company 4,3,2; Pre-Law Society 3,2; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Coeducation Committee 2s VMI Fire Fighters 1; India Company Preservation Society 1.

### Mechanicsville, Virginia Economics & Business / Special Student

Sure we all make it, but perseverance is the ultimate goal. Through the many push ups and miles logged I owe my success to the Lord, my somewhat diverse families, and the Friends of The Gonz Society. My strength at the 'I' came from those who love, support, believe, and of course pay tuition (Thanks Dad). It is these people that helped guide me in the right direction, but allowed me to take the journey. Mom, Dad, Nancy, Heather, Moms, Pops, Will, and the Boltons I thank you for the encouragement. For the risk of being belittled I owe a tremendous amount to The 102 boys (Ken, Timmy, and Brett), my Brother Roommates. Ken attributed warmth to our room always with his extensive fur collection. Timmy showed all of us that he might actually be the most up standing southern gentleman from Prince George County. Brett, what else do I need to say other than the G-Man, and Carlisle rock. My redneck friend Buck kept me straight on the high-tech adventures of a country boy lost in the city. Steve I still wonder about you, but I am sure you will become a large investor in Tabasco Sauce and Opossum hunting. To the members of the JC, thanks. I of course always kept room morale at a high with my funny, unfunny, and sometimes tasteless jokes. 102 Rats I hope that you enjoy your four, five or who knows maybe six years at the institute. Zack and Jen I wish you luck and good fortune in the years to come. I never thought I would be wearing all white and enrolled at an Institution, but there's a first for everything. No regrets. The length of our days is seventy years- or eighty, if we have the strength, yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. Psalm 90:10  
Tracks/Cross Country 4 3 2, Captain 1; College Republicans 2 1; VHS 2 1; JC 3 2 1; Regimental Mexican 1; Club Rat 4.



Dykes:

- 1995: Kevin Hershberger
- 2001: Dave "Dew II, Lil' Dew" Dewey
- Ro "I'm going back to Cali" Mercado



Dykes:

- 1995: Kevin Price
- 2001: Maria Vasile
- Eric Lauer





**Jeffrey Scott T. Gorman**  
"Worm, Little Worm, Rhino, Casper"

**Richmond, Virginia**  
**Chemistry / Special Student**

00 I still struggle with the question of why I came to VMI, but I know that I could not have had a better overall experience anywhere else. I would be remiss if I did not thank all those who made the experience possible. First and foremost, I thank God, without His grace I wouldn't have had a chance. To my parents—who have made every experience in my life possible—I love you both very much. Mom, I can't say enough; what you have done has made VMI look easy, you are a saint and a great source of inspiration. Mike and Chris, I thank you for leading me here; I doubt I would have chosen VMI if I hadn't seen what it had produced in you two. Doc Monsour, thank you for everything that you've done for me and my brothers. Doc Jones, you have taught me more than any other teacher, including some things about myself. As for the roommates: Mark I'm proud to have been a member of the Team these past two years... Semper Paratus; Jesse, I'm not always sure about anything with you except that whatever you do in life, you must write; Eric, I hope you find what you're looking for in life, including that elusive woman who hikes; Pol, I'm glad we could save you from another year in that room... I had fun picking on you, little man. And of course, the 98 chemistry class... you kids are crazy; I don't think I could have taken these four years with a bunch of guys who couldn't make it fun. To the rest of the class, I'm glad I've been able to know so many great people and I hope you get everything you deserve in life. God Bless you all.

9<sup>th</sup> CPL 3; SGT 2; PVT 2; PVT 1; ACS 3, 2, 1; DoD Pup 2, 1; Team 293 2; Team 139 1; Dear's List 4, 3, 2, 1; H.C. 2, 1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Frederick M. Werth  
2001: Kendra L. Russell  
Dela E. Ackah



**Lee R. Guill**  
"Mad Texan, Tex"

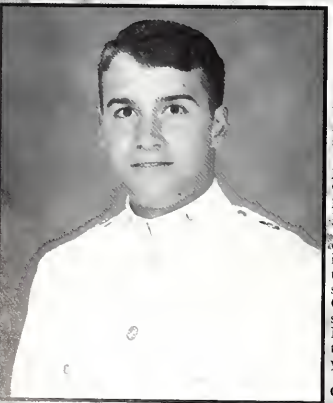
**Richardson, Texas**  
**Mechanical Engineering / U.S. Marine Corps**

I was asked to be careful what I wrote about Lee, as his parents will be soon reading this history. Well, that is a pretty tough order to fill, but I will give it my best shot. Lee, a.k.a. The Mad Texan, showed up at the gates of VMI in the fall of '94 straight out of a military high school ready to face the challenges of the year. He came to the 'I' to obtain a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps. Unfortunately, The Corps did not work out for Lee. As for the engineering, we all wondered at times if Lee would survive that program. Thanks to his impressive study habits ("what are you guys doing?") and messing around on the computer site, Lee was able to get his degree with only one semester standing around on the stoop about Lee, you are likely to see them laugh and share their mess around in which they and Lee were involved with or something they heard about him and that past weekend. These stories were all true, however, unbelievable they seem, and then some, but there is much more to Lee than what many folks have seen or heard. Lee has shown amazing leadership skills, rising through the ranks as Cadet corporal, Master Sergeant, and being elected to office in the RDC. Standing back and watching him screw, train, motivate, and being elected to office in the RDC. Standing back and watching how he did it and the results he got. I can truly say he was the best one out there, and that the Marines lost a great man. Lee is also a man of integrity, honor, and loyalty and will do it to his guns and dig benefits in the face of adversity. NOF Technology IS NOT harmful to society. Knowing and doing what the TOBAs for these past few years, I have seen all this and more in him. From late-night BS sessions to studying to drinking to just hanging about, I have learned a lot from Lee. He has had quite an influence over me (good and bad), and believe it or not, and helped to prepare me for life outside VMI and in the Navy. Outside of here, Lee has led an interesting life at the 'I'. In NFB he has done everything from doing push-ups for "Trucky Dick" to repeating classes to pulling late nighters. Wait, can you call it a late nighter if you don't start until late at night? Lee also developed an interest in getting culturally literate, so he was often found leaving VMI in the dark of night in the rear commander trucks to go to Reanoke, Tech, JMU, W&L, and DC. These stories are best unmentioned! He even managed to meet a few nice girls in the area, but they didn't last. Thank God and uncle! Lee's proudest accomplishments were being the recipient of the VMI Purple Heart and Bronze Achievement medals sustained while storming the "VA" beach in his personal land craft his 2<sup>nd</sup> Class year. Hell, he even managed to deal with me, the Flash (RIP), and the Cuban. For that alone he should be rewarded. Well, it has been a long haul, but the end is in sight. Lee will excel in whatever he does after graduation, whether it be in engineering or another shot at The Corps. The bonds are endless when Lee is concerned. Me, and Miss Guill, don't worry, Lee has done great. Lee's best gift together for a old one after this whole trip is done. I'll see you next year, amigo. Semper Paratus!

Rat 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry 2; Master Sergeant 2; elected RDC 1; Private 1; ASME 4, 3, 2, 1; Texas Club 4, 3, 2, 1; The Cadet 2, 04; Campes 4, 3, 2, 1; Club 04 3, 2, 1; 1<sup>st</sup> Student Athletic Advisory Committee 3, 2, 1; Semper Paratus 3, 2; Weekend student at JMU 2, 1; Co-Education committee 2; Summer school 2; TEXAN 1; FOREVER!!!! — WFF



**Dykes:**  
1995: Trey Tyson  
Justin Rubino



**Matthew T. Guise**  
"Gwees, Geese"

**Midlothian, Virginia**

**Mechanical Engineering & Math Minor / Air Force**

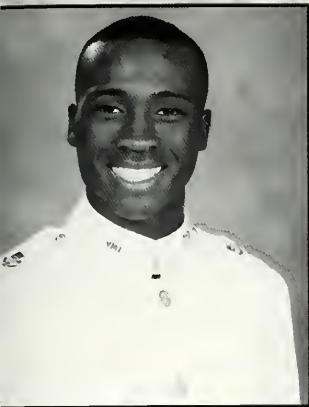
Matt decided in the fall of 93 to attend the 'I', filled with excitement and energy that carried him through pre-strain summer. Soon, Matt realized like the rest of us this place was not all it was cracked up to be... his wake up call for the next six months would be hell.

Third class year was definitely as bad as they say. Matt managed to piss off his roommates by always complaining about how bad life was for him. I will always remember Matt taking advantage of his free time by studying. Room 331 managed to take advantage of the safe zone from 6 to 8 every night by partying at W&L. Thanks! By the end of our 2<sup>nd</sup> year at the 'I', Matt was eagerly anticipating his Air Force summer training camp; he came back in pretty good shape, but that soon changed thanks to the apartment-a summer frat house in downtown Richmond!@#\$. Well, we were rats, rats with radios, and now rats who were ready to wear our class rings. Thanks for the memories ladies! When he returned to school in the fall, he knew that he wanted to study abroad. 231 parted together at the McCampbell Inn for Ring Figure with our dates and parents. Matt left second semester for England. I don't think that Europe is the same without Guise traveling to the Burgin!!!! Now it is his first class year and he still studies just as much as he did when he started here at the 'I'. The future for Matt who knows, definitely 4 years active duty and grad school. Whatever the future holds, Matt will definitely be successful in whatever he pursues. O ye, get him to work on his putting game!

Private 4, 3, 2, 1; Dear's List 4, 3, 2, 1; Golf 4, 3, 2, Captain 1; Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll 4, 3, 2, 1; Student Athletic Advisory Committee 3, 2, 1; Academic Stars 2, 1; Institute Scholar 2, 1; Tau Beta Pi 2, 1; ASME 2, 1; ASHRAE 2, 1; Civil Air Patrol 3; Study Abroad RMCS 2; Cadet Tutor 1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Gary "Beetle" Bailey  
2001: Kukuh "Mike, The Indonesian Dream" Suharwiyono



**Kwabena K. Gyimah**

"G-Love, Lazy African, Ghanian Root"



**Joshua C. Hahnen**



**Carl M. Hallen**

"Shortround, Elf, Bebe, Dragon, Hard Core, Camouflage Condom"

### Fairfax, Virginia Mechanical Engineering / Army

Virginia Military Institute has been an experience that I will never forget. Since entering limits gates, I said, "this is the right place". I believed in the military, athletic, and academic systems of VMI. I expected that the "Brother Rat" spirit meant something, shady people didn't exist, and achievement was based on performance. I felt that no matter what, everyone would be held accountable to the same standards and receive the same penalties. I have seen many things that opened my eyes, and have given me a taste of what to expect in the real world.

I thank God and my parents for being my guide. I have learned that sometimes all you need to make it in life are your friends. Ernesto and Juan (roommates), I owe a lot to you both. Ernesto, "Gyimah if there is one thing I want you to remember in life it is this, #8&@%!!". Juan, "G, it doesn't matter where you go, as long as you have LOVE in your heart, and Doritos in your pocket, you'll never go wrong." Nasty, "you short Panamanian," and Juan "THE PART TIME LOVER", love, and stay out of trouble. Sean, Woodstock Williams, Robinson, Geoff, Mel, Seiler, E., and the list goes on, I wish the best for you all. I learned girls come and go, but my crew will always be there. VMI is about over for me, and I have learned many lessons. I will look back and remember that sometimes ones decisions bring harsh realities. THE INSTITUTE is now in the hands of my rats. Chris, Charles, Quin, Palmroy, Josh, Moses, and you too Sy, I will be there for you.

VMI Soccer Team-Rat, Promaji Club-Rat, 3,2,1; VMI Regimental Band (Drum Line)-3,2,1, Corporal-3, Platoon Lieutenant-1, Bulldog-1, ASME-E-1



Dykes:

1995: John Brooks  
Jano Carlson (1st Lts.  
USMC)

2001: Chris Dibaldo  
Sandjiri Sy  
Charles Ransom

### Lynchburg, Virginia Biology / Army

VMI was not initially my first choice. What kind of person in there right mind would want to go to a (formerly) ALL-MALE military school in order to have every ounce of self respect and thoughts of a social life taken away for seven months. Then only to be allowed to leave on one weekend after that until the end of the semester. That is not what I was looking for when I went in search of a college to attend. I wanted to walk down the easy path but instead I chose the hard, the path less traveled. Through many trials and tribulations did I suffer, and as of this writing, I will have to sit at the back of my class during the graduation. I will not graduate with the classmates and teammates I have spent so much time with. That will be the hardest part of my years at VMI.

I will always carry with me the memories I have of this place, whether good or bad. I will remember the lessons learned from the roommates I have lived with throughout my cadetship. Some of us did not get along but you were all great guys. Matt, I will remember you most of all. We both struggled with the same sins and more often than not, we flunked in those areas. But we tried to keep each other in check. I learned a lot from you, Matt, and I know that the Lord wanted us to be roommates, even without Clay.

Best of luck to you Scott, Eric, and Steve. You guys will never know what it was like to be at an all-male school but society is changing and with it, so did we. Scott, try to stay out of trouble so that you can graduate. Eric, get your grades up. Steve, keep those cookies away from me.

Lastly, Mom and Dad, I know I put strain, no pun intended, on you because of my grades but thanks for still supporting me. I love you, .. you too Amanda.

.. but as for me in my house, I will serve the Lord. - Joshua 24:15  
Private 4,3,2,1; Emergency Response Team 2,1; Band - 4,3,2,1; VMI Fire Fighter - 2,1; W&L Symphony Orchestra - 4,3; Cross Country/Track Team 4,3,2,1



Dykes:

1995: Scott Jewell  
Zack Becker  
John Byram

2001: Scott Miles  
Eric Dehart  
Steve Harris

### Chicago, Illinois International Studies / U.S. Marine Corps

Carl Hallen came to VMI as a hortherner from Chicago a little overweighth with the resemblance of a butter ball, without a clue about whether to go into the Navy or the Marine Corps. As a rat Carl was one of the few rats who actually knew three meals in advance and how many acres were in Patchin Field. He was one of seven men who pressed up the hull of science as a physics major. By the time he was a third he was slipping down the slippery slopes of liberal arts as an I.S. major. Carl started down his road of trying to be the hardest marine in barracks and managed to sprain his right ankle twice that year. That year was characterized by Carl almost falling out of his window after numerous parades. As a second he finally gave up on the idea that the Marine Corps would be his only love; thanks to Anabelle. He lost Mat as a roommate and gained another room mate, Mike. Carl then proceeded to ensure his roommates Dan and Mike knew that the life of an IS major was so much more restful then PY or FE. He again showed he was one of the hardest marines in barracks by running into walls head first with a "brain bucket" on. Carl entered the brotherhood of the ring, and celebrated the Marine Corps birthday in true marine fashion with his Air Force roommate Dan. As a First classmen Carl was the enforcer of rat rules in room 196. The final thing and best thing to happen during his cadetship is that he graduated. To Girls rat, Tao, Take everything Carl has taught you about VMI, the Marine Corps, and life to heart. By the way cut spazing!

Carl, you have been a good friend. You knew when to shut up and listen, and when to give advice. You helped me through VMI and some other tough times. You were always willing to help in any way you could. Thanks for everything you have done.

Semper Par Society - 2,2,1; Trident Society - 4,3; Corporal - 3; Lieutenant - 1; Bulldog - 3,2,1; S.P.S. - 4,3; USMC Marathon - 2; Rifle Team - 4,3,2,1; L.S.M. - 4,3,2,1; Interior Decorator - 3,2,1; I.L. - 2,1



Dykes:

1995: Leo Pambid  
2001: Tao Li

## Knoxville, Tennessee

### Civil Engineering / Marine Corps



**Jonathan B. Hamilton**  
"Hambone, Old Nick"

Jon came to VMI with a clean mind and laid back attitude. He came from what he calls "God's country" - Tennessee. Jon would soon give way to the grind of the Institute and its rigors. He ended his rat year with "Ac" stars, but those would fade and his commitment to graduating would be tested by his First Class year. His third class year passed by in a blur and included lots of confinement. Jon took his licks playing fullback on the Rugby team, but he kept playing and drinking to numb the pain. His mind was further tainted when he got a tat and decided to join the Marines. Although he always looked for ways out of his commission, which usually involved drinking and defiling himself in front of an Institute Official. Those who knew Jon were lucky, especially after riding with him in his Bronco. Second class year promised to be even better with the creation of "The Train." The floggings and beatings were numbed by the yell of "I never loved you!" Deciding to grace London during Spring Break, Jon ran out of money and decided to live off Newcastle Brown Ale, "Sun Pat" peanut butter and "Filthy McNasty Whiskey." Jon ends his cadetship in academic trouble, but is always tutored by Tennessee Professor Daniels. Jon from the beginning in '94 we have formed a tight bond. You are truly my brother; don't forget about all the fun we've had. Good luck Jon and drink one for me. We are hard pressed on every side, but not in despair, persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8,9. Rat Challenge 4; Ac Stars 4; Rugby 4,3,2; Should have been a HI major 3,2,1; Semper Fi Society 3,2,1; Cadet Tutor 3,2; 1<sup>st</sup> Plt Sgt 2; The Train 2,1; Bulldog 2; Hotel XO 1



Dykes:  
1995: Austin Clark  
2001: Rob Riley

## Oakton, Virginia

### International Studies & History / Special Student



**Jason M. Harding**  
"The General, Cincinnati, Spudzie  
Flip, Flipper, Supa-Flip"

My Rat roomie, what a jerk. Not true, we're just too alike to get along. Too bad I didn't realize that until we parted!!! His probably one of the most intellectually gifted people I know and I'm sure he'd be the first to admit it. Just jokin'. Good luck, pal. - Jarrod Fitzpatrick

The General - a big pain in the ass Rat year, but I wouldn't have done the whole ratline thing with any other roommates. What a heat shield. Anyway, I couldn't meet a better guy (I'm serious), and don't worry, I'll be waiting for him when he runs for office. Jay, remember, if you see a hot Korean chick, you know where to send her. Good luck in all you do whirly! - Sean Joo

"La General de Institutó to know the infamous 'General' is an experience in itself, but to truly know Jason as a friend is different. Unfortunately, I can honestly say I know Jason after two years as roommates... I'm joking. I wish Jason the best, and I'll never forget you General. - Pat Baker

Many claim they knew the General, but few can say, "I roomed with Jason Harding and lived to tell the tale!" General - you'll always be Spudzie to me no matter what. From midnight bar crawls at the beach to Thursday night JMU trips, it's been a blast. We've wined 'em, dined 'em, and left a destructive wake; no college will ever forget. Thanks for helping me out in tough times (7-month jail sentence) and being a true friend. Till next Thursday night! - Nipples

Brandon, do me proud. Mom, Dad you've been the best. To all my boys... I'll see you again. Kurt, thanks for everything. Uncle Ron, you can never conceive what I've gotten away with these 4 very enjoyable years. Everyone knows what the best permit on post is... [JM]

Virgin Private: The Cadet 4,3,2 PIC 1, Deans List 4,3,2,1, CRs 4,3 Chairman 2,1, Gold Coast Social Club 3,2,1, Parade (Never Marched) 3,2,1; Guard (Never Marched) 3,2,1; Inspections (Missed em) 3,2,1; Limited Duties over 350; Demerits 400 earned/220 scratched.



Dykes:  
1995: Mike Blankenship  
2001: Brandon Lambaiso

## Yorktown, Virginia

### Economics & Business / Air Force Special Student



**Michael P. Harris**  
"Mike, Sweetpea, Biggest Kicker in  
The Nation"

I had high aspirations and goals when I came to VMI. They were soon forgotten when we met Cadre. Over the past few years, however, I have been able to put them back into my mind and even achieve a few. When I took a close look at VMI for the first time, I fell in love with the place. Although I swear to everyone that I hate it, deep down inside my heart rests with the "I."

I'd like to thank my parents first for what they have done for me over my life... from little league soccer to college football. Saturdays... from a broken glass deer to the VMI ring... from early Christmas mornings to late night high school papers. I know you don't want to hear this, but I came to VMI primarily because I wanted you to have another son of whom you could be proud. I love you dearly, and I don't think you realize the job you did in raising me. Greg, if it wasn't for you I wouldn't have made it through this place. You've taught me a lot. My roommates Jason, Tivris, and Ben, thanks for putting up with me and more importantly being my friends. I will never forget you guys and I will always be there for you after we go our separate ways. Jason, thanks for all the time you let me keep my sanity by partying at JMU, and for being a true friend, one of the few people in my life who hasn't doubted me. Lorie, I'm glad you and Derek are part of our family now. I love you both. Thanks to all other friends from home, who are few in number but large in trust. I'll never forget this place, or the friendships I've made, especially on the football team.

Football 4,3,2,1,5; Virgin Private; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Omicron Delta Epsilon; Deans List; Dirty Half Dozen 2,1,5;



Dykes:  
1995: Greg Wright  
2001: Tyler Ashley  
Jim Lawlor

Norfolk, Virginia  
Biology / Navy

As my four years at VMI are almost complete, I can definitely say that it has been an adventure. I came here as the son of an alumnus, brainwashed from birth, to undertake the odyssey. Now that I look back on these four years, I know that it was worth it. Many people have made this venture possible. First off, I would like to thank Mark for showing me the ropes and making my rat year more bearable. I owe you a great deal. Kate, thank you for being there for me... I love you.

To my roommates of three years... what else do I have to say! Mike... These four years have been interesting to say the least. All of the Carolina games, Navy meetings, long weekends, and female problems. V, your future is too organized! I can't wait to continue this friendship in Newport and at the Beach. Max... Thanks for helping my confidence on the soccer field. You made life here a little more bearable. I am glad that Mike and I could rescue you from new barracks. I am sure you will never forget the long weekends, Foxfields, and your officé. Best wishes on your future endeavors. Rich... you will succeed at anything you do, good luck. Howie... Good luck in the AF. Top, Ryan and Tater... See you at your graduation.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family for all that they have given me. Your friendship, support, and love have helped me to realize my potential. I have succeeded because of your support. I love you.

Private 4, 3, 2, 1; Charlie Company 4, 3, 2, 1; Varsity Soccer 4, 3, 2, 1; Dean Smith Fan Club 4, 3, 2, 1; Trident Society 2, 1; Press Staff 1; Big-Red Club 3, 2, 1



Robert A. Heely Jr.  
"BOBBO, Heels"



Dykes:

1995: Mark Hagan  
2001: Top Palmer

Millboro, Virginia  
Biology / Army

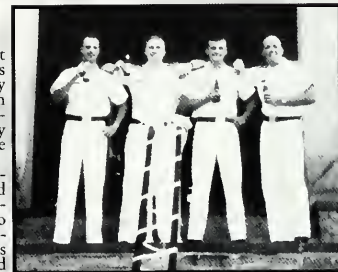
Who would have thought that this country boy, from a place that few people have ever heard of, would be ready to graduate? This concept is still a bit foreign to me as well. As I reflect back on my commitment to VMI, it is clear that VMI has taught this young man countless valuable lessons. For this I will always be grateful. However, the friends that I have made along the way, are what really makes my choice to attend VMI, one of the best decisions I have made.

To Mom and Dad: thanks for the prayers and support (both emotional and financial). To Dale: you've been the brother I never had through four tough years... what more can I say. To Joey: you redefined the meaning of partying... Tore-up, form the floor up! To Matt: your level-headedness and wisdom has always been appreciated. To my Dyke, Dave Groseclose: I can attribute all of my success here at VMI to your guidance and support. To my Rats, Brian and Derrick: you guys were the best. Rats anyone could have asked for. To all of the Rats of Club Hell: you guys had it the hardest of anyone in your class, remember that.

Rat 4; Cpl. 3; Sgt. 2; Lt. 1; Powerlifting Team 2, 1; Powerlifting Team Captain 1; Co-Ed Dyke Committee Vice-Pres. 2, 1; Sports Medicine 3; Big Red Club 3, 2, 1; Strong Redneck Accent 4, 3, 2, 1; Club Hell 1.



Sean A. Hicklin  
"Huck"



Dykes:

1995: David Groseclose  
2001: Derrick Foltz  
Brian Ferguson

Richmond, Virginia

Civil Engineering / Special Student

1994, 95, 96 and 98 it's hard to believe that this academic year is almost half way through and that I'm actually be graduating on time. It's been a challenging four years, in which I have found maturity, responsibility, durability and best of all true friendship. To you mom and dad I owe the world, your love and support has given me the strength to overcome the most difficult obstacles and the courage to stay at a place like "The T". To my old roommates in 306 and 206, we shared some experiences and evenings curled out for the best. Heels and V I hope the NAVY treats you well and helps you accomplish everything out of life. Ugly Krumpie all I have to say is AA message and how about the big T, as for room 218 & 118 the memories are so exciting and never forgotten... To Ed you made me who I am at this hole in the wall, I followed your advice to T, I did everything just the way you did... Like dyke like dyke, thank you for the great memories. John L, my advice to you is do what you want to do at the institute because it will make this place more tolerable... even if it is a little different than mine. Ian O, be your own man, you have to make all the calls, its your future... and dont spazz, you worry worm. Sorry that 118 didn't have enough porn to keep you busy. Jarrod & Gord turn crusty like your dyke, and yes I parked my car in the Harvard Yard. Cat please stop eating that nasty shit, its going to kill you one day... Also please come back to earth. Brooks please brief me on the art of Ying Yang or send a memorandum to my room. Aaron T, good luck with basketball, and I hope you and your girl stay together. Good luck to all of you in your next three years. MIKE- There aren't enough words to explain you spikes and the wonderful things that I have learned from you in such a short period. You're a person who is willing to do and give everything you have unconditionally to see someone else happy. To the class of all of them all our second class year, justice prevailed and our friendship grew closer, however it's not you that I don't ever want to experience again. I hope our path cross again in the next two years as we travel with the peace corps, thanks for helping me realize that this was indeed what I needed to do, before hiring really. Don't ever lose the turtle neck it always comes in handy on cold days... As for the jockey blinks its always a great laugh to see a seven foot, 270 pound gooly Spinelli in red and blue pants strips... and don't forget to call me next time your going night skimming so that I can bring Chucky Lee so that you have something to exclude as an ally. May our friendship stay together always... Dave... the chocolate hander from down under, your spurs are always high and provided our room with something to laugh at... From your traveling experiences, always keep it real... As for M and our road trip to stardom, we knew that out of all of us if anyone could make it happen it was you. You have dynamic personality, best of luck in the future and in everything you will do... ohh by the way remember that there is such a thing as a freebie from the laundry lady's and that the body needs a shower at least once a day usually gassy stink is a indicator... If there is something that will suit you to a I few words its the simple expression "its all gravy baby" ... 4, 3, 2, 1 Class povate; 4, 3, 2 VMI SOCCER; 2, 1 VMI Sports Medicine; 3, 2, 1 Big Red Club; 1 VMI BOBMB



Eddie Hidalgo  
SPIC, El Tico, Mauricio, taco,  
Chichi Rodriguez, Ponch



Virginia Beach, Virginia  
 Mechanical Engineering / Special Student

I guess the whole reason I came to VMI was to see if I could do it. Well here I am. I can't believe it's here already and it still seems like it took forever to get here. I have to thank my parents and family, without whom none of this would have been possible nor would I have made it through the '1'. My dyke, Gavin Bruno, who showed me the ins and outs of this place and didn't put me on my face, too much, when showing me. My uncle dykes, for keeping it interesting. Bravo for busting them. Dan, Nick, and Jason, thanks for taking me in, I was beginning to wonder if I would have roomed with the entire corps before I graduated. Thanks for putting up with my loquacious when it suited. "Hey! Danny boy, do you have the name of that truck driving school we saw on TV? I think I might need that." "Negative ghost rider, the pattern is full." "Truck stop, you are a redneck and I was proud to have you for a roommate, my country music knowledge has flourished. Supa, the fact that you had some of the best editorials I have read, not that I'm an expert, AND you were my roommate, made this place all the more bearable that you could make me laugh at it. Look out. Dave Barry. Km. 15.5, you don't know JACK! Cars, persevere and have the name of that long road out of hell, but apparently it's well worth it, and if it isn't I'll come back and let you know so you can stop wasting your time. Dave "Everybody Watch My.." Dewey, DON T FALL. Charles, get your specials in on time and stay away from those Citadel guys. Greg, help Charles stay M.E. and off ConPro's. Roger, keep your grades up man, ac pro is no place to be at VMI. Ro, are you going back to Cali? I don't think so. Christian, valda con dios. Suppose I'm about to wrap this up, back to life, back to reality. Off to check out all the staff VMI has kept me from during these formative years, mainly wine, women, and song, not necessarily in that order. It's been real fellas, see ya'll at Moody Hall. 'Til then..

Cheerleader 3,2,1; ASME 2, historian 1; ASHRAE 1; Parapet Painter 4; IHTEP 4,3,2,1; St. Ann's summer getaway, Oxford 97; Bravo Guidon 1

Neil V. Holloran  
 "Hooligan"



Dykes:  
 1995: Gavin Bruno  
 2001: Greg Martin  
 Charles Sharp

Oxford, Pennsylvania  
 Mechanical Engineering / Army

I don't know when I actually decided I was coming to VMI. I guess I just always knew. The rat line was interesting to say the least, being third worst, but at least we got a chance to see a little more of beautiful downtown Lexington i.e. Red Square, Chi Si etc. I suppose getting the ring would have made it all worth while, had I been here. Had it not been for Roberts, Sac, Moseley, Braxton, Pinero, Moreman, and yes even Culver, I wouldn't have made it a week. The band was always fun, and helped immensely in my rigorous pursuit of academic excellence. I have to thank KP for starting me out right, and doing more for me than I ever realized. I hope I'm doing it half as well for Lowe. Mom and Dad you paid through the nose, and supported me through it all, good and bad. All I can say is thank you. Well, soon it will all be over, and all we will have is alumni weekends, or maybe the occasional football game, and from that distance it won't be that bad.

Band 4,3,2,1, Commanders 4,3, Pipe Band 1, Ranger Challenge 3,1, Ranger Company 1, Penn State Club 2, West Chester University Club 2, Community College Club 2, Fujita be cool society summer 4,3,1

Jesse L. Holmes



Dykes:  
 1995: Kevin Price  
 2001: Scott "sea bass" Lowe

Mechanicsville, Virginia  
 History / Air Force

First, I would like to thank God because He has made all of this possible in my life. To my parents, Mom, you have been my supporter. When things were bad you made them better. Times I was ready to give up you were not. Dad, you have encouraged me through this test in my life. You always had a positive word that kept me seeing the light at the end of a dark tunnel.

Ashley, you always wanted the best for me. I'll never forget that. We all make mistakes, but I know this one will be beautiful. Learn and keep on moving. Baby, you are about to do great things. I believe in you and love you.

Trice (a.k.a. Babygirl), you were with me in the beginning and saw me through the end. I'm not sure where we stand right now, but if it was meant to be, it will be! You are part of what kept me going. Thank you for being there. I couldn't imagine this experience without you.

My boys in the 13 series. You know what's up! We done went from nasty to ashy to classy! B.I.G Mike (All-American), Ladmir I was the fieshy one. You know we still roll tight. K.C. (a.k.a mad song sender), you and me pulled off some capers. N.T.B.C.

My boys in the 11 series, keep on keeping on. You know how we do! Big Up to Dre, Jabarr, Al!

T-Bird, Dale, Dre, Brent, Daddy Rich, Funch, Court, Bud, y'all go head and go head on.

Peace

Avi D. Hopkins  
 "Avi D; Diesel, Squirrel"



Dykes:  
 1995: Charlie Branch  
 2001: Clyde Middleton  
 Lamar Calloway



**Timothy F. Hough**  
"Cookies, Ho, Sick Boy"

**Stafford, Virginia**

**Biology / Special Student**

Tim's transformation into the VMI man, began dyking in a room with Scott Neville and Mark Wysong, both of the RDC. His third class year, disenchanted with the system, he went along his way having fun when he could. His second class year, he became an active participant in a system he believed was right, if run correctly. And finally, he revitalized his dykes legacy by serving on the RDC his first class year. Certainly, if one word could describe Tim, it's memorable. How many people can act like an "immature moron", "street", "gnarly virgin powder", "maintain the Box of Sin, demonstrate the 'apple' and the infamous 'liquor face' or 'disgorge his cookies' on the Palms bar and still retain an unparalleled humor. Tim is certainly not easy to forget. The only thing which could possibly rival his sense of humor is his commitment to his friends. Whether getting a 'tat', broke in London, intoxicated in Richmond, in the Helmet pit, or just riding the '89 Trains, he's been there. To his friends, he's always there, as a friend and a "10<sup>th</sup> corporal". I don't know how many people would have made it though what he's gone through - highs and lows. But, as we depart the arms of the mother 'I', I know Tim will leave like a barreling '89 train, breakin' yo chains", making stories, and remaining one of the best friends a man could ever hope for. I thank God we are the 354 survivors, brother.

"Yes, there are two paths you can go by but in the long run, there's still time to change the road you're on. I hope so." - Led Zeppelin

Golf Team-4,3; ACS-3,2; VMI Theater-4,2; Semper Fi Society-3,2; Marathon Club-2; 2<sup>nd</sup> Plt. Guide Sgt.-2; The Train-2,1; Eagle Scout Association-1; Triathlon Club-1; 1<sup>st</sup> Plt. Lt-1; RDG1; Immature Moron -4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Scott Neville  
Mark Wysong
- 2001: Nick "The Spaz" Baxter



**Charles T. Houk**  
"Houky, Cavy, Incredible, White Trash, Early Man"

**Chesapeake, Virginia**

**Biology / Special Student**

First of all I must thank the people who have made it possible for me to endure the years at VMI. Mom and Dad. I thank you for all the support and advice and grace, but most importantly the unmistakable love, you have given when it came crunch time to make some of those tough decisions. Uncle Eddie, you have given all you could to ensure my success. Shyan, you have always been there for me with words and deeds of encouragement (and lots of grief, too) when times got tough, and made it worth while to look forward, whatever that might bring. I love you all.

Ryan, we've made it all the way together. We survived Rif's snoring, KC's mess, and Brett's depression in 442. Third class year it was again Brett's depression, but the added bonus was Jut's desire not to be here. By the way, Brett and Jut, we've never gone one day without remembering you guys. Second class year Dave blew into town, and it's been a great run for the three of us. From Ring Figure to graduation, we've managed to have our fun in spite of the surroundings, and have always been able to make light of even the most intense situations.

I came to VMI with an expectation of being successful. Through the four years that I have been here, however, I have learned that what makes a person successful is his ability to slide through sticky situations with the least amount of friction.

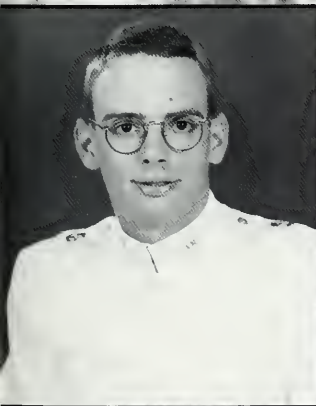
Ed and John, keep trucking along, and make the most of your time here. That's all you can do to maintain any sanity.

Football 4,3,2,1; Wrestling 4; Private 4,3,2,1; Dear's List; VMI Summer Scholar; Biology Major



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Jon Jenkins
- 2001: Ed Webb  
John Cabrera



**Scott A. Houser**  
"Doogie, Hoosier, Slowhand"

**Lanexa, Virginia**

**International Studies & French / Special Student**

I would like to begin by thanking my parents and my brother for their support. I really had no way to know what was in store for me when I came here. It was definitely an experience which kept me wondering even to this day why I did not go to a normal college. It is a little too late now for that I suppose. I guess I should focus on the good times at the "I". O.K., maybe that is going a little too far. There were none. Maybe that is going a little too far also. There were some few isolated incidents of laughter during the years. They were during the times when I was not thoroughly enraged or succumbed in an utter state of depression. In other words, the times when I was defeating the Institut's sedulous attempts to preserve their sacrosanct ideologies by debauching on sylbaritic guests. The only way to have a good time here, I have noticed, is to leave. If there is one thing I've learned, it's that no matter how bad life gets around here, it can get a lot worse real fast. Did I mention I hate this place? Anyway, I'd like to wish my rats good luck. They will need it with three more years to go. I would also like to thank Jason for putting up with the 'double deuces' on our road trips on 81.

Throughout my cadetship, from being a rat, to going to Germany, to an aberrant second class year, a velleity to graduate and get on with my life has kept me going. I am almost there and cannot wait to complete another step in the ladder of accession.

Ranger Company (Big mistake) 4; Oktoberfest 3; Big Red Club 2; Hop and Floor 2; College Republicans 2; Secretary 1; VMI Firefighters 2,1; Pre-Law Society 1.



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Brian Williams
- 2001: Daniel Campbell  
Ron Fiocca

**Taiwan, Republic of China**  
**Electrical Engineering / Navy**

I, Wen-lung Vincent Hsu, am from Taiwan, Republic of China. I studied one year in Chinese Naval Academy and matriculated at VMI on Aug. 15, 1994. I am in the F-roop company, electrical engineering major, and naval ROTC.

As an electrical engineering major student, I work very hard on the academic performance. I receive academic stars each academic year. I also received Major General Richard Coupland '15 EE Award twice.

In these four years, I have been to many places in Unites States, Puerto Rico, Japan, and Santo Domingo. If I did not come to VMI, I could not have been to so many places. I also know lots of people in United States, especially Sus Family. I know them since rat year. They are just like my family. Every time I go to their home and I feel like in my home. Because of them, I know lots of Chinese people here and participate in lots of Chinese activities.

Thanks for all those people help me in this four years. Finally, I hope I will have a great future in the Taiwanese Navy. Hope all BRs '98 have great life after graduate. Take Care BRs.



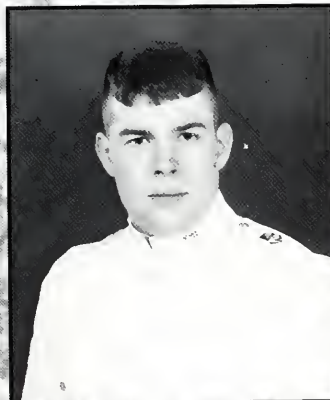
**Wen-lung V. Hsu**  
 "Vince, Shorty"



**Bristol, Tennessee**  
**Biology / Special Student**

Wow, we're finally outta here! The times have been hard, but I wouldn't trade my experiences here for the world. I've made great friends here and I count you all as my brothers. To all the guys I've lived with, and there's been a lot of you: have a great life. Tim, where are you gonna get dip from after we graduate? Jay, leave those little girls alone! Lenny, I hope you come back, and bring Carr with you! Bezel, you still crack me up. To the other guys, I'll miss you. You G 30 rats hang in there; it's over before you know it. To Curt and Wade, I've tried to live up to your example for me. I was proud to dyke in your room. Finally, I'd like to thank my family and Jen. Without you guys putting up with me for these last few years I don't know if I would have made it.

Rat 4, Cpl 2, Sgt 2, 1r 1; Boxing 4; Spirit squad 3, 2, 1- CIC 1; Power lifting 1; Drug and Alcohol Committee 2, 1- CIC 1; Moron 4, 3, 2, 1+



**William G. Hubble**  
 "Gabe; Hubs, Hub, Hubba-Bubba, Hubbles"



**Dykes:**  
 1995: Curt Webster  
 2001: Clint Hull  
 Chris Douglas

**Pasadena, Texas**  
**Chemistry / Army**

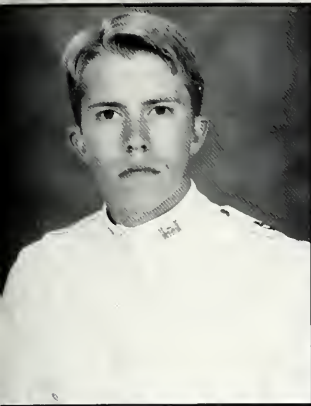
Robin and I met after we both made the unfortunate decision to join blow-co. The unfortunate decision turned into a fortunate friendship that helped us both pull through a lot of the "good deals" this place always seems to be throwing our way. As rat roommates in the G-spot we had good times as well as bads. Both of us had rat deficiencies as I was deemed Arabo-rat for my knee brace and he was just plain tortured for some scientific contraption experiment they hooked him up to early on. While these things didn't directly effect our personal relationship they put a serious strain on our nerves. First semester therefore was kind-of rough between the two of us. After I nursed Robin back to health the night before break-out and we finally broke out things only got better. Blow-co. made the mistake of taking us with them to St. Patrick's Day in New York City that semester. Along with staying in a crack hotel and getting pretty inebriated we met a real nice salesman and frequented some of Time Square's finerities. It was also in NYC that Robin let us all in on his past driving history in Texas. Once we got over the shock it turned into a pretty good laugh for us all. We decided to stay roommates 2<sup>nd</sup> class year and have stayed roommates since. I was gone second semester, 3<sup>rd</sup> class year, but we had plenty of good times first semester including, but not excluding, some fun times with Coach Roach and chemistry plus heaps of drinking. Robin saw the light on the other side fall semester that year and switched over to Delta company. It took me an extra semester, but now we're in the same company again. Mad Dog Delta. I've enjoyed all of his girl stories and Robin's always been there for me and I wish he was going to be here my 1<sup>st</sup> class year, but I'm happy for him and proud of him too. Robin's great personality and high level of determination are bound to take him as far as he wants to go in life. Good luck on everything Robin and don't get too overzealous in that lab—Times (Tyle) Conduct probation - 4; Moron - 3, 2; Texas club - 4, 2; VMI commanders - 4, 3, 2; Ranger Co. - 4, 3; CPB - 2; Water Polo - 2; Airborne Society of the Chemical Corps (one member) - 2; Secretary of ACS - 2; Rat Challenge - 2; PVT - 4, 2



**Robin J. Huckaby**  
 "HCH, Huck"







**Ryan D. Hughes**  
"Papa Hugo, Golden Boy"

**Bristol, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Special Student**

Ryan's cadetship progressed and grew much like the well groomed, blond hairs on his head. Just after Matriculation, the Ratline severed those locks from Ryan's cranium, when like all cadets, he adapted and overcame VMI's regimented hostility, finding refuge in the wrestling locker room, the NHE dungeon, and W&SL. Needless to say Hugo's freshman year was indicative of the rest of his stay at VMI.

Nobly defiant in the overbearing VMI system, Ryan remained outgoing and optimistic. Being one of those individuals blessed with the ability to find entertainment and happiness in an empty, cardboard box, Hughes inspired many cadets along the way existing as an ideal of "the who does not simply float through life." After his rigorous ratline experience and the even more rigorous experience as a lifeguard in Walt Disney World, Ryan earned the right to grow his sun touched hair and move onto the third stoop.

As a third he found Sweet Briar sweeties, Shotgun, and Spring Break in Panama City, along with our other BR casualities; furthermore, I myself experienced Ryan's social antics that New Years Eve, from which I still recall fond memories and still take the blame... God Bless him. Throughout the joys and confinement, the numerous send ups and demos, Ryan has remained a true friend of magnificent proportions.

As a second Ryan primped his new wind resistant dew, and again explored Walt Disney, or more specifically a Disney dancer and cheerleader for the Kansas Jayhawks. Lucky for us, these Barthi Twins granted our presence at the illustrious 1998 Ring Figure. But the second semester, the blond Hugo bird spread his wings, grabbing a passport and a comb, and headed off for the Aussie Outback. Studying abroad in Australia (perhaps an oxymoron for Ryan), broadened his horizons ultimately driving us all crazy with yarns about life down under. Now, as first classer with a little more hair, odder things have changed.

Unnigably, barracks life seems like an ironically, ideal blur of fast moving pictures, which become treasured memories of what once was while our friends begin their journeys outside of these walls and outside our immediate lives. Yet as the days pass and time continues to tick away, these things will remain ever present, eternal in our minds. True friends like Ryan will also remain steadfast and kind, prepared for our new adventures together outside of these walls. Ryan, I wish you and everyone well. — Brett Bus

Virgin Ptv. 4.3,2,1; Hair Dew 3,2,1; V. Wrestling, Young Republicans, Bright Teeth 4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Derek Secrest  
2001: Canon Moss

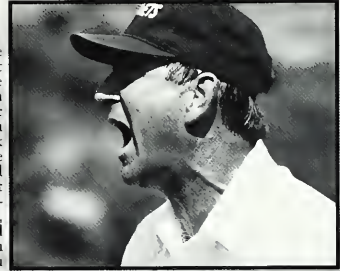


**Darrius D. Jackson**

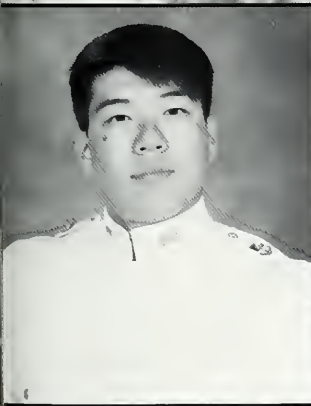
**Fort Lauderdale, Florida**  
**Economics & Business / Army**

As my experiences at VMI slowly come to an end. First, of all I would like to thank GOD for blessing me with the opportunity to received a great education. I would also like to thank my mom and dad for always giving me the support and always being there when I needed someone to talk to you guys know that I love you. I would like to thank Antoinette Williams for being my best friend and always being there when I needed someone to listen to my problems always remember that I love you. I would just like to thank all the people who have given me support in my big adventure here at the "I". I want to say wuz up to all my BRs and I know that all of you will succeed in everything that you do because we know that we were the best class to every come through barracks. I want to give a shout out to my roommates of the past "Big Worm", "Nate Dogg" and of course "Little Clement", you may not be in the room but the memories of the good old times are still kicking strong. I want to say keep it real to A. Dayrl I know you have been through a lot but you will make it through here, and I doir know how you got stuck with a bunch of guys like us.

Now for my niggas B-Taueg and J-Poppa we have been through a lot of shit and a lot of roommates, but through it all I doir know how we did but we stayed together. I doir want either one of us to forget the "Great War" — Capet or the "Night of the Great Ass Whipping". The dinners in Roanoke, the treeps, and of course the drinking we all know who was the one that could not hold his alcohol. Cart forget the nights at the spades table instead of sleeping or doing work. I want both of yall to know that I love yall as brother and I doir know what my life here at VMI would have been like if I had not had both of you. Before I forget "I aint got no money somebody loan me a hundred". To my dykes well I wait to say stay out of trouble and please get those Damn grades up. But most of all I doir want yall to forget the "Ball Ups" or the "Broomstick", we may be leaving but we can always come back and give it to yall.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Erik Reynolds  
2001: Mike Hayes  
Anthony Olds



**Seung H. Joo**

Sean, Korea, J-Double-O, Joosh"

**Fairfax, Virginia**  
**Economics & Business / Special Student**

Well, it's been a long, long, long couple of years and by no means the best of times. After all of the struggles, thank the Lord, it's almost over. You have gone from being a gung-ho Navy prospect to a, "God please just let me graduate", first class private. Many hours you have spent toiling over studying, studying, and more studying and you came just shy of that 4.0 cum that you worked for. You busted your tail with the books, trying harder than anyone really could understand, yet many times to no avail. Too bad that everyone outside this place doesn't see your efforts, but if they did they, including your mother, would be extremely proud. However, if the powers above and the powers in the registrar's office throw some grace your way, you'll walk on that stage in May and I'll be right there with ya, pal.

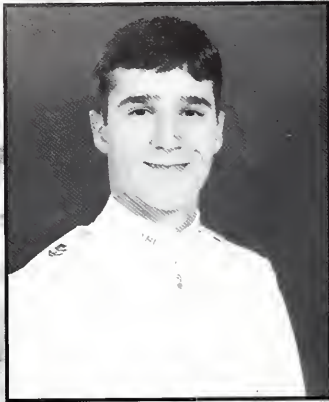
Sean, you turned out to be a great friend, much greater than the word "brother rat" ever was intended. Although your taste in music is questionable, we remained roomies throughout the duration of our sentence here. Thanks for all the Korean noodles and enduring the complaints. Never forget "hate my dykes".

To Phil and Brian: I hope your next three years here are the shortest years of your lives. To Mom: without you I would not be where I am today. I'm proud to have you as my mother and will always love you. Thank you for everything.

Rat 4, Corporal 3, Private 2, 1; International Club 4,3,2,1 (Pres.); Hop and Floor 3,2,1 (Chairman); Cadet Library Assistant 2,1 (Head); "Worming 4,3,2,1; "Slug Club 2,1; "Hate My Dykes Club 4,3,2,1 (Co-Founder); Rat Daddy Committee 3,2,1; Study Committee 4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Ho-Jin Kim  
2001: Phil King  
Brian Cummings



**Joseph M. Kelleher, III**  
"Stinky, The Pope"



**David K. Killian**  
"Killer, Studboy"



**Deryck J. Krafft**

**Richmond, Virginia**  
**Economics & Business / Army**

Mom always said, "Son, you are going to change VMI because of my slacker tendencies and the fact that I've never been on time for anything." I guess most of my experience here has been related to the Christian Community. I gave most of my free time working with people and in the church. That's the most fulfilling way I could find to use my time. It's a gift. Academically, I learned quickly that Business/Econ wasn't for me, but I stuck it out. Even though it did make for long nights of studying and fighting daydreaming. It's all good. I've come a long way. I'm not saying that I'm disciplined, or smarter than when I first got here. At least, I do know what I do and do not want to do, and I'm happy. No other school could have been better for me. In Doc Monsour's theology class, I learned my most important lesson. The lesson was that I understand that I don't understand God, like I thought I used to. Quite a paradox, but it makes sense to me. I leave this place with awesome memories. So all in all, I win!

To my Rat roommates, Teko, J.D. Ken, I had a blast! Will Stanni, thanks for three great years. You're an awesome friend and I respect you so much. Nate Peirpoint, thanks for some great times and much to think about! Family, I love you so much. Sisters, thank me later for not letting y'all date cadets. Laura, I could've done the Ratline without you. Kudos to all my other friends too, you know I love you! Glee Club 1,2,3,4 VMI Outreach 1,2,3,4 OCF 1,2,3,4 Newman Club 1,2,3,4



**Dykes:**  
1995: Chad Bourne  
2001: Adam Vergne

**Fairfax, Virginia**  
**Mechanical Engineering / Navy**

Wow, four years at this place. I remember my 12th grade English teacher talking about his son being the professional student, who went to college for eight years as an undergraduate. I sat there in class then, thinking to myself, "Why would anyone take eight years to graduate from college?" Now I know.

I could've been a more fortunate guy though. I know I have the best parents in the world and I love them more than I could ever express. I truly owe everything I have and am to them. Their words of encouragement, and money, helped me in tight spots.

Thanks goes out to my younger brother, Mike, who would give me shelter now and then when I needed to get away and loosen my tie. Having family only an hour and a half from here was a God Send. I love the relationship we have and hope it will never end.

VMI has made a significant impact on my life. It has remanitized my compass and I know again where I am headed in life. I have made many close friends and for that I am very glad. Sean Ting, I hope that we can stay in touch for the rest of our lives because I admire the hell out of you. To my roommates, Ryan and Charlie, I can't thank you enough for giving me shelter when I needed it. I had a lot of laughs in this room and will always remember. To Chad and Charlie, I hope the time goes quickly and you are successful in whatever you do. And, Good God that rubber band ball is huge!

PVT 4,1; CPL 3; SGT 2; Wrestling 4,3; Trident Society 4,3,2,1; Powerlifting 2; 5-5 Staff 2,1; Gone to Tech 7,6,5



**Dykes:**  
1995: Stew Mallory  
2001: Chad Price  
Charlie Chang

**Richmond, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Special Student**

This place sucked, but while I was here I just wanted to say... I got drunk as many times as I could while I was stuck in this place. Ran the block as many times as I could while I was stuck in this place, and Banged as many W&S chicks as I could while I was stuck in this place. I "Duked" it out with Darren, Nate, Tony, Don, Phantom, Jay, and MOE at 420 everyday. Dan, we were the survivors of the messy brownies - PS, what happened to the kidz? they probably met up with the "Fun-Guys". Moose, you know well watching it over and over 'til were Grateful Dead. Adam, I got you a hacksaw for the ball and chain. Roizd, get the "Sasquatch"... it's your turn. Baumgardner... himmm, thanks for holding the tradition of Corps Loopooser (4,3,2,1). Cookie and Cale, leave a couple Yoris next time. Natz, Pacworm, and J.T, thanks for the Bull Creek memories. Thanks Rister, Baye, and Schmeizer for all the laughs in the C.E. Dept. Thanks to Mommy and Daddy, Jesse and Terrence be good while I'm gone, you guys were cool dykes. Thanks to all the ladies at the Palms. AND THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!

Special Student; Sasquatch Club; Church Club; Long Hair Club 3,2,1; 24 Hour Door Crew 3,2,1; Riddles Crew 2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Ryan Feeney  
2001: Jesse Gore "Tattoo"  
Terrence Redmond



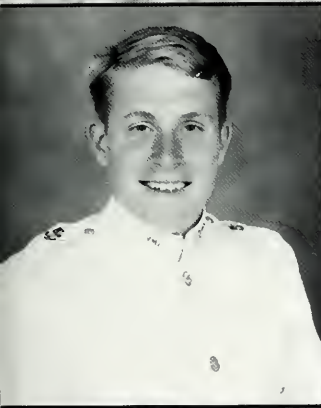
**Max B. Krumpke**  
"Hussy, Lax, Grumpke"

**Hagerstown, Maryland**  
**Economics & Business / Special Student**

Four years ago I left Hagerstown, MD and became a Hagerstown "Hussy," in Lexington VA. What was I thinking?? Its been an adventure to say the least. If there was a way to make things difficult I probably found it. I spent most of my days on the Soccer and Lacrosse fields and my nights in the "Office" and "X". I often wonder how I did graduate? Barring any other convictions this will be my last appearance in the Bomb. It hasn't been a picnic the last four years but it sure has been fun. From the road trips to JMU and UVA to the social event of "Friends" through all the girls that came and went, we still had fun. They say that VMI is worth it. I have yet to experience that, but if I learned anything here at the "I", there is always a way out, you just have to look for it, and the true meaning of friendship. Rich your one of my best friends, thanks for all the talks and advice. Howie you've been a great roommate and friend, but you're still a light weight. Bobby and Mike. Thanks for everything. I'll never forget the late night meditation sessions, the poop scoop at 1 a.m. with 202, the touching melodies, and all the laughs. You all are the best! I'm sure the Navy will treat you good... After all its only four years! I'm glad it is finally over and I'd never do it again. But I'm glad I did!!



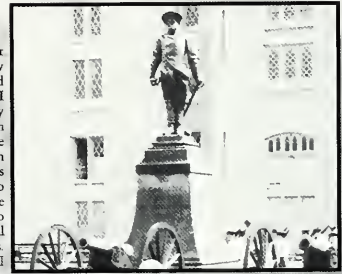
**Dykes:**  
1995: Mike Fellows  
2001: Parker Reeves "Tator"



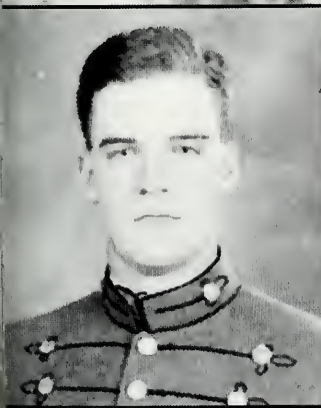
**William A. Kump**  
"Will, MOUTH, Willy"

**Elkins, West Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Special Student**

Baker its bust! If I had a nickel for every time I've heard that, after a big game or road trip, I would be in debt after four years of out of state tuition. I dont know where to start talking about the mouth of North Central West Virginia. I really did not know Will my first year at VMI, and it was only during my third class year I became friends with the biggest Mountaineer fan in Virginia. I dont know exactly why it took almost a year and half for Wilbur and myself to become friends, other than VMI could not have handled it any sooner. Will is my other brother here, and there is no doubt in my mind that he will always be that. I know that I can always count on Will, even though it might take him a while sometimes. Thanks, Will. If there was someone in the corps that was laid back and stress free, it would have to be Will. No matter what penalty he faced (aside from the Ring Figure incident) or what grade he received on a test, you could always count on a smile from the guy. Hearing him run down the hall in his flip-flops and bust in the door with a beary "Its huge" will forever be engraved in my mind. He's been a great friend and one of my biggest fans. Good luck bro. Love, Pat and Rich. Reflecting on my time at this \$\*# hole, I would like to thank my dykes for everything they did for me as a rat. To my roommates of the past, Jack, Heath, and Brewster it was only a matter of time until we would be split up, the Commandant's staff and penalties overcame. To my great friend Jason Gruse '97 who took care of me for a few years here, we had some 'HUGE' times and road trips that will not be forgotten! Rich and Pat its been a good run and our big times together will only continue and get better. To John and other dykes: we have had some good times, keep working hard but have fun. I cant thank my parents, siblings, and other family members enough for all love and support they have given me through these four grueling years at VMI. I Love You All! Jennifer Rebecca, enough said! You have been the greatest and there is nothing I could do to equal what you have done for me over the past four years. It has been a struggle at times, but "I Love You" with all my heart and always will!  
Virgin Private; Big Red Club 3,2 Pres. 1; Intramurals 3,2,1; Number 1 Club 2; Conduct Probation 2; Academic Probation 2; Reads Scholar 3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Jeff Guild  
Mark Cameron  
Jimmy Dameron  
2001: John Hardy

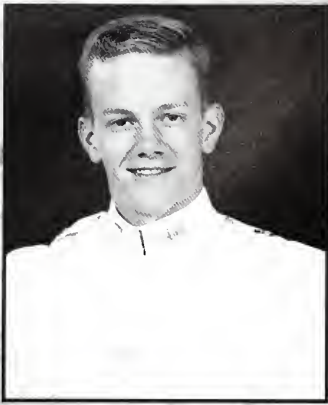


**Jason P. Lamb**  
"Lambchop, Silence of, Mary, Lambo, Bama"

**Killen, Alabama**  
**Economics & Business / Army**

When I arrived in Lexington after a 22-hour bus ride I did not realize the test that lay before me. My vocabulary did not contain words like, swear party, Rat Challenge, stoop run, company room, or RDC. It all seemed like it would last forever. Well it finally did end and on that cold day in February we completed our final test and became the Class of '98. Here it is first class year, yet it seems like it should not be over yet but hey I'm not complaining. I would like to thank mom for taking care of me, dad for kicking me in the butt and instilling discipline and honor in me before the "I" fine tuned it. Jessica and Madrie thank you for the letters and for being there. Ethel, Rita Sue, Bill, and Bradon thanks for the encouragement. Trent I hope I've been a good influence and you succeed in whatever you do. Dwayne thanks for being a bud and good luck in the future. Chris and 147 rats I wish the best for y'all and hang in there. Karen I really dont know how to thank you. You've been a dear friend and I really appreciate everything. I know you'll succeed at whatever you decide to do. You're not too bad for a Canuk! Dont stress the citizenship, it will come. Ed you may be a yank but thanks for the memories. Scott and Sean I hope you are as fortunate in the future as you were in getting me for a roommate. I wish all the best for all my BR's. May God bless you all. ROLL TIDE ROLL!!  
IEEB 4, 3; Quad A 2, 1; Corporal 4; Sgt. 2; Lt. 1; College Republicans 1; Hop and Floor Committee 3, 2; SCV 2, 1; Bama fan 4, 3, 2, 1





**Ryan J. Landmann**  
"Quad, Drylander, Iceman"

**Chesterfield, Virginia**

**Mechanical Engineering / Air Force**

It is not VMI which has made going here tolerable for the last four years. It was all the people that fill the four walls of this Institute. Even back to 442 and the guys that made up that room, those who are still here and even those who are not. I don't think I would have made it if it wasn't for you, Charles, Kelly, and Brett. Charles, rooming with you for four years has been an experience but I would not trade you for anyone. I can't believe we made it this far as opposites we are of one another. I would have probably turned out much different without your influence. What kind of influence only those who were here would know, good or bad. I wish you and Shyan the best and life. I can't thank you enough for all you have done for me. I would also like to thank Dave who was kind enough to move in last year. I appreciate the time we spent late at night working those @%#&^ problems for ME. You probably wouldn't believe it but you have made me a better student and harder worker over the last year. I hope you get your wings you definitely deserve them.

On the flip side I should probably say something about VMI but the words right now are to vulgar.  
Air Force 4,3,2,1; Swim Team 4; Pvt 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Josh Strickler  
2001: Kevin Schnute  
Ted Lilly

**Roanoke, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Special Student**

There is no doubt that Keith is an unlikely soldier. What this is intended to describe about Keith is that his mind is never idle. He usually doesn't like set policy and he always sees a better way to do something. When presented with a problem Keith will give you five answers. Each answer reached from a logical thought process (usually involving a calculator), or so he says. Military types, often as we deny it, know the environment we are buying into. (Yes, sir) we do!

If one had two words to describe Keith they would be chilled out. Keith is about one of the most laid back individuals you could know. You could imagine him in a life threatening situation (as we witnessed in the Tennessee Mts.), just saying "hey it will be all right". Being the thinker he is, Keith is constantly coming up with ideas that blow people away. This is no doubt a testament to his future success in life. We often hear about people that make sacrifices on a crazy self-devised scheme, and become exceedingly wealthy as a result. It is these select few people in society that have the ability to come up with an idea, and see it to fruition. Keith is one of these people. Whether you are flying or in the business world you will be successful. Keith you have been a great roommate and you will always be a great friend.

It's been a long crazy ride, yer brothers, Brook and Alex.  
Rat 4, Cpl 3, Sgt. 2, Pvt. 1; CIG 2, 1; India Co; Preservation Society 1; Club Cocoa 4, Hell 3, Club Panama 2, 1



**Keith A. Lawhorn**  
"Kefus, Quiet"



**Dykes:**  
1995: Sam West  
2001: Tony "the Italian Stallion" Gelormine

**West Palm Beach, Florida**

**Economics & Business / Army**

My four years at VMI have been such an incredible experience, but yet leave me with a bitter attitude toward the administrative leadership exemplified by the Institute. I can only be thankful to my parents and aunt for supporting through the toughest four years of life. Most importantly, I would like to thank my Brother rats Jimmy Stanley, Aaron Frazier, and Jon Spitzer. I don't think that I could have made through this place without you guys. I sincerely mean it, no matter the facade that I put. I will always remember the good and bad times that we have been through from that challenge to running shit to working together for tests. Jimmy, you have truly been the best friend that I have ever had. Thanks for trusting me, inspiring me, and being there when I needed you. I wish you the best of luck in your career path. Aaron, you have opened my eyes in so many ways as far as looking at the Institute. You were always a great person with whom I could confide myself. Jon, you have showed me strength, and leadership. Something that I wish I had learned earlier from you. The Marines should be proud to have you in their ranks. To all of you, I wish great success in your careers, family, health, and wealth. I will always be there for you guys, all you have to do is call me. Again, thanks for being my family at VMI.

Mez paw.....  
Rugby 4; Coporal 3; Platoon sergeant 2; Private 1; Cadet newspaper 3; EIC Bomb Staff 1; English Society 1; Volunteer Firefighter 2, 1; On confinement 4,3,2,1.



**Thierry R. Lemercier**  
"Flower, Pepe, Frenchy"



**Dykes:**  
1995: Eddie Glover  
2001: Othman Triki  
Charles De Courcel



**Alfred C. Lester**

**Hinesville, Georgia**

**Mechanical Engineering / Special Student**

I, Al Lester, of sound body and mind would like to first thank God for all his blessings. I would also like to thank my parents (Alfred Sr. and Gladys Lester) and brother (André Lester) for their continued love and support. To my boys for life, Dre' and Jabarr, I love yall! It's time to leave our mark on the world! To my big brothers (Les Bone, Johnny X, and Mayo) thanks for your guidance. I am happy to see all of you doing so well. To all my boys on the first, second, and third stoop; Do the right thing and May God Bless! To all my dykes, don't lose focus on what you want in life. The sky is the limit. Last but not least, Thank you to that special lady in my life, DELISHA, soon to be Mrs. Lester; I love you. Everyone remember to always be true to yourselves.

Signing Off,  
Al Lester  
Football (4-year letterwinner); Gospel Choir President; Air Force (special student); Promaji Club, RDC



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Les Bone  
Johnny X Mayo
- 2001: Aaron M.  
Aaron Y.  
Ebony M.



**A. Justin Lewis**

"Ron, Lew, Lewdawg, Jdawg, J"

**Snellville, Georgia**

**Naval Science / Navy**

First, I would like to state that I am glad that I chose to come to VMI. However, I must also say that I will leave behind just as many things about this place that I will take with me. I sometimes forget that VMI is a military school. All disenchantment aside, I will truly value the people that I have met over four years in college-- at VMI and elsewhere. Brady and Robert, you two animals are the best roomies anybody could ask for-- from lights out at 2300 to late night tirades on why the Navy is so much better than the Army. Caleb, things did and will work out for the best. Ken, you were a great add on to the "Den". Most importantly, thanks mom for giving me the "thumbs up" to come to this place, dad, for introducing me to VMI, and Frederick and Lauren for keeping me humored while I was here.

A very special "I Love You" goes out to Angela-- you are the one person I have always wished and dreamed about. Thanks for making my final two years even more special. To many more!

Finally, I have decided that VMI needs an Admiral as a Superintendent; perhaps one day I will return to assist.

Midshipmen Battalion Commander 1,2; Reg S-5 LT 1; Reg S-4 SGT 2; Gold Steel Corporal 3; VMI Mascot 3,4; Trident Society-- President 2; Sigma Tau Delta--secretary/Historian 1,2; Canterbury Club 2,3,4; Deans List 1,2,3,4; Georgia On My Mind 1,2,3,4



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Jeremy Ingram
- 2001: Stephen "Terry" Wiegel  
Kyle Kramer



**Kendal S. Lloyd**

**Gaithersburg, Maryland**

**International Studies / Special Student**

It has been a long time in coming but at last the end is in sight. I would like to thank my parents for all of their support. I would also like to thank both of my brothers for leading me to the great "I". I don't think that I would have made it through third class (#1 year) if it wasn't for the hard-chargers in 263. Although my best semester at VMI was the one I spent in Mexico, I have many fond memories of Ghetto and the "Bat Cavé". First class year is shaping up to be the best so far. I'm looking forward to hanging out with the Ron, Cool Hand, and Bear in 105 sewage corner. To the members of the "3200 Club", hang in there! Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to all of the "rankers" for buying our Private Society T-shirts.



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Dennis Lucente
- 2001: Oscar Alfaro



**Douglas J. Locke**

Alien, Elliot, e'll-e-ott, John, 00S"

**Alexandria, Virginia**

**Mechanical Engineering / Special Student**

I was always glad I came here, even during the Rat Line and never regretful of what I'd done, even when I got kicked out of the Navy. I only wish I'd done it better, and lived life fuller. If you're going to have a life then live it or lose it. Maybe I'll get back into the Navy, probably, maybe someday I'll be glad I studied engineering, probably not. I had fun here. I had fun playing lacrosse, I had fun being the room nobody wanted to start games with, and I had fun getting out way too much. The song goes like this:

I think about Paris when I'm high on red wine  
I wish I could jump on a plane  
So many nights I just dream of the ocean  
God, I wish I was sailin' again

I think I got everything out of VMI except for good grades. What was that... 2.0 at VMI = 3.0 at UVA, yeah right. It's too bad streaking UVA doesn't equal 3.0 at VMI. ...And that's all I have to say about that. Shalom, my brothers Ryon Beyer and Erick Messing.

Gracias, Chris, eres un compañero bueno. Que tengas una buena vida con Quiana. Kim, Psalm 1:1-3.

Ryon and Erik Seibert, at some point you'll realize how much I put up with, but you've both done well. Mom and Dad, thank you for always supporting me, I love both of you.

Private 4, 3, 2, 1; Monogram 3, 2, 1; Lacrosse 4, 3, 2, 1; Bartender 3, 2, 1; Big Red Club 2, 1



**Dykes:**

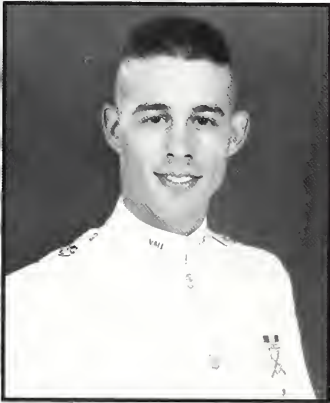
- 1995: Jeff Wright
- 2001: Ryon Beyer
- Erik Seibert

**Carlisle, Pennsylvania**

**Mechanical Engineering / USMC**

Thrown out of Pennsylvania probably because of his upright and tense nature, Mike arrived to VMI ready to make his mark. Excelling in every aspect of the routine and graduating from Paris Island in August 95, Mike was prepared for his tenure as First Corporal (the only alpha cadre corporal not to get busted that year), the Alpha Co. Master Serge, and eventually the Regimental XO who was ready at seconds notice to kill rats. Away from his cadship, Mike fulfilled his academic requirements exceptionally well. At some times during his long stay at the 'I' he spent more than enough time in the bowels of NEB than in the room relaxing for at least a few minutes on Saturday nights or taking a weekend other than corps trips or authorized furloughs. However, being a devout Catholic, Mike did in fact escape Post for mass every week. Aside from cadre or academics, those who knew Mike, had a dependable friend ready to help a BR or cadet with a problem. Due to his toothy nature he was a bit of a spaz but definitely someone to count on when one faced a problem. Second and First class year Mike changed women like underwear. It was not until a prominent central Virginia women's college girl played him to the point where he wanted a serious relationship that he stopped freaking girls in clubs and mixers. Mike married PE twice in his cadship, once for rat mass discipline and the other for giving rat Bunting the keys to his car. Mike's mother and especially his father greatly supported him throughout his cadship. The countless care packages sent to him during second and third class year allowed Mike to indulge in fatboy food he often scorned others for eating. Mike's friends will definitely miss him after departure in May. I consider myself extremely lucky to have such a good friend in Mike. I have learned a lot from Mike that has helped me grow as a person and as a friend. Brothers till the death—

—Alpha Co-Bold Headed Spaz Rat 4, 1st corporal 3, Master Sgt 2, Regimental XO 1 (even went CNN prime time), Alpha Cadre to the E.C. 3; AC Stars 3, 2, 1; Deans List 4, 3, 2, 1; Tia Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society 2, 1; Vice President 1; Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society 2, 1; MCRD Paris Island SC 4; Midshipman 3, 2, 1; Leatherneck 3rd 3; Bulldog Plt 2, helped run it 1; OGS 2; Motivated Devil Dog 3, 2, 1; Semper Par Society 4, 3, 2, 1; ASME 3, 2, 1; Secretary 2; Vice President 1; K of C 2, 1; College Republicans 2; Key for Tots 4, 2, 1; ASHRAE 1; 4-20-SF 4; Club '58 3; Arcadians 4, 3, 2, 1; Honorary RDC member 3, 2, 1; Run in our 3, 2; Sally Port Geek 3; Northern Yankee Dominance & Takeover Club 3, 3, 2, 1; Clamhead Club Co-founder 1; Never Take a Weekend 4, 3, 2, 1 and beyond.



**Michael S. Lorence**

"Elorence, Flo, Shep Lo, Clamphhead, Jarhead, Larry (Ltn Lvr), Toolboy, mulatto"



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Garth Winterle
- 2001: Charlie "pimp daddy" Bunting
- Matt "spaz daddy" Fry

**Rome, Georgia**

**Civil Engineering / Air Force**

Although he was born in Colorado, Howie spent nearly all his life in Rome, Georgia. Growing up in a small town in the south, Howie chased the dream of playing college football for the Georgia Bulldogs. He spent many Saturdays in Athens cheering on the Dawgs and when he was at Sanford Stadium, he was glued to the television set. Years later, Howie found himself playing college football, but for a team of a different shade of red. He spent three seasons playing for the Keydets but opted to focus his attention elsewhere in his final season. One of Howie's passions in life is flying. Even before he could walk, he was flying in airplanes with his grandfather and Dad. The obvious decision to go into the Air Force upon graduation was next on Howie's agenda. Although flying for the Air Force is currently not an option, Howie wants to keep flying as a commercial pilot and eventually make a career in aviation.

The four years at VMI have taught Howie to appreciate the people around him. With his sister Anna next door at Washington and Lee, he spent many nights hanging out and enjoying real college life - R.E.D.

Well, it's over. Anna, I know I couldn't have stuck it out without you next door. Mom and Dad, thanks for always pushing me in the right direction, even when I didn't want to go. To the Rats of 106, don't give up. Mike and Bobby, have fun in Newport and take care of Max when you're back in Virginia, will you? Rich, save me tickets when you play in the World Cup. Finally, Joanna, thanks for putting up with me through the years here - you are truly wonderful. Football 4, 3, 2; Private 4, 3, 2, 1; The Cadet Staff 3; Big Red Club 3, 2, 1; Honorary W&L student 3, 2, 1.



**Howie Lowden, Jr.**



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Aron Buss
- 2001: Parker Reeves
- Top Palmer
- Ryan Welsh



**Joseph M. Lowman**  
Roller, Sloth, Theorem, Louis XII"

**Pensacola, Florida**

**History & Psychology / Marine Corps**

As the end rolls around, my emotions are mixed. I know that I hate this place, but I have made some great friends along the way (you know who you are.) Mom thanks for being there. You always looked out for me, even though you were a thousand miles away. As fate would have it, I met all of my friends and girl friend within a one time frame that forever changed my sentence at the 'I. Nicole, even though you haven't been around all of the time, you have been the best thing that happened to me during my cadetship. No matter what the future holds in store for us, you have left your permanent signature on my heart and you will never be forgotten. And to my boys, thanks and stay cool. Rats, take this place one day at a time and you will make it! Don't be stupid! This one was for you pops. In the words of Fruity, "yeah, I'm done wit dem shits".

Virgin Private 4,3,2,1; Big Red Club 2; Bomb Staff 1; English Society 1; I Hate This Place Club 4,3,2,1; Hiking and Gun Club 4,3; \$:@) Club 4,3,2,1; UHS 3,2; Pork Chop Platoon 1; Marborolling Club 4,3,2,1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Mike "Fruity" Paruti  
2001: Todd "Tardness" Anthony



**Brian J. Lyerly**  
"BJ, Twinkle"

**Draper, Virginia**

**Biology / Special Student**

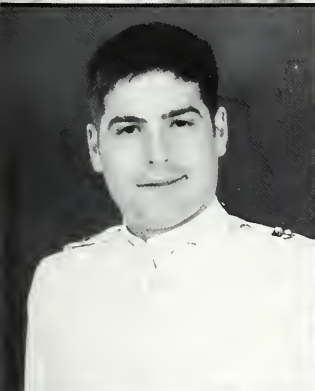
Before I try to write anything, I want to thank the Lord God for being my personal savior. Without you, I am nothing. You are the sole reason for my success, and for that I am eternally grateful. It is amazing what a quick prayer can do for a rat who thinks his entire world has just ended. But, just sitting here, trying to come up with something profound, has dredged up many memories, good and bad. The things that I'll remember most are the friendships. Ryan and the late-night-third-stoop-bathroom-bio-snaz-cram sessions, and Ft. Worth. Mike, who Air Force dreams were smashed by a sudden flicker of intelligence. Aaron, you're always good for a couple laughs. Best wishes to you and Katie. To the Boys of 448, (those that are still left), Peace! And Brad, whod I think it. It's amazing what a couple of Fort Chiswell boys can do. Take care of Carrie.

Mom and Dad, I love you guys. No parents could have been any more supportive than the two of you. Those grueling four hour round trips must have been torture, but every one of them was appreciated. Thank You. Pastor Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Metzger, the Wheelers and everybody else at the Four-Square Church, thank you for all the times that you took us into your homes. My beloved Samantha, without you I would not have survived. You gave me the will to carry on and the desire to push ahead. I Love You. The waiting is almost over. Dean, Robert, David, Jarrett, and Sam, remember, grades are the first priority, all the other crap here comes second. Everybody else, you know who you are, thank you.

"In God I trust, I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?"  
Psalms 56:3-4  
Virgin Private, Regimental Band, 4321; Brass Ensemble (RIP), 4; Institute Brass, 321; French Horn Section Leader, 1; VMI Outreach, 3; Dear List, 21; Institute Scholar Booby Prize Recipient, 4321; AFROTC, uncertain; 4; Civilian, 321; Anti-Hua Club, 321; Secret Agent for the Real World, 4321; Single, 43; Attached, 2; Practically Engaged, 1; Rat Challenge, 4; Rack Challenge, 321



**Dykes:**  
1995: Chris Hoskins  
2001: Robert "The Mouth" O'Neal  
Dean "No Shine" Desilva



**Simon A. Macioch**  
Crotch, Mace, Mace-A-Crotch, Simone, Simian"

**Westerville, Ohio**

**Economics & Business / Army**

We first got to know Simon during our pretrain summer. He was shown in the corner of new Barracks like the rest of the "Ms". He looked as though he had emerged out of a Details magazine ad, but Simon was serious in realizing that his real deal was being ready for the Basic. In those days, nicotine was a good friend to us all, except Simon of course who refrained from it all. We never could get out of Simon exactly where he was from. As part of a witness protection program, Simon was shipped from Pennsylvania, to West Virginia, then Ohio, and finally to Indiana where he grew to love the drug store down the street for its choice of beverages. Like a true mal-ma's son, he was always on the move...rain, sleet, or snow. Rat year was a blast when Simon ran into his long, lost twin brother "Grey Ghost," and dyked with "Big Head." It was a lethal combination to live with at VMI especially during a Rat year. Still, Simon managed to get by with it all. Third Class year was his brother as a roommate, and picking up Gary, Goro, Goro, and IRA Bukey instead. Simon managed to sell be a true Rat Challenge instructor...sludging through the rigor of a EC/BU curriculum, Simon managed to make the cut for the VMI summer school team with special team player Milliron. Second Class year meant the Winabego Five, academic pov, a Ring Figure date, some hay-wire, and a lot of asbestos. Basically, Old Ron boosted out all of room 256...they needed girl showers. Although Simon wanted to stick around for the showers, and the girls, he moved in with Milliron, Kevin, and Phil. The package was complete. And now, we are all seniors. Simon remains busy with his pile of water and a little dame named Jill. He still bears the rank of Rat Challenge Cadre, and studies like you would believe...probably a bit too much. Then again, Simon has always been a hard worker even though he refuses to leave the room to study. Next year Simon and the Army will wed. We wish him the best of luck. JLM and JMM, and now here Simon...Real quick before Simon, I have made many friends in the past three years. Although there may be a day pass, that I won't complain about one of Simon's little quirks. Yes, this is mutual, I have realized that friends come and go throughout one's life, becoming just mere acquaintances. Simon is different in that respect. For, Simon has become throughout our friendship a true and loyal comrade and brother. I would first like to thank my parents for all their support over the years and for all the summer school they had to pay for. Also, to all my roommates over the years, Don and Jeff we had a good time till they took our room. Oh well it all worked out in the end. Don we had some good times I wish you had stayed but you had to do what you thought was right. To Jim, Phil and Kevin thank you for making me through my time of need. I really appreciate it. To my fellow members of the Winabego five, I guess we learned the hard way but we had some fun doing it, dixie; and we had our fifteen minutes of fame in the process. Overall, I've had a good time and wish all my friends the best of luck. You all know who your are. To Jimmy and Johnny remember LIT's old salute other LIT's salute.  
Rat, Corporal, Rat Challenge, Ac-Pm, Summer School, Private, Catacombs



**Dykes:**  
1995: Tom Brashears  
2001: Joey Furtek

## Richmond, Virginia

### Economics & Business / Special Student

Due to his lack of decision making abilities, Chris left a real college to come to the "I". Mature beyond our days, this old man has excelled for three years. His rat roommates in Km. 463 at first mistook Chris for a matriculant's father. Despite these handicaps, Chris has been a great friend to all of us. Even though you were always up until 3:00 AM, there were perks to having you as our roommate. Your food box was always full and your computer provided many hours of GPA reducing entertainment. Its been a great 3 years and next year wont be the same without you. Make sure you buy a big house so we can again have a mosh pit in the kitchen. Good luck in the real world Chris, were going to miss you. Now Kim has to put up with you! - Chris, Jochen, Paul, Jay, Josh, Eric, & Andy

Chris has been there all the times that I have needed him to answer some dumb rat question. He also has been there to push me to do my best. Feel thankful and special to have him as my dyke because he is such a great leader and friend.

Being the Bravo rat in the room, I'm not as lucky to have Chris as a first sergeant, but he makes up for it more than enough by being the best dyke anybody could ask for.

GC 4, 3, 2; Cpl 3; 1st Sgt 2; Ranger Challenge 4, 3; Rat Challenge 3; Big Red 3, 2; AAAAA VP 3



**Christopher W. Magee**  
"Uncle Chris, Magoo, Grandpa"

## Columbus, Ohio

### International Studies & German / Army

I've known Terry for my entire cadetship, but thanks to extended European vacations on both our parts, I've only really known him for a semester. After his return from tropics in Hamburg, Germany, Terry graced Club 151 with his wit, charm, intelligence, and lack thereof. Let it also be known that Terry surpasses everyone except the author of this little ditty in time spent in the Institute quagmire. And when he was in trouble, I was there with him. We've been boned for among other things studying, running, and eating. Sometimes, we'd just have to smoke a cigarette and laugh at the absurdity of our situation. Our good times have almost made up for the bad times however. Between the occasional mixer (I owe you one) to the distant lands of Ohio, DC and beyond, we've seen it all and put some 5,000 miles on ol' Trigger. Anyway, through it all we've come out pretty good friends. Thank you to you and your family for all their hospitality, they've been great to me, and I appreciate it.

Terry, good luck with everything. As I say to my best friends, which are few, I will ALWAYS be right there if you ever need help. And should you get married, hold the reception at the NVL, or I'm not coming. Take it light and remember, "I can be persuasive, do you WANT me to be persuasive?" ---Les Thornbury '98

Germany 3, Rat Challenge Cadre 2, Company S-2.2, Institute Honors Forum 2, 1, Class of 1998 Co-Education Committee 2, S-5 Parade Usher 1, Disgruntled Cadet 4, 3, 2, 1



Dykes:

1995: Zack Becker  
2001: Frankie "Mad Dog"  
McCabe



**Terence G. Maguire**  
"Ter-Dog, T-Bird, Turd"

## Roanoke, Virginia

### History / Marine Corps

For the first eighteen years of his life, Trey knew exactly why he wanted to attend VMI. Then, suddenly, on August 15, 1994, he forgot. He still can't remember. The truth is, Trey really hasn't changed that much since that date. He's still the same lovable guy he's always been, and we like him that way. If Trey will be remembered for anything, he will certainly be remembered for his inability to dislike anyone (even when it might be appropriate). Trey may not have won the "nicest guy on the planet" award, but he definitely left the competition with a ribbon.

There is no doubt that Trey has faced his obstacles at VMI. There has been academic probation, surviving the wrestling team, the wrath of the Commandants staff, questionably sane room mates, dangerously public e-mails, and quick glances behind the radiator in hopes of finding a dare (yes, there were some lean times), to name a few. One thing, however, is certain. He crossed every obstacle, if not always with great swiftness, then at least with great determination.

In the end, Trey leaves us with enough honor, fortitude, and knowledge to make anyone proud. Wherever he goes and whatever he chooses to do with himself, you can be sure that it will come out well in the end.

Private, 4, 1; Tool, 3, 2; Big Lick Club, 4, 3, 2, 1; Gold Coast Junkie, 3, 2, 1; C Co., 4, 3, 2, 1.



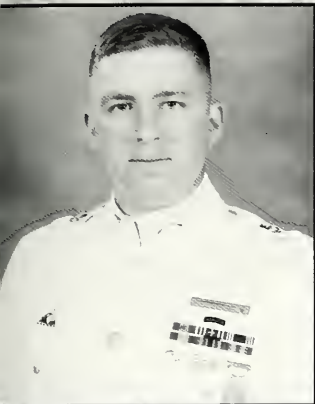
Dykes:

1995: Joe Doyle  
2001: Drew Dickinson



**William C. Williams III**  
"Trey"





**Douglas M. McBride**  
"Fatback"

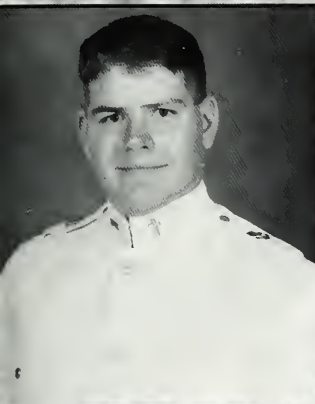
**Midlothian, Virginia**  
**History / Army**

It is interesting to look back in the evenings of my cadetship and think about all of the lessons learned. I came to VMI an idealist but I leave less than that, better prepared for what is to come. The hard right instead of the easy wrong is not always popular, but I am not in a contest. Thanks Mom, I could not have made it without you. Pat, bro, I am so thankful we straightened things out, I will always remember the seafood-fests! Beetle, TJ and Meadsman, I have laughed with y'all through the third stoop, no date a week before Ring Figure, Kilbourne Hall, CONPRO, year of frugality and July 4<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh. I will miss you guys. Dan, thanks for your help and friendship as a dyke. I will be with you soon. KP, getting crazy at Randy-Mac, trips to PA, cutting it close with the BV cops, I will remember everything. I will join you soon also: Ben and Ed, I could not have picked two guys that would get me in more trouble RAT year then the two of you, Thanks! I had a great time in 485. Sean and Tennille, thanks for being such great dykes this year. I am proud of y'all. Pass on what we have taught you. To my friends that I have not mentioned, you know who you are, I do and I don't forget.

RDG1; Ranger Challenge-4,3; Ranger Company CO-2,1; Ghetto Member-3,2,1; CONPRO-2; Presidential Advisor-3,2,1; TCFC'98



**Dykes:**  
1995: Dan Williams  
2001: Sean Collins  
Tennille Chisholm



**William M. McClung**  
"Lunger"

**Cookeville, Tennessee**

**Economics & Business / Army**

I wanted to go to VMI since I was a freshman in high school. When I got here in 1994, I found that it was not everything I had expected. However, I stuck it out to the end. Here I am, a first classmen wondering where God will take me next, but I will never forget this place to be sure. I will never forget the friends I have made here at VMI. I wish them all the best of luck with whatever they do. Jon, I hope he just stays out of trouble and out of the gutter. Josh, I hope whatever he ends up doing that he will be happy. I will never forget them.

I wish the best of luck to my rats. Steve, I hope you stick it out and get everything you want out of VMI. Scott, I hope you can stay out of trouble long enough to graduate. Eric, Best of luck to you. You're good kids. I think you can also stick it out at VMI, and make it wherever you go.

I thank Mom and Dad for all their undying support throughout my endeavor here at VMI. You have never once stopped believing in me. Last but not least, I thank you, Lacy, for being the one person that had faith in me more than any other person. Your patience and support kept me through these last two years. I love you dearly.

"Trust the Lord with all thy heart, and He will never steer your foot from the path" Proverbs

Rat 4; Corporal, Rat Challenge Company Cadre 3; Private-Rat Challenge Station Cadre-English Society-VMI Theatre-Put up with Josh 2; PRIVATE-Rat Challenge High Ropes Cadre-Put up with Josh again 1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Quincy Meade  
2001: Steve Harris  
Scott Miles  
Eric DeHart



**William J. McGann**  
"Billy"

**Hamilton, Virginia**

**History / U.S. Marine Corp Special Student**

Thinking back at my four years at the institute one thing pops into my mind. It is what my Dad and countless others have told me all along. It will be worth it when it's all over. Looking back I have to say that they were right and thank them because its what they said that brought me back to this school so I could graduate.

First and foremost I must thank my parents who never let me give up and were always there to support me not only my rat year but the three harder years after. From the Sunday visits during the ratting to the weekends you drove here to get me third class year, I couldn't of done it with out your help.

Trey, Ralph and Douce. What can I say? It was a blast and I wouldn't of wanted to do it with anyone else. Buck and Mike its been a great time, I'm just afraid that by the time this is printed I'll like country music and be into Redneckin! To rat roommates Chris and Tom: Who the HELL was that kid who slept in our room! To Pervert Corner and all my other friends here, thanks for all the great times. You are what made my four years here worth it.

Virgin Private: 4,3,2,1; Pervert Corner Society: 3,2,1; S-5 tour guide: 3,2; Ac. Pro. Club: Rat, 3, 2; Summer School Stud: Pre-strain summer, 4,3,2.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Dave Doss  
2001: Tom "Jackie" Gleason

**Carlisle, Pennsylvania  
History / Marine Corps**

At the risk of sounding unoriginal or typical, it is first necessary to thank God and my family to which an immeasurable debt is owed. So much of what I have accomplished and what I am has been for you and because of you. Mere thanks is not enough. With your support, I'll graduate confident that I completed my Cadetship honorably and I did the right thing when it wasn't understood or supported. To all members of Honor Court, present and past, you have my respect and admiration.

Of course, Shangri-la hasn't been entirely serious since I could always count on my roommates to provide a great deal of entertainment, most of which came at my expense. Jon, two words: joke probation; I'll never know exactly why you referred to yourself in the third person or how you got into VMI without showing proof of citizenship. Ken, what would the room have been without your Thursday night statements and all-around cheerful disposition? It was a pleasure to clean up after you. Tim, your wardrobe may come from L.L. Bean and your truck may have a curious lack of NASCAR memorabilia and NO-PEAR stickers, but you're still a little red. While you have an identity crisis as to exactly where you live, you never forget where you came from.

To Gold Coast, 1st, 13-4, 108, Captain Morgan, Steve, Spritzer (chin-chin), Rev. Jim Beam, Clamphhead Larry, Lt. Himel, Col. Meriwether, the Miller family of beers, my country friends next door, my Native American friend Redman, and everyone else-- I'll never have friends to lean on like this again.

Kats, never accuse I'm a rank. Kers attitude or driving habits. Jors problems or my position and I think that y'all will be ok. Just remember that the benefits far outweigh the negatives.

Honor Court, Prosecutor 1, Assistant Prosecutor 2; Cpl. 3, MSGT 2, Cdr. Cpt. 1; Semper Fi Society 4,5, Secretary 2, 1; Dears List, Honor Guard 5; Cmdts Staff Fan Club 4,3,2,1;



**Brett T. McGinley**  
"Puddin', Bert, BET"



Dykes:

- 1995: Zach Johnson  
Brad 'Freebird' Coleman
- 2001: Keith Just

**Roanoke, Virginia  
Economics & Business / Army**

I must start by saying, "WOW" I never would have thought I would have made it to this point in my cadetship, writing my first class history. This has truly been a journey, a long long journey that has taken me places I would have never imagined. In my four years here at the "I", I have seen, met, and befriended some of the finest people in the world. VMI has given me something. This something is not tangible or even explainable, but something unique, something only VMI can give a person.

There are so many people that have affected my life to get me to the point I am now. So many, I could never thank all of them. I would like to start with my friends: Jack, Mark, Andy and Jacob, how did we survive to this stage in the game we find ourselves now? From our days in Junior High School, we have done many fun, stupid, and crazy things. I know we have grown up, but I feel there are many dumb, stupid, and crazy things left to be done, and I am sure you will be there with me to do them. Try and

Tom, my good friends since third grade and roommates at VMI, what can I say. You would think we would be sick of each other by now, but I think we are that much stronger for it. I look forward to the future and its challenges knowing that our legacy will continue. To Luke, my RAT. Luke, I honestly think I have found the best rat in the corp. I wish you success in your years to come at the "I". Always remember me as your dyke and better as a life long friend. Thanks for a great year. To my sister and brother: Having survived 22 years under the same roof has been challenging at times, but always fun. I know that our future hold many surprises for us to tackle. To my grandmother, mother to her daughter and mentor to her grandchildren. I will always remember your support and strength. To my parents. If a guy could choose his parents, I don't think I could have chosen better. I know this road we have traveled has been full of curves, but the both of you have kept me between the lines. I can't express the greatness I feel for each of you. I love you and I could not have done this without your never-ending support. Finally to all of those in Gold Coast. I would like to thank you for all of the memories I will carry for a life time. Some of the funniest, and most discussing things I have ever seen have been with you guys. It actually scares me, but comforts me knowing that all of you will be part of my life forever.

Pat. 4, Col. 3, Sgt. 2, Pvt. 1; S-3 staff 2, 1; counseling staff 2, 1; Bug Red Club 3, 2, 1; Rugby Team 1; Gold Coast Exclusive Member 3, 2, 1; Attendance to Funks Filed 2, 1;



**Robert J. McGrath**



Dykes:

- 1995: Brandon, Jim, Dave,  
Mike
- 2001: Luke (Beazer) Beazley

**Kingwood, Texas**

**History / Special Student  
VMI Varsity Tennis 4 yrs**





**Jeffrey T. Meade**

**South River, New Jersey**

**English / Navy**

VMI has been a far cry from an easy school. Adversity has been all I have known since I have been here. Freshman year was a small challenge compared to what lie ahead. My only wish is that these years of toil have not been in vain. VMI gave me the chance to get to know myself perhaps better than anyone else. The friends that I have met here have helped me succeed when failure was the only lucidity that I knew. Nothing in the world could have helped me through the struggle that is life here more than these people. Mom and Dad, you gave me the support I needed here during these years of strife and gave me the hope to escape seemingly hopeless situations. Though VMI is a hostile environment it was the love shared by those in the same situation, which has made this milestone my most meaningful to date. Leaving the Institute, I feel saddened that anyone who has not gone through this school can feel the same devotion that I do to those who have shared in the loneliness of life here. I have been enlightened by getting so many different perspectives and of life in my time spent here. I have come to know the worst leaders and leadership styles along with the finest. The vast majority of my professors have helped me develop while others have left me in a pool of stagnation. The good I thank. The bad I understand your fallibility is only human. Thanks are due to the following... My Parents and Family, My Roommates (Brad, E.J., and John), My Classmates, Maj, MacDonald, and Col. Baragona... without your encouragement and support my spirit would have been broken long ago.  
Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes. - Oscar Wilde, Lady Windermere's Fan  
Cadet Staff 3,4; English Society 2,3,4; Water Polo 2; Pervert Corner 2,3,4



**Michael R. Meads**

"Chimp, Pigpen, Meads-Man, Sapper, Socra-Meads"

**Norfolk, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Army**

I wish to thank the Class of 1998, in particular Back Back McBride, and Slempp Barr, for adopting me when I got out of the Army in 1996. Beetle Bailey and TJ Trujillo, both of you and Back Back were more than patient in giving me the opportunity to develop personally and hone the core values which I hold dear. My God parents Marion and Gus Kilgus of Norfolk - You have supported me through all of my endeavors and remain the kindest people I have ever met. It all began in 1983 at a place not far from here called Nature Camp, I was 12. COL Reeves (Bio) was the camp Director and Scot Marsh '81 taught Orienteering. One day Scot told the Colonel he was going to town to gas up the bus. We then took the detour that defined the past fifteen years of my life; he ran us through the VMI O-Course. I was hooked. I love VMI - I wish The Spirit of this place to thrive and mold whomever comes here. COL Sandy, thanks for giving me a chance. Jon Cederquist - You and I are brothers. You have always believed in me, and I you. Class of '94, my birth class - Thanks for saving me a place in the circle. JOM and family, thanks. My family, thanks. Melvin family, thanks. Pete, Melissa, Yulia, Chris, Tennille, Sean, and Delton, it is up to you now. The torch is passed. You all must never forget to do what you know is the right thing to do. I am proud of each one of you. Debra Lynn I love you darlin'. Dykes:



Dykes:

- 1995: Chuck Story
- 2001: Andy "Pete" Peterson
- Melissa "Grambone, Pebbles" Graham

Rat 90-91; Sabbatical 91-96; Outreach 2; VMI Freefall I; Drug and Alcohol Comm 2; Cadet Waiter 4; F-Troop; Virgin Private; Assimilation Comm 2,1.

**Doylestown, Ohio**

**Economics & Business / Army**

When I hear the name Mike Myers, I don't think of Halloween, or Wayne World, instead, I think of a dedicated firefighter, student, friend and lady killer. If there ever was a guy who could pick up girls more easily, I have yet to meet him. Mike taught me about "the curse of the ladies", field experiments, and at the same time, made me laugh so hard I thought I'd split my pants. So yeah, in a word, it's the chamber. But deeper than that, is a side that is so in touch with what it is like to be most anyone. Relating to people and helping with their problems is something that comes really easy to him. You've helped me with so much in so little time, thanks man. God bless.



Dykes:

- 2001: Adam Belmont "May the curse be with you"



**Michael T. Myers**

"Mike, Mikey, Myers, Booger, Yankee Boy, Loyer Boy"

As a member of the Class of '97, I met Mike when I was a third. I'm sure that I strained him at some point in the rat line. Our friendship didn't really take off until we realized that we had a mutual friend. Her name was Amy and she is a story within herself. As far as I know, we are the only two members of the Class of '97.5 (we were close enough to meet in the middle). I was not happy at all in the spring of '97 to find out that Mike was not at VMI, but I was extremely happy to have him back this year. As near as I can tell, the only problem that I have ever had with Mike Myers was when my sister said he was cute. None-the-less, he is my friend, so I can even overlook that. God forbid he became my brother-in-law. Long live '97.5 Mike.

On a personal note: My time at VMI, not unlike most, has been filled with ups and downs to say the least. Having had the chance to be away from VMI prior to graduation, I have truly seen the importance of my degree. But, most of all when your away, you miss the guys. I was able to really define my Christian life at VMI and the accountability system of Christian men here is unmatched anywhere. It has certainly been my pleasure to return and spend this year with my brother rats and my closest friends. I wish everyone the best of luck in all their endeavors.

Rat Challenge (4), Volleyball (4), Cadre (3), Ranger Company (1), Emergency Response Team (4,3), Lexington City Fire Department (3, D), Worked for Clinton Fire Department (Ohio) and attended University of Akron (2).

## Centerville, Pennsylvania History / Special Student



**Lucas M. Miller**  
"Killer, Puke, Luke"

From simulated airborne jumps off of the fourth stoop to spending endless hours with his Echo Company Rats, Luke has made quite an impression on the old '1. A native from the great Quaker state of Pennsylvania, Luke entered VMI with aspirations of becoming a true "jar-head." However, as time wore on and his boots wore out, Luke gradually came to the dark side and donned the role of the envied special student. This is not to say that the military was not for Luke, because in his four years at the Institute he displayed all of the characteristics that become a true military officer and his hard work as corporal, sergeant and XO will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression. In the room, however, the story was quite different. During third-class year especially, a suspicious odor permeated from Luke's area. Perhaps it was the result of his proximity to the laundry bags, but nevertheless the smell was enough for us to bestow him with the name "Puke." Second-class year brought our boy back with a set of sergeant stripes and an indispensable bottle of strawberry-scented shampoo. The shampoo, coupled with scented trash bags ensured us with commendable freshness and there was much rejoicing. Actually, it really wasn't that bad, but does make a fun story that his kids will enjoy. Now, as our days as first-classmen draw to a close, it becomes clear that our roomie of four years, whom we have grown very fond of, will go on to do the work of a soldier with a smile on his face and a uniform of freshness about him. We had some great times. Good luck, "Killer," Private (4); Corporal (3), Platoon Sgt. (2), First Lieutenant, X-O (1); Dears List (2, 1), Spirit Squad (3), Leatherneck (3), Sempier Pi Society (4, 3, 2), Rat Challenge (1), Cadre (3, 1), ACIC Toys for Tots (2), Racquetball club (4), Big Red Club (2, 1), Victim of the Rack Monster (4, 3, 2, 1).



**Dykes:**  
1995: Geoff Blum  
2001: Stephen Dugan

## Kittanning, Pennsylvania History & German / Army



**James M. Milliron**  
"Freak, Mill-IRON, Jimmy, RAH"

I first met Jimmy pre-strain summer on the fourth stoop as he was puffing down a pack of Marlboro Reds. I really didn't know what to think of that laugh at first, and anyone who knows Jimmy knows exactly what "that laugh" entails. After that first introduction, and a couple road trips later to my house in Richmond, I realized that Jim was a crazy guy who could blow anyone out of the water when it came to telling stories. The Rat Line, like Jimmy, was a big feature. Because of the antics and edge-of-your-seat antics that Harry Humalotj spit out, Jimmy was away from us all dyking on the second stoop. He managed to help Castelyn take some time off that year, but old Max returned Jim third class year to remind Jimmy that still had to come down to his room and roll his hay. Third Class year was more insane. Jimmy found his niche as a Manly Brocker rooly with John Graef. It was Jim's job to make sure the bond was never thumpy, and Graef to load all the band's gear, or at least that's what Jimmy said. Spring Break meant New Orleans. A place where Jimmy became a bouncer for approximately 30 minutes, and met the only female dancer with glasses. She said it was because smoke got in her contacts. That same summer, Jimmy was in Charlottesville tinkering around Monticello as part of a four credit archeology dig. Rumor has it that Jimmy did a little bit more than dig for old bones that. As a Second, Jimmy took pagin, what we all know now as, the "Wunderbar." For an summer, Jim got caught in the woods, been in a jail in a county that I can't remember, and the verdict: Alcohol Number One. The penalty had a short life though. Jimmy soon was off to Harnburg to study abroad. Germany was good to Jimmy, a second home. He met a German girl, and got into Goth, and even met the band WAR on a train. It was the break Jimmy needed from VMI. The summer after Second Class year, Jim found himself in Richmond where he lived with some crazy Hampton-Sydney guys. Toxins, the Tap House, and the Manda all in themselves to having a good time. Jimmy even dabbled in the fine breed Ready-Max, had to offer. He did the all with a eye. (Now we are Seniors. And a bazillion Marlboro Reds later, Jimmy is still an animated friend as ever. Between his penalties, and dements, and all the random stories he knows, or seems to be a part of on a daily basis Jim has become a great friend. We still complain about not being able to die, and we both have felt the wings VMI seems to constantly push us through, but we always can laugh at it all, and we laugh alone. Freak, JIM.

If it was not for the grace of God and my family, I would have never survived (knock on wood) this unusual experience. In return, I thank them all for their support, especially my mother, whose advice and love for me has been never ending. Thanks Mum! JMM  
Pvt. 4th Cpls. Sgt. 2, #1, 2, Germany Z. Graduate. Pro 2, Summer School 3, Young Republicans, Tipinnis Society, Museum Staff. "The mounted horse", Exhausted 4, 3, 2, Grateful for my Parents 4, 3, 2, 1; The Cadre 4, 3, 2, BFF while it lasted, Ghetto 3, 2; Cacacomics 1



**Dykes:**  
1996: Harri Humaloja  
Pete Segersten  
Max "Nastelyn" Castel  
2001: Harri Nakola, Rich Groe

## Martinsville, Virginia International Studies / Air Force



**Jason M. Mitchell**  
"J-Love, J-Ice, Mitch, Biff, Rick, Monk, Snake"

Jason, like many of us, was suckered into VMI from the fancy picture on the cover of the catalog. When he saw what things were really like, he stuck it out and has never looked back. At first Jason was determined to become a trombone player, but we soon changed that. He sucked up the Rat Line in hard charging Band Co., and took up temporary residence on the third floor of the library. Jimmy soon learned that he was not destined for a career in music and joined a real company third class year. He also took up permanent residence in the DMZ along with a few select friends. He ate it as a third, becoming even more discouraged when he realized that he could feel the wind through his hair now more than ever. He survived and pressed on to King Figure. Second class year he made sergeant and did something that he swore would never happen. He put his dream of becoming a State Trooper on hold and sold himself to the Air Force, a decision he hasn't regretted. Somewhere in there were some wild trips to Lynchburg College that he still won't talk about. Finally, first class year arrived and he went to E-Troop, became a lieutenant, and still had time to fight the wild stoop monkeys at night.

Rick, we've roomed together for three years. I can honestly say that I couldn't have asked for a better roommate. VMI would not have been the same, good luck with the Force. -MSP  
Band Rat 4, I Co. Cpl 3, I Co. Sgt. 2, F Troop Pvt. Lt. I Co. S-2 Sgt 2, W&L Band 4; VMI Firefighters 2, 1, S-5 Staff 2, 1; Big Red Club 3, 2, 1; Retired Cyclist 4, 3, 2, 1; Gun Lover 2, 1; Looking for love 4, 3, 2, 1.



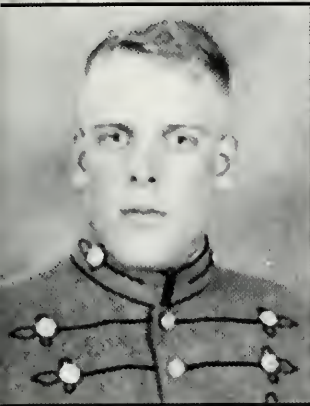
**Dykes:**  
1995: Matt Krempel  
2001: "Joeboy" Gunter  
Ethan Weber

## North Kingston, Rhode Island History / Marine Corps

Had I come directly to VMI from high school instead of going to a normal college for a year my cadetship would have been drastically different. Had I not been a Marine before I had come to VMI, perhaps there would also have been another cadet wearing my nametag. I had a different perspective from my brother rats. Sometimes this was helpful. Sometimes it made my time harder as I longed for the "real" military or the fraternity house. In both instances it was the Insitrué's grip on me that was causing this discontent. It was an iron hand and the hand was sculpting a VMI man. Cadets criticize VMI. But many this is the preferred way of passing time. What VMI does for a cadet is often times intangible. Yet we know that we would not trade our times and experiences at VMI for anything else in the world. The fact of the matter is this; we all love VMI whether we admit it or not. We love being cadets, and with each cursed semester that passes we love it more. Exponentially more. If a cadet is not miserable, that cadet is not happy. It is a catch twenty-two. Misery likes company and this is the reason that our bond is so strong.

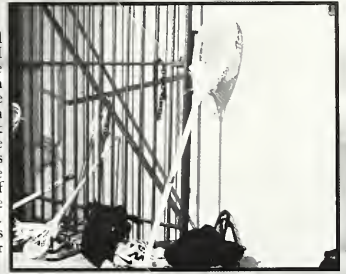
I would like to thank my roommates, teammates, and classmates for the memories. Possum, Head, Dickie, Pierce, Lenny Poe (nickname not necessary) thank you for being the brothers I never had. I owe a large debt of gratitude to my mother and father. Never quit, make them throw you out right Dad? Amazing how strong those words are (not quite the same as Stonewall Jackson's). Much thanks to the parents of my friends and roommates whose hospitality was always greatly appreciated. I am extremely thankful to my girlfriend Jenn for her support and more importantly her toleration. So, with best wishes to all and many thanks. Semper Fidelis, John A. Moder

Lacrosse, marathon club, semper fi society, Bulldog, USMC reserve, B Co 1<sup>st</sup> sgt, International Studies major, Semester at Universitat der Bundeswehr



**John A. Moder**

"Baby John, H. Lector, M.D.  
Skeleton, the Little Blond Boy"



## Washington D.C. History / Air Force

You called yourself "the other guy" in our room, but with out you it would have been pretty quiet. You definitely gave us a different outlook on life here at the "I". You introduced us to "Roni and Peter" and our lives have never been the same since... we've gotten used to the window being closed, but the use of the wall locker? Ireland would have been proud! We've never had a roommate that has been so easy to get along with in the daytime and so hard at night. Good luck finding your Heisman candidate and by the way what's a seven letter word for loneliness beginning with "W". It'll be hard to forget you and your warped sense of humor... thanks for the memories and the three years of sleepless nights!!! (BAB & JHBP)

Personally, I would like to start out by giving a hearty thank you to the VMI Air Force department for having such an emotional impact on my education. To my family, thank you so much for supporting me in the good times and the bad. I really couldn't have done it without you because it's pretty hard to talgate by yourself. Thank you again and I love you. Brando and Jim, you are the best roommates anyone could ask for. I really enjoyed being "snosed" that other guy in room 3-14. Brando, I would have missed a lot of classes without you and don't worry, I'm sure the Army has a kevlar helmet big enough for you and I'm sure you will do well. Jim, my liver will curse you forever but my heart will always say thank you. I will never forget you and when we go anywhere, Jim, you're not driving. Room G31, Cale, Jordan, Toolan, Dicky, Steve, Houk, Jason, and everybody else, thanks for the good times and the unforgettable memories. George Strait in the shower (Houk). "Our canos gonna sink.....no, it really is" (Hearth). "I've got good chest fibers" (Cale). "How funny would it be if....." (Peay). "Damn it, we're in full pads" (Head). "Chropolis master (Dan [Amazing]). "No charge" (Kelly). "I don't know Justin (Karlyos). "Shib a dub dib -----" (Crowder). "You are sooooo huge ha, ha, ha (Srnalis). Thanks again to everyone, I couldn't have done it without you.

Private 4,3,1 1st Platoon Guide Sgr 2, "Mad Dog 4,3,2,1, Delaney Field Survivor (Football) 4,3,2,1, Summer Scholar 94' 95' 96' 97', Big Red Club 3,2,1, Preston Society 2, Wannabe Couch Club SS4, Kelly Fan Club 2,1, Insninnac 4,3,2,1



**Justin K. Molloy**

"Jut"



Dykes:

1995: Ed Randall

2001: Shawn Hobbs

## Brookneal, Virginia Biology / Army

To all my brother rats: As the saying goes...the days have been slow (oh how slow), but the years have flown by. And after four years I still can't quite answer the old, "Why did you come?". But I did, WE did. And for some crazy reason we stayed. Like everyone else, looking back I see that I've changed. It was inevitable, and probably part of the reason why most of us came. Now, were these four years worth all that we hoped? Who knows? I'm still in no position to judge. But, whatever transpired behind these bleak walls, it can't all have been in vain. No matter what, I've gained the respect of those I respect the most. Brother Rats, thank you for the good times... and the bad.

Also, to Mom, Dad, Theresa. I definitely couldn't have survived with out you. I hope I haven't been too much trouble. And Jeremy...it's hard for me to express what I feel (as you know). I don't know who or where I'd be without having known you. Through all the turmoil we've somehow managed to grow closer. For this I am eternally grateful. Know that you and your family will always have my love.

Rifle Team: 4,3,2,1 (Cpr. 2,1). VMI Fire Fighters 2,1. Biology Major, Guide Sergeant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn S-6 Lt.



**Paul R. Moosman Jr.**

"The Moose-Man, Moose"



Dykes:

2001: Brandon Bowman,

Justin Wouters



**John L. Morgan IV**

**"Organ, Mooch, Freak Show, Party Foul"**

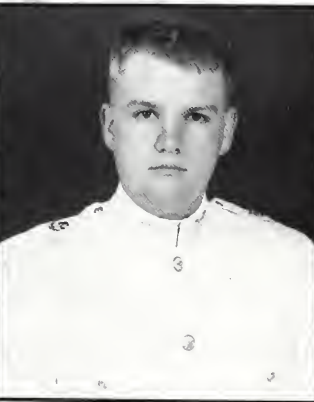
**Richmond, Virginia  
English & Spanish / Special Student**

Finding reprieve from the rough streets and the graffiti walled schools of Richmond, John came to VMI pre-strain summer in accordance with the College Orientation Workshop (COW). I fondly remember John's first request of me, "Can I buy one of those beers, Mad? Initially thinking to myself, "Who is this guy, and why should I give him a beer?" Fortunately I did so, thus began our VMI experience and friendship. Ignoring my advice and better judgment, John made the command decision to enter the Rat line as a member of Band Co. However, luckily he was granted with Praseret and Gorman's roommates. Theo the Dark Ages came along with a serious illness for over a year so healthy John, Spring brought messengers, Greek Work, and the Jarcos. Blaise in Richmond, John saw the "light" third class year, he quit Band Co, and joined the ranks of Hotel. Still holding ambitions of being the next Ringo Starr, John formed "Mauzy Brooke". In the tradition of many grassroots bands, they played gigs, had some goads, cut a record, and then broke up. He went solo though, playing the keys in several New Orleans jazz clubs, in addition to mooching food from homeless "Gutter Punks". Alas, summer arrived in all its splendor of sun, work, and stunner school for John. With the Morgan household in disarray due to the "move", a statue, and the court case, still John managed to have a certain ballerina writ into his veins. John's talents as a creative writer did not go unnoticed Second class year, in fact he was made section editor of his favorite past time, "Arts and Leisure". All was well with John this semester, both his academics and love life flourished, but a yearned for something more. Thus he was lured to the bull rings and beaches of the Iberian peninsula. In Spain, John's mask came off, and his true inner Bohemian self came alive. While there, the ballerina twirled in to the breeze, as John feasted with both American and Spanish seniors. Sporting a goatee, and hair reminiscent of a werewolf, John returned from Spain. With vast amounts of cultural experience, he was able to land a job at Gate Ole. Enlightening conversations were held over pints at various Richmond establishments. Tell me what you want, what you really, really want, yes it was the summer the Spice Girls invaded, so John went out and got one for himself. Three years later, and probably a couple vats of banned beer, "Were going the distance, were going for speed!" Even though our college years have been spent within an environment that frowned upon anything against the social norm, I found John a person, who was not afraid to broaden his perspectives of people and cultures. That alone makes John a true "Liberal Artist", for these past years have produced a plethora of stories. In this time, John has become not only a friend, but also a brother. Freak Show - VMI And now here I would run out of ink and paper way before the list was close to being done. But somehow, along the path, I learned who I want to be. And that no matter what, they can never take you soul!  
4 yr. Private, Derris List 2.1, Arts&Leisure Editor 3.2,1; Sounding Brass Co-Editor 1; Mauzy Brooke 3,2; Blow Co 4; Hotel Co. 3,2,1; S-5 Counseling Staff 2,1.



Dykes:

- 1995: Noah Stoyko  
Jimmy Holden
- 2001: Matt Gehring  
K.P. Scott.



**John P. Morris**

**"J.P., John Boy, Opus"**

**Big Island, Virginia**

**Civil Engineering / Special Student**

I came to be an engineer. Now I am one. Well at least that's the way the rumor goes. Four brief years ago I came to the "I" a naive farm boy with a drastic misconception of what would be expected of me. Much to my surprise I survived what I thought would be the toughest year, only to face three more that were just as agonizing, but rewarding, as the first. As the course of things goes, Civil Engineering was quite a "rough row to hoe" for me. Many said I didn't have what it would take to make it, but some how I struggled through. Lessons are often learned the hard way, and sometimes to the students advantage. Maybe that's the only thing that stayed the same during our four years here. We were told that everything stays the same and yet no two semesters here were. Contrary to our thinking the unthinkable change came and the seeds of our destruction were sewn. For those who remember VMI as it was and should have been, cherish the memories and share them with those who will never know what they missed. Pock, thanks for the noodles, advice and friendship. Good luck in grad school, I know you'll have a Ph.D. when we're back in 10 years. That, couldn't have made through the first year without you. Thanks for being there and hope the bridge design career works out for you. Call if you need anything. I only a phone call away.  
Cdt. Battery 3.2, Little John Crew 2.1, Red Neck 4.3,2,1; Ac. Pro.4,3,2; Trebucher 2.1, Summer School 4.3,2,ASCE 2.1



Dykes:

- 1995: Cang Thai
- 2001: Spero Casey  
Nick Pomaro



**Burke, Virginia**

**History / Air Force**

I have been told that if I do not turn this first class history in by today I will be given yet more PT's, ten to be precise. In order to avoid these ever looming PT's I have decided to compose my first class history. Like my entire cadetship have waited until the absolute last possible minute to begin. That way I know that I have got full enjoyment of my time, for just a few minutes of pain. The famous last words of S-17 are "I should have gone to UVA". Let's think about those six short words that brought forth so much conversation in S-17. My roommate Patricia has on more than one occasion told the infamous UVA story that, every time told, brings in more visitors and more pain and suffering. His talks are of no Friday classes, tall brunettes (named Kate), and cases among cases of cold beverages. While Jesse, Lucas and I begin to cry he takes yet another weekend to Richmond and leaves us to suffer alone. But on another note it has been an interesting and painful ride. Pat good luck in Richmond, from rat-bleeding to the swollen testicle incident of '96 it has been a great time. Jesse and the infamous shaving cream bomb(s) and endless trips to the Southern Inn for Jalapeno poppers it has been a non-studying kind of time. For "I can't find a girlfriend" Lucas it has been too long, all the way from rat year until now I have had to listen to middle of the night chats on dating problems. Lucas, I have only one thing to say "If you control the sky you control everything, including the ground" Don't forget it. And for Paul, "I told you Boyzzz And last and certainly not least, the rat-tits: keep your chins up, whoops, keep your chins in, and keep smiling.



## Richmond, Virginia History / Army



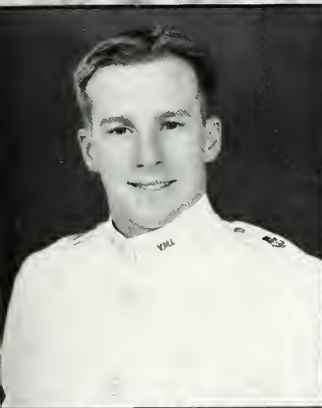
**Gardner A. Mundy II**  
"Funk, Funkhead, Funkness"

Hailing from the great state of Georgia, and the even greater city of "Hot-lanta, Funk (a.k.a. Gardner) has had a diverse and wild cadetship, living well up to the family history of wanting booze and women (more than BRC and inspections). He always knew when to blow it all off and go to LVA or Sweetbriar or Chestnut, he studied enough to get Ac Stars, be an S-2 sergeant, and he was nice enough to be a Counselor. He scared us all for awhile during his third class year by looking into an Army commission as a cadet, but soon came to the realization that women and booze were better than Capt. McCarthy and a goring roll joint. From the 27 Boys, to the 68 Boys, to the 17 Boys, Funks' room, with the amazing chemistry between his roommates, was a safe haven and an unimproptu comedy club, where you never had time to think about all the crap the 1<sup>st</sup> was dumping on you. The stories were never ending and always entertaining, whether they were about the past weekend's gags, exploits (which always seemed to be the case with Funk until he finally got WHIPPED his First Class Year) or Funk raving on, "a nice slice of butt" ("Funk, Pizza", "Bread, buns"), or everyone in time to time getting "a little bit toasty" or rebasking Funks' forever immortalized drunken fall into a giant field of cow manure on the caucusing FOX, or his spill down Mt. Rapis on the Studs and Slopes trip in Snowshoe (Where'd you get it? Then there was Funks Field). When the administration denied us access to the Foxfield Races, Funk came through in the end to throw a bash to end all bashes. A party of such magnitude (and perception) that it grew into a yearly event, complete with guest lists, dress codes, rules of the mess and, of course, copious amounts of alcohol. For those fortunate enough to be invited to the yearly spring event and hear Funk give the Funks Field address to his Christmas, that damn bunny has Easter. AND WE HATE FUNK'S FIELD! These were times of hazy memory and bad next day hangovers. Funk made the absolute best of his cadetship. He did well academically, and still had plenty of time to time to the newscasters with his. Harem. Even with the rank of Second Battalion S-3 Lieutenant, Funk was always a First Class Private in heart and attitude. For those who were fortunate enough to know Funk well, he made VMI bearable with his amazing sense of humor. He can always show a funny side to an issue, and it was an absolute rarity to see him angry or upset. And for those of us who were lucky enough to know Funks' parents, Watson and Molly (and his sister), we always had a place to crash and sleep one of in Richmond and some of the greatest people I've ever met. One day I hope to be driving somewhere in the deep south and come across a party ocean going fishing on, and off advertising Funks' dad's (a great carp, establishment) and see Funk welcoming in his guests with some of the headed New Orleans wife at his side, smoking a Camel. And if ever there was a book to be written about a guy being a player, it should be written about Funks. Funks' resume: Press Staff 1, Peer Mentor Program 1, Sexual Assault Team 1, Academic Stars 1, S-3 Counseling Staff 2, 1; *The Gazette* 2, 1; Virginia Program at Oxford 2, Pre-Law Society 3, 2; Funks Field Executive Committee 3, 2, 1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Marlin Ikenberry  
Merlin Ikenberry  
2001: David Nagel  
Lukas Bartosiewicz  
Rachel Love

## Virginia Beach, Virginia International Studies / Marine Corps



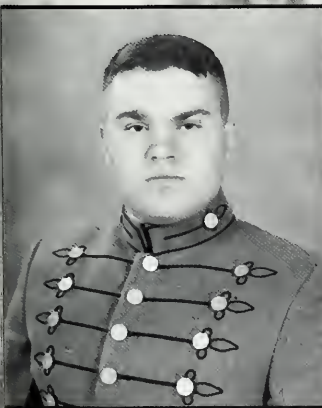
**David F. Nash**

We've traveled down many corridors together. These journeys built and shaped the essence of who we are today. Some of these roads were dark and uncertain, while others were bright and filled with hope. Through all, we stood next each other. One there for the other. Acting as a collective to help mold the individual. On rough roads we helped each other through. On others we let each other excel. Whether taking on these challenges by choice or necessity, it did not matter. Not all ways knowing why we did some of the things we did, just knowing we would be at the end together. You helped lift me up when I stumbled. Guided me with wisdom and experience. I just hope I did half as much for you. We never asked anything in return. We took turns leading, we took turns following. Never with remorse. Sharing each others pain, each others joy, each others friendship. Walking with pride or struggling to get through, did not make a difference. We stood proud. We stood by each other. This is the essence of friends. Thanks for being there, it meant a lot. To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and affection of children, to earn the approbation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with exultation; to know that even one life has been lived easier because of you have lived - this is to have succeeded! - Ralph Waldo Emerson  
ERT 4, 3 Pres 2, 1; Lexington Rescue 3, 2, 1; VMI FF 3, 2, 1; AdminSlave (rank) 3 (cpl), 2 (color sgt), 1 (S-3 Lt); Marathon club 1; Parachute Team Pres 1; climbing VP 2, 1; Track 4



**Dykes:**  
1995: Sean Swineford  
2001: Eric Houck-Whitaker  
Josh Shiley

## West Point, Virginia History / Special Student



**Brian T. Neale**  
"Troll, Lou"

Brian's been my roommate and friend for nearly two years now. If there were such a thing as a Brother Rat of the Year Award, Brian would be my top pick for both of these years, especially our third class year. I can honestly say that I would not be here if Brian had not kept me on track and attempted to keep me out of trouble. In the tradition of the third class year, we all are more than our fair share of excrement and Brian was no exception. Good Training flowed from our room 319 with wild abandon. They "trained" him when he tried to sleep - they "trained" him when he tried to study. Brian was the devil's advocate for us all, especially when his roommates Willie, The Crusher of Souls and Cimmarion Wardlord Taylor, nasty, ex-leg bandit Bill "Gooni Steinbeck; and myself, Rod "Fight for your right to Hardee" / There were good times too, like Ring Figure Honor Guard, and keeping a car uptown ("Hey Brian, can I borrow your car?" - "Nof") and the Baldwin FTX.  
Now it's second class year, and it's Brian's last year here at the '1. What the Hell, he's a First Classman already. Damn right! His right about middle-aged and has been putting out entirely too long now not to be a First. He got it made this year, a car (legally), more says than you can shake a stick at, and rats like Howie "The Thumbless Wonder" and Billy "The other Guy" to carry on the tradition. He got the anticipation of Ring Figure... 22 and a wakeup. 21, 20... "For the love of God, where the Hell is November? Pretty soon, all that will be left is waiting to receive the diploma and then Brian will be on his way. Brian, from all of us, Andy Stafford, Jeff Sprague, and myself: "Good luck, thanks for being there, and well see you soon". To everyone else: "Play the toll, pass the troll!" - Rob Hardee  
Virginia Private 4, 3, 2; Makocontent 4, 3, 2; Gold Steel Charlie 4, 3, 2; Rat Challenge Cadre 2; A Legitimate S-5 Tour guide 3, 2; Ring Figure Honor Guard 3; Marshall Plan 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honor Guard 2; Pre-law Society 3; College Republican 3, 2; VA Historical Society 2; Big Red Club 3, 2; Fencing Team 3; Boxing Team (3 weeks); Rock Climbing Club 2; 1 hate Runyan Club 2; Cadet staff (before forced resignation); Illegal POV uptown 3; Student Teacher 2; A&E; Cloggers 219 (TV, VCR, Cell Phone) 3; Uncle 2; Fruit Roll Friend 2; Makocontent Alumnus 1.



**Dykes:**  
1996: Jay Craddock  
John Bong  
2001: Howie Cook  
Billy Prible



**Edward J. Neibert**

"Rock, Qbert, Cube, Yank, Becker, Fred"



**Steven C. Nichols**

"Chicken, Skippy, Nicks, Nipples"



**Salem, New Hampshire**

**Economics & Business / Special Student**

Why Did Ed Neibert come to VMP? The answer is easy, my father made me!!! And this decision he made I am eternally thankful.. I came to VMI lost in focus and drive. My High School years went by as a delinquent blur of adolescent fun with no substantial meaning or goal. From the getgo VMI instilled into me focus and determination that I, with the help of my brother rats, can do anything. Through the turbulent times like a Mike Obadal flame session to the best of times, namely King Friday, have instilled in me the qualities I believe are needed to succeed in life. VMI is what you make it, and I made it the best that I could!!!

My main Thank You goes out to Jesus in heaven. Without your support and answered prayers I surely would have never taken the first step.. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. For my parents and sister, you will forever be in my heart for the continued affection and support you have given me for these long four years. To my sweetheart Krisline, we finally made it heart to heart together but now... what's next in our future??? Jay Lamb, J-Love, and Steve; I thank for making my time at the institute a little less painful and alot more fun!!! The laughs we shared will last me a lifetime. For my brother rats, especially those in Golf, the years have been long and hard but together we came out on top!! And lastly to my Rats, your time here will be filled with mixed emotions, but remember to stick to your guns and follow your heart because it will always lead you in the right direction.

Rat 4, 3rd Cpl 3, Ops Dork 2, Regt. S-6 Cpt. 1, Big Red Club 3, 1; Cadet Investment Group 2, President Group B 1; Deaf's List 4,3,2; SAAC Chairman 1; Intra Sgt 2; Trident Society 3; Omicron Delta Epsilon 2, 1; Basser Hound Fanatic 4,3,2, 1.

**Herndon, Virginia**

**History / Army**

As a cadet, I always imagined what I would say in my 1<sup>st</sup> class history before I graduated. I think Bill Murray in "Caddy Shack" sums it up, "Gunga alung-gunga, gunga, alung... so I got that going for me." That night there says it all- this place makes no sense and I will never know what I was thinking when I first described this place as cool! But it has been an experience of a lifetime that I will never regret. Mom-Dad, thanks for giving me the opportunity to achieve my dreams. You both have been the inspiration that has kept me going- even through the .348 GPA report cards. John and Marc- we came here together and survived. You both are truly some of the best friends/roomies I could ever hope for, even though you both snore and never clean. Gold Coast- we had some great times. Summer school pals- never forget the power of the couch. Tex- we ran the block more than anyone in history... don't ever change! General ha..ha.. ha- watch the wheel while I grab a beer! Mike- you're a good kid- best of luck, keep up the motivation. Everyone else that I forgot- good luck and see you in 5!

He's an original and his one of the best guys I know. We have had some of the best times all across the Commonweath, but JMU has always been the best. The Hunter Ridge crew knew they couldn't go to sleep early on Thursday when there was a newspaper to print. We took on the best and beat them down in Beer Pong. If only this guy could get off confinement we wouldn't have to be so sneaky. No one could ever replace Graef, but I am glad we became roommates. This guy's a class act and unfortunately will probably become one a great Army officer, he loves the HUAH stuff. Despite his consistent 2.0, he is a VMI success story. I hope he keeps from getting his butt shot off, because I got a feeling will make a fortune together in the civilian world... or maybe not, but well have fun tryin'.

Jason "The General" Harding  
Cpl. 3, Guide Sgt. 2, Pvt. 1, Ranger Challenge 3, 1; Cadet Newspaper 2, 1; Virginia History Society 2, (pres); Town Drunk 3, 2, 1; Bahamian Bar Fly 2; College Rep. 2, 1; Gold Coast Social Chair 3, 2, 1; Square Root Club 4, 3; JMU Appreciation Soc. 3, 2, 1; Palms Couch Club- 97 Sum. School, Confinement 4, 3, 2, 1

**Amherst, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Special Student**

I would like to start off by thanking God for standing beside me. I came to VMI with the help and coercion of my dear aunt. She told me that, "VMI will be a great experience for you". For three years I told her that her experience was my sentence. Well, now that I can see a pinhole of light in this dark tunnel, I will finally say to her, "It was a good decision, not a great experience."

I had one goal when I entered VMI and that was to make it. With God's help, the years have turned into distant memories as my experience at VMI draws to a close. The friendships I have made will be remembered and the lessons learned about people shall never be forgot. My roommates Nesto, Rob, and Gyimah, we four have shared some great times and I will cherish them.

It has been a long and hard four years, and I would like to thank those who believed in me, when there were doubters. I would first like to thank my parents. Mom, thank you for being the one who worried (I will not forget!). Pops, thanks for the support and the lessons on life. Sis, thanks for being there to accept the collect phone calls. And thank you, Aunt Martha Ann, for making this dream possible. I love you!!!

To my Rats, Josh, Keep smiling; Moses, Hoouah; Quin, What da deal; Ransom, You have a son? Ha Ha!!; Chris, Wake up; Sy, Scriously; PJ, Bottoms Up!!



Dykes:

- 1995: Rob Henry
- 2001: Brian MacDonald
- Kelly Sullivan



Dykes:

- 1995: Barry Miller
- 2001: Josh Harman
- Willie Moses





**Chad A. Novacek**

**Lincoln, Nebraska**  
**International Studies / Army Special Student**



**Nuthaporn Nuttayasakul**  
"Pock, Nut"

**Bangkok, Thailand**  
**Civil Engineering / Army**

I came halfway around the world from Bangkok to the United States in 1994. It was the first time in my life on this side of the world. It was quite different in culture, weather, and people. Once I got here at VMI, my dyke and my uncle dyke, Ponlawan and Saiklao took care of me and helped me through the ratline along with my co-dykes, Pat, Ion, and Moo. Third class year, I roomed with Jimmy and Blodgett. Well, Blodgett left the "I" so I roomed with Jimmy until after Ring Figure. At Ring Figure, I must thank my ring dyke, Noppadon, for finding me a ring figure date. My ring figure date, Tor, is a near lady and I really enjoyed the ring presentation with her that weekend. After ring figure, Jimmy decided not to come back and John came in to be my roommate for the rest of my cadet life followed by Reid. I also enjoyed talking with my neighbor next door, Jason. John and Jason brought me to their homes. They are such nice guys. I cannot forget all the professors who educated me, thank you Sir. All four years at VMI, even though I was far away from home, my mom and dad never made me feel lonely and I love them more than any word could express. My beloved girlfriend, Pang, has been very supportive, she made me happy all 4 years. I wish she could be here with me. And good luck to my dyke, Chanarat, do your best throughout your cadetship and join me in the Royal Thai Army! As for myself, I looking forward to graduate school life and military training.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Pradermchai Ponlawan  
Wichit Saiklao  
2001: Visan Chanarat

3 years Academic Star, Tao Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, John Bowie Gray 1867 Award, The Class of 1941 Award, International student club.



**Timothy S. O'Bryant**  
"Dogg, Mole"

**Warrenton, Virginia**  
**History / Army**

Well during my highschool my parents gave me a choice, go to college or join the Army. Well Mom and Dad I guess I did both not bad huh? I have to give credit for everything I've had in my wonderful life to my Mom and Dad without your support, love and sacrifices (sorry about the boat Dad) I would not be where I am today. I love you. Mimi you are a very intelligent girl never let anything stand in your way I love you and you have to ability to go to all the places I dreamed about make it happen. This next person means the world to me and has made me a very happy person in life -Lauren. Without you I dont know how I would have made it through the last three years, I love you unconditionally and there is nothing I wouldn't do for you, we have a wild life ahead of us I know we are ready for the challenge. I LOVE YOU. John I have never forgot you and love you very much thanks for keeping watch over me for all these years someday we will meet again.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Tim Collier  
2001: Doug Bates  
Paul Dart  
John Tempone

To all here at the "I" J May, Gabe, Smalls, Lang the boys of 122 and Andy. I will never forget the memories we have made over the years. I know if we turn left here it will be right around the corner. Three miles later we were still lost. Andy if you ever need to find me go to the airport. Landing Strip I'll be there. Rats of G30 try and remember what we have taught you. To anyone else never forget those you have suffered with they will be the closest friends you will ever find. Pvt. 4,3,2,1. Football slave and manager, 4,3,2,1. Away game party VP with BEAMan 2,1. MNB N S-5. OGA 1. Tanker Platoon 3, Bomb 4. On a day 1. S-5 tour guide 4. Monogram Club 2,1.



**Gregory S. O'Hare**

**Bethel Park, Pennsylvania  
Civil Engineering / Army**

School's finally over. I must say that I am probably going to miss this place. Although not for a few years though. It's been a fun four years and I have learned a lot. Hopefully this is still a good place to be from. Only time will tell.

Steve, Mark, Adam and Charlie, you guys hang in there. It will go by faster than you think and soon you will graduate too. Remember to always try to make the best of it and have fun while you can. It is a special place and enjoy.

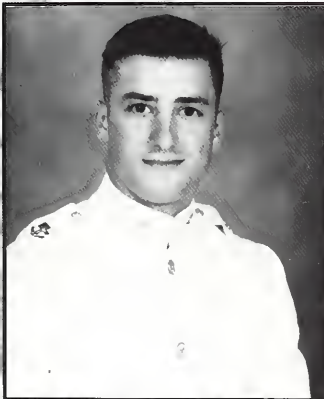
Bill and Russ, I guess you guys have another year yet. Don't worry I will come back and visit and take you guys out. Also make sure our rats eat a lot of @!# \$.

Dears List 4,3,2,1; pvt 3; pvt/teq s-2 sgt. 2; bat. S-2 Lt. 1; tanker platoon 4,3,2, Platoon ldr. 3; Cadet Battery 2, 1<sup>st</sup> sgt.; ac stars 1.



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Rick Killmeyer
- 2001: Adam Love
- Charles Beard
- Steven Skakandy



**Ralph E. Ohland**  
"Ohlio, Hercules, Ohliofunctifydus"

**Long Island, New York  
International Studies / Special Student**

Looking back on the last four years I don't know why I stayed, but I can honestly say I couldn't do it alone. If anything it has been both the most miserable, yet the most memorable years of my life. I can't think of any worse way to spend four years. The day I left for JMU for a semester was the day I realized how much I hated the place, and the day I returned for first class year I realized just how much this place meant to me. Trey, Bill, Douce, you guys mean the world to me. John C., Jim, Mike, Hoss, it was a great time. Steve Dicky, Mader, John S., Trey A., Tools, Andy, Pervert will always be the best of times. Eric S., Big John, Aaron, It was a time I won't forget. Nate-Nor too many others knew either! It was you guys that made me come back to this place. Tony "Thumb" S. Your a good dude, hang in there. Mom and Dad, I couldn't have done it without your support. I love you all. Brad, Jeff, remember what I taught you. Ears, Schott, Sirbal keep up the traditions.

Workman-@#\*&\*#\$(@# # # @&!.

Corporal(3) Master Sergeant(2) Private(1) Dears List(4,3,2,1) Cadet Investment Group(1) Powerlifting(1) Club Pervert Corner(3,2,1) Number One Club(2) Cocke Hall Apartments and Drillery (2) JMU(2); Midnight at the Palms Club(1)



**Buffalo, New York  
History / Marine Corps**

The only thing I learned I learned in Ghetto. Without the knowledge that was given to me by those people, this place would have bit. The smoking parties were fun but the administration kept ruining them somehow. Going on guard till 0200 as Firsts was original though, I will give them that. We beat them with the Ghetto couch... until they took it away. The administration even took away my company but they will never realize I am India till the day I die. Fight the power! To all my roommates over the years (and there have been many): too bad you couldnt hack it in the room cause it was a fun trip to sin city. Sorry about the window Andy. I still won the fight with it though. To my rats I pass on this bit of wisdom: drink; drank; drunk. That is all you need to know to get through this place. To my roommates currently, thanks for helping to put all the investigations in perspective. To those whom it may concern I still really dont care.

Ghetto 3,2,1; India Co. 4,3,2,1; Private 4,3,2,1; Slacker 4,3,2,1; USMC Reserves 3,2,1; Window basher 2; Leatherneck 3; Bulldog 2

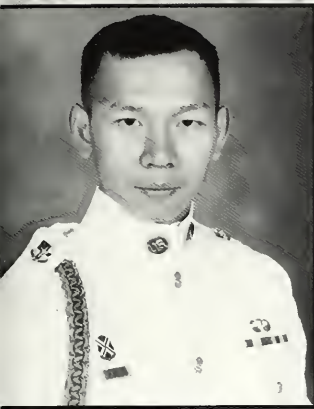


**Dykes:**

- 1995: Fred 'Beat King' Bates
- 2001: John 'Attitude' Lentivech
- Steve 'Diesel' Bohack



**Di'sel**



**Pol V. Ou**

"Paratrooper, Ou pu na du, Show gun"

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Electrical Engineer / Army**

I would like to thank my family and friends who supported me through all these years. Thank you so much for your support mom, dad, and brothers.

With all the trials and tribulations in Pol O's life, I think that his cadetship here at VMI has been one of the easiest things that he has had to deal with. I have never seen a wild Ou feel sorry for himself. Pol is the most determined cadets I have ever had the privilege to know, or room with. He has accomplished every goal that he has set for himself. His commitment to excellence is a true testament to his character. I will never forget Pol's cry of "paratrooper" when our First Sergeant would tell him to sound off. It is hard to believe that it was only four years ago. Since those trying days in the rat line, Pol has gone on to earn his airborne wings. For Pol it is more than just a piece of metal on his uniform, it is a way of life, and his most prized possession. His loyalty to the Army is his trade mark. I know in my heart that he will be the best lieutenant that he can possibly be. He is truly a motivating force in barracks. All cadets know of him, and all the rats fear him. As a representative on the RDC and as a platoon lieutenant in Hotel Company Pol was given the chance to do what he does best, motivate and train. I see upperclassmen respond to his commands in ways that I have never seen rats respond to even cadre. His is one of the most respected cadets on post.

As Pol's roommate I have been given the chance to know him on a more personal level. Most people would believe that deep down inside Pol is just a teddy bear. He has been a true asset to team 139. I doubt that I would have made it through the year without another ranker in the room. We have shared many good time and bad times together in the last four years. Although we shall separate into our different careers after graduation I only hope that we are able to strengthen the bond that we have developed. Good luck in the Army Pol - Airborne!

"Iron Clad" India Co. 4, 3, 2; Rat 4; Cpl 3; Sgt 2; Lt Hotel Co.; Martial Art Club 4; Big Red Club 3, 2, 1; International Club 4, 3, 2, 1; Ranger Challenge 3, 2, 1; Ranger Co. 1; Honor Guard 3; Airborne; AAAA VMI Chapter 3, 2, 1; RDC 1; SMP 29th Light Infantry 2, 1.



Dykes:

1995: Simon Cheng

2001: Randy Hager



**Lee B. Parker, III**

"Trey, T-rey, Bear, TP, Rat Parker"

**Virginia Beach, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Special Student**

Four years gone just like that! I wish I could say it was that easy along the way! From Matriculation to Break Out to King Figure to Graduation, with a semester sabbatical in OZ, it has truly been an adventure! I can remember back to the summer before I arrived at the Cron's house for an alumni, cadet, and pre-strain party, I was asked why exactly I was attending VMI instead of a normal school. My reply was that I wanted an adventure, something unique. I definitely got that and more! I want to admit that I have changed since I have been here. I think everyone has, but I think I am better for it. Well enough of the cheesy stuff that you would never want to admit around the boys. I have to say thanks to a great bunch of guys, my fellow "Perverts", especially my roommates Billy, Douce, and Ralph, and Mike and Bucks who let Billy and I stow away for first class year, for putting up with my early to bed, early to rise routines. All you guys were truly great friends, and I hope we can keep in touch. I also have to thank my parents and friends at home for putting up with my complaining about the "I" all of the time. I know I can be a pain sometimes. I would like to, on the behalf of all of "Pervert Corner", thank Grandmother for everything, especially the food boxes! And most of all, I would especially like to thank Angela for being there for me during my last year of calling and coming home all of the time, comforting my depression, and bearing with me through the year and beyond and Mom for everything you do for me. I love you both very much. I wish all the members of the Class of 1998 the best of luck. Signing off to a new adventure! Later!!

Pervert Corner 4, 3, 2, 1; Cadet Investment Group 2, 1; Pre-law Society 3; Economics and Business Association 3, 2, 1; Down Under 2.



Dykes:

1995: Mike Paxton

2001: Andy Duncan



**R. Dale Paxton**

"Silky, Silk Dogg, Hairy Bear"

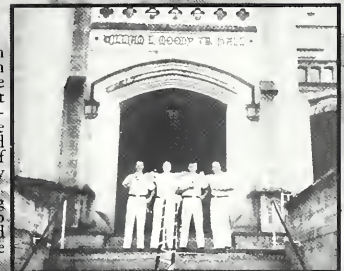
**Covington, Virginia**

**Civil Engineering / Air Force**

It's not everyday a young man comes from a little redneck town in the middle of BFE, named Covington, and faces a challenge thrown at him larger than life. When I entered VMI, I entered a boy, but the obstacles placed in my path made me grow into a man. I was dealt many heartaches and triumphs during this period, the ratline, engineering classes, and the best friends in the world. There's nothing like waking up to Al's nasty feet and sending Huck's psycho girlfriend letters in the mail. Third class year, I was faced with challenges of leadership and the engineering rat line. After this chaos, I received my ring, while the "Inbred" and myself went through painful partying. Remember: Pizza for six dollars, pudding for free. The best was watching Huck flex to pick up girls. My first class year had crept up and "Club Hell" was established. Now it was time to party like I never partied before with Joey, Huck, and Matt. Fat Head summed it up with one sentence, "Take Me As I Am!"

Thanks to mom and dad for sticking by my side. I couldnt have done it without you. Huck, we've had some great times, but in 2032 they'll get better. Joey, we always got "tore up" from the floor up. Just remember, every body needs an Uncle Larry for advice about women and alcohol. Love a lot to you two and I will miss you. Fat Head, remember to put a nipple on it in the future. Dave, you was a great mentor. Josh, good luck and carry on the legacy. Jay, we had a fun first class year. Finally, Big Irv, you were my role model and many thanks for everything.

Cpl 3, Mse 2, Golf XO 1, Cadre 3, 2, 1, Rat Challenge Cadre 3, 1, Alcoholic with Huck and Uncle Larry 2, 1, As hole 3, 2, 1, VMI ASCE Chapter Member 2, 1, Experienced Copenhagen Dipper 4, 3, 2, 1, Big Red Club 3, 2, Club Hell 1.



Dykes:

1995: David Groseclose

2001: Josh Turner



**Brian J. Pearson**  
"Skinny WOP, BJ, BP"

**Pickerington, Ohio**

**Civil Engineering / Air Force**

As I sit here and listen to the Beatles sing "It won't be long..." graduation and the end of the supposed best years of our lives approaches. Brian has done much during his time at the "I" it is hard to pick and choose what to write.

Brian came here as a disillusioned skinny WOP from Pickerington, Ohio, and will leave here much the same. He did, however, bring much to the "I" with him. For one he brought Moses and his herd of goats that all of us down in the slums of New Barracks have become so familiar with. This always made me wonder why he didn't become a Navy pilot instead of Air Force; but that is a different topic altogether. 3<sup>rd</sup> class year Brian gave new meaning to the term "broken rat". He first twisted his knee twice trying to get out of wrestling class, and when that didn't work he tried again with hernia.

On a more serious note, Brian was the guy everyone went to with their problems, and piled them on top of his. How he managed to not have a nervous breakdown is beyond me. He did experience a breakdown with his truck at Navy though. I thought his head was going to pop off his shoulders. I think back to our Ratline when Paxton told us to "take what we get, and ask for more." Brian, I think all that was supposed to end with the Ratline!

Well Brian, always remember the two things we have learned here together, S@#% Happens and the 5 minute rule is always in effect. And if someone has a problem with our 5 minute rule then just say "@#\$\$!" Anytime, anywhere Brian. You were there when I needed you. Just pick up the phone bro. Your Limy Bastard roommate, James.

Rat Challenge 3-2-1; VMI Eagle Scout Assoc. 4-3; VMI Fire Fighter 2-1; Arnold Air Society 4-3-2-1; Spaz Rat 4-3-2-1; 4<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Hotel Ops Sgt. S-1 Capt



**Dykes:**  
1995: (PJ) Christian Brumm  
2001: John Niederhaus  
Mike Scott



**James H. Binford Peay IV**  
"Jimmy, Sweet-Peay, Grasshopper, Laa-Peay, Peay"

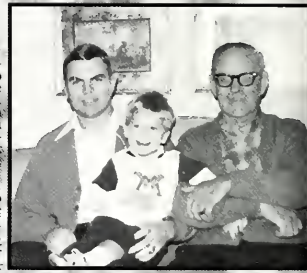
**Arlington, Virginia**

**Civil Engineering / Army**

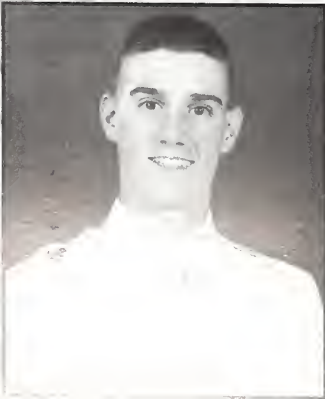
"... if we couldn't laugh, we would all go insane!" - Buffett  
How much fun was it to live with Jim? Jim's cadetship has been an interesting one to say the least. They watch out for that tree... ROOM! So long Mr. Rodeo. All kidding aside, Jim will always be No. 18 in the Lacrosse program, but he will be "Number 1 in our heart." Hey, is that Sgt. Major Jackson?..... Damn!!! Jim, we had some unforgettable nights in our room, and the memories we all share will last a lifetime. You were a model cadet and a model roommate for the first three years. What happened to first class leadership. Good luck in.... the Army..... maybe..... doubt it. Anyway, we will never forget you and we wish you the best for the future. (JKM & BAB)

I have never been good with words or good-byes, so I will just say thanks. Brandon and Justin, what can I say, the three of us are the only people who could have lived with each other. Without you guys I would have gone insane. Brandon, I wish you happiness for as long as you live, and Justin, I hope I am around for the next time fans and chairs go out the window. John, Brad, Cale, Heath, Rith, Smalls, and Toolan... what else can be said, but thanks, you all made my summer experiences some of the best of my life. Get a pitcher - I will see you at the Palms! Steve and Dave, the memories of playing on the Patch are the only ones I want to relive, and I wish you're all there with me. Rick, thanks for the support, you were the best dyke anyone could ask for. Tony and Nick, may the next three years bring you both as much wisdom and teach you as much responsibility as it has rite, just with not as much pain. Finally, my family, plain and simple, without you it never would've, could've or even should've happened, you all are the strength that got me through this place I am sorry to put you all through so much pain and agony, but thanks for always keeping faith in me, I knew I would do it! THANKS-I LOVE YOU! See you all in my dreams--this place is for the BIRDS!!!

Pvt. 4, 3, 1, 3rd Plt. Sgt. 2, 3rd Plt. Lt. 1, F-Troop 4,3,2,1, Lacrosse 4,3,2,1, Lacrosse Captain 1, Summer School, You could count on it!, No. 1 Club, 1, Rancor SS3, Couch Club SS4, Big Red 3,2,1, Preston Society 2, Tited 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Rick Killmeyer  
2001: Tony Mendoza  
Nick Hathaway



**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**Biology / Army**

I came to this school expecting something far different than what I got. I think that's the case for the majority of us. I learned a lot about myself, other people, and what God wants me to do with my life. The things I learned here were learned from others, things such as: don't be a hypocrite, treat your subordinates with dignity and respect, and maintain consistency with others. Basically I learned what not to do as a leader. A smart man learns from his own mistakes, but a wise man learns from the mistakes of others. I'd like to send a big thank you out to my parents. They've done a great job preparing me for this place and for the rest of my life. Without their guidance I wouldn't be where I am today. I'd also like to remember the friends I've made here and how they have truly made this place bearable. I'm confident that I will be in touch with many of them later on in life. Many of us are destined to do great things and by the grace of God we will all meet some day at the top. Finally I want to encourage my rats, John and Lee to continue to work hard. This place never eases up, the problems and challenges only change. I challenge you and all your BRS to do what you can to keep the place from reverting to obscurity. We don't have much here but we do have pride in the fact that we persevered through more than our counterparts, keep it that way!

Rat 4; Cpl 3; Reg S-1 Sgt 2; 2nd Batt S-1 1; Ranger Challenge 2,1; Tanker Platoon 4,3; Ranger company 2; OCF 1, Co-education committee 2, Army ROTC scholarship, Jihad 1, VMI dissenter 4,3,2,1



Brea, California  
English / Air Force



Four years ago, Nathan came in from Cali and began what surely has been the strangest years of his life. What a time of contradictions. The best of times, the worst of times. Running the block, marching PT's... Singing AHotel California for Cadre, putting out for the Glee Team (for a little reader response, you decide which of those is the best and the worst). There's really no good way to measure how those four years have scarred. I mean *impruned* Nathan, but suffice it to say, he's grown a lot and is probably ethosed to the max. He's proven himself not only by putting up with the effusive bull that VMI is so good at handing out, but also by excelling at the things that really matter. I count myself lucky to have lived with Nathan, both here and abroad, and to have had the benefit of his friendship and wisdom. Nathan, wherever I live, you know my home is yours. Via con Dios.---Joshua J. Metcalf



In my beginning is my end. These are the remnants of a past memory, of confusion, of waiting alone on the steps, wondering what the future might hold. Four years of faith and faithlessness; love and hate; hope and hopelessness. "Where will I be in four years? Will I have the Ring? Will I have the Diploma? Will I be a VMI man?" and then "Where am I now? I have the Ring. I have the Diploma. What is a VMI man?" These are the echoes of things past, the essence of things to come. Ideals of innocence not quite fleshed out in the reality of existence. Competing interests in the mind of the post-pubescent teen striving for the acceptance which the impersonality of society giveth and taketh away. Some got stronger; some got stranger; which one happened to me? Old Corps, young corps, new corps, true corps. We stumble on knowing not from whence we came, and caring not where we go. All we ask is for the peace of a teenager standing on the steps alone, wondering his way through life. In my end is my beginning. -Nathan R. Pierpoint

9<sup>th</sup> corporal (3) Scotland (3) Oxford (1) Pre-Law Society (3,2,1) English Society (3,2,1) Timmins Society (3,2,1) President (1) Glee Club (4,3,2,1) Fencing Team (4) Dean's List (4,3,2,1) Parade Announcer (2,1) Cadet Staff (3,2,1) Sounding Brass (1) Club 58 (3,2) Sigma Tau Delta (2,1) VP (1) English Dept. Lunch Committee (2,1)

**Nathan R. Pierpoint**

"Nate Dogg, Nat X, The Earl of Pierpoint, Mr. Poindexter"

Mountville, Pennsylvania

Biology & Chemistry Minor / Special Student



Over the last several years, it has been an adventure and quite an experience being at VMI. I have gained and learned so much that I believed I would have never gotten anywhere else. Our class saw it all from the very beginning when the court case started to the very end when women were integrated into the corps of cadets. Even though things have changed at VMI, I still will remember proudly of what our class did and achieved.

I want to thank my mother and father for being there for me and believing in me. And for giving me the opportunity to come to VMI. I will remember the all the times that you both came down to see me run in a cross country or track meet. Thank you for everything.

Henry and Roeder, I wish you guys the best in the future. It has been a pleasure rooming with you guys. Also, I like to thank the men on the cross country team for all your help and support.

I will close by stating one of the quotes Eric would always tell me, "Pain is only weakness leaving the body."

Cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track (all 4 yrs) monogram club, independent research.



**Derek D. Poore**

"Dirt"

Dykes:

2001: Brandon Garrett  
Dave Shreck

Richmond, Virginia  
History / USMC



I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. -Philippians 4:13

First and foremost I would like to thank God who has made this and all other accomplishments in my life possible. My mother who has never let me quit. Without her I would not be where I am today. I love you Mom, but I am ready to stop standing on my head. My father whose letters always found their way to my box. Thank you for everything Dad. My best friend Jay, you know brother. By the way that trip is way over due. My dykes, Mark and Scott, who put up with me and always helped no matter how hard I spazzed. Also Tim, with whom I have had some great parties (Va. Beach) and some great fights (on our face in 190). Hambone, thank you for always putting it into perspective. You are wise beyond your days Gentleman Jack. Dr. Monsour for always having an open door and a smile. One day you will get that Mercedes. To all of my BRs, good luck and God Bless. Finally to the Institute and all of those who will be a part of it in the future, keep the spirit of VMI alive and guard it jealously. --- David L. Pouleris '98



Dykes:

2001: Brian Maclauchlan  
Jason Seagle

**David L. Pouleris**

"Spaz, Sheetrock"

## Houston, Texas

### Mechanical Engineering/ Marine Corps

Demetri Poulos came to VMI with the same intentions and expectations as every other matriculating cadet. He persevered through the rat line and became the man that he is today. Through his determination and discipline he earned the rank of corporal. Few individuals have ever seen take on that responsibility with as much pride as Demetri displayed during his third class year. He has exhibited much the same pride and excellence as an elected member of the OGA. In this position he has done a great service to the Institute and his class. Demetri is truly a model cadet!

Overall, when I think of Demetri's cadetship one word comes to mind - diligence. Demetri has never given up on his main goal, a VMI diploma. All-nighters have become second nature to him and his dedication to the field of engineering has always kept him in focus. Demetri has always placed the needs of others over his own personal needs. For this his BRs owe him a debt of gratitude. I am glad I have had someone like Demetri to turn to in my times of trouble. We have strained together and grown together in the last four years. I will never forget all of the good times: the weekend trips that we never thought we get back from in time, the forced marches, and our cigar smoking check formations after taps (a.t.d.). I only hope that the good times will continue on after we exit this place which we called home for so long. Good luck to you in the future Demetri, my BR, and best friend. You deserve all the success in the world. God bless.

Mom and Dad, thanks for supporting me through the thick and thin. Damian and Maria, thanks for always making me feel so special as your big brother. Mayra, thanks for being the backbone through these past years. Papou, I love you. Army, thanks for giving me a renewed source of inspiration. I love you. To all my family and friends, thanks for the love and support through it all. God bless our team and VMI!

Texas Club 4,3,2,1; Canterbury Club 4,3,2; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Hop and Floor 3; Trident Society 4,3; Explorer Post 1839 3,2,1; Drug and Alcohol Committee 2,1; Eagle Scout Association 4,3,2,1; Corporal 3; OGA 1



**James P. Poulos**

"Demetri, Tex, Greek Bastard, Poopoo"



Dykes:

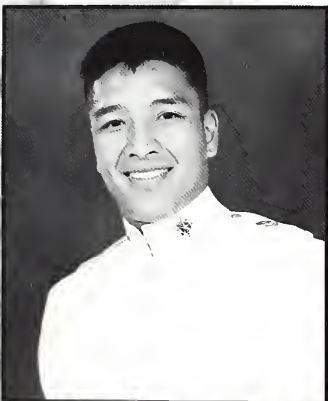
1995: Scott Gowland  
2001: Mike "Cyclops" Martin  
William "Pastor" Harl

## Alexandria, Virginia

### Computer Science / Air Force

First of, all I want to thank all the people who have helped me the past four years. Mom and Dad thanks for your encouragement and love. Saharat, I'm finally going to make it, and if it weren't for you I wouldn't be here, thanks for coming. Joanna thanks for always being there for me. I couldn't have made it without you. To my roommates Don, Jay, Ludmer, Sleime and Deryck, thanks for all the good times, laughs and trips we've had together. Don, can't wait to start up our IT company; you can be president and I'll do the work. Jay, you're the hardest worker I know, maybe you should ask me for help instead. Tyler and Daniel, thanks for the all the help during our rugby games and our adventurous road trips. Chris, you're the best rat there is; now all you have to do is study; stick with it. Finally, some words of wisdom: "To laugh is to live, to live is to laugh" -Hole.

Rugby 4,3,2, Captain 1; Cadet Staff 3,2; Bomb 4; ACM 2, President 1; Dears List 2,1; International Club 3; Cadre 3; Tallest Asian in Barracks 4,3,2,1; PG Gamer 4,3,2,1



**Phantamith Prompol**

"Phantom, Hole"



Dykes:

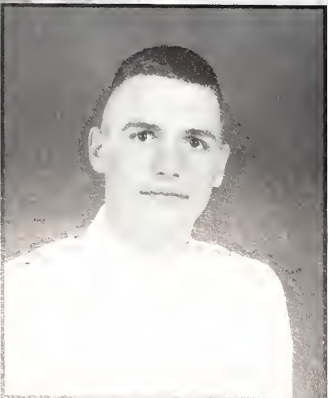
1995: Tim Collier  
2001: Chris "BJ" Davis

## Onancock, Virginia

### History / Army

Steve once professed to me that when he miscalculated he wasn't sure why he came here, and still isn't today. I know exactly why he came here. There are certain individuals that do perfectly well as civilians, but somehow excel as a soldier. Steve is one of these individuals. The fates would have let him go anywhere else. Steve began our four year ordeal as a member of "Hard-Rackin'" Golf, and got his butt handed to him along with all his other Golf BRs by F-Troop on many occasions. Third class year brought corporal stripes and Ranger Challenge. Ranger Challenge was one of those experiences that you always questioned why you endured until you were about three-quarters of the way through the ruck run on the last day of the competition. Steve never let any of his quit, even when our bodies were completely numb and one or two of us were ready to drop from a mixture of exhaustion and dehydration. The quest to win lost its luster as we just strove to beat JMU. What do you mean our boots are illegal? Second class year brought color guard trips and the chance to brush up on his skills as a show girl auctioning off Mohammed Ali's boxer shorts. Steve "kicked the tires and lit the fires" at advanced camp and decided discretion was the better part of valor and passed on an all expense paid trip to Alaska. Even still, he came back as "LTC" Pruitt, "your MNMB commander". Thankfully, he's the type of guy that never let such things go to his head. Steve, it's been a blast and I'm damn proud to call you my friend. Just remember, when you're flying your blacked out MH-60 nap of the earth under NVGs over some God-forsaken patch of earth, take care of the guys in the back and we'll take care of you. Now let's go get a beer...DCG

CLB 1/2; Color Sect 1/2; 1st Barr. XO-1; Ranger Challenge-3,2,1; AAAA-3,2,1; YOUR MNMB CO-1



Dykes:

1995: Ed Gosline  
2001: Price Lykins  
Megan Smith



**Donald V. Rauch**  
"D, D-Bo, Kraut"

**Springfield, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Navy**

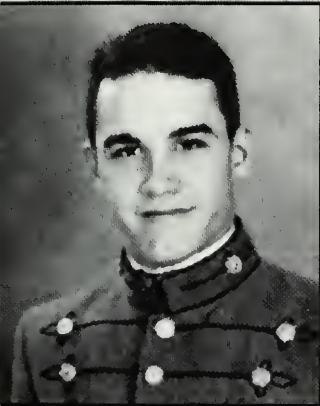
When I graduated from high school, every one said I was crazy for wanting to go to VMI. For all those people who said I was an idiot for wanting to be here, good call. VMI has left an indelible impression on me, but I don't think I'll know exactly what that impression is until I can stand back and look at my four years here from a different point of view. Regardless of whatever it is that VMI has done for me, or more to the point, to me, I must admit that I would not give up my experiences here for anything.

Limney Bastard, Wop, you two are the brothers I never had. Thank God for that. Kris, my ambiguously gay roommate, its been great, except for Rat year. Ken, Brad, and Carabell, make the best of it and make us proud. I'll be back in 2001 to see you walk the stage. Todd and Dennis, what else can I say but Thank you. Heather, I love you very much and I always will, you made it all seem worthwhile. To Mom, Dad, Michelle, Meredith and my Grandmas: I could never have done it without you. I hope I've made you proud.

Pvt. 4, 9<sup>th</sup> Cpl 3; Ops. Sgt. 2, Reg S-1 Lt. 1  
Rat Challenge Cpl. 3, Trident Society 4, 3, 2, 1, DNGAFF-4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Dennis Lucente  
Todd Rupright

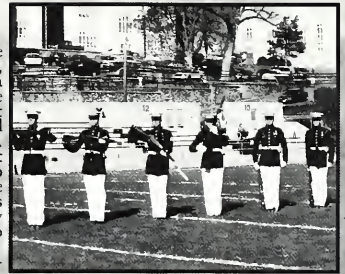


**Richard A. Ray**

**Rising Sun, Maryland**  
**Electrical Engineering / Air Force**

Well, its finally over! My cadetship has definitely been filled with some crazy times. I'd like to thank all my close friend for putting up with me, especially room 489. Duff, if it wasn't for you I'd probably be in a mental institute. To my Dykes (95) thanks for preparing me for these trying times. To all my friends in 420, what can I say... crazy-phat times! May-dog, stay out of trouble and Diesel, good luck in grad school. Make sure you stay in touch. Mom and Dad, what can I say. Thank you so much for everything. I wouldnt have been able to do it without your help. Sorry about all the money I blew. I love you both! To my step-rats, sorry I didnt get a chance to know you all too well. Take some advice, stay out of trouble while at VMI. Confinement breeds Confinement, get out as much as possible. Jen, thanks for making my first class year so great and Spitz, dont get to cocky! Good luck to everyone! We finally made it!

Pvt 4,1;3<sup>rd</sup> corporal 3, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant 2; Exchange student 1; Power-lifting team 1; Ring Figure Committee 2; Bomb Staff 1;



**Midlothian, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Special Student.**

Until the beginning of Third Class year I did not know Mark Redman at all. After both of us lost are roommates to the "I Hate VMI" virus we were mixed together in Rm 392. We started off the year with a bang, going up to Spanky's the first day and getting just a bit inebriated. Little did I know then, but Mark would eventually become my best friend and share with me his true identity- Byrd. Oh yes! Mark is part human-part bird. I always wondered why I would come back to the room at night and find him perched upon the window bars chirping and flapping his arms!

Through the years Mark and I have seen girls, swapped friends, personalities come and go. One thing has remained through all of this, and that has been our friendship. Mark and I have helped each other through the good times, the bad times and everything else that comes between. From sleeping in a homeless shelter after a night at Baldwin, to just driving around with a couple beers, Mark and I have done everything. Marks the kind of person who can put his personal differences aside and listen when I needed someone to talk to.

Mark has helped me make it through the VMI years, and for this I am grateful. The times that we have shared will always remain as monuments of friendship in my mind no matter what the future holds. I know that Mark will always do well at whatever he puts his mind to for he was able to put up with me for three years. Mark, if you ever need help, want a copy of Dylans greatest hits or just a good friend to talk to- give me a call.

Your friend Jason  
Rugby 4, 3 - Top and Floor 3,2 - Bomb (Photography Editor) 1 -  
English Society (secretary) 1

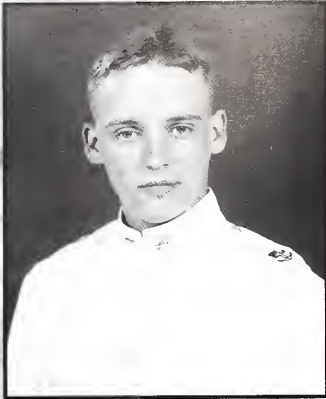


**Mark G. Redman**  
"Byrd, Troll, Red-Dogg"



**Dykes:**  
1995: Danny Griles  
2001: Frank Spano  
Andrew Carbone

Lawton, Oklahoma  
English / Special Student



**Scott A. Reid**  
"Scotty, Pappa Smurf"

Had 1 to carve an inscription on his grave  
I would ask for none other than "the individual."  
-Soren Kierkegaard  
Pvt 4,3,1; Sgt. 2; Guidon Bearer 1; F-Trooper 4,3,2,1; Rack Mon-  
ster Victim 4,3,2,1; Marine Reserves 4,3,2,1; Cadet Battery 3,2,1  
Btry CO 1; CWRT 3,2,1; Yeah!Yeah! 3,2,1; Staircase 3,2,1; VMIT  
2,1 Vice Pres. 1; J.M. Hall Night Watch 2,1; The Four Horsemen  
1.



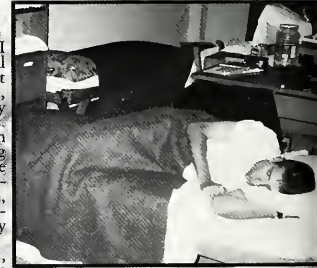
**Dykes:**  
1996: Eli "GQ" Wahesh  
2001: Jeremy "Smiley" Guy  
Eric "Mouth" Ham

Portsmouth, Virginia  
History / Air Force



**Patrick G. Roberts**  
"Patty, Grandpa"

I saw the VMI Corps at Yorktown in October '81. That's when I  
decided to be a cadet. Maybe years from now when I miss VMI, I will  
remember it the way it looked in my dreams as a kid, and not how it  
looks from the stoop. I *have* made the best friends of my life, though,  
and learned a lot more than I would have anywhere else. I know my  
Kate will always be with me as she has been for the past few years.  
For that I owe her my life. How my Mom and Dad have put up with  
me, I'll never know. Jesse—Just call me Mr Mellow, and keep telling  
me it's all in my head. Greg, I never should have jumped over the  
bushes. We should have been studying. Lucas—We need more Coca-  
Cola! Sak—I'll miss the mud flap, and the Green Jenie. Kieth,  
Damon—Where the hell are you? Fujita—BE COOL! Brady Cone-  
thanks. Consedine—Do as I say, not as I do, Aunt Ginny, your my  
best friend.  
Cpl 3, Ops Sgt 2, Lt. 1, Band 4,3,2, Echo 2, Delta 1, Ac Pro 2,  
Cadet Staff 2,1 Club 56, 35, 25. Valuable charm and wit in the  
Commandant's office 4,3,2,1.WBC 2,1. Near Fatal Beating Recip-  
ient 2. He-man, woman haters club 1. Endless summer school and a  
lot of specials to answer.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Bill Goodrich  
2001: Kevin Consedine

Midlothian, Virginia  
Economics & Business / Special Student



**Lawson**

I got to know Chris through "Vert" and at a Wedding reception in Roanoke,  
the one with the whisky-sour fountain. I got stuck in his room in the  
beginning of third class year and as time passed he became one of my best  
friends. He would do anything he could during the week to help me out,  
and on the weekends he would not hesitate to invite me to his house. He  
always finds a way to complain about his gorgeous girlfriends, something I  
will always be jealous of. You are patient and strong, and you would fight  
for anyone you care about, even if it gets you into trouble. Stay in touch.  
TMW

I've known Chris since rat year when he lived next door to me. Somehow  
we talked him into quitting the wrestling team (maybe it was that first ciga-  
rette Mao gave him). I'm glad he did (and I think over all he is too) because  
we really became good friends. I'll never forget weekends drinking at his  
house and "hangin'" with his many variety of friends. Chris could always get  
along with anybody. I'll never forget him and I hope we stay in contact. I'm  
sure you will be very successful in life.—DCC

Well, Chris I've waited to the last minute to write this, procrastination a  
trait we share). I believe we have established a bond over the last four years  
that will continue to be meaningful and will prove to be durable. I will  
always treasure our many talks on a wide variety of subjects— most  
importantly (maybe) and often (definitely) involving women. We always  
reached the same conclusion— that VMI ruined our relationships. I guess  
now we find out if we were right or not.

As I sit here, it is quite odd to think that we won't be roommates next year.  
I simply can not detail our friendship in a paragraph. I will continue to hold  
dear the memories of things we have did together from Killington as sleep-  
deprived-ego-filled thirds to the rickety elevator in Boston as seconds. Our  
friendship is a big reason why I think this might have been worth it. Chris, I  
truly believe you will find happiness and may God bless you, throughout  
your life.—EWS

Rat, Rugby 5<sup>th</sup> stoop troop, 3<sup>rd</sup>, CPL, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cadre SGT. Rat Challenge  
SGT, 1<sup>st</sup>; Rat Challenge Lt., RDC, F-Troop Pvt.



**Dykes:**  
1995: S.G. Lawson  
2001: Scott Keblusek  
Romy Gupta





**Mark W. Robinson**

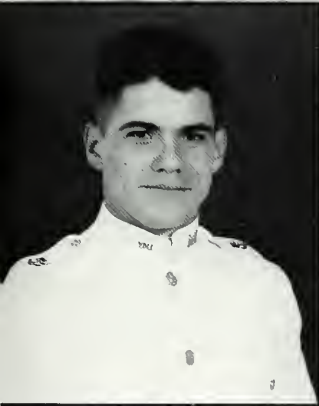
**Leesburg, Virginia  
History / Special Student**

As with so many other people I made the decision to attend VMI only to become a military officer. And as with so many other people my goals changed soon after Thanksgiving of Rat year. One goal that never did change was to get out of here as soon as possible. As much as I don't want to admit to it, I did learn a great deal here. You have no choice but to learn, that is life I guess.

The one aspect of the people who come to VMI that is the most amusing to me is change. So many people say that they have not changed and VMI will not change them. I applaud them for trying to be "real" to themselves, however, at the same time I must laugh at them. This includes myself. I was determine as others were and many still are, not to change for this place. In reality it is impossible to do. We all have to change whether we like it or not. Time changes all of us in some way.

I know that most people get someone else to write their first class histories. I could not do that. I do not care what anyone says or tries to convince me of, no one knows my feelings except me. No one can feel the challenges that I have to face and the ones that I want to take on. Perhaps I should close by saying this, No one knows the barriers that I will break not even me, but watch out because I'm just getting started. . .

Emergency Response Team 2,1; Pre-Law I.



**Jason M. Roderiques**

"Jay, Chavez, Pancho, Cheetah, Latin Lover, Cheech, Hot Rod"

**Lakeville, Massachusetts  
Mechanical Engineering / Air Force**

The time and energy invested in this Institution is enormous and I am glad to see it come to a close. During my sentence at the Institution I always dreamed the day would come that I will graduate and bring this term of my life to close. But, and there are always those "Buts", I can't look back and not remember the great times too. So, Remember When: "here's Rusty", The Frenchies, Tangerine. The trip to Montreal. Near death experiences, "what's that smell?". Who's room was that any way? the Stuarresses (Delta, Delta, Delta), Rancor. Living in the lap of luxury above East Lex., Study by candle light, Taiwan: all day all night every night, Bean town, Cape Cod: I'll remember someday, the famous Las Vegas Shows' look for the ring in the mass', The always eventful trip to D.C. with Don. Bus trip down to Florida after my 21's. Saline "Flat Rock", Canoeing E.T.X., T&A bars in Florida (XXX), I.M.U. "I just came to finish what was started". Boucher I'll never forget the times, whiplash in the Jetta, "I gotta run Boucher". These are some of the memories I have compiled while here and most while away. I wish to thank my parents for their unwavering support. Ma and Pop Thanks a bunch. To my brother Matthew you were to one who didn't care about the grades or the other stuff you were just proud to be my brother as I am proud to be yours.

Dykes: Mike and Rich, above all don't lose yourself and always find that minute.....

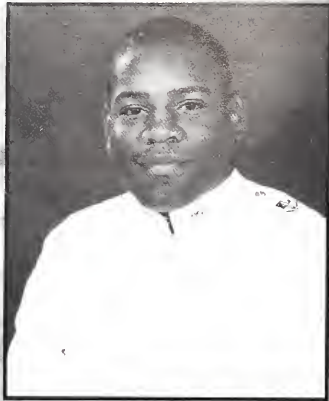


**Brian C. Roeder**

"Oder"

**Campbell Hall, New York  
Economics & Business / Army**





**Michael R. Rogers**  
"Big Mike," Grumpy Smurf"

**Lynchburg, Virginia**  
**Economics & Business / Army**

The VMI experience was much more than I anticipated. Although good and bad I made alot of friends and learned alot of things. Speaking of friends, I would like to give a big up to KC and Avi D, its all over man. I could not have made it without you two characters. I I AKA QMD, dont count on us returning anything. AL, JB, Dre, LBC (HIT TO KILL) that is all I have to say. You know how we do! Other shout outs go to Bird, Daddy Rich, Hard working Court, Foster, Sweet Pea, Dj. Life is a B and then they is Billy Dee, Jeff, keep your heads up, your time will come. 433, fine time machine. Last but not least I would like to thank God, the only reason why I am here today. My mother, can you believe it, Tony. We've came a long way, Mrs. Richie, words can not explain, Heather for putting up with me, I know it has to be tough. And everyone who doubted me, You were my motivation.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Damion Wilborne  
2001: Billy Dee Washington  
Jeff Akers



**Torrence A. Rogers**  
"Head, Rog, Andy, Drew"

**Virginia Beach, Virginia**  
**Biology & English, Chemistry Minor / Navy**

For Rog, Graduation has been a long time coming. He has excelled both on the playing field and in the classroom. In the fall of our Rat year, he walked on to the Lacrosse team and was named "Most Improved Player" the following year. That same year, his accomplishments and dedication to the team earned him his Letter Sweater and a partial scholarship. His excellence and dedication did not stop on the sidelines. Rog has been a Dears List student since his Rat year and finally joined the ranks of those who wear Academic Stars being designated as Distinguished in General Merit at the completion of our Second Class year. In the Spring of our Second Class year Rog was selected to attend introductory SEAL training in Coronado, CA. This intense mental and physical experience made for a very challenging and rewarding summer for him. Most of his time spent at VMI was consumed by his work in the classroom and on the field; however, he always found time to journey to nearby colleges and participate in late night brawls against frat boys with his BRs Moder, Dickey, Poe, Schwanke and fellow laxman Goldsmith.

Rog will always be remembered for his against the grain personality. He insisted on doing what shouldnt or couldnt be done for the sake of principle. As we part ways in May, you as the soldier and me as the citizen. I hope that you will stay in touch. Never hesitate to call for an e-bashing, and best of luck to you in your future endeavors. Thanks for the memories and God Speed!

Lacrosse 4,3,2,1; Navy Scholarship 3,2,1; Trident Society 4,3,2,1; Dears List 4,3,2,1; Distinguished in General Merit 1; CIG 1; Carol Awards for Biology 4,3,2,1; Ghetto 3,2,1; Private, 4,3,2,1; IHFTF 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Hector Migliacci  
2001: Luke Pernotto

**Richmond, Virginia**  
**Economics & Business / Air Force**



**Darren N. Rose**

**Playmate data sheet**

**NAME:** Darren Neal Rose

**BUST:** N/A

**WAIST:** 34 (in jeans)

**HIPS:**

???

**HEIGHT:** 6'

**WEIGHT:**

165

**BIRTH DATE:** 8-24-75

**AMBITIONS:** - To eventually graduate from this place.

**TURN-ONS:** - Graduating from this place, cheap beer, hot women, spankings, extended weekends, disco, pizza flavored combos.

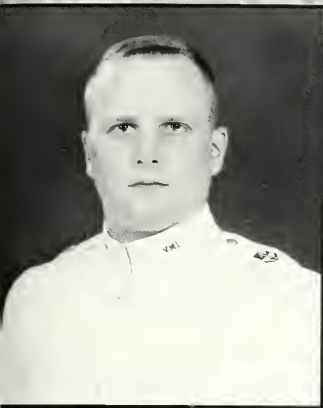
**TURNOFFS:** - Being in this place, burlap, sharp things, soul train, Norwich University Students, and popcorn when it gets stuck in your teeth.

**HOBBIES:** - Surfing, Snow Boarding, anything that involves getting wet and sweaty.

**BEST FIRST DATE:** I think I was loaded. We went to Burger King, skipped the movie, picked up a twelve pack and headed for the house.

**FAVORITE QUOTE:** Hand me that cold beer please.





**Michael T. Runyan**  
"Mike, Funyan, Funboy"

### Marshall, Texas

#### Economics & Business / Special Student

The VMI experience for Michael came long before he ever set foot on post in Lexington, Va. He is part of a long line of generations who have matriculated and withstood the rigors of the Spartan lifestyle with superior performance. As a rat he distinguished himself from amongst the rest in both academics and personal appearance. Beyond the rat line he has maintained his high level standards, but has also shown his true and unrelenting commitment to the class as treasurer and GC secretary.

Michael was not always the most beloved member of the Corps, often finding himself in the BEEF on the humor page of *The Cadet*. He may not have been the most popular, but he was always the man to go to if you had any questions or needed a job done. He was the most reliable and dedicated person anybody could find and was often in high demand time and time again.

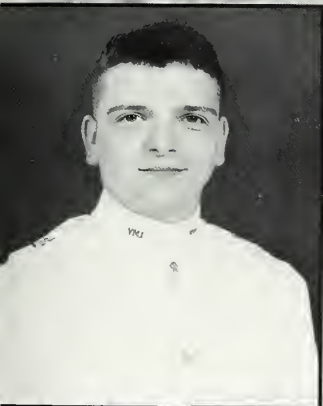
Even with all the positions and responsibilities he had he often found time to expand upon his ever growing knowledge of alcohol at local bars. The Citadel, and at his dyk's parents house, the Bounnes. His adventures really took off when he decided to study abroad the second semester of our second class year in Australia.

After graduation in May of 1998 he plans to attend law school, and with God's grace and much to his opponents dismay he will find himself in the courtroom of his beloved state of Texas. Michael would like to thank his entire family for their love and support and would like to dedicate his cadetship to his late grandfather D. A. Thomas, VMI class of 1936.

"The Road Goes on Forever and the Party Never Ends!!!"-REK  
Cpl 3; Reg S-2 Sgt 2; Reg S-2 Cpt 1; Class Treasurer 4,3,2,1; GC Secretary 1; Pre-Law Society 3,2,1; CIG 3,2,1; Eagle Scout Society 4,3,2,1; Dears List 4,3; Distinguished in General Merit 2,1; Institute Scholar 4,3,2,1; Omicron Delta Epsilon 1; IHTEP 4,3,2,1; Australia 2; Ghetto 3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Chadwick Agnor Bourne  
2001: Joseph Matthews  
Jamie Dillon



**Paul Sakellariou**  
"Sak"

### Richmond, Virginia

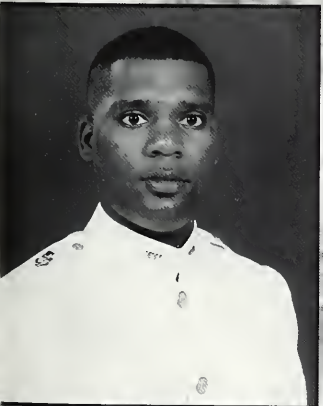
#### Economics & Business / Air Force

Well... the time has come to move on. The four years I've spent here have come and gone. I would like to thank my mother, father and brother for putting up with my B.S. these past four years, I couldnt have done it without your support and love. I love you all very much. I would also like to thank everyone else who believed that I could make it here and graduate. To Todd and Ryan, thanks for giving me the chance to live with you guys, it has been a great experience. I look forward to seeing you Todd in Richmond. As for you Ryan good luck in the Navy, I'll see you when you get out. To Kris, Sean, both Matt Bs, Kevin, Brad, Steve P., Chris R., Craig O., Jason M., Phil T., and Ham, thanks for the great memories, I'll never forget you guys. I hope to see you all around. To Pat, Lucus, Jessie, Greg, and Keith... and everyone down in room 235... I'm bringing the diploma home... I told you boyzzzz!!!! To VMI I cant wait to beat you once and for all in May. To Nick, Angelo, Mike, and Jaroslaw I wish you all the best of luck. The next four years will fly by... make us proud. Last but definitely not least to my Brother Rats it's our turn to shine. It's last call... I m outta heat!!!

Band 4,3,2,1; Timmris Society 4; Cheerleading 2; Cpl 3; Sgt 2; First Class Private 1



**Dyke:**  
1995: Fred Bates  
2001: Nick Pohoreskey



**Ernesto V. Sampson, Jr.**  
"Nesto, Papa, Naste', Tyrone"

### Suffolk, Virginia

#### Economics & Business / Special Student

Ernesto came to VMI with the intention of changing his life around. See what most cadets at the Institute failed to learn or realize, was that Ernesto was an extremely complex man. Those cadets are the same ones who made unwarranted accusations an preposterous assumptions about a great man. Vanessa raised this man to ignore the ignorance that fills the world, especially those at VMI. For a man who was born into a world that was against him, Ernesto learned an important word: perseverance. Perseverance is the key to anything a person wants in life.

However, the academics at VMI taught Ernesto a motto that he will probably keep until his deathbed: "F%K IT". This motto allowed Ernesto to keep life in perspective. For Ernesto VMI presented him with obstacles (i.e., academics, bourgeois people, military life, so called pre-madonna athletes, and no social life) that has helped him strain and maximize his innerself. Ultimately VMI has molded him from a ghetto youth, into a person who will become great in this life. This guy is two levels above you, so dont be jealous of him. Jealousy makes you a weak individual, and there is nothing worse than a jealous individual.

As for those people that he has touched in a close way: Juan, Rob, Gymah, The Thomas Family, P.J., Quin, Charles, Chris, Willie, Josh, Sy, and all those unmentioned, he loves you and expects nothing but the best. Remember what he has tried to teach you, and live your life for you and nobody but you. Inhale life and excel, because it just might pass you by if you dont catch on. AIGHT!!

Corporal 3; Platoon Sergeant 2; Private 4 and 1; Band Co. 4,3,2; F-Troop 2,1; FCA 4; Promaji Club 4,3,2,1; Boxing Team 3,2,1; Boxing Team Captain 1; RDC 1; Running the Block 3,2,1; and Chillin 4,3,2,1, till Death.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Lাকie Evans  
2001: P.J. Jackson  
Quin Piper  
Charles Ransom



**Benjamin T. Schultz**  
"Schlitz, Big Ben"

**Gainesville, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Army**

"Sometimes all that stands between you and the ride of a lifetime is simply getting in the saddle and seeing what you're made of." It has definitely been one helluva wild ride. One that I wouldn't have traded for the world. As the bad memories begin to fade and the good ones linger, I will never forget what this place has taught me, nor deny how this place has changed me.

I just want to say good luck and God bless to my Brother Rats for making this place worth it. To the football coaches past and present, thank you for giving me the opportunity to come here and experience it all. To the boys in the double-deuce, Tyrin, Mike and Jason, may our paths cross again and let us continue the fellowship we have for many years to come. To my rat Chuck, don't ever give up, the end comes quicker than you think! Monica, what can I say, you've been the force that has kept me going through it all, you make everything worthwhile. I will never forget where I have been, as I continue to stay in the saddle for the duration of the ride.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Tim Miller  
2001: Charner Lumpkin



**Stephen J. Schwanke**  
"Possum, Nermal"

**Syracuse, New York**

**Economics & Business / Special Student**

I never thought that my senior year would come, I figured that the time would come when I'd be thrown out for some remedial act which was blown out of proportion. Through looking back on the time spent here, I realize how fast the time actually went by. For the past four years I have acquired more knowledge about who I am, what I want to be, and where I am headed than all of my previous 18 years. I can say that VMI has become my home for the past four years and it has served me well, for the bad times are nothing but a small memory, and the good times are a warm security blanket in the cold of winter.

For what really makes VMI a fine institution is the men which fill the barracks with their hearts and souls. All of the relationships that you encounter makes up the very life of your cadetship, for your cadetship might end but it is those relationships that will always be with you. For my long-time roommates of Dickie and Lector, the times spent in the room will always be ones of great memories and sick humor. The weekend adventures and nightly missions will always be remembered as SBU 216. The short stays of Poe and Brock will always be proven to be too short, for the times were the best. Club Pervert will always live on as the closest corner in barracks, for upholding the tradition of the corner is something we must pass on to our dykes as it was passed on to us. Club Pervert will never fail to make everything the best and biggest for all the time to come. For the good friends in Jim, Tim, Gonz, Brent, Runyan, and Max the past 4 years have only been the beginning. For the members of the lax team I feel that I am the closest too. I truly have found the brothers that I never had, and never will the times be more enjoyable than putting on the fool to do what we do best. Arion Bush, we will always be mountaineers, for as long as I can, Virginia will never be the same after Upstate gets done with it. To the dykes of 116, it does get better, a lot better, so suck it up.

You belong among the wildflowers,  
You belong in a boat out at sea,  
You belong with your love in your arm,  
You belong somewhere close to me. -Tom Petty  
Pervert Corner 4,3,2,1 Lacrosse Team 4,3,2,1 Captain 1 NCAA Advisory Committee 4,3,2,1 Private 4,3,1 Big Red Club 3,2,1 Sergeant 2 College Republicans 2 Preston Society 2



**Dykes:**  
1995: Mike Young  
2001: Cregg Burns



**Herndon, Virginia**

**Computer Science / Army**

Well, I gotta write this damn thing or I will get 10 PTs, so here goes. Its kinda hard to believe that when I came here I was such a close minded tight ass. As much as I complain about this school, it has done me wonders. Not as much the school, but the people I have spent my four years as a cadet with. Gold Coast, I don't have enough space to recall all the great memories. John and Steve, I couldn't have done it without you guys. We've been through some hard times, yet we are all still the best of friends. John, damn I miss you man. Take care of yourself in Bosnia and never forget that you are and always will be my best friend. Mom, what can a son say to a mother that she doesn't already know? You told me once "Do whatever you want to do in life, good or bad, but always take responsibility for your actions." That is the best advice you could have given. Dad, I only hope I can be as great of a father as you have been to me. I owe everything to you two, thanks. Sara, what can I say to you that I haven't already said? I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you. Adam and Russ, you guys are great rats and I know you will do well during you sentence here. Last, and definitely least, Col. Marc, I am glad you weren't around when this country was built. Chalkley, this country was built by people who wanted the freedom to do what was right for them.

1<sup>st</sup> Cpl. 3, Reg S-3 Sgt. 2, Reg S-3 Capt. 1, Army Drop Out 2, Ball and Chain Club 2,1, Gold Coast 3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
2001: Russ Savat  
Adam Burton



**Erik J. Seaman**

"Too many nicknames to list"

**Kings Park, New York  
Economics & Business / Army**

I came to VMI with a lot of uncertainty. Being from New York, VMI and its "ways" of doing things were foreign to me. As much as I may complain about the "I", the choice to come here was probably the best decision I have or ever will make. Out of all the years I attended VMI, my Rat year was surprisingly the most fun, whether that be using BC's hiking equipment to tie our sergeants in their room or "taunting other spirit banners with DR. It was this year that I learned everything VMI has to teach, something I will carry with me for the rest of my life. -Sweating on the stoops with the G-CO boys is something I will never forget. It was a year of heartache and reward. My 3rd Class year didn't start off as I had planned. After receiving a #1, I spent the entire first semester thinking about what I did amongst 4 white walls. Not much happened this year. My 2nd class year brought a sense of revitalization into my cadetship. It was a year of celebration, with Ring Figure in November, and the reality of becoming a 1st classman and graduating. That year was the most arduous for me, balancing my academics with Mastersergeant Activities. However, memorable Radford and JMU trips with my roommates compensated for that. I ended up with a 4.0 and was the proud owner of academic excellence. My 1st class year, I possessed the prestigious title of private. How proud I was. This is definitely the best year at VMI, with the Palms and Starcase so easily within reach. It was here I really felt a sense of accomplishment. 4 years have gone by like a blur. I know I will look back on this place in 10 years with a smile and wish I was in the room with my roommates talking about those "civilized" topics we always managed to bring up. I will never forget VMI.

3rd: Corporal, #1 Club; 2nd: Mastersergeant, Cadet Investment Group; 1st: Private, RDC VP, Member Omicron Delta Epsilon



**Joseph S. Seiler**

"Fish"

**Bartow, Florida  
Biology / Army**

Duty, Honor, Country, these were the things that brought Joe to this Institute of higher learning. Joe wanted to be among the best of the best, and that he did. Entering the "I" as a trooper, he quickly established himself in the company which he carried into his third class year as the "back of the bus corporal". Achieving his shoulder stars, Joe put his priorities in line and spent more time in the Science library that he almost got added to the card catalog. Eyes wide with his free time at a minimum, Joe found time to make new friends by sharing his peanuts with his little furry friends. Joe also found plenty of time to Joo-jank his jimmy with his chief while Ranger Al Kupratty Mac'd his doo.

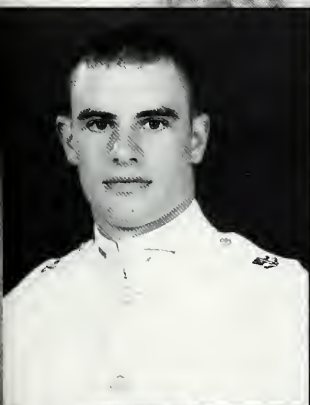
Second class year for Joe was his true awakening when he received his last and best roommates. He finally met his long lost twin- Ed "Fish-two" Williams, who he spent many hours doing such things as Contact, the Gavel, Spring Board, and the Labrador with. However, most important to Joe's further success at the "I" was his beloved roomie BR Wade, who guided and nurtured him to final prosperity. Although the two will never drink Tequila again after Ring Figure, Joe found a suitable replacement at the start of his first class year- BEER! Never missing a step along the way, Joe demonstrated that he is tough, intelligent, and unable to be quiet when entering the room in the dark. He was a great roommate and will always be an admirable friend.

9th Cpl. 3, Color Sgt. 2, Plt. Leader 1, Tanker Plt. 3,2,1, Ranger Co. 2,1, F-trooper 4,3,2,1, Big Red Club, LHTEP 4,3,2,1, Presbyterian Campus Ministry 4,3,2,1



Dykes:

- 1995: Jason Pifer
- 2001: John Davis
- Chih-Yuan Ho



**Jason M. Shatarsky**

"Shark"

**Leesburg, Virginia  
History / Special Student**

VMI, what I was I think when I was a senior in High School. Well now that I look back on it I think of all of the good memories that I have of this place and it was not that bad, don't get me wrong it was not that good either. I came to VMI with the intentions of being an officer in the military and will leave this place not being an officer, but a citizen-soldier. I believe that I have matured greatly over the past four years, I did not do this alone though. Some of the people that I would like to thank for helping me are first and foremost my parents. For a while growing up I did not always want to admit that you did me justice, but now that I did not just it you did the greatest thing in the world. You brought me into this world and taught me how to be a mature, responsible, and caring person. My roommates Jarrod and Sean, you guys have stuck by my side the whole way and have stayed on my back to keep up with my grades. Although we had arguments we had better times. Here is to you Potato and that little yellow guy, Korea. I also want to thank someone who is very special to me no matter what may happen, I hope that things would turn out the way that we always talked about, but if not you will always be in my mind. Andrea you have been by my side through thick and thin and you will always have a place in my heart. Throughout my time at the rock I have had pretty bad grades, but I picked them up and I did well. I think I may have been one of the few to have been on AC PRO for 4 straight semesters. Not an accomplishment, but something to laugh at. I also met some good fellows here at school, some people might know them: Mr. Beam, Sam Adams, George Killians, and many others. Oh yeah, lets not forget that I was the self-proclaimed king of permits. I don't recall ever getting one turned down, I guess I slipped one by on them. As for some secrets there are a few and I think Keith I really hope John Spitzer know what one of them are from the "March to New Market" never again will I march 82.5 miles and return to this place. The last time I go 82.5 miles, or further will be on my way out of this place. So VMI have fun, but not too much, because if you do then we will have to change the B.U. to B.O.K.

A Private Society 1998 (virgin private), Ac Pro Club 4 straight semesters, Wrestling, rat year (0-1 lifetime), Marine Corps Marathon 3rd, Columbus Marathon 1st, EMT 1st, Power Lifting 1st, College Republican 3rd, 2nd, 1st, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th Anniversary Marshall Plan Honor Guard 1st, March to New Market, 82.5 miles 1st.



Dykes:

- 1995: Mark Womble
- 2001: Branch Echols
- Jason Cuttair



**Tyler M. Shelbert**  
"Cookie, Porn Star"

**Hagerstown, Maryland**  
**Economics & Business / Army**

I've known Tyler for four years and the first word that comes to mind is organization. This is the boy that has become famous for labeling his shoe trees. Nothing is done in his life without first consulting a day planner or his calendar. Though I've always laughed at him for this quality secretly I've always admired it. I've admired it because this organization has masked a deep rooted determination that has helped Tyler through this place. He always knew what he has wanted and nothing has ever stood in the way of his goals. This place has not changed Tyler as it does some other cadets. The qualities that this place hopes to instill, Tyler already possessed. Tenacity, competitiveness, and honesty were qualities inherent already in Tyler and they have shown brightly here. We have had a lot of great times here at the "I" as well as are share of the bad. Tyler has always been by my side pushing me or jumping at the chance to laugh at me. He has been the butt of a lot of jokes, but always had the courage to laugh at himself. I can honestly say that things would be considered dull without Tyler as my roommate. From the moment we met, there was a constant exchange of insults between us, but we both knew that if the time arose, we would be there for each other. Tyler, you've been a great friend, and ever you need anything, do not hesitate to ask. Anytime, anywhere. Mrs. Shelbert I know you worry about the decisions Tyler has made, don't. Your boy done good.

Rat 4, Cpl 3, A Co Ops Ser. 2, A Co 1st Plt LT 1; Rat Challenge 4, Rat Challenge Cadre 3, CIC 2, CIC 1; ARNG 4,3,2,1; VMI Fire Fighters 2,1; Big Red Club 3, 2, 1; Bomb 2, 1; TMS 1; Rugby 4, 3; ASCE 4, 3; College Republicans 2; AAAA 3,2, VPMem I, Ranger Co. 1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Jon Paxton  
2001: Scott Collins  
John Parson



**Jonathan A. Sims**  
"Silly, Captain Random, Sleepy, Sleepy Bit, Struppi"

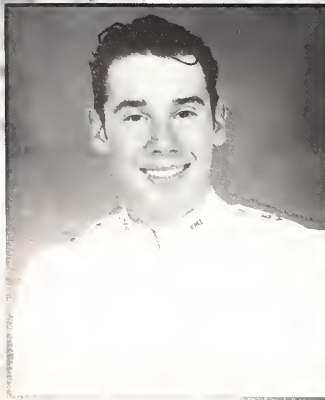
**Birmingham, Alabama**  
**Computer Science / Army**

Well, here I am a First Classman. It's been a long, rough road '98, but we made it. I'll thank God first. I don't know how many Guardian Angels you have had assigned to me, all I know is that they are fast, don't give up, and must be wanting me to get out of here as much as I do! Thanks for all you have given me. Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; Psalms 71:20 My parents-thanks for all you've done, without your support, I could've had made it. My Dykes-Mike and Elvin-I hope I'm half the role model to my dykes that you were to me. My BRs in Band-man, have we had some fun! Stay in touch. Matt, John, Mike, and Prasert(MOO), What a year huh? Y'all were great rat roommates. Joe and Kevin, y'all were great co-dykes. Matt and Ham-WOW, what a time. We had some fun, did lots of stupid and crazy stuff; got away with most of it too (Well, almost most of it for some of us). Matt, you come back and visit after you get out of here. Ham, guess I'll see you next year. The Baldwins-Y'all were my second family, and I can thank you enough for everything you've done. Sam, David, David, Dean, Robert, and Jarrett-Y'all will do fine. NEVER GIVE UP, always do your best, and STUDY! Brad and Brian- it's been fun. Gotta Love the Sinks! Brad-I hope that you and Carrie are happy forever, and thanks for the ride. Brian-I hope you and Sam are Happy forever too. To the tons of others I haven't been able to mention, Thanks for everything! To all my BRs-Good Luck in all that y'all do! Katie- You're my Best Friend and I will Love you always! Thanks for putting up with me and with VMI. ...If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride and never quit, you will be a winner. The price of victory is high, but so are the rewards. Paul "Bear" Bryant. To be continued in a year.

PVT 4,3,2,1, CPL 3, SGT 3 wks; Band Co 4,3,2,1; Pipe Band Drum Capt. 2,1; WBC 2,1; Order of the Sleepless Knights 2,1; Band Rat Challenge Cadre 3,2,1; Con Pro 2; Ac Pro 2; Ran the Block A LOT 2; Club 452 4; Club 53 3,2,1; Cor on Post 3,2,1; DEAC 3,2,1; Bone Magnet 3,2; Absurd by Rack Monster 4,3,2,1; Knew I'd be a 5Yr Man 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Mike "Caveman" Paruti  
Elvin Cabrera  
2001: Sam "Broke Rat"  
Fishburne  
David "Quiet Rat" Grilli



**... Jr.**  
**... LA.**

**Chesterfield, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Special Student**

As I sit down to recollect my past four years here at VMI, I must first thank God for giving me the strength and wisdom to survive all that I have been presented. I was told about the friendships I would make, and chills fill my soul with the knowledge that I have formed the greatest circle of friends. *Christian and Chris* keep excelling, I wish you the best. *Derrick* ready for another batch 111 All the nights of studying and... *Jay* knock out the fire alarm, I think its THAT time. *Commander Reister* Prec Body What...thank you for your patience and advise *Adam* we have been with each other since Brown Dogs. We have grown together and learned from each other. I could not be where I am today without your help. *Neddy* so similar, so different... *compress & light*, just one more time. *Troy* H2O + 2 girls, to bad we came out dirty. *Heath* through the good and the bad we are both still here, deep down inside I know you love football, stay of the grass. *Travis* what happens, happens, but it doesn't destroy friendships. *The Robinsons* what started out as a fairy tale is now in the stages of a mystery... Thank you for all of your love and support. I still love you, *and*... We are different, know than how we started, but my love still remains true to you. I wish you the best at Tennessee and wish us the best in our future. My heart knows all truths. *Mother* I don't think I ever knew I could feel so much pride being someone's son. You have been simply wonderful in your support during my time at VMI. We have made it together and I owe you all my successes. Finally, *Father* I always pictured the two of us growing old together, rocking back and forth on a porch swing, with you still teaching me all of your secrets of life, and continuing to prove that you are simply the best... there is always Heaven. I miss you. To VMI: scars are souvenirs you never lose... Goodnight. Baseball 4,3,2; Monogram Club 4,3,2,1; Big Red Club 3,2,1; 90210 Club, President 4,3,2,1; RDV 4,3,2,1; Virginia 4; Cherokee 4,3,2,1; Nisei 4; Cherokee Staff 3,1; ROBOYZ 4,3; Chill Spot 3; Tech Express 3; Rattles Club 2,1; Proman Club 2,1; OGA 1; Long Hair Club 3,2,1; FCA 2,1; Failing Civil Engineering Student 4,3,2,1, etc. The Mill Club 2, The Church Club 1, Sasquatch and ALL that jazz club 1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Brian Kellner  
2001: Christian Chance  
Chris Riley



**Eric W. Smith**

**Waynesboro, Virginia  
Economics & Business / Special Student**

Eric is probably the most outgoing guy I know. I've known Eric since Rat year when we roomed together in the 5<sup>th</sup> stoop. Eric was always able to loosen up everybody around him. I probably wouldn't have made it through rat year without him (he got me hooked on dip). One thing about Eric that I find very impressive is his split between having fun and getting excellent grades. Most people have to choose one or the other to succeed, but Eric successfully lived both lives. It's been great having you as a friend. No matter what you do, success will always follow. I spent the first semester of third class year hearing about this mystery guy, Eric. I had no idea who he was, but I was to soon find out. It turned out that he was smarter than I was, so that hurt my ego when he joined our room. At first we had our differences which mostly stems from the fact that we are both highly competitive and would never agree to the other's point of view. I finally learned that he was too smart and that I could never out-debate him. You will be as successful as you want to be.--Tom

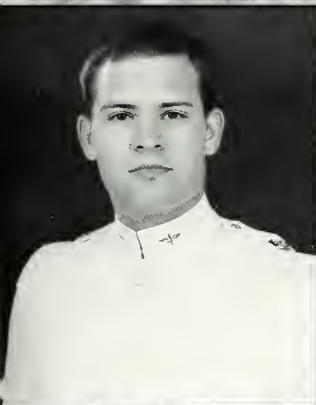
Eric is one of those guys who I became friends with the first time I talked with him. He never really liked VMI (like anyone does). But, he decided to take a semester off third class year, and continue his education at Piedmont C. C. After that semester he decided to return. I don't think Eric realizes how much it meant to me that he came back. I hold a very high opinion of him as my friend. He dealt with the system the rest of his cadetship. He excelled academically during the week and on the weekends and furloughs we had some crazy times like Montreal, UVA, and Tech. Eric, you are a real person blessed with many abilities, stay strong and don't change. Good luck at law school and keep in touch. --CR

Rat 5<sup>th</sup> Stoop Troop, Rugby, Computer Hockey Club, Shined shoes before Breakout, 3<sup>rd</sup> PVCC, Private, intramural football(champs), 2<sup>nd</sup>, BR Challenge Station Cadre, VPO, 1<sup>st</sup> Private, Cadet Investment Group, Media Relations, Really want to graduate club, Scott Shipp Late Night Club 3,2,1, Academically Distinguished 2,1; Deans List 4,3,2,1;



Dykes:

- 1995: Justin Rubino
- 2001: Jarred Cuehnann
- Adam Stanley-Smith



**Michael I. Smith**

"Schmitt, The Nice Dyke, T.B."

**Midlothian, Virginia  
Electrical Engineering / Air Force**

I would like to thank every person who helped me get through all of this. I will start with the most important person of all. . . Jesus. Without His help I would certainly have not made it through such an ordeal. Jessica, you have been a constant source of strength, encouragement, wisdom, and love. You have been there for me from the beginning, and you are going to make great married people. I love you Jessica! Roomies, I will always remember our late night chats, the highway, our playful joking, and of course, the Christmas light festival held each year. Carl, I hope you and Anabelle have lots of little Marines. Dan, I know you and Sara are going to make great married people too. Davy Jones and Bob: you two have been a real joy to have as rats. Study hard and try to stay out of trouble (Dave). Dad, I will always remember our dinners at Pizza Hut. Mom, I will never forget the early morning conversations we had, and the way you were always looking out for me. I will cherish all of those Sundays we spent around the table as long as I live. To Mom and Dad: Oh, I would like to say thank you for all of the time I have spent at your home. And Mrs. O, God is Good, ALL the time! I love you all very much! Romans 12:21, Genesis 2:24. This has been quite an adventure so far. . . and it's just starting.

Virgin Private: 4,3,2,1 Air Force: 4,3,2 fall 1 Civilian: Forever more!!! F-Troop: 4,3,2,1 Rackmaster: 3,2,1 ER in the 'X': 3, 2, 1, Phone room resident: 4,3,2,1, Road Warrior every weekend: 2,1, Happily Engaged: 2, 1, President: Eta Kappa Nu: 1, Deans List: 3,2,1, Bible Thumping, Blood Bought, Spirit Filled, On Fire for Jesus Christ: ALWAYS!



Dykes

- 1995: Ralph Ragosta
- 2001: David Jones "Davy Jones"
- Dan Ballard "Bob"



**Thomas A. Smith**

"Smitty, Tommy"

**Marlin, Texas  
History / Special Student**

Tommy certainly was in for a shock when he walked into Jackson Arch for matriculation. The 439 crew didn't know that he would have such a rough time, but after a brief stint as leader of the famed "greek squad," Tommy settled in for four years as a biology major. As he realized that Bio might not be his calling, he smartly switched to history and the halls of academia in Scott Shipp High. Third class year brought about a change in Tommy, such as late night studying, nicotine fits that tried to quell the anxiety of tests, and a desire to jump ship for other more suitable surroundings. However, Tommy's career as a student took a turn for the better--significantly. With the onset of ear plugs came more productive study habits, and an improved attitude towards us, his roomies. Second class year, the year of the BR, saw Tommy continue into the ranks of the collar-weighed as Op Sgt, a job certainly suited to him. More importantly, Tommy had a CAR, which opened new horizons for him. Suddenly weekends were taken to VA Beach, trips to Applebees on boring Saturday nights, and just cruising uptown. Acc-stars welcomed Tom back First Class year, the routines he practiced and that his roommates ridiculed, had finally paid off. Tommy's dedication to the 'I' and diligence can never be questioned, his recovery and prosperity are testimonies to this. Three corners of the country converged in our room and Tommy was an integral part of that puzzle. We wish you luck in the future, keep the Shiner Boch flowing and we'll see you at the Dixie Chicken!

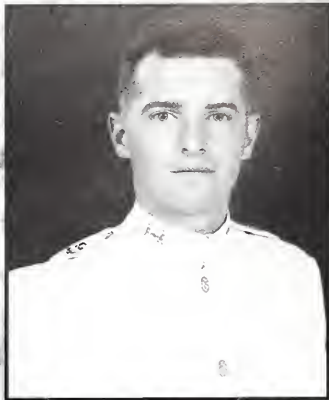
Private(4); Corporal(3); Operations Sergeant(2); 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion S-1(1); Texas Club(4, 3, 2); Deans List(4, 3, 2, 1); Academic Stars(1); VMI Theater(2); Big Red Club(2); Committee For Co-Education(2); Cadre (2); King Figure Honor Guard(3).



Dykes:

- 1995: Fred Werth
- 2001: Tom Cornell

**Concord, North Carolina  
History / Special Student**



**Troy E. Smith**  
"T-roy, Roids, Roidshardt"

Some could not believe I ever came back to this place. Well, I did and will never regret it. Call me crazy. After being gone for a year I did not know what to expect upon my return, and did not even have a place to live. Thanks Jarred, Jason, and Sean for taking me in and helping me out in my transition back, you guys I will remember forever. The guys in C31, what can I say, but did you ever imagine us here back in middle school? Wain, thanks for helping me keep my sanity with the other roomies. I look forward to the day we win our first Winston Cup, until then we will just keep watching from the stands. Rih, you never cease to amaze me with some of the stuff you do. Thanks for the laughs, and the first hip. Wow. Say hello to Edith on the computer for me. Nate, thanks for keeping me out of trouble. ha. Your stories were always unique, and your B.S was even better. Moose, glad you were able to use some of the knowledge I gave you back in the Salem days to become Captain. Hope you are able to find that girl in your dreams, just dont let her see your psycho side. Bravo Co., thanks for the memories guys. To my parents and family, I can not say enough. You have been there for me when others would have given up. Thanks for making all those long drives up to see me. Todd will never get over that. Mom and Dad, I will never in my whole life be able to thank you enough, you have given me everything. I love you both. Todd, thanks for being a great older brother. You have taught me a lot over the years. Ashley, thanks for always being there for me. Matt and Charlie, just keep doing what you need to do, and enjoy yourself while you here because the time flies. See you guys next year!

Private 4,2,1; BRDC 4; Rar Challenge 4,2,1; WC club 4,3,2,1; Big Red Club 2,1; Cherokee Row 4. Robo Club 4.

**Falls Church, Virginia  
Biology / Special Student**



**Michael H. Spinelli**  
"Spiderman, Spider, Big Belly Spinelli, Big Country"

Dave: To summarize the times that we have had together in the last three years is impossible. To tell of how I ended up in a room with you Talley and Rygas is also impossible. So where, then, am I supposed to begin. With the Gravy tooth, or a weekend at Blois Park? Or maybe your little stunt with MTV. What the H@#\$, kid there is little to say that hasn't already been spoken of. We've been through girls together, roommates together, there have been many trials and tribulations throughout. I'll catch you up in Boston with some sinokin' black beauty. I love you Pigeon, take it light.

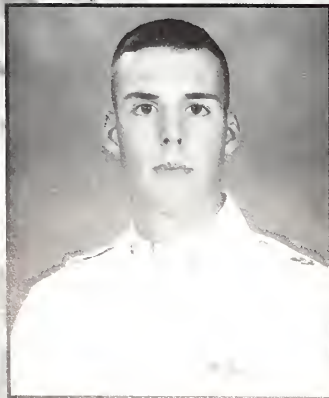
Eddie: The little Latin lover that moved into the room late 3<sup>rd</sup> class year. Since then I think all Dave and I have heard about is Alex and what the two of you have planned for after graduation. To the two of you I wish you the best of luck, I am sure that your times with her will be longer, and they better be more fulfilling than our times at the "T". I plan to come visit you in Costa Rica to make sure there's a guest room or two down there for me and Dave. Take it easy Ed, much love to you and Alex. Watch out for the Pakistanis.

Mike: 421, 318, 218, 118 I am not sorry to say good bye to this place. The last four years have most definitely left me speechless. Without the basketball team not only would I not be here, but I would never have made it through. CD, EM, AD, MM, BC, AH, AQ, DF, and the rats. To my basketball Dykes, without your advice, I would not have gotten into all the trouble that I have. To Jason and Taeug, there are few people around that have been through all the s@#! that we have. I am just thankful that we have gotten through it all together. Bill I can only hope to spend my summers climbing with you. To Head and Chuck, I have spent my summers, well one, with you and I must say it was one of the best. Dave and Eddie, read your histories, you know I couldnt do without you. Trombley and Brooks, and the rest of our rats, stick with it and I hope I was helpful. Mann and Iverson... Mann and Iverson... enough said. To my parents, how you put up with me I will never know. Why you let me go to this school, I will never know either. What I do know is that I love you both and I will never be able to fully repay my debt to you. To sessions, munchies, and mac and cheese in 318.

Spinelli MH  
Deans List (4), Varsity Basketball (4), Co-education committee (1), Private (4).

**Winchester, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / USMC**



**Jonathan W. Spitzer**  
"Spitz, Sphincter boy"

It is difficult to write a history for Jon. You've gotta love the guy but he's one of those people who will often get under your skin simply because he's hard to understand. In his "working mode," he's a pain in the ass. However, when it's time to kick back and have some fun, Jon's the man to be with. We tried for YEARS to get him to break some rules and he finally came around. He "ran the block" with us and that was when we discovered he was one hell of a party animal... damn, did we have some good times!

In Barracks, from late nights of studying while his classmates were asleep, to boundless dedication on the RDC, I never saw anyone who put more heart and soul into everything than he did. He was definitely one of the most professional cadets here and it's difficult not to admire him for that.

So, Jon, whether you're a "Devil Dog for life (or driving a Ford tractor through a muddy field), whoever has the opportunity to work with you will be incredibly fortunate.

Rat 4, Cadre CPL 3, Master Sgt 2, 1st Class Pvt 1, RDC President, Semper Fi Society 3, 2, 1, Bulldog 3, 2, 1, Marine Corps Marathon Training, 2, 1, Mary Baldwin Club 3,2,1, Ghetto Corner Suburbs 3, 2, 1

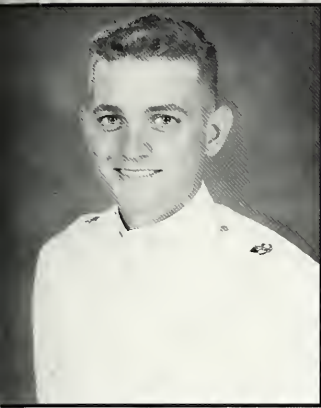


**Dykes:**  
1995: Rick Franco  
2001: Matt Larrison  
Charlie Benbow



**Dykes:**  
1995: Rob Davis  
2001: Richard Kennedy  
Natasha Miller





**James S. Stanley II**  
"Yoda"

**Richmond, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Special Student**

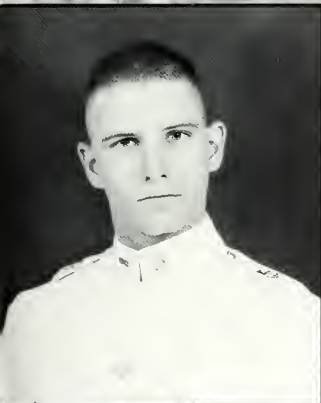
Jimmy came to VMI as undecided as he left it, but yet, he brought along with him dedication, an open heart, and a rare passion for life that I had ever seen in anybody. He would open your eyes, and give you a new perspective when looking at life and its many challenges. He once told me that "MONEY wasn't everything in life, but love was". Of course, I told him that he was wrong, but soon came to realize that he was dead right. Whatever he did at VMI whether it be rat challenge, athletics, personal matters, or classes, he would always manage to succeed despite his procrastination. For many, he has been a true friend, a shoulder to lean on and someone you could always count on in times of difficulty. The true VMI spirit lived in him. Jimmy was a daredevil. He would never hesitate to run the block, go camping, or do something outrageous in order to have fun and blow off some steam. I'll always remember our late nights at Baldwin, and my birthday in Richmond.

During our first class year, Jimmy helped regulate the "I as a member of the OGA. I wish everybody could do their job with as much pride, devotion, and professionalism as he had when performing an investigation. Most importantly, he was the best friend a roommate could hope for in this hell hole. Jimmy I'll miss you a lot, and I'll always remember that one special characteristic about you; YOUR IMPRESSIVELY BIG EARS. "Jesus Christ, did you see the size of these ears, they look like satellite dishes!" Your friend forever, Thierry.



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Jay Ferriola
- 2001: Tamina Mars
- Dave Bickley



**William T. Stann**  
"The Thrill"

**Myersville, Maryland**

**Civil Engineering / Marine Corps**

If there is any one statement that would describe my cadetship most, it would be that I have learned what is most important in my life. It may surprise many of you to hear me say this, but life is not all about shining shoes.

Near the end of my third class year, I met the best friend I could ever ask for. He was loving, kind, and always there in my time of need; but most importantly He never stopped encouraging me to live up to my potential. Because of this friend, I learned that life was about learning from our experiences and loving one another. I also learned that in order for us to improve, we must learn about our faults from our experiences and work diligently to correct them; and that in order for others to improve, we must love them enough to teach them what we have learned for ourselves.

For those of you who don't know Him, my friend is the Lord Jesus Christ, and he is calling each of us to "Love the Lord your God" Mark 12:30 as well as to "Love your neighbor as yourself" Mark 12:31. Throughout my cadetship I have come to realize that my true friends and my family have loved me enough to tell me when I'm wrong and have been there to support me in my time of need. They emulate Christ's words and actions and for that I love them all and say a heartfelt "Thank You". So in a sense, my cadetship is more than 5th stoop wrestling matches, 0200 ball-ups, or asking people if they have a dog. My cadetship can be described as a learning experience where I figured out what is truly important in life. The important part of life is loving God and others, and though it took me the greater part of 4 years to do it, I did it. I learned how to love.

Rat 4; Cpl 3; Sgr 2; Echo Co. Cmdr. 1; Rat Challenge 4,3,2; Glee Club 4,3,2,1; Sentinals 3,2,1; Tau Beta Pi 2,1; Phi Kappa Phi 2,1; Ac Stars 3,2,1; Sweet Briar Night Student 2; RAC 1; Father Will 1; "God Squad" 3,2,1



**Dykes:**

- 1995: Kevin Price
- Chris Barkosy
- John F. Stann III
- 2001: Ben Griffith
- Tom Harman



**Matthew A. Staton**  
"Fat-Head, Red-Neck"

**Madison Heights, Virginia**

**Civil Engineering / Marine Special Student**

As I look back on my time here at the Institute, I have mixed feelings. I am going to miss it, but yet I am ready to get out of here. Looking back from rat year to present, I have made some of the greatest friends I will ever have in my life. Thanks fellows for making it a great four years. Huck, Uncle Larry, and Aunt Silky, you guys are some of the finest buds I could ever have. Thanks for putting up with me because I had a blast with you guys. Dad, Mom, you guys are the greatest parents I could ever have, because you have stuck through the tough times and supported me in everything I have done. Thanks. To all the professors and administrators who have stood by me and help shape me into the cadet I am, I thank you and salute you. My dyke said take everything in stride and keep on trucking towards graduation because it is the only way to get out of this god for saken place. So, Mark and Scott if you don't take anything but those words from me, then live by them because they will get you through this place no matter how bad it gets. To all of my nephew dykes keep your head up and hope you succeed in everything you'll do. To all my BRs in Bravo Company, we had dwindled in size every year but we had some great times together as rats and as upperclassmen. I wish you guys luck and lets go some "Ball Bustin Bravo". And finally to my brother who I leave at this place, I hope you finish out your years with some great ones. I really don't envy you because you are still going to be here but keep your eye on graduation because your are almost on that final stretch. So long everybody, time to make my journey into that unknown world of all work and no play.

9<sup>th</sup> Corporal, Operation Sgt., XO, 1 Rat Challenge Cadet 2, 1; Football 4, 1; Wrestling 4, 2; SGT 4, 3, 2, 1; Timber trapper, Club 4, 3, 2, 1; Semester F Society 3, 2; VMI Forestry Firefighter 2, 1; Big Red Club 2; Club Hell Member 1; Rock Painting CIC 2; Red-Neck





**John A. Strock**

**Burke, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Special Student**

When I came to VMI as a rat, I pretty much hated everyday. As third class year came and went I hated about every other day. Then I became a second classman and got my ring, but it really didn't do much for the enjoyment of my college years. Now I am a first classman, the top of the heap, but you know what? I'm still not having a real great time. I guess VMI really isn't meant to be enjoyed as such. It's supposed to be this incredible, character-building experience that I'll look upon as some amazing accomplishment that I've realized. I don't know about all that, but I have made some great friends, people that I probably would not have gotten to know in any other setting. I've learned a lot about people, including myself. I've learned that a lot of people can be consumed by a system that sucks their individuality out and brainwashes them to a point where they no longer exist as they once did. I think the two most important things that I will take away from these past four years are my friends and myself, both of whom I never really knew before I came.

There really are a lot of memories that arise from life at VMI. We all take so much for granted here because we're so busy noticing all of the things we dislike that we never really see the good things, the important things. Having lived in Pervert Corner for these last three years, I have met the guys who make this place bearable, and yes, even fun at times.

I always say I never would have come to VMI if my brother hadn't. Well Chris came, and I followed. I honestly couldn't have done it without him. I owe so much to my parents. I haven't made the best grades, and I'm far from a model cadet, but they have been so understanding and wanted nothing more than for me to be happy. That means so very much to me. I'm gone.

Ice Hockey 4-co-captain 3,2,1; Cadet Newspaper- A&L Writer 2, A&L Editor 1; English Society, 3,2,1; Cadet Programs Board Band Acquisition Chairman 1; Pervert Corner 3,2,1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Rob Brumback  
2001: Adam Zydron



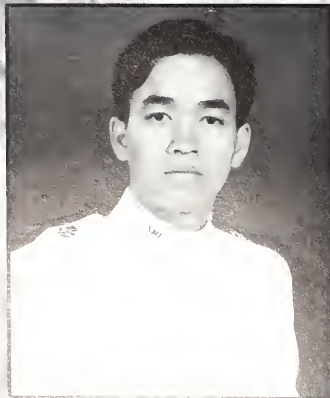
**Prasert Sunyaruk**  
"Moo"

**Bangkok, Thailand**

**Mathematics / Royal Thai Air Force**

Prasert is the name we usually call him since it was the name he used at rat time. He is an Air force cadet from Royal Thai Air Force academy who misses his hometown and his background all the way through the end. Life here taught a lot to him, and finally he made it.

This is what he wrote and I think it is really meaningful and valuable to read. "Living here at VMI is inexplicable, but getting out here is a big pleasure. Thanks my country for giving me money. Thanks my friends, Boy, Aump, Tuk, and others for giving me inspirations. Thanks my faculties for giving me grades. Thanks P' Lum and P' Chit for breaking me out. Thanks my parents for giving me life. And many thanks to 'Lunar' for giving me 'Love'. Top ranked cadet in Mathematics



**Surat**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

**Civil Engineering & Math Minor / Army**

I came to this institute with a little English knowledge. At the first three months; I did not know what cadres talked about. Everyday, I just strained and loudly said "No, sir" or "Yes, sir" without exactly knowing the questions were. That why, everybody in F-troops liked to come to see me and call "Teradachyl" as my actual name is "Terapatana". In the other hand, I pretty liked their calls as it would encourage me to improve my English skills.

For rat year, everything seemed to be my troubles. I was not sure about achievement this hard year or not. Sometimes, when I was so tired, I liked to thoroughly ask myself that why I came and spend my life, here, or what benefits I would get after graduation. After introduced to a certain dyke line tradition by dyke, he reminded me "Royal Thai Army Scholarship". Right now, I know that why I had to come and spend my life, here. I stoped thinking about those silly questions, anymore.

For my second, third, and first years, my life absolutely differed from rat year. Although Civil engineering gave me a lot of hard works to, my life was very happy. Nobody called me "Teradachyl" any more. I were well learned the famous meaning of "Run Shit", Mixer, Party, and Beer and Drunk. All of those were my beautiful English words.

Thank you for my parents who gave a life. Thank you for my dyke, Lt. Wichit sauklao, who gave me spirits. Thank you for my country that gave me a chance to come here. Thank you for VMI that gave me an education and leadership.

Dears list (1994-1998); Distinguished in General Merit for the 1994-1995 and 1995-1996 Sessions; Student Chapter Tau Beta Pi.





**Russell E. Sweitzer**

**North Canton, Ohio**

**Mechanical Engineering / Special Student**

I wish I could say that I'd be seeing the 'I' in the rearview for the last time in May, but unfortunately I'll be here an extra year. I wish my graduating BRs all the happiness in life. The rest of us will get out of there eventually.

"There are four sorts of men:

He who knows not and knows not he knows not: he is a fool—shun him;  
He who knows not and knows he knows not: he is simple—teach him.  
He who knows and knows not he knows; he is asleep—wake him;  
He who knows and knows he knows: he is wise—follow him."

—Lady Burton



**Brian J. Taueg**  
"Taueggy-Style"

**Indianapolis, Indiana**  
**History / Special Student**

Well, the road less traveled has been a long one, but we have come to another fork in the road. Which path will we choose this time? God knows that this road was a beast to say the least! But what is the next road like? I really don't know, but I am confident that my VMI experience has enabled me to handle the next step; furthermore, I know I can handle it because I, like most of you, can't wait to get the hell outta here! I want to say thank you to my roomies-Darius Jackson, Jason Bell, and Darryl Faulkner, you were always lookin' out! I also can't forget about my rat roommate, John Dewey. I remember sitting on our racks wondering if, such things as, Ring Figure or Graduation would ever come, and now I wonder what the hell happened to all that time between then and now, but don't get me wrong, I'm glad that time is gone. I am just going to miss the faces that have become so familiar to my eyes. Take care, live long and prosper, and God bless you all.

Guide Sgt. 2, Basketball 4, 3, 2, 1. Monogram Club 4, 3, 2, 1, Bona Fide 'wanna be Player 4-ever!!!!



Dykes:

- 1995: Terry Tucker
- 2001: Richard Bruce



**Caleb M. Taylor**  
"Apes, Animal, Redneck"

**Roanoke, Virginia**

**Civil Engineering / Special Student**

Caleb came to VMI a young man who did not know much about the Institute or life, but he knew who he was. Through the experiences of Cadre (all three years) and barracks life, Caleb has become a respected member of the Corps. He has become an academically distinguished cadet and a Battalion Executive Officer - both through nothing but hard work. Even though he has earned high grades and holds high rank he is still a friendly, down to earth guy.

Although he is known for his short temper and physical nature, Caleb is always ready to let a bad experience roll off his back. Time and time again, Caleb has over come obstacles to his success and happiness. From family and girlfriend troubles to barracks politics, Caleb has stood firm in his beliefs and triumphed. He has also exhibited an outstanding sense of humor and practicality throughout his cadetship, simply laughing off the harassment all cadets endure (especially those living in Gold Coast 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class year.

Despite numerous experiences at VMI which have tested Caleb's moral fortitude, he has time and time again kicked the devil off his shoulder, and shown the world the strength of his character. The bottom line is, when Caleb Taylor steps off the stage on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 1998, he will change the world, not the reverse. -Tom Warburton.

Cadre 3, 2, 1; Corporal 3; PLT, Sergeant 2; Battalion XO 1; Tau Beta Pi 1; Academic Stars 1; Marshall Museum CIC; Powerlifting Team 1



Dykes:

- 1995: Brian Richie
- 2001: Sidney Toland

## Chesapeake, Virginia Civil Engineering / Army



**Wallace J. Taylor**  
"Jeff, The Bear, JT"

"Two equal tempers of heroic heart  
Made weak by time and fate, But strong in will.  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."  
Lord Alfred Tennyson

Four years ago an epic tale of tragedy, romance, and comedy began. It started when a young man by the name of Jeff Taylor began a long journey into the hallowed halls of the Institute. It was a hard decision to make, but one he felt was necessary. Upon arrival he felt the bushy wrath of the radline, athletics, academics. He was a new member of Big Balls Golf CO and began to trust his new family members. All too soon the long days of Mike Obadal and the awkwardness of his new brotherhood were over. Third class year brought on all new challenges, however he faced them with his new roommates, Dykes, James and Dunbar, which were all Golf company boys. Third class year saw the rise of the 27 boys, Funks Field, academic probation, and one day trips from hell. Third class year he also saw the demise of a five year relationship with his high school sweetheart, hopes of getting off of ac. Pro., and hope of ever having a warm a floor to put his feet on in the morning. After an entire summer of summer school and a petition to return to school he was readmitted for his second class year. Second class year he held the Gold Coast Amnics and became Funks Field 11, FSU, ballroom dancing, and a promising GPA. During second class year the bonds of Dewy, Funk, the Bear grew. Many nights of deliberation were had in 2008, some good, some bad, but they only brought them closer. After yet another summer in Las Vegas, academic probation was behind young Wallace and good times would lie ahead in his first class year. As first class year began it was wide open with opportunities such as weekends, days, dykes, females in barracks, Funks Field 11, Richmond, Civille, speak easy IPT, and finally graduation. The tale ends with our hero riding off into the sunset to more adventures in lands untold for countless amounts of time. There are many people that have made this experience what it is. I would like to thank every person that I have met on this wild journey. I went to college for one reason and that was to see new things and meet new people. I have met so many people that I could never list everyone. I will mention the immediate ones though, Brad and Tiddi Cowke and their lovely women have always been there to help a brother when he is down and give him a beer. Dykes "Dips" Kraft helped in the early stages of my institute days, and always has, and always will be a person that I can talk to. As for my two roommates I can say enough. They are the brothers that I never had. I will never forget all that we have been through. I would be sad to see our institute days end, but I know that our post institute days will only be bigger and better. You boys have been my family since I've been here and I will always hold you in the highest regards. Finally I would like to thank my family, to all of my grandparents, I would like to thank you for your support. To my loving mother I would like to say thank you for listening and under standing even when you didn't. To my father I would like to say that I love you man, and I hope one day my son will be as proud of me, as I am of you. You have been a true source of inspiration for me. This chapter of my life is done, but the next one is promised to be better.



## Chesapeake, Virginia

### History & Psychology Minor / Special Student

"Do I look like a criminal to you?!" was the question asked, in a unfriendly tone to other criminals, by the drunken, handcuffed barbarian in the jailhouse in North Carolina. The smell of the Reverend, beers, vodka, or everclear did not make the harden criminals weary. Leaping 12 feet into a crowd at a Pantera concert, and looking like a cross between De Niro in Raging Bull and the Elephant Man from getting beat down and maced by the cops, however, produced unfeared reactions. Of course only person could pulk this off and say, "Heh-heh-heh, I got the crud beat out of me!" It would be the Master Assassin of the 15th Level, the Cimmerician.

Unlike most friendships, I cannot say he ever really helped me with my problems or growing up. In fact, he was the opposite. He just corrupted me! No more soft, mellow lifestyle. It was Gwar and the almighty Pantera, and of course, Pabst Blue Ribbon! Truthfully, Willie has taught me a lot. He showed me a real way to live and to have fun, though this form of fun is crushing souls and skulls and corrupting little girls. God only knows what he will do in life. I am sure as hell couldnt tell you. All I know is that wherever he goes, there will be a surplus of patients in the hospital and many angry husbands!! Kevin Azar

Well, it's about time for me to carry my old stunkin butt out of here. It will be good to be away from this oppressive oligarchy, but I'm going to miss all y'all delects, that have come to be my best friends. That is what makes this place special, and if it wasn't for y'all I would not have made it. Dyke, room 137, keep it real bro's. To the number 1 club in room 226; Kasper, Bill, and Paul the Dog, take it easy on the brain cells and I'll see you at the Beach; Stafford, may your body count be high. Rob the Slob, don't fall of a rock; Stenbach and Azar, you bastards, you both know what the deal is, it goes without saying. Every body else that isn't mentioned here, you know what you are, good luck with everything. I sure I'll see y'all on your breaks, and at the top of the stadium. Crush your enemies, see them driven before you, and hear the lamentations of the women. -William Z. Taylor  
Boxing 4, 3, 2. Rifle Team 4. Virgin Private 4, 3, 2.



**William Z. Taylor**  
"The Cimmerician, Master Assassin of the 15th Level, Willie"



Dykes:  
1996: Brian Hornamen  
2001: James "Shirley" Shire

## West Chester, Pennsylvania Physics / Special Student

When you first look at Kevin, the image of a "tanker" or "model cadet" doesn't immediately come to mind. Obviously, this description in no way descrin, but third class year our faces became recognizable to one other in the Ghetto. Kevin's face was quite common in the short lived band "Maury-Brook", but other than that I would only call our relationship an acquaintance. Actually, he was more like my third stoop convenience store. Kevin and I actually met through the one person that everybody knows... Mr. Mill-Iron! Milliron was nice enough to offer me a place to stay second class year, and Kevin was quite surprised to see me in his room at the beginning of my second class year. However, for only knowing someone for two years, I can honestly say he is probably one of my closest friends. And for those two years I have seen Kevin in worst of the times and in the best of times (I think more bad times than good). I certainly know the hell Kevin went through our second class year, while being away from his beloved girlfriend (at the time) for a whole year, and then having to listen to my problems. But that is a great quality about Kevin, even though something is bothering him he is always willing to listen and give great advice for any problems you may have. And everybody can agree that Kevin has endured a lot throughout his last three years here. One word... Milliron. Even though his constant borrowing never seemed to stop, Kevin is and always will be a great friend. Kevin, I wish you all the luck in your future endeavors, and I know our friendship will continue to grow throughout life. PWT

Private 4 3; Guide Ser 2; Drum Major 1; SPS 4, 3, 2, 1, Reg. Band 4, 3, 2, 1; The Cadet Newspaper 3; Wee Bar Committee 4, 3, 2, 1; Commanders CIC 3, 2, 1; Maury Brooke 3; Mallory Hall Condo 3, 2, 1; VMI Communist Front (Founder) 3, 2, 1; Brass Ensemble 4; Quinter 4, 3; Ghetto 3, 2; Catacombs 1; Roomed with Milliron 3, 2, 1.



Dykes:  
1995: Chip Rex  
2001: Eric Gannon  
Jeff Kuehn



**William J. Thomas**  
"Billy B.T."

**Alderson, West Virginia**  
**Economics & Business / Special Student**

First of all I would like to thank God and my savior Jesus Christ for making this all possible. My experience at V.M.I. has quite possibly been the worst time of my life. Sometimes I sit back and still cannot believe I made it through this place. When I arrived on post one of the first analogies I read was "in a bathroom stall." It said "I hate this \*\*\*\*ing place!" Well, that sums it up for me. That having been said, I would now like to point out a few of V.M.I.'s finer qualities. I have made some of the best friends a person could ask for. I want to thank my roommates Brad and Cale for making this place bearable. I guess we got the best of our other roommates. I don't see why, our personalities are so charming. Brad you will always be a sissy and Cale, Hank will always be watching you. As for Marc, well; I will leave that one alone. I would like to thank my other close friends Tom, Kelly, Avi, Sam, Pat, Jordan, Worm, Dre, and the rest of the football team. I will always be there for you guys. I can't forget my spades partner Darius, we will always be chumps and you will always be my scrub. Mom, Dad I could not ask for better parents, I love you guys with all my heart. One of the main reasons I stayed here was to make you guys proud, and you know how much I love this place. Carrie, I still think you and Hugh should try this place out. Finally I would like to thank my one inspiration that has made this struggle worth it. Amanda you mean more to me than anything in the world. Without you being just a short drive away I don't think I would have made it. I am counting the days until we can be together. Jason, thanks for being a great dyke and Brad, hang in there. I was told, about four years ago, "It will be over before you know it." It's true. I can't wait to see a few of you hard core rankers in the real world, no G.C., wow! Good-bye V.M.I., I will not miss you. Oh yeah, Stew lives on. Football 4,3,2,1; Spades champ 3,2,1; Stew reggie 4,3,2;



**Dykes:**  
1995: Jason Painter  
2001: Brad Catron



**Leslie E. Thornbury**  
"Bonz, Archie, Turd-Bury, Stickman, Skinny Man"

**Stratford, Connecticut**  
**International Studies & Spanish / Air Force**

I have now known Les for over three years and he is definitely one in a million. Since the days of 438 to the present days of beer binging, we have grown a friendship that can be best described as acquiring a new brother. If one wanted to describe Les, you may say he is crazy but considerate.

Through the days of endless confinement, Les hung in there with the determination of conquering the hardships that V.M.I. put ahead of him. I know I would have gone crazy if I had half the pts and confinement Les obtained throughout his cadetship. V.M.I. taught Les a lesson or two, but Les can proudly graduate and say that he also taught this place a few things also. No matter how hard V.M.I. came down on Les, by means of confinement and grades, Les always managed to crack a smile at the end of the day.

Not only have I had the opportunity to become best friends with Les, my family had the fortune of getting to know him. They all think a lot of Les and let him know that he is always welcomed in their homes.

To conclude I just want to wish Les a joyful and prosperous future. Hopefully he will be able to find a wife that will put up with his nasty habits. Take care of yourself and watch out for the least expected.--Jason

Cpl 3, Sgt 2, Pvt 1, # 1 Club 4,3,2,1, Confined 4,3, AF Wing Staff 2,1, Spanish 2, Silly 4,3,2,1, Aspiring Redneck 4,3,2, Redneck 1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Justin Rubino  
2001: David "Rain Man" Gray



**Andre W. Thornton**

**Richmond, Virginia**  
**Mechanical Engineering / Air Force**

I would to thank everyone who has helped me make it through these last few years; Starting spiritually with my mother, who now serves as my God, and without whom I could not live and breathe from day to day; My father, who I owe my life to for leading me in the right direction and not letting me lose sight of the gold; My sister, Angie, and her husband, David, for believing in me and my nephew, Quincy, for giving me inspiration as his young soul was brought into this world; My significant other, Myesha, who has played probably the biggest support role and through her love has inspired me to succeed through all of this so that we can have our perfect life together; My dykes (Mayo, Les, Cross) for looking out for me my rat year and also giving me something to look forward to when I get out of here; My roommates Jabarr and Al who there is no way that I could have made it without, I love yall N's; My boys who lived in the 13 series and all over barracks for keepin us live over here in 11 and keepin it real; And all my other family and friends at home and at the institute for giving me a support web that was impossible to fall through.

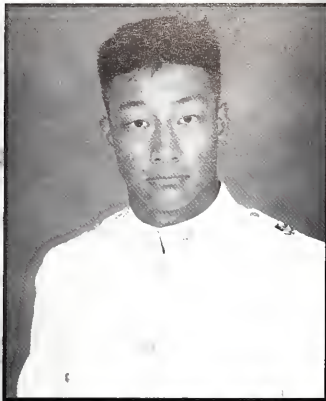
Dykes, Class of 2001: Jay, Alexis, Marcus, Ebony, Mike, Aron Y., Aron M., Nikki, and J.R.; I know it's rough, but stick it out because I promise it will be worth it in the end. Always remember: If it was easy then everybody would be doing it.



**Dykes:**  
2001: Jay, Alexis Marcus, Ebony, Mike, Aron Y., Aron M.; Nikki, J.R.

## South Brunswick, New Jersey

### Civil Engineering / Army



**Shawn Ting**  
"Spawn"

For Shawn coming to VMI was like any other challenge he had faced in his life. I once asked Shawn if he had known any English before he came to America. He just looked at me gravely and said, "Why sure, I knew Michael Jackson and Coca-Cola." Shawn and I were soul mates from the beginning. I swear we could be brothers... minus the fact that he is a short brown man and I am a lanky white boy. We lived together on the third scoop during our rat year, we lived next door to each other, we dyked together, and we were roommates. I have seen Shawn succeed for the four years that we have been together. Shawn has the incredible ability to motivate even the biggest bums, mainly myself. He has been very involved at school from rat challenge and ROTC to football, and much to my dismay he has even held rank. He also has the ability to be just as goofy as the next guy. The late nights we spent together telling stupid jokes, which we dubbed "Stann Jokes", are some of my fondest memories, along with bed surfing, girlfriend discussions, homework sets, and of course sing alongs. He has always been very personable and full of crap. Shawn's favorite game is did you know that... he is full of obscure unbelievable facts. Well now I have one for you: did you know that Shawn is the only short, brown, 200 lbs Chinaman that got cut from the cast of Wizard of Oz? Shawn will go far in life because of undaunted persistence and a friendly personality. Shawn you truly have been one of my best friends at VMI and as much as I hate to admit it... short brown guys are cool! Good luck and Gods speed -- Fly Army. -- Nutz

Rat Challenge-3,2,1; Football-4,3; Quad A-3,2,1; ASCE-2,1; International Club-3,2,1; Promaji Club-4,3; Ranger Challenge-3

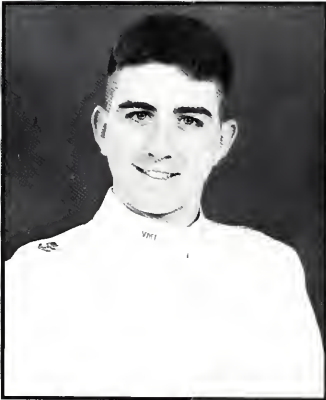


Dykes:

1995: Ben Lu  
2001: Anthony Bravo  
George Gilmore

## Fallsington, Pennsylvania

### History / Army



**Brendan P. Toolan**  
"Hook, Tool, Toolman"

The four years here at VMI have been very interesting to the say the least. I don't believe anyone comes here and experiences exactly what they expected. I, unlike some, have been able to find some humor in the "T", which has helped me get through this place. And I hope that this place gives me everything that it advertises...I think it will! But, of course, I haven't made it through by myself, in fact I have had my help. First of all, to my parents I want to thank you for everything. Mom you have given me constant support. Dad you have been supportive also, but mostly you have instilled in me the drive to do as well as I can, and that may be the most important thing I have learned. Bridget, Colin and Molly you all have been supportive and I thank you! The best part of VMI is by far the friends you make, and I have some good ones. To my roommates Andy and Trey, I don't know how I didn't get you boned out of school, but you have been able to put up with it. It has been fun. Trey, you gave me a friend to talk baseball with and that means a lot to me. Andy, you are one of the best friends I have ever had. We are too much alike in some respects, but that makes it fun. I know well ways keep in touch. Oh, and I have forgotten about the boxing match. To Room 122, you have all been great friends and there are a lot of good times in the room. You are brutal, but it keeps you on your toes. To Room 8-14, you guys are just interesting. To Pervert Corner, you have made this place bearable and absolutely fun. You are the types of people who you just want to be friends with. To my brother, Seamus, and Room 231 good luck. Seamus, you have proved everyone wrong so far, keep it up. To the rats of 110, you have a lot to live up to, but you are definitely on the right track. Jo Scott, and Missy, nothing I would say would give respect to what you have done for me. You gave me a family away from home. I hope I didn't leave anyone out. I am going to miss this place, sad but true!

A Co. 4, 3, 2, 1 Corporal, 3. Color SGT, 2; Lt, 1, JV Basketball, 3, 2, 1 Intramural Football 3, 2, 1, SPI 97, Pervert Corner 3, 2, 1.

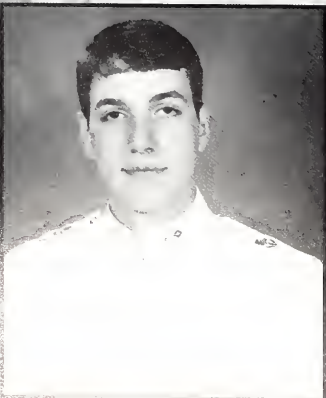


Dykes:

1995: Dave Fleck  
2001: Brad Thompson  
Brian Lakin

## Richmond, Virginia

### Economics & Business / Air Force

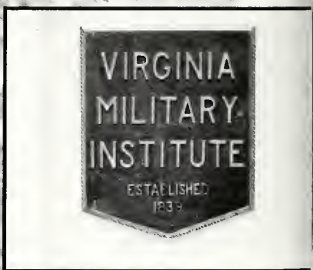


ALOS

I never knew Phil Toumazatos until my second day year. There were a few times when we were thirds though, when he would stop by my room for a smoke or two. It wasn't until I came back from the summer of '96, that I walked into my new room on the second stoop to find a strange, tall, lanky Greek in the room. Hence, the final two years of our sentence here at the "T" we spent as roommates. Milliron and I had quite a few unspoken rules in the room, but it didn't take long for Stu to fit in perfectly. Even if he was a rucker. Snuffy has not walked the stoops unscathed. Rat year, soon after Christmas furlough, he received a number one after finishing his last sip the two beers in room 7-11. His cadre didn't seem to hold it against him, as Snuffy clinched the 7th corporal spot in Delta Co. Being one of the few Delta thirds, Stu's Academic Probation, he took the rank of Operations Sergeant as a 2nd Classmen. Snuff handled these new stripes as he did anything at the institute, with a grain of salt. By his last year, Snuffy was promoted once again to the only real rank here: a 1st Class Private.

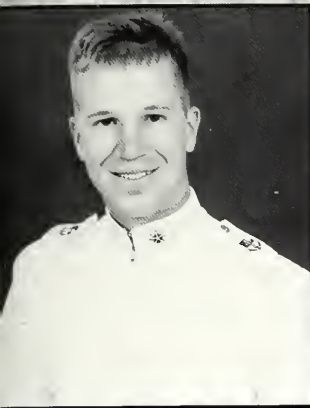
To sit here and sum up Phil to a few words is impossible. In less than two years, he has become my closest friend a comrade at this place. Including all the weekends, ring, figure, and past and present girlfriends, I can honestly say that some of the moments I have treasured most, have been with him, listening to a little music, putting our feet up, and having a smoke. Thanks for matriculating Snuff! My only wish is that I could have met you before we were Zeds, and that our friendship will continue on after we graduate. KMT I never expected after the first few weeks at the "T" I would stay for the rest of my college career, but with the support of family, friends, and the Man above I have completed my stay here. I have to especially thank my mom and dad, because without their support I know this place could have been much worse. I don't know what I really was thinking back in March of 1993, when I decided to come here, but I can honestly say that I would not have made close friends than I have here. Not only will the friendships last forever, but the memories will also. To my roommates: Muldon thanks for all the great stories. You certainly made this place amusing. Crooks thanks for freezing me over the cold months here, but I scared this place with you and I am glad now we will end this place together, and K.T.S. You already got a whole paragraph about what you have done for me. To all of you I wish you good luck!!! And to the "T" I think it speaks for itself! So long... PMT

Private 4, 1, Corporal 3, Ops. Sgt. 2; Alcohol Number One 4, Ghetto Member 3, 2; Caracombs 1; Roomed with Milliron 2, 1; Cadet Newspaper Driver 2.



Dykes:

1995: Mike Bernard  
2001: Tom Abbott



**Timothy O. Trant, II**  
"Timmy, Reggie, Midget, Shorty"

**Disputanta, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Army**

I was terribly concerned that my history might sound generic and too similar to countless other yearbook entries. Then, I realized that those for whom it is written will know the sincerity and depth of emotion which compelled me to write it. So forgive me if it seems to lack originality. Having said this, it begins...

I thank God for all the gifts of this life. I thank my family and friends back home for all the support, and for never letting me forget where I came from. Mom and Dad, I thank you for your complete love and support, especially during those times when you were without complete understanding. John and Reuben, I'll miss you, but I do not have the words, you are my strength—you have helped me sustain. The Virginia Military Institute has been many things for me, always bitter sweet, but the one thing that I have learned to love about this school is the people. They have taught me patience, selflessness, humility, and an appreciation for diversity. There is magic here and that is where it is found, in the bonds that are built with the people around you. I must pay my respects to that magic, and take the opportunity to thank those people that have meant the most to me.

Kenny D, Gronzy, Buck, Brett, Stevie, Schwankie, Ryan Huger, and my boy Will I don't have the words to describe how much I appreciate you all keeping it real, making me laugh, knocking me down when I was too high, picking me up when I was too low, and most importantly being my friend unconditionally. You always say right through me and took the time to consider what you saw. I know this little paragraph is inadequate for what you have done for me and I am forever in your debt.

Thank you Lloyd for putting me on the right track and teaching me the lessons to stay on it. A very special thanks also goes out to Mike Lorenze, Brian Pearson, Mike Ruyuan, Marc Schwickert, John Dewey, Tom Warburton, Ed Niebert, Brad Winegan, Jabbar Bean, Steve Pruitt, Caleb Taylor, Ryan Betton, Clark Twiddy, Tom Wirth, Brett McKinley, Lucas Braxton, Will Stapin, Bryan Bailey, Stefan Bari, and Mack Glancy. Thanks for keeping the faith through the long days and short nights paid off and we accomplished something very significant. We lost our naivety in the process, but I guess that is the price of wisdom.

"That man is a success who is happy with himself and gives happiness to others" - Anonymous

...his original destination is just another story that he loves to tell. With no plans for the future he still seems in control. From a broco ride to a ten foot tide, he just had to learn to roll with the punches. Jimmy Butler

Boxing 4, 3; Rugby 2; Powerlifting 1; Corporal 3; Guide Sergeant & 1st Battalion Sergeant Major 2; 1st Captain 1; Pre-Law Society 3, 2; College Republicans 4, 3, 2; Tau Beta Phi 2, 1; Cataloger; Phi Kappa Phi 2, 1; ASCE 2, 1; Promaj Club 1; Honors Forum 1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Lloyd Taliaferro, Jr.  
2001: Kenneth R. Carmichael,  
Erin N. Claunch,  
Jonathan J. Lewien



**Thai G. Trihn**  
"Teddy, Citizen Trihn"

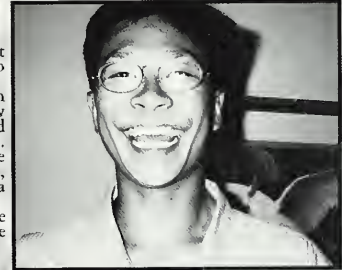
**Newport News, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Air Force**

Ahh... finally, the "road less traveled" has finally come to an end! It has been a long journey. Four years ago, my destination seemed so distant, but now, it is within sight.

I have picked up some good friends along the way and have seen people of all walks of life. This trip has not been without a few bumps and bruises. I have endured through many pains and enjoyed just as many celebrations. Through it all, I managed to stay on course. But where has this road taken me? It really does not matter, if the ones you love and your friends stay by your side. With their support, no destination is out of reach. The road of life is endless, but I have a full tank.

Family and friends, thank you for all your help and support over the years. Thank you Missy for your faithful love and support. We finally made it!

Volleyball Team: 3, 2, 1; International Club: 3, 2, 1



**James A. Trout**  
"Fish, Rainbow, Skippy"

**Buffalo Gap, Virginia**  
**History / Special Student**

Coming from the fields of Augusta County, VMI was a different world for only being a forty minute drive. Learning very quickly that not all of the world listened to the lyrics of Hank Williams Jr. and Dolly Parton. Rat year was a crazy blur that revolved around the drinking of my dykes and the lackluster season of running track. The beginning of third class year was the opening of my collegiate social life with trips to Mary Blyden, W.L., and later to the privilege of attending the final mixer of Southern Sem. At the same time starting my induction into the secret society of the Ghetto, which I proudly served throughout my remaining three years. Third class also involved the loss of a long time friend that followed me to VMI from the Gap. I will always continue to carry on the traditions that Scott Hickey lived by, Women-Whiskey-and More Women.

Ring Figure was the highlight of my second class year. Red Oak Inn provided the playground for the South's version of "The Night of Broken Glass." My roommate's infamous entry into the room through the window broke up the party that would have made it into the Guinness book of records under the category of shots. Coming into First class year I expected all of the glitz and glamor that surrounded my last year. No more cleaning or hay rolling was expected and the thought of marching with a saber instead of a rifle was appealing. I soon found out that the rat line and dyke line I had been taught was soon to be "GONE WITH THE WIND" with the traditional con that was awaited that wanting nothing to do with the traditions or social life instilled in me through the hops and barley. My Antebellum attitudes and Confederate values did not translate into the Coed Corps of Cadets.

...and a Country boy can Survive ----- Hank Williams Jr.  
Virginia Historical Society 2, 1; College Republicans 4-2; Track 4; Civil War Round Table 4; Private except Lt briefly; Ring figure Honor Guard 3; QMD staff 3-1; Number ONE Club 1; Redneck 4-1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Cameron O'Neil  
2001: Mark Bausermann  
Rachel Love



**Kevin M. Trujillo**

"Hispanic causing Panic, T.J, Mighty Mouse, Latin Lover, Little Guy in Dubai"

**Lorton, Virginia  
International Studies / Army**

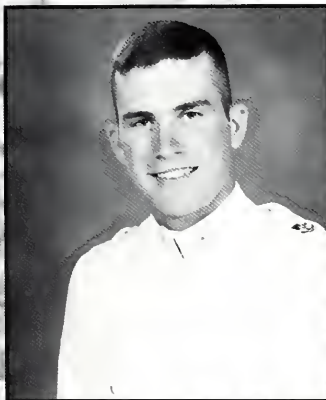
My stay at VMI has been an extremely challenging feat. Next to my family, VMI will always have a special place in my heart. I have learned a great deal about myself and what I am capable of. In a world that condones dishonesty, VMI has a vital role to play in shaping our country. I will forever be committed to the Institute. I am a firm believer in the systems at VMI. If truly is a fair and impartial system that rewards a person based on their efforts, and not by other outside factors.

It is my foremost priority that I thank the people that have got me to where I am. I have to thank my parents for allowing me the opportunity to receive an education and for the enduring love and support they have given me these past four tumultuous years. I love you both very much and am thankful to have parents like yourselves. Also, to my brother Reagan, best wishes to you always, I love you! To the entire Class of 1998, I gave it my all. Thank you for having faith in me. My roommates Fatback, Beetle, and Chimp, I don't know how you lived with me with all of the constant interruptions in the room. Your counsel and friendship is special and I must say that you are my very best of friends. I'll be there for you always! Joey Bates, Jabarr Bean, Brad Cooke, Jon Spitzer, and Michael Runyan, I am indebted to each of you. To my dyke Delton "Sit-Talk-a-let" Lowery, keep the dyke tradition alive. Be crazy, but do the right thing. Make me proud! To all of the Rats in 142, we have enjoyed each of you and feel confident that we have taught you well. President-Class of 1998, Rat 4, Cadre Cpl. 3, F-Troop First Sgt. 2, Pvt. 1, General/Executive Committee, Ring Figure Committee, Lexington Downtown Development Association (LDDA) 1, Lexington Community Council (LCC), Co-Education Committee 2, Deans List 2, Ranger Challenge 4, Ranger Corps 4, 2, Ring Figure Honor Guard Commander 2, Pre-Law Society 3, Dumped 2, Ghetto Dweller 3, 2, 1, Ghetto Ball Participant 3, 2, Chief Executive Officer Staircase 1, MBC Tour Guide 2, 1



Dykes:

- 1995: Elvin M. Cabrera
- 2001: Delton Lowery



**Clark S. Twidy**

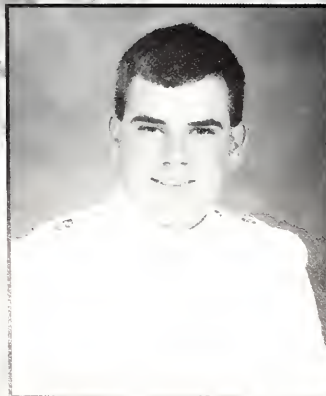
**Kitty Hawk, North Carolina  
History / USMC**

"My sword, I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage, and my courage and skill, to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me that I have fought his battles which will now be my rewarder."  
- J. Bunyan  
4 Matriculated; 3 Kicked Out; 2 Came Back; 1 Graduated.



Dykes:

- 1995: D.Z. Scott
- 2001: Steve Brown
- Matt Meyers
- Amanda Kaufman
- Happy Winters



How  
"Subba"

**Milford, Virginia  
Electric/Engineering / Special Student**

I must say it has been a quick four years!!! I remember very distinctly those words my dad said to me when he was here for the first home football game rat year. They had nothing to do with VMI but he stated "It's September 3rd, time to be plowing the garden and sowing some cover on it. Its funny the things you remember. Since then I have had numerous thoughts of "Will I ever get out of here" and "Will it all be worth it?" The friends I have made though helped me through it all and made it all worth-while. First I need to thank the Lord for giving me the strength and courage to stick it out. But Mom, Dad, Grandmother, Michelle, Steve, Stacy, Toni, and Gina ya'll have all been there for me. From bringing the greatest food for tailgates to bringing the best alcohol to parties, or just being there to talk to, you've all contributed to helping me stick with it. Mom, don't ever let Linda convince you that your food is second best to anyone's.

Back to what I said, From the old days of the slingshot, belt-buckle, and wig to the river house, pig roasts, parties, and races, you've been a great friend through it all. You keep on thinking DJ, is better than Jeff Gordon. It might happen one day, DOUBT IT!!! Shawn and Bryan remember those late night runs to Stop-in, and to Tim, Gonz, and Ken don't get bucked too often. Trey and Billy, thanks for putting up with Buck and I this year. We've all had some great times here but I think the best were the ones we had together away from this place!!! Last, Dan and all you other RATS, stick with it and you'll be alright. Get those grades up though and you'll be even better. To all my friends at VMI and away from here, I think Wade Hayes sums up our feelings and experiences when he said:

"Old enough to know better, but still too young to care."  
Virgin Private 4,3,2,1; Spec. Stud. 4,3,2,1; Best Tailgates 4,3,2,1; RFD NECK 4,3,2,1; Dean's List 4,3; Midnight runs to Stop-in 5,2, 1, 1, 1.



Dykes:

- 1995: Erik Bauserman
- 2001: Dan Lieber





**Bradford E. Vier**  
"Dude, The Cavorter"

**Austin, Texas**  
**Mechanical Engineering / Special Student**

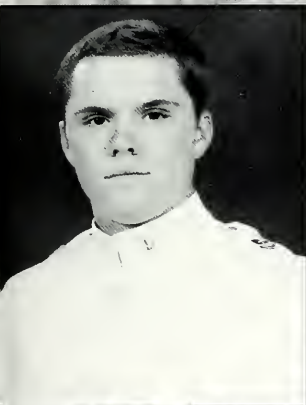
**Ball Bustin' Bravo**  
Throughout Brad's stay at VMI he made many friends. He will be remembered by all his friends as easy going and willing to help out a BR at any time. Room 416 second semester was probably the best of times and the worst of times for him, living the remainder of the rat line with his arch rival, wheels. Then the rest of the semester with the nastiest roommates in the school. There was never a dull conversation in the room. Third class year brought the 341 Friday afternoon matinees; a good time and will be sorely missed. He made many, many friends at the local colleges. He got away with a lot as far as his girlfriends were concerned or knew. On Sunday nights one could always count on a good story about one of his rendezvous at one of the nearby colleges. All stories included the two most important ingredients for a VMI cadet having a successful weekend. VMI severely punished him for exercising the little freedom we have as cadets. Acquiring number ones not once but twice during his second class year, he was placed on the extended program for graduation.

I can definitely say that anyone who had Brad for a friend, had a true friend. The Institute will definitely miss him because he was one of the few to liven it up.

Texas Club 4,3,2,1; Cadet Staff 2; Gigilo 2,1; #1 club 2; Duded 2; Pimpin I; BANBHAT 4,3,2,1; GLAHBAH 4,3,2,1; AWABABAS 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Tim Miller  
2001: UT Girls



**Michael A. Violette**

**Virginia Beach, Virginia**  
**Civil Engineering / Navy**

I don't think most sane people know why they came to VMI, but almost four years later I know why. I am glad I did. The friendships I've made here have been worth every last bit of inconvenience that this college has so graciously provided. I was lucky my rat year to have had some great rat roommates. Without TK, OB-1, 'Big Mike', Bake, and Wain I don't know if you would be reading this today. You guys were great and I wish all of you could have made it through this place.

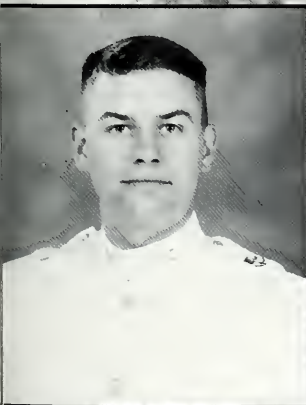
To my roommates over the last three years, Max and Heels, what can I say? I can't believe you all put up with all my quirks, and more importantly thanks for not talking to me in the morning. Max, don't worry I know she's out there, and I know you'll find her. Maybe we can discuss it in further detail up town at your office. Heels, you've always been the calming influence in the room and we needed that, especially with Max and his new understudy, Howie. I look forward to spending even more time with you, Heels, in Newport. I'm sure glad there's over, but I wouldn't trade those years with you two for anything. Thanks.

Finally, I'd like to thank my family for everything over the last four years, particularly my Mom. Even though you were halfway across the world, I always felt like you were right next door. I'm sure the phone bill reflected our closeness. I have been blessed with a great family, and I could never have made it without you, thanks. I love you.

The Cadet Sports Editor 3,2,1; Big Red Club 3,2,1; Dean Smith Fan Club 4,3,2,1; Trident Society 3,2,1; Trident Society President 2; VMI College Republicans 4,3,2; Private 4,3,2,1



**Dykes:**  
1995: Bryan Rychlik  
2001: Ryan Welsh



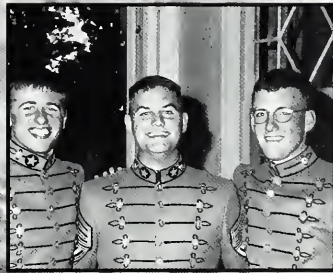
**Reed T. Warburton**

**Pulaski, Virginia**  
**International Studies / Special Student**

Tom entered VMI three years ago not knowing much about the school or the military, but the goals and aspirations he had would carry him to be one of the most respected persons in the Corps today. Currently holding the positions of S-5 (Public Relations) Captain and Honor Court Prosecutor, Tom has given much to the Institute during his tenure here.

Not known for his superior abilities in physical fitness, Tom is always ready to take on any challenge. Since his rat year, Tom has stood at the top of our class academically. Although this was one of Tom's main goals, he still felt that there was more he could do for the Corps and the Institute. Second class year, Tom was elected as one of the Assistant Prosecutors to the Honor Court and was selected for the S-5 Sergeant position. While holding these positions, Tom was still able to uphold his high standards in academics, and excel in every area. Even with the crazy times in Gold Coast, Tom could always make the best out any situation (especially in dealing with his co-dyke). Not to mention all of the antics in room 111 rat year (i.e. WWF with Bernie and Gods Country). Above and beyond these accomplishments, the moral fortitude and display of character by Tom has caused him to become an even stronger person, inside and outside the Institute. Tom's great personality and forthright opinion has served him well throughout his cadetship. As his time here at the "I" comes to an end, Tom will be remembered for his contributions not just to VMI, but to his home of Pulaski as well. Wherever Tom decides to go in life, his sheer determination and talents will carry him to the top.—Caleb Taylor

Private, 3; Reg. S-5 Sgt., 2; Reg. S-5 Cpt., 1; Assistant Prosecutor, 2; Prosecutor, 1; Eagle Scout Club, 4521; Explorer Post, 4521; Pre-Law Society, 321; Big Red Club, 3; Cadet Investment Group, 1; Bee Writer, 1; Assimilation Committee, 2; English Honor Society, 321; Phi Kappa Phi, 21.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Benjy Bird  
2001: Brian Wright  
Mia Utz

## Bangkok, Thailand

### Civil Engineering / Royal Thai Army

Patwichaichote got scholarship from Royal Thai Army to study in the United States of America; fortunately, he was suggested to study at VMI. Four years here gave me lots of experiences. Most of my BRs call me "Pat" and I had very tough years in the first year. Finally I make it, I graduate from VMI. Now I look forward to the future and I will do the best I can for my country and my parents.

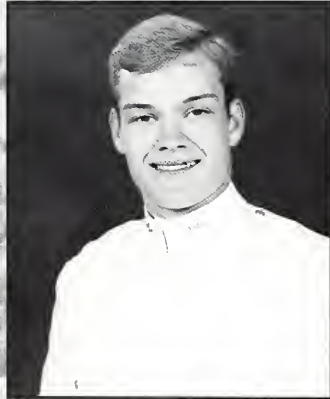
First of all, I would like to thank my parents for giving me all opportunities to have the successful life. Thank P+Mom for everything. I would like to thank my dikes, P' Chit and P' Lum for all their help though the past four years. I would like to thank P' P' everyone who gave me all helps and warms. Thank Precha and all my friends who have never forgot me.

Good luck to all BRs in the class 1998 and thank for creating some great memories of VMI.



**Patwichaichote Wasan**

Aey



**Jason M. Watson**

## Fairfax, Virginia

### Biology / Air Force

Matt and I are alike in as many ways as we are different. That has made for an interesting few years, but I can say that he is one of the most enjoyable people to be around. The general agreement was that he would make me have fun and I would keep him out of trouble. Some of the things you have pulled off will not go forgotten. Remember all of the runs that we had. The flood being one of the best. The trips to DC, Longwood, and JMU and of course Baldwin always made for an interesting time. His overpowering opinions made for good arguments or food for thought late at night when we could not sleep, but that may have been caused from the cold air of midnight freeze outs. Remember our pet knuckles? This school was an interesting choice for Matt. He is headed off to a career in the Air Force, yet to someone who did not know him that would be the last place they would see him. Matt's humor and laid back persona will take him far in this world and he will be an asset to those around him.

Well, we may not run as often together or be able to drive DP crazy but as always the spirit of 155 will be there. I will miss doing work while you play computer games or watch hockey, but all is well. Take care and I'll see you in .....monkeyboy

Pvt. 4,3,2,1; ice hockey 4 Capt. 3,2,1; rugby 4,3,2; marathon club 1; air force slave 4,3,2,1; pfmc 2,1; motel co guidon 1; AAS 3; injured 2.



Dykes:

1995: John Byram

2001: Daniel Strock

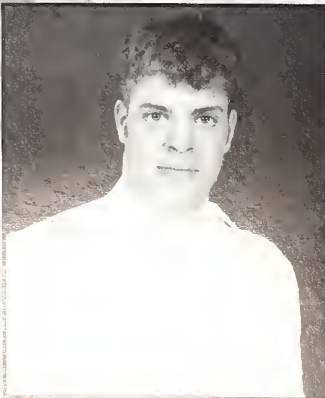
## Newport News, Virginia

### Mechanical Engineering / Air Force

My first memory of Ryan, although a very foggy one, was during exams of my third class year. Needless to say 4 half-gallons of Beam were consumed by 7 people. The next time I saw him was two days later and he was still emptying his stomach. Now he has been upgraded to my drinking partner and since then we have been able to bring out the best, some may say worse, in us. We have had some great times together at UGA, Spring Break, Baltimore, Newport News, and at the shows we were able to catch this summer. All drinking aside, Ryan is the truest friend I've ever met. He would go out of his way to do anything for you. Living with Ryan has probably been one of the best decisions I've made here at the Institute. Thanks for all the good times, sober and drunk. You will be a success in the Air Force, let's just hope you get your pilot slot, because I wouldn't want to be in a plane that you're navigating.

--Freebeer

I would like to say thanks to my parents and grandparents for the support they have given ever since high school. Without them I would not be where I am today. To my brother Scotty (Shaggy) who helped me with some of the toughest times here. We never did get along that well before we came here, but ever since your rat year we made up for it. And to the Blues; Teakwood Clan, and Georgia Crew we have had some great times before we came here and over the course of our cadetships. Lets make sure we keep in touch when we finally leave this place, you will all be missed. Good luck to all of the room dykes. Ryan (Moder)



Fredericksburg, Virginia  
English / Navy



Jason Wells

I have known Jason for almost two years and it seems the better I get to know him, the better I know myself. He has a way of analyzing life that makes a bad situation look alright. He is never quick to judge and he sees others for who they really are. He is always willing to listen to your problems and is quick with encouragement. He is a first class private but he always keeps a clean cut appearance. He has no enemies in Barracks and he cares much about friendship and honor. If he sees something going wrong on the hill he is not afraid to speak his mind to those who will listen and he helps out whenever any of his brother rats are in trouble. He has a deep sense of pride and accomplishment as a cadet and always speaks highly of the Institute to outsiders. He, like all of us, often thinks about graduation and the world after VMI although he is not always sure what he wants to do with his life, he is the type who will do well in whatever he pursues. Jason is a true friend, mentor and drinking buddy. He will always be a part of the class of 99.  
Virgin Private, out in 3 years



Chester, Virginia  
Civil Engineer / Special Student



Adam N. Werner

Wain, Big Wern, Rowdy Wain, The Duke

Well the time has come to get the hell out of this place. Mooms and Dooms, it has been a long, rough road and I would not have made it without y'all. Stephanie you were always there for me through the good and bad. I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you. To Jessica, thank you for being the best sister anyone could ask for. I look forward to you, John, Fee and I to grow old together. At the end of each break throughout the past four years I got this sick feeling in my stomach. The only thing that kept me coming back were the friends I have made here. To Rith, Roids, Moose, and Nate I had a great time living with y'all even though I throw a football now better than I can solve a math problem. Rith keep being Rith. Roids thanks for keeping me normal in THAT room. Moose keep working on those hands and I'll see you in the NFL. Nate just keep tellin those stories and you'll go somewhere. To V, keep poopin' and grillin' and drinkin liquid Bucephus. To the rest of 106 good luck with whatever it is y'all do when I'm not in there. To Bakes, Kump, and Al, I only have one thing to say, OX FOR HEISMAN! Big Jon and Fat Wern, keep running and someday you'll be as fit as me. Tom and Roids, can't wait for Daytona '99. John, Bill and Rats of G31 work hard and play hard, it goes by quick. And finally to T.K., fellas forever! Thats all I got. See y'all later.  
1st Class Pvt. 1, Plt. Sgt. 2, Corporal 3, Hans and Frans Club 3, 2, Big Red Club 3, 2, 1, Poop Club 4, 3, 2, 1, Honorary Member of 433 4, RDC 1, Rowdy Wain- Winston Cup Champion 2, 1, Cherokee Row 4, FEB 4, 3, 2, 1.



Dykes:

- 1995: Kayce Kraft
- 2001: John Jicha
- Bill Fitzpatrick

Fairfax, Virginia  
Mechanical Engineering / Navy



Michael A. Weyler



## Virginia Beach, Virginia

### International Studies & Biology / Air Force

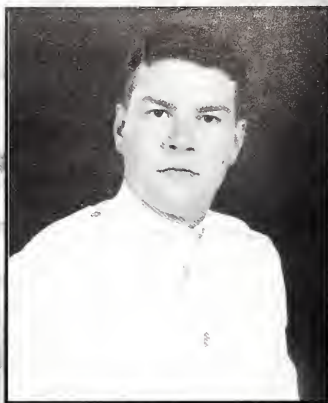
A lot of times I walk through barracks and forget that I am a first classman. Right now, typing this, I am having a hard time believing it. I remember my Mom saying a year or two ago that when I wrote my history it had better be serious and tasteful, so here goes.

First, I have to thank everyone at home who has been there for me: Mom, Dad, Bubba, Shawn, Kelly, and Damon. Without you guys I wouldn't be here at all, or I'd be miserable. To the rest of the family, you were there too, but I have only so much room. To all my professors, you are by far the most interesting part of this school. To all of my ladies, thank you too.

Entering VMI, I was a naive young man. I thought I knew a lot, but I have learned infinitely more. I have come to hate VMI for many things, realizations I have had, but I also know that when its said and done I will love this place with an equal fervor. Rats, 'Hope, if anything you learn from me and do not repeat my mistakes. All of my boys who have been there with me through it all, thanks again.

I have seen many dreams not materialize, but I am not sorry now. What I have become overshadows those petty aspirations.

Azalea / Apple Blossom 4; Sports Medicine 3; *The Cadet* 3, 2, 1; Water Polo 2; Ticket Office 2; CAP 2; Model Arab League 2; Private 3, 2; Dyke Committee 2; Barracks Stud 4, 3, 2, 1; Alpha Lt. 1; Powerlifting 1



**Douglas K. Whalen**  
"Hebrew, Fresh, Jew"

## Atlanta, Georgia

### Civil Engineering / Army

People ask me these days why I chose VMI. Right now, I could not give those people an answer. If those people asked me before attending VMI, I would have said that I am going to VMI for discipline and an education. I definitely received those two things during my tenure here. However, I received more than that. I have come away from this place with the best friends of my life.

I would just like to thank my family for all the love and support they have given me over the last year. Without them, this wouldn't have been the best time of my life. I would like to thank my conversations on the phone were not always pleasant. I just want to say thanks for listening. Next I would like to thank the boys of room 442 for the past three years. I did not know all of you during Rat year except for Doug. However, I have enjoyed every minute of hanging out in yalls rooms. I do not think that Doug will ever forget the story of sleeping on the floor. It was a hilarious event and the story gets better every time I hear Doug tell it.

Now for two people that I owe a great deal of thanks to: Jordan Clark and John Strook. Jordan thanks for being there when I needed someone to talk to. It is hard to imagine that we have lived with each other for the past three years and were good buddies together. We have had some fun times together, and no one could have a better college roommate than you have been. I wish nothing, but the best for you. What can I say about John Strook? This guy is a true VMI man. I don't know of any other guy that can stay at VMI for two years on ACP and confinement and stay sane. I could write pages about John and it still would not be enough. Spring Break '97, the Dave shows, and visits to Atlanta were great times, and I will never forget them. I'm just glad I was not with you when you went streaked, but that story will go down in the history books.

I would also like to thank John Coker, Jeff Meade, and the guys in Pervert corner. It has been a roller coaster of four years, but I think this place was the best for me to go to college. Although I don't think that all the time, but I know this place will put us a step above the rest. It is hard to imagine how fast these four years have gone! But Thank God it is over! Now for bigger, better, and brighter adventures!!!  
Det. 4, 2, 1; SGT 3; Tech. Clerk 3; S-3; Gunner 2; CFB Pres. 1; Ranger Co 1; SGT 2; MNMB S-4 1; Big Red Club 3; DMS 1; Dean's List 4; Army Scholarship 3, 2, 1; Complained about this place 4, 3, 2, 1;



**Langston M. White**  
"Language, The Riddler, Snacks,  
Flounder, El Nino"

## Stuarts Draft, Virginia

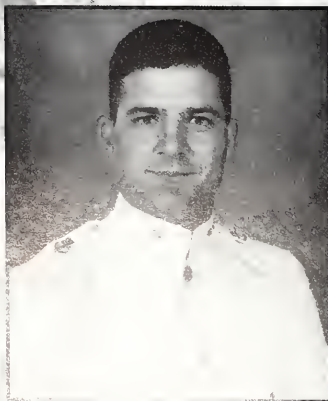
### Chemistry / Special Student

I came to the 'I' over three years ago not knowing what hell was, I learned. This place could brainwash most minds, but alas my savior came in the form of my dyke, Damian. Damian took the malleable mind and kept it from being corrupted by the Insurgate. He taught me to distrust VMI authority in what was done "for the good of the Corps." I became a shit-eating third with my BRs and was blessed with three fellow sarcastic roommates. Mike and I did have our problems, but in the end we will always be good friends. For Salmen who went on to better things, nothing will ever beat his humor. Dan Gibson was the most opposite person I could have gotten stuck with, but he has taught me so much about friendship and patience. The memories, or lack of, when we both turned 21. For my newest roommates Neal H. and "Super Eye" thanks for carrying on the cynicism towards this place. Thus we forget Ring Figure: "Did you know her Nick?" And to "Super Eye," I want you to always remember you will always be MY BITCH. My best friend from home and I had a quote from the summer of '97 that sums up my feelings for the rest of my friends. "There are only two things you need in life. Good Friends and Good Beer (George Killians)." To my rat, Christian "I've got another special: Barrett, loosen up, let go and disbelieve. This place is going to kill you if you take it for what the administration says it is."

Thus we travel from barracks to where I spent a many a late night in the Chem building. Hank S. was one of my greatest teachers and friends. Thank you for listening to me complain about this place. KDS may be small in stature, but he cared for every chemistry major. Thank you for all the help and sticking around to see us graduate. Doc Jones said it was going to be bad, well it was, but he never gave up on us. The Chem Class of '98, Robin, Andy, Jeff, Lucas, WOJ and Kris, we will always be remembered as the class that gave the chemistry professors the most shit. We may be gone from New Science, but our voices will echo the halls forever.

"Hey, Lucas look" "Make a Bond..." "No Hand Waving" "Chemists, That's You"

Virgin Private, Disgruntled Chemist, 4, 3, 2, 1; VMI ACS 3, 2, 1 (President, Treasurer), Hop and Floor 3, Intramural CIC and ACIC and Rack Challenge 3, 2, 1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Frankie Haltom  
2001: Chris Butera



**Dykes:**  
1995: Sid Mitchner  
2001: Seth Ford  
"Freddy" Henderson



**Dykes:**  
1995: Damian Desmond  
2001: Christian "Specials  
Forces" Barrett



**David C. M. Willey**

"Will Dog, Shake-n-Bake, Silent Dave, SBD"

**Smyrna, Delaware**

**International Studies / Special Student**

I've learned more in the past four years than the sum of the previous eighteen. But it is satisfying to know that I have learned what is best in life. As for final remarks, I can only offer this: To those that know, nothing needs to be said, and to those who choose not to know, there is no point in saying anything. Most importantly, some can never learn or have not yet learned. For those, I leave this: "... for he is but the counterfeite of a man who hath not the life of a man"-LMB<sup>o</sup>  
Private: 4,3,2,1; ROTC-Nazi: 4; Boxing: 4,3; Study Abroad: Spring 2



Dykes:

- 1995: Mark Fulk
- 2001: Alex Tedla



**Edward J. Williams**

Ed, Fish, Apple Juice, Woodstock"

**Woodstock, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Air Force**

Life here at the Institute has been filled with many great trials and tribulations. Nevertheless, I always seemed to make it through the tough times. I have formed many great friendships here at the "I". Nesto, Juan, G. Wade, Joe "Fish 1", Barry, Gordy, Mel...all my fellow FTroopers...and anyone I forgot, you know who you are...thanks for all the fun. It is hard to believe that May 1998 is finally upon us...they always said time flies when you're having fun! August 15, 1994 seems like it was just yesterday. Rat year was filled with many challenges and much destruction! Third class year I willingly studied abroad at the LFCC, second class year brought ring figure, which will undoubtedly never be forgotten by anyone, especially for the "Ghanian Root" First class year has been filled with many sleep filled afternoons in room 194 with Jaguar Germans leading the way, Fish 2 running a close second, and Fish 1 coming in last(only because you have better grades) VMI has truly been an experience. Finally, I want to thank my family for being behind me in whatever I do, most of all my mom for the car payments, phone bills etc... and also my girl Bethany for always being there for me...without you all I wouldn't be where I am today. Thanks for everything... Good luck to Phil and Mike....don't worry it'll be over before you know it...stick in there guys...also thanks to Mike for the great jokes and to Phil for teaching me how to play the guitar.

Private 4,2,1; Big Red Club 4,2,1; Rat Challenge cadre 1; Boxing 2; Powerlifting 1; Model Arab League 2,1; Intramurals 4,2,1; Proman Club 4,2; Model Arab League 2,1; Intramurals 4,2,1; L.H.T.E.P 4,2,1; LFCC 3; FTrooper forever



Dykes:

- 1995: Spike Johnson
- Bryan McMillian
- 2001: Phil Lutz
- Billy "Mike" Myers



**Mark E. Williams**

"Sparky, Rat Williams, R.W."

**Glen Allen, Virginia**

**Civil Engineering / Navy**

In all my time at this institution and thinking back on the many valuable experiences, both good and bad, its hard to express how I feel about completing my cadetship. In a strange sense I'm almost saddened at leaving, it seems as if I made my home away from home here with friends of a special caliber and experiences that would never of been possible somewhere else. These four years have been traveled on a rocky road that started out as a seemingly narrow endless path. At times the path closed even farther, but for the most part it widened as I continued to walk. So many times I wanted to turn around and start on another journey, but for a reason I'll never understand I did not. "What a long strange trip its been! A trip that taught me how I want to live my life and who I want to become. One that showed me how we all take so much for granted and the importance of making the best out of every moment. I'm now at that glorious end I could only dream of just four very short years ago. An end that would not have been possible without my family and friends. I thank you!

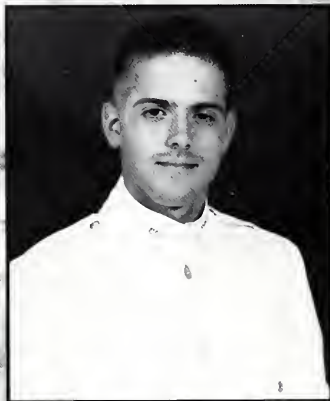
"So now I will proudly march to the beat of a different drum, the drum of life. I'm looking forward to it, as I have been since that rainy August day the class of 1998 came together. In whatever my future has in store, I am certain that I will never forget these four precious years.

Wrestling 4,3; ASCE 4,3,2,1; Martial Arts Club 2; Volleyball 1; Trident Society 4,3,2; Summer School-ALL; Virgin Private; Hardcore Alpha



Dykes:

- 1995: Leo Pambid
- 2001: Mike "The Player" Gantert



**Sean M. Williams**

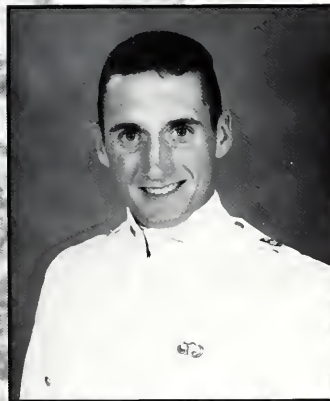
**Oceanside, California  
History / Special Student**

It is a shame that the nature of this place stifles people like Sean. I love and respect him for the things they fear in him. Sean speaks his mind, doesn't take sh\*t from anyone and knows when to give out. His general concern for his friends is unparalleled and whenever I have been cornered, he has always stuck by me. Good luck to you Sean, but I don't think you'll need it.

In all my years that I have grown to know people, I don't believe I have met anyone who will strive to go out of his way in order to go against the grain, be it the "I" or life in general. In that I respect his will and assertiveness to pursue what he wants, I respect him, but do not envy him. Yet, there are few that I feel that I have bonded with and have grown to love as only the closest of friends can share. There is nothing that I would not do for Sean and this is strengthened by the fact that I believe he would do the same.

I got some hours to give: Crozer Crew, Gheto Clik, New Barracks and WBC, what up Yall. To all my former roommates, you know who you are, I will always remember the good times, keep it real. To my 2<sup>nd</sup>, John W., J.P. Twan, Shawn W. stay up yall. To Tyrone... "what the dealy yo" To my dykes, be good and strive for the absolute best. The whole world's lookin at me, watchin and waitin to see!

Trendkiller: 4,3,2,1; Intramurals: 3,2,1; Crozer Crusader: 3,2,1; Triathlon Club: 1; Guideon: 1; Different: lifetime;



**Thomas M. Wirth**  
"Tom, Tommy, Guns, Dictator"

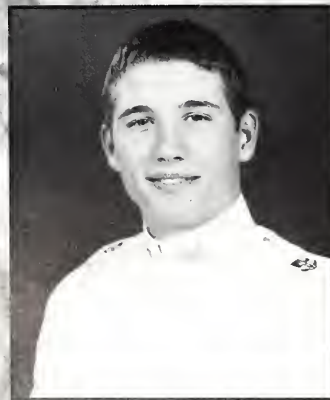
**Fallston, Maryland  
Civil Engineering / Army**

My first encounter with Tom was in Calculus class. I remember the way he would finish tests in ten minutes while everyone else desperately struggled to finish. I hated that! Little did I know he was to be my roommate for the next three years. It took a little while to get used to but eventually we became really close friends. Tom wasn't quite as laid back as I was, but he did possess a knack at knowing when to relax and when not to relax, even though I tried to get him to relax all the time. I guess it was good he didn't follow my advice, because he wouldn't have become the leader he is today.

3<sup>rd</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> CPL, 2<sup>nd</sup>: MSG, HC AP, Co Ed Committe; 1<sup>st</sup>: HC Pres, B Co. CMDR.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Brian "Stick" Williams  
2001: Brian Wilson



**William C. Wise**  
"Curly, Kramer, Agent, Diaz"

**Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Spanish / Special Student**

My friends told me that it was only going to be hard for a year. They left out the three years that followed. Well, I am passed all those years now and I am left almost speechless. I have many people to thank for helping me get through this experience. Naturally, I have my parents to thank for helping me through my four years here, but more importantly, I thank them for making me stay and giving me no other option. Sometimes that is the role that parents must take when they know what is best for you and I thank them for that. Next come my sisters Terry and Patricia who were unselfish in my times of need when I know that it was their time of need also, but I especially have to thank them for that one unique interaction that I had with both of them called competition. Tias Marisol y Eli gracias también y especialmente gracias a Abuela por todas las veces que rezó por mí. Abuelo, tu me distes mas ayuda de lo que te puedes imaginar. Te hecho de menos. Quiana, if I left you out, I would be leaving out my life. Doug, I couldn't have asked for a better roommate. Erik and Ryan, I'll see you two around. Finally, thanks to Coach Bozeman and Coach Iverson who helped mold me into who I am just as much as the Institute did. I love all of you. Goodbye VMI.

Private 4,3,2,1; Monogram Club 3,2,1; Track and Field 4,3,2,1; Cross Country 4,3; Deans "OTHER" list 4,3,2,1; Doug's Designated Driver 2,1.



**Dykes:**  
1995: Franky Haltom  
2001: I was all by myself...



**John A. Witt**

"Jay, J-Dubb, Jay-Bo, Handsome Jay"

**Big Stone Gap, Virginia  
Civil Engineering / USMC**

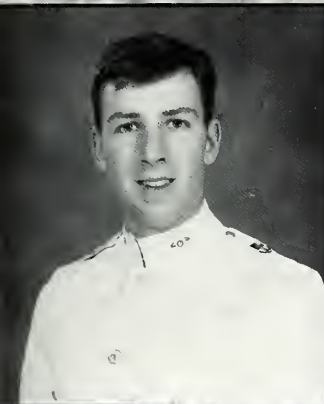
Coming to VMI was a tough decision for Jay that has proven to be one of the best decisions he has ever made. Jay has been a leader and a motivator since the first day he arrived on matriculation day. His rat year was challenging at times but Jay could always make the best out of any situation. He never seemed to let any of it get to him and he was always determined. When Jay first arrived, he was just a small town country boy from Big Stone Gap, a place most never knew existed. It didn't take him long to put ole BSG on the map though... Jays dyke, Anthony, was also from a small town in southwest Virginia, but didn't know much of him when he arrived. However, in a short amount of time, Jay and Anthony established a friendship that extended much further than the typical Rat-Dyke relationship. The times down in room 194 were always humorous in one way or another. Jay and I never seemed to leave that room without a smile on our face and more often than not, still laughing. Third class year was all about sleep for him. He always worked hard as a corporal in Golf Co. and in his classes, but if you ever needed to find him, you just had to look in his rack. This was also the year of women for Jay. He was always going somewhere different every weekend to see some girl he met. There were some great party weekends in there too. This year will fly by fast. Before you know it, Jay will be an alumnus working for some engineering firm. Well, we're at the end of the ride now and what fun it has been. Jay, you're going to be missed around here. I know you will do well and succeed in whatever you do. It's been quite an experience, Jay. Thanks for everything. -ADF

RAT-4, 2nd Cpl.-3, Msgrt.-2, Engr.-1, Big Red Club-3,2,1



Dykes:

- 1996: Anthony "Buck" Grey  
Jim "Fat Jimmy" Johnson
- 2001: John Petry



**Thomas J. Wojciewchowski**  
"Woj, Yank, Chowder Head"

**Beaverton, Oregon  
Chemistry / Special Student**

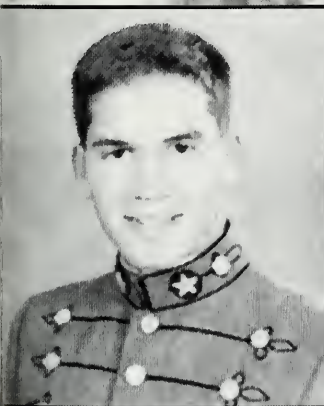
Well, AP we did it and it was far from easy. It's unbelievable how two people from two different backgrounds, being as compatible as ether and water, became best friends. Brother, if it weren't for you I'd be the same mixed up, liberal, Gen-Xer I am now—someplace else. I'm glad I stayed to see you get married, and I'm glad to say we'll be best friends forever. I hope to a higher being that we never lose touch...give Beth mom, and I'd best wishes for me as I head into the real world. ID, what can I say, except "what can I say." Since I am the only person in barracks who can live with you, I ask that you keep in touch with me. I love you, you're the brother I never had. Both you and AP stuck by me in the worst times, and supported me when I started to fly off the handle, it took you guys to set me straight. To all the friends I've made during this trip, thanks for everything. To all the people who questioned my judgement, thanks for nothing, but thank you sincerely for caring. NOW LETS BLOW THIS POPCICLE STAND!!! Lucas, Robin, Wormy, Dieterich, and Nick: It took a while for the bond to be made, but I'll always remember the Qual-parties, Unwanted Cousin, McTown 4, and CONTACT!!! Friends for Life. What a family. EEE-Gads. I know I don't have to tell my rats to carry on the slack tradition of those in the dyke line before them. Torrey and Ryan, if any easy, don't let my opinion of this place influence you, graduate and BE DONE!!! Doc Jones (oh), thank you for it all. You guided me through four years of hell and into a new world. You'll hear good things from me in a couple of years.

Well, boys, the Chem Class of 98 has taken the Chem Dept. by storm and there hasn't been a class like us since. Even though we set the tone for the classes behind us, I feel empty without Tim Berry here with us. He was the heart and soul of our family and he'll be doing VMI an injustice if he doesn't come back to graduate. Tim if you ever get a chance to read this, I speak for chemists, that us that we miss you and wish you could walk the stage with us. What VMI means to me: The Falcons? Well, Chris, I read the thought that you must be crazy putting that in your biography. In the end, it looks like you took away more from this place than I chose to. Semper Happy...always and forever. Thank you, grandma. God Bless you. I cannot be coerced into doing anything. -AP Gehring Look at me. I'm Chief Boyzard!!!! Years. Truly. I just want to have less. -D  
Felt Violated 4,3,2,1. 'McTown 4' 2,1 AV-MRV THF '70 ACS 2,1 (wp). S-5 Counselor 2,1. 'Dork 4,3,2,1 Bert, to APs Ernie 4,3,2,1. Real-Life Cartoon Character 4,3,2,1.



Dykes:

- 1995: Chris Myers
- 2001: Torrey Phanelson  
Ryan Cates



**Justin P. Wolfe**

"Jew Boy, Jewish, Gigolo, Wolfie"

**Midlothian, Virginia**

**Economics & Business / Special Student**

Before arriving at VMI, Justin entertained the idea of being in the special forces. Luckily, after his friends beat a little bit of sense into him, and the ROTC department denied him proper entry, he realized that it was truly his destiny to be a spec stud.

With his sense of humor and his friends by his side, Justin navigated his way through the Rat Line with minimal turmoil. Being roommates, as well as being on the tennis team together, and being in the same academic major, Justin and I always seemed to be together as rats. I know that our mutual support made things much easier on me during that time of trial. During his free time, Justin enjoyed decorating the radiator in room 422.

Third class year—rumored to be a cadets worse at the 'I', brought good times for Justin. He divided his time between being a rock and roll star, tap-dancing around the room early in the morning, and justifying late night rumbles in room 331 after W&L frat parties. It also brought Justin the opportunity to study abroad in England. Highlighted by a visit a British emergency room.

A reality check was in order as Justin returned to the states for our junior year. The Econ department was happy to deliver this wake-up call, as Justin got struck with a horrible academic load.

Late in his cadetship, Justin found time to pursue a long time interest—he became a thespian. A what? One of Justin's foremost accomplishments during his stay, though it may seem hard to believe, was managing to meet every guy from every single state's instructions. Justin dabbled in a bit of everything while serving time here, and only not. He does know everything except about cars. Who knows what the future holds for this VMI man? No one knows for sure, including himself, but nothing is out of the question. I do know that he has made VMI much more bearable for many people during his stay, and wherever he ends up, people around him will be better off for it.

Virgin Private 4,3,2,1. Cadet Investment Group 3,2,1. VMI Theater "Laughing on the 23rd Floor" College Republicans, Many Broads, S-5 Tour Guide 2,1, S-5 Usher 2,1, Tennis Team 4, Dear List, Academic Stars, MOEPO's assistant, beer 3,2,1, and Big Man on Post.



Dykes:

- 1995: Tom "Tuna" Hoskins
- 2001: Sam "Einstein" Laneave

Republic of China  
Electrical Engineering / Army



**Hsiao-Wen Yu**  
"Hank"

Hank Yu, an all around nice guy. He came from Taiwan, leaving his family and friends, to study in the states. Hank was a couple of days late to cadre week due to a typhoon in Taiwan, but when he arrived, speaking minimal English, he adapted to his environment quickly, developing friendships that will last him a life time. Unfortunately, the 'I' was Hank's first impression of American, but now after Rat year and graduating, Hank hopes to return to America for graduate studies.

Throughout his four years here, Hank experienced broad aspects of VMI. He has held rank within the corps, participated in the Rat Challenge program, and enjoyed life, his last year here, as a 1<sup>st</sup> class private. You can always find a smile along with a greeting from Hank whenever you passed by him. So with Hank's character of hard work and positive attitudes, he will be missed by the Institute and appreciated by the world.

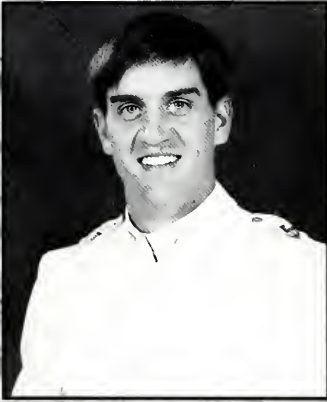
Ring Figure Honor Guard 3; Platoon Commander at Chinese Military Academy (CMA)2; Rat Challenge Station Cadre at VMI 3,2; Rat Challenge Platoon Leader 1; International Student Club; Chinese Cadets Club



**Dykes:**  
1995: Ben Lu  
2001: Grairi H.

Richmond, Virginia

Economics & Business / Special Student



**Joseph B. Adams**  
"Sup, Jaybird"

When it really comes down to it, the only thing I'm thankful for is the fact that I made it through this hell. This probably has been the worst 4 or so years of my life. But on the brighter side of things, I did have some fun here. All I have to say is thanks to all the guys that have made this place bearable at times. All the guys that graduated last year, Tripp, Joe, Berger, Joel, Troy, Gruse, Chuck, Johnny, and everybody else, I wish I could have been there with you. To the guys still here, Garrett and Thomas and company, I'm glad it's over. Ruth, Deryck, Nate, D.P., Travis, Danny Hughes and Tony, thanks for all the good ideas to make me feel a little better. To all the guys on the team, it was fun while it lasted. Thanks for all the fun trips and I hope you kick but next year. Mom and Dad, thanks for being there for me. I had some bad times here but you stuck by me. I love you all both very much for that. I couldnt have done it without you. Thanks everyone. Check ya later!

Baseball 4,3,2,1; Monogram Club 4,3,2,1; Big Red Club2,1; RDC Virgin 4; Riddles Club 2,1; Long Hair Club 3,2,1; Failing Elements Student 4,3,2,1,etc; The Mill Club 2.



**Dykes:**  
1994: John Payne  
2000: Aaron Cantley  
John Jackson

Great River, New York

History & Environmental Leadership / Army



**Jonathan D. Atkins**  
"Jon, Yon, Skip"

Jonathan arrived at VMI in the Fall of '94 ready to take on the world, Ratline or whatever. He knew he could make it through the Ratline because he had had years of preparation for it. On a cold day in February '95, he and his BRs made the muddy crawl up the Hill. In fact, he enjoyed life at VMI so much that he found it difficult to leave it in the good ole' Summertime. Yes, it was the notorious academic ratline that he was as prepared for when he was a child. He learned that, one can spend too much time and money on a phone. He also joined the Virginia National Guard that summer and spent much time on the road to Richmond. Unfortunately, he spent more time on the road than he did on his courses at summer school. As a second, Jonathan found himself in exile with extra time to ponder what he had learned at the 'I'. He learned many things from the Institute that he may never receive a grade for: like, perseverance, greater understanding of other people, institutions, and himself. He found strength in the Brotherhood and admiration for what VMI aspires to be. He knew he had to return even if it meant taking Chemistry two more times! The class of '98 had ordered him to return when he attended Ring Figure and he wasn't going to disappoint anyone. He finally understood the advice. "Though VMI may not be a great place to be, it is a great place to be from." He proudly wears the Ring and looks forward to the day he walks the stage, and can call VMI slims matter. The list of deserved thank yous is long and distinguished, to long to list in the given space. However I would to thank you Mory, if not for you I would not be who I am today. To Mike you will always be my student, you three foot hairy Italians. To Rich I want to say thanks for making breaks so much fun, the picture goes out to the good-times "Just chillin' like de boys." To Jimmy I want to say thanks for being down here to keep me sane in a place that tests my patience on a daily basis. Mr. and Mrs. "Deiz thank you for giving me a home away from home. "YOU HEAR ME!"

To my Dad thanks for letting me decide what is best for me. Last and most important I want to thank you Mom, with out you none of this would be possible. You will always need your advice, guidance, and support. I hope that soon your latest project (Me) will prove a success and the credit you deserve will be yours. To my class I wish you the best in the future.

Rat 4; Private 3,2,1; Church 4; English Society 4; S&S court guide 4,3,1; Goo Lab 3,2,1; sprint squad 3; Cadre battery 4,3; Hotel Finney 4; Loud 3; Army 4,3; Big Red Club 3,1; Mary Baldwin 3; Jimmys 1; Home 2; Ate, Drank, and was Merry 4,3,2,1; New Yorker, Always.

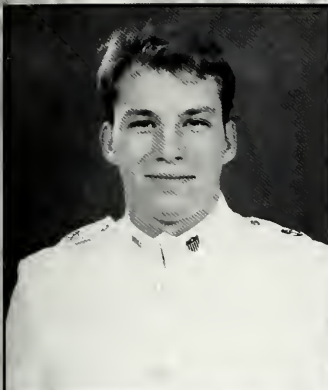


**Dykes:**  
1995: Jolyon Constable  
2001: Keith Allen  
Nathan Buxhoeveden



## Toms River, New Jersey

### English / Air Force



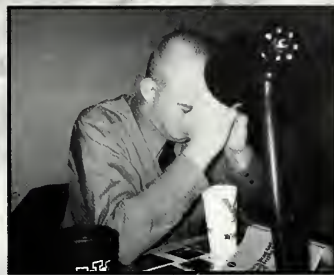
**Eric J. Iannelli**

"EJ"

As a matter of coincidence, I had the opportunity to peruse a high school yearbook last night with some friends. We laughed – half in jest, half from vicarious embarrassment – about some things that were written. Certain events, relationships, and people seemed momentous four years ago, but their impact and meaning has faded with time. With that major lesson in mind, I wrote this "history" as a piece of semi-objective reflection and not as some sort of manifesto. I might ultimately regret. To begin, let me make a firm point in the simple fact that I could construct these few paragraphs full of quotes and sententious proverbs that have been applicable to my life at one point in time or another over the past four years. I will, however, save the reader from such unwarranted punishment and state only one. It was Horace Walpole who said, "Life is a comedy for those who think, and a tragedy for those who feel," which is an observation neither whimsical nor profound. The obvious is often the most complex.

My time at VMI has been filled with both thought and feeling. My cadetship shared the most placid times with the most tumultuous ones in my life thus far. Details are irrelevant, for they will become simple memories filed away in the warehouse of the mind, sorted according to importance and under various levels of access. Feelings have changed and will change, too. The resolute impartiality I exude as I write this has evolved from bitterness, hope, despair, joy, and an infinite number of emotions in between. But, through analysis and philosophy, I have grown from these feelings and events, no matter how pleasing or painful. Somehow, it all seems so amusing in retrospect. hindsight is always 20/20; clear vision precedes clear thinking; and clear thought will inevitably precede laughter. Laughter proffers us the opportunity to look at ourselves in a lovingly critical way and change what we must in order to make life a forward movement. As you leave this establishment, *think*. When you flip through these pages of this yearbook in the year 2005, *think*. While your grandchildren read over these words written by an upstart man in a forever lost time, *think*. Contemplate the events in your life that have molded you into the man you are today; you will laugh at the good times and the bad, for thought allows us to grow from both our mistakes and successes and taste the actuality of living. Feeling, on the other hand, destines us to contemplate the same gross errors of judgement and, more often than not, feel guilty or bitter that they failed to work out in our favor once again. Do not be embittered over your time spent here, as I may have been inclined to do. What matters is that I learned and I grew while at VMI, and the aforementioned events have made me a better person. I can smile about that today. Everybody deserves to laugh. Think about it.

The Cadet 4,3,2,1; Editor-in-chief 2; Phi Beta Kappa; College Republicans 2; English Society 4,3,2; Ring Design Chairman, Institute Scholar



## Dayton, Oregon

### Mechanical Engineering / Navy Special Student

My appreciation is extended toward all those who have gone above and beyond to accommodate my higher my education.

Thanks specifically go to my rat roommate who enabled me to get an early start in my ways of rebellion and non-conformity to the admin's more "useful" regulations; the ever alert upperclassmen who saw to it that I got three round meals each day; Lt. Col. Simpson and Col. Williams without whose undying attention I may have never wasted any time serving "mandatory" penalties; Capt. Steenburg who gave me the esteemed privilege of being a #1 club member; and finally Col. Dickson and Col. Williams for their assisting in a lengthy "furlough" allowing me to break free (so far) of all my "bad" habits.

In all sincerity thanks must truly go to Col. Farrell for his support and ability to see the truth in the face of adversity, pulling for me after years in which no one else would, and cutting my "furlough" short.

All the above has enabled me to finally graduate and in so doing astound all of my biggest "fans".  
Gratefully, BK

Virgin FCP; Outstanding Achievements; Hazing Roommate, Throwing a third from the fourth stoop; Fireworks in barracks, "Mooning more generals than you can shake a stick at" (Joey DuBose), Pouring water on Lt. Col. Simpson; Marched more penalties than the current combined Commandants staff has ever given out (except "Uncle Ron").



**Travis B. Kurtz**

"Brian"



**Dykes:**

1995: Matt Russell

## Bealeton, Virginia

### English / Marine Corps

With still another semester as one of V&S Marching Idiots, it will be hard getting left behind. I want to start by wishing all the men of '98 a sincere stroke of good luck in the future as you all head to make your millions. I don't have anything but love and respect for this school that has tested me to the fullest, and for the guys (most of them) that went along for the 4 yr. ride. Tim Dogg, thanks for keeping my head up against the struggle of being a cadet. You are a true friend and someone for whom I would stick my neck out for; anytime, anywhere, to help, because I know you would do the same. Gabe, thanks for putting up with us over the last 2 and for becoming someone I consider a true friend. Joly, best of wishes Swampfox, the Pentagon is ready. To Don, Hole, Jay, Lud, Diesel, Poozy, Rosey, Rich, Parker, Billy, Troy, codkeys of 123, and others who quickly figured out that May was crazy, y'all better stay in touch. There are still more memories to make. "K" things will never work, but my friend Mo is still at his peak. Sean, Rich, Ed, and Chris, thanks for taking a stray and teaching him what he needed to know. I am forever loyal. And last, I must mention a family who never stopped believing in me and has made it all happen. From my excellent report cards to my early morning homecomings, MOM and DAD, you have put up with a lot. Please don't kick me out just yet. Lindsay, never forget you've got a brother to talk to, but not borrow money from. Good advice is priceless. Carson and Harlow: Could have used you guys. Bo and Dan, thanks for coming to the rescue. To my 2<sup>nd</sup> Sem. Dyke, John, good luck. I can't help but believe that the Rewards are Tenfold.

4,3,2,1 ACPRO, 4,3 Boxing, 2 Powerlifting, 4,3 Pre Law, 4 Corporation, 2, #1/ Busted



**Justin G. May**

MONZ, Jay, Jay May, Sat. Night Fever"



**Dykes:**

1995: Sean Burke

2001: John Tempono



*Top Left:* There is nothing like a black eye to brighten up your day...except for a hug from Nathan.  
*Top Right:* James, Dave, John, and Jason arrive at the New Market Battlefield to present the rats with their VMI crests.  
*Above Left:* Yet another victim of the infamous rack monster.  
*Above Right:* The Cadet Staff celebrates after another deadline.  
*Right:* Nate Dawg and Mike . . . it didn't work.



*Top Left:* John, Tim, and Jason enjoy (??) a night in barracks with each other.  
*Top Right:* A cold beer and a cigar completes the final day of Ring Figure!  
*Above:* Joey Bates makes sure that General Bunting's dog becomes well acquainted. *Left:* Dave Burns, our MTV Real World star, snacks on a mouse during a FTX. Wouldn't the MTV producer love to see this one!

**J**eff Snyder and Dave Kaczmarek make sure all is well in communication during *Catfish* Week. The gentlemen played an important role in the week as a whole, but we see here there were moments of comic relief.



# A Step Closer

## The Second Class



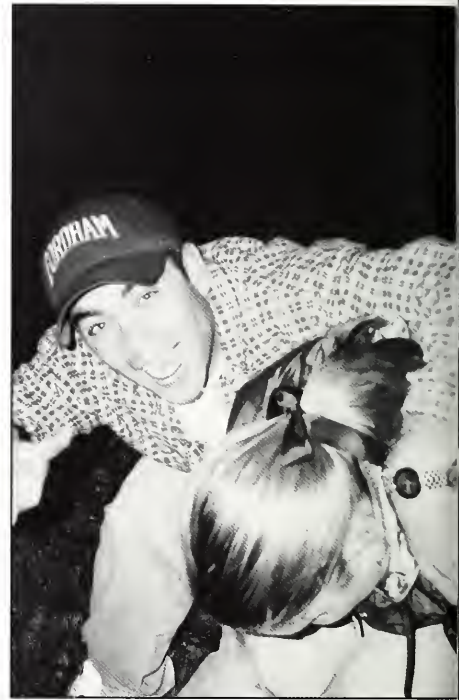
As I contemplate the days and years since matriculation day, August 21, 1995, I am reminded of the many great and wonderful experiences we have shared, amidst all the hard work and adverse conditions that enter into our lives. Three years have gone by and we are now embarking upon our last, with the confidence and great leadership necessary to uphold and instill the building blocks of VMI such as the class system and rat line, never forgetting the keystone that permits each and everyone of us to hold our heads high, the honor code.

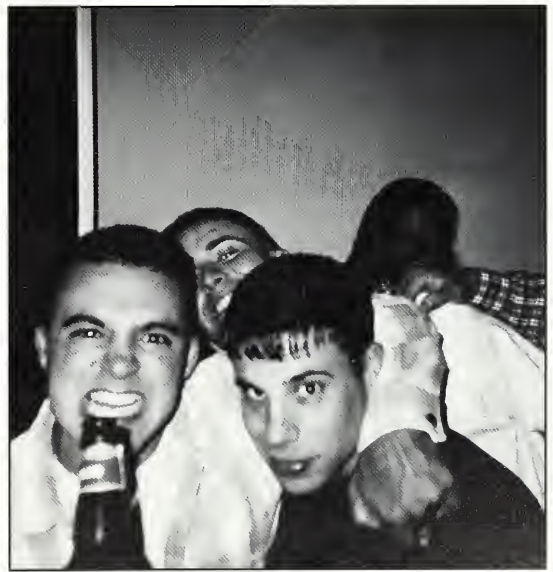
If we want VMI to continue to be what it is, we must remember to serve and help one another while embarking on the daily challenges we face. All of us have been, or will be involved in a leadership calling one way or another during our cadetship. It is not the magnitude of that position but how well we fulfill our calling and serve with a sense of duty.

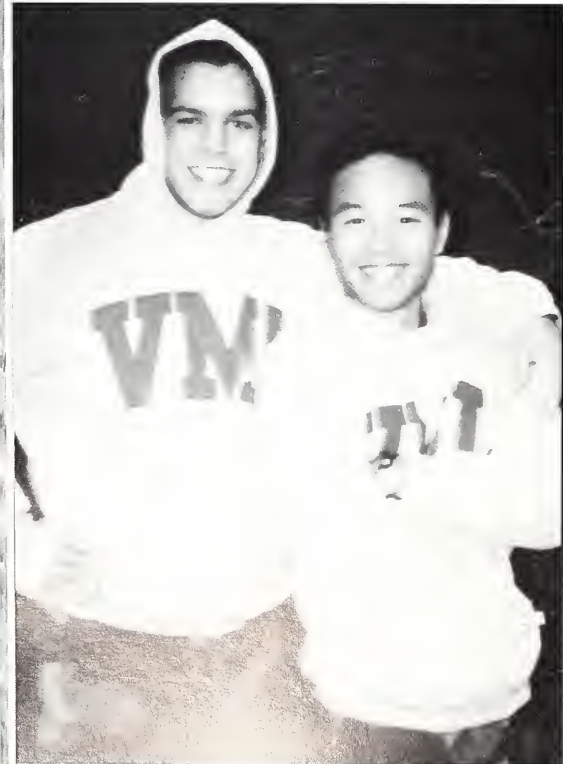
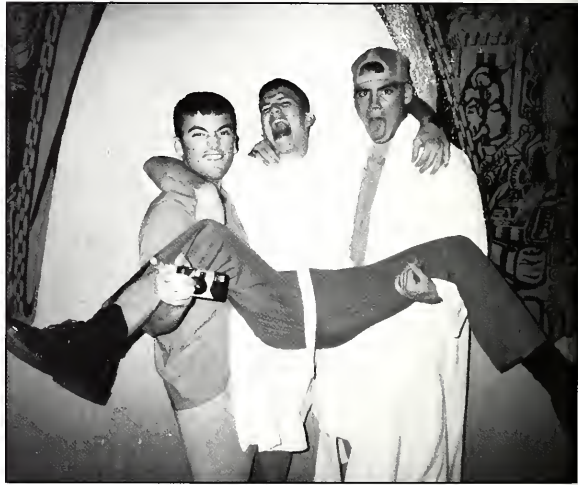
Our turn is now here, to run barracks and uphold the lifestyle and traditions that we hold true to us and those that have been taught by our dykes and through experience. We have the responsibility of caring for and instructing our dykes to become like the VMI men of the past.

To close, I want to thank each member of the Class of 1999 for the opportunity to serve in this capacity as your Class President. It is not easy and very time consuming but I enjoy the challenge. I want to thank Chris for all of his dedication and long hard hours he put into Ring Figure and I wish him the best as he walks the stage this year. Dallas, my brother and friend for life, I will ever be thankful for your continuous support and help. When it is needed you are there without question, all I have to do is ask for it to be done. May each member of this class go forward with a steadfast conviction that what they are doing here is forging themselves to be stalwarts of the VMI mission, educated and honorable young men. As hard as it is or may seem, look at yourselves and see what VMI has done for you.

Written by Ezra Clark



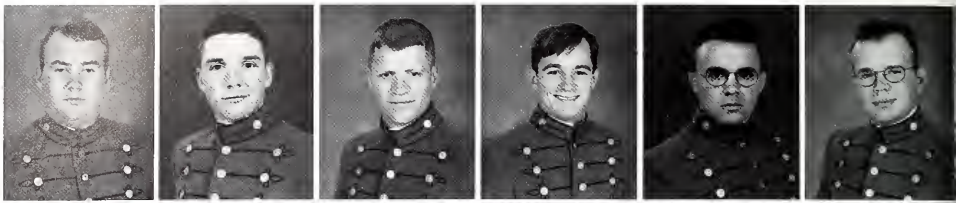




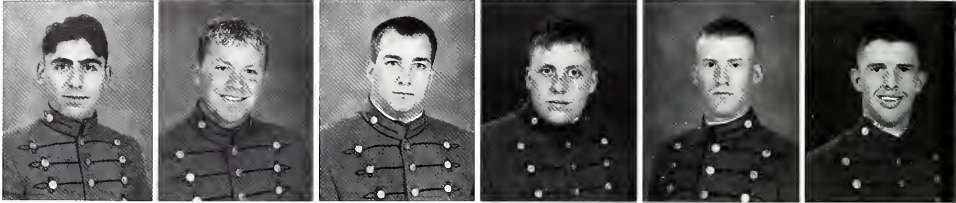




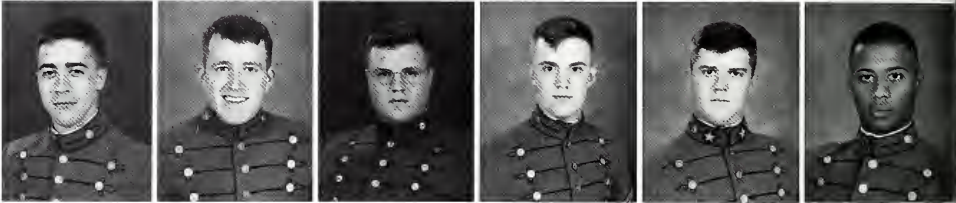
Jacob Abell  
 Chris Allgood  
 Brian Arnold  
 James Ayers  
 Kevin Azar  
 Matt Bagwell



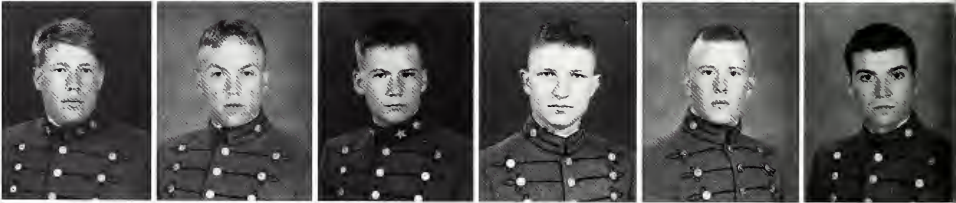
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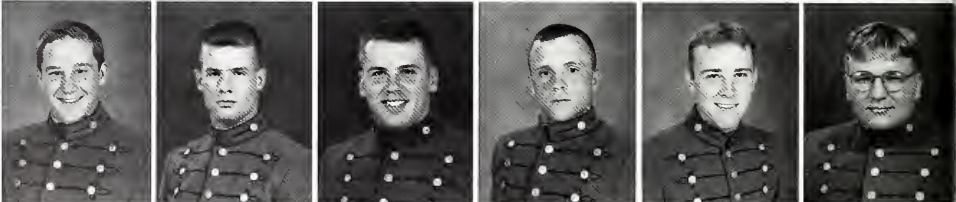
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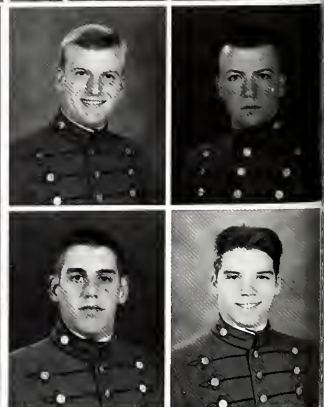
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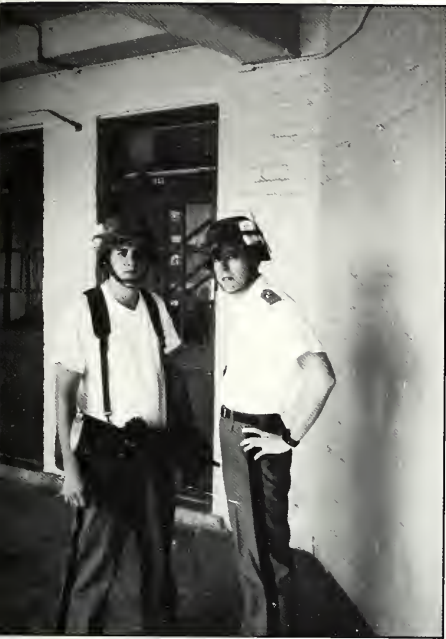


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 Joshua Cazadd

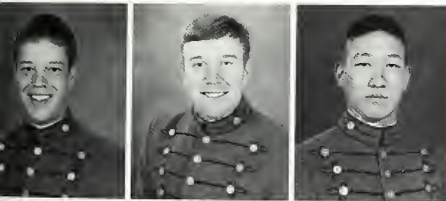




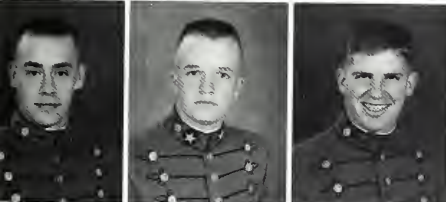
Left: Where's da war? Dreams of a second class grunt.  
 Below: Lick it, Slam it, Suck it! Antioher VMI night.



Left: Sunburnt cadets on spring break in the Bahamas.



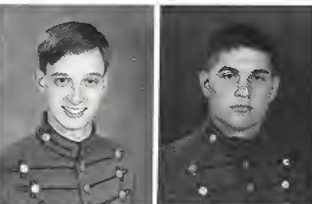
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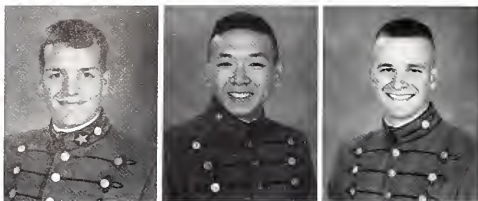


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 Thomas Collins  
 Michael Condon  
 Brent Conley  
 Chris Copenhaver

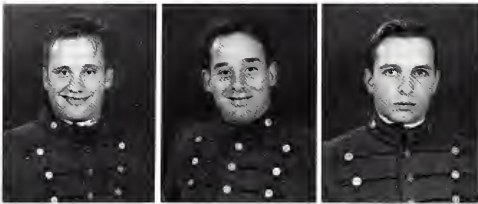


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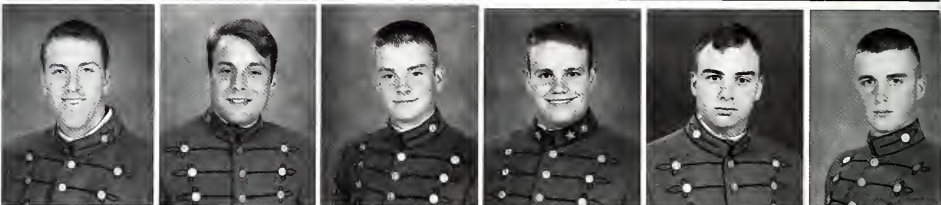
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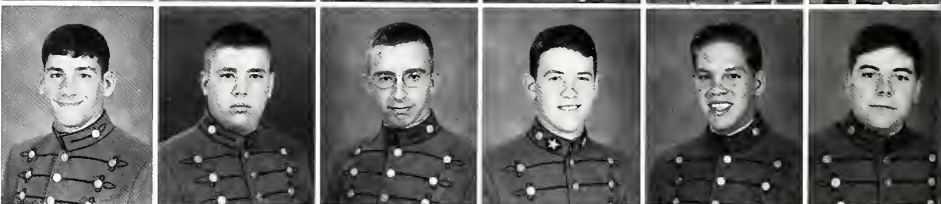
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Nicholas Devincenzo



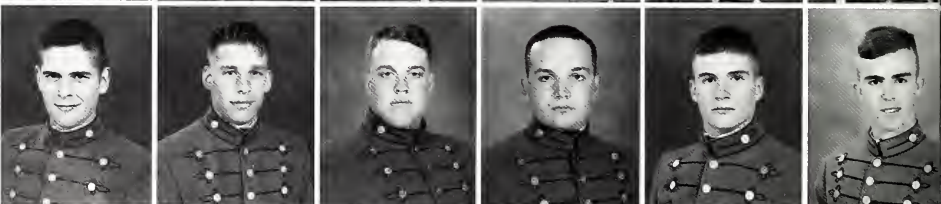
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Jochen Dunville



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Ricco Espinoza  
Jason Estes



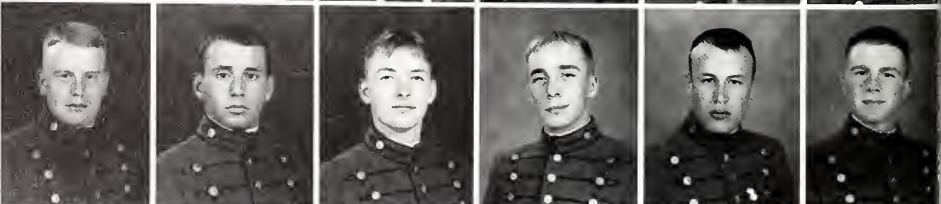
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Ed Frothingham



Andrew Fuller  
William Gage  
Charles Gallion  
John Garneski  
Jeff Geisendaffer  
Patrick Geoghegan





Left: VMI WANTS YOU!  
Below: Cadets study A-broad.



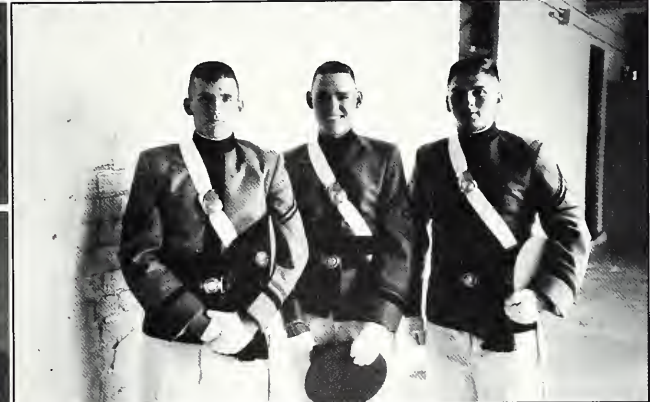
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Wayne Graham  
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Jason Grubough



Shaun Hall  
Richard Hallett  
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Edward Hardy  
Burr Harrison



Mathew Hart  
Roger Hart Jr.  
Filip Heist  
Heith Helms  
Patrick Henderson  
Kevin Henderson

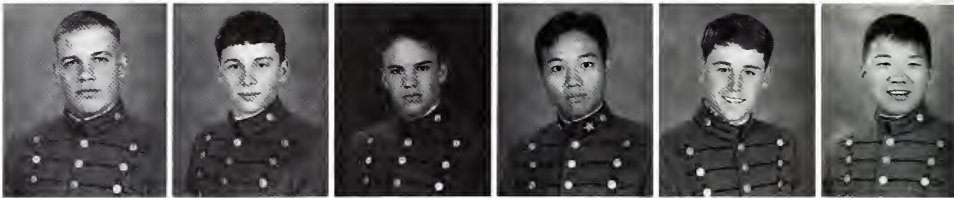


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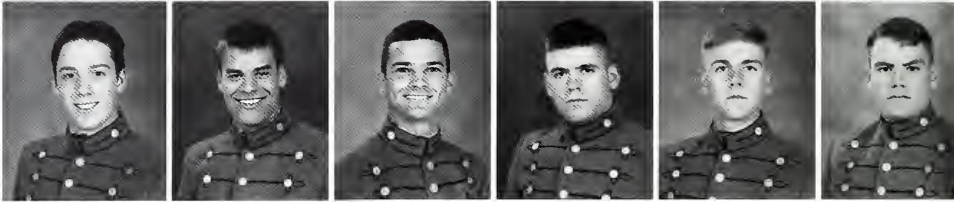


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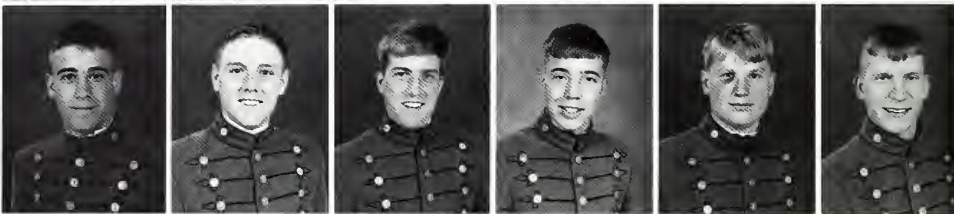
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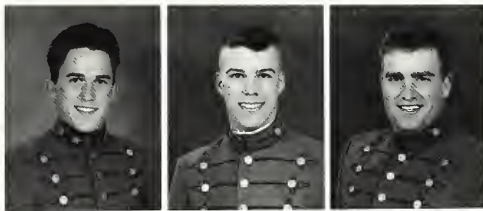


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 Corey Kearse  
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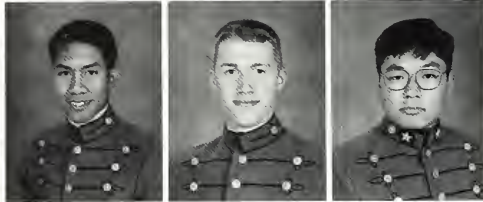


*Above:* The BR spirit at its greatest, what a gratifying spectacle. *Right:* Three cadets have fun during a sweat party.

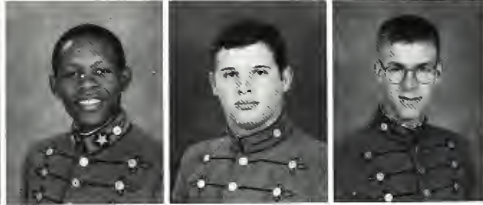




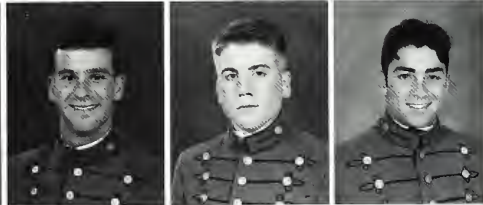
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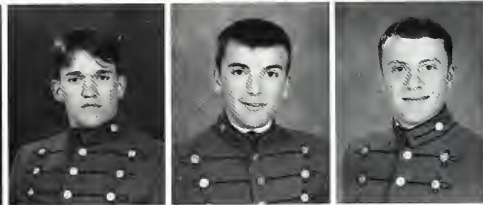
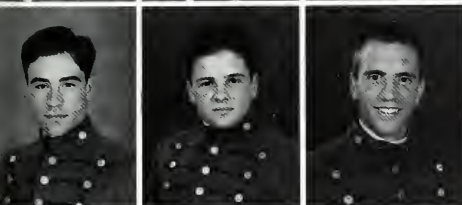
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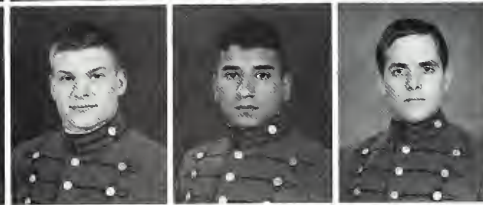
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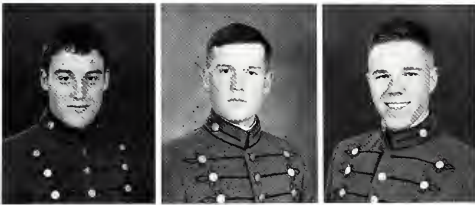
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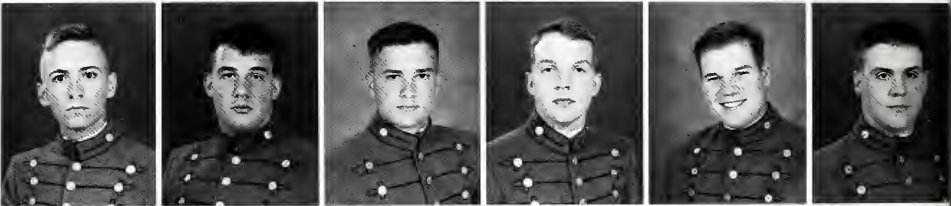
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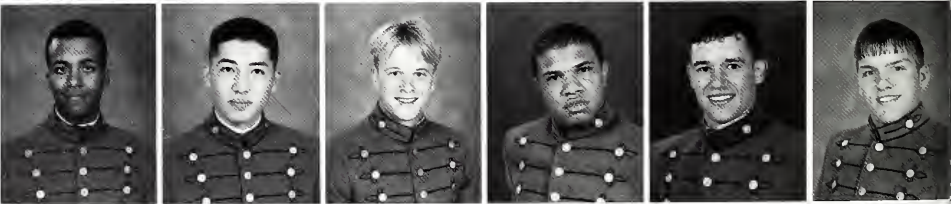
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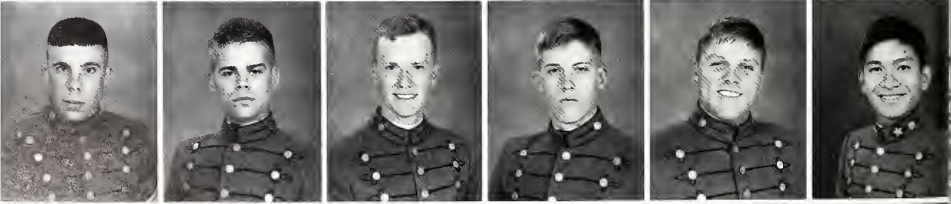
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John Payne



Jean-Paul Pesare  
Lars Peterson  
Lee Pitts  
Conor Powell  
Travis Powroznik  
Surapap Prompattaraporn



Michael Purdy  
Andre Quarles  
Travis Quesenberry  
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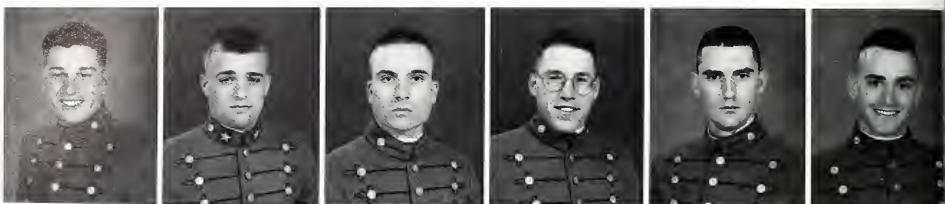
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Andrew Smith  
Jason Smith



Jeffrey Snyder  
 Jeffrey Sprague  
 Anthony Stafford  
 Andrew Staples  
 William Steinbach  
 Matthew Stephens



Shane Stille  
 Sean Stockwell  
 Patrick Stutts  
 Janchaysang Suwatwong  
 Cameron Tabor  
 Sean Tashman



Willis Tatterson  
 Wesley Taylor  
 David Thompkins  
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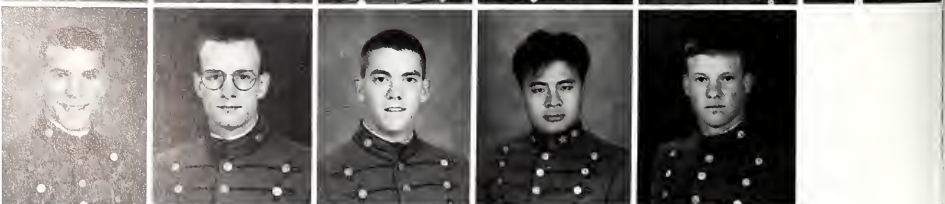
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 John Wilcox  
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Dylan Williams  
 Paul Wills  
 Michael Wilson  
 Bradford Wineman  
 Brian Withers  
 Brian Wolfe



Christopher Work  
 John Wright  
 Michael Wright  
 Bei-Chaun Yan  
 John Yates





Left: Hey Dale, stop grabbing my fanny! Below: The fun times begin at the "T" when you are returning from a weekend.



Left: "I study better when I actually have some blood going to my head" Below: "Fa, La, La, La, La, We love our dykes!"

**Y**ou don't think it got better --- it did not. We're not just yelling "thirds eat ---" and going to the line. The thirds have a long, hard day to look forward to, and the rat line is a long, hard day for the seconds who have King for a classmate who have graduation.



# CLIMBING THE LADDER

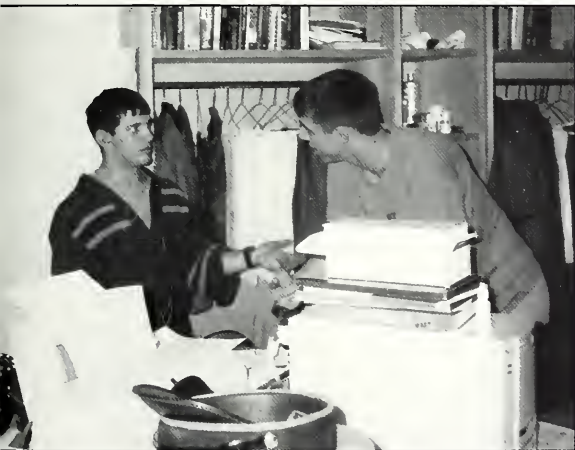
## THE THIRD CLASS



**O**n the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1996, 420+ high school graduates signed the famous matriculation book that so many great men had signed before them. This undisciplined mass of young men began their long, difficult journey to become V.M.I. men. Little did they know that the next six months would bring the most strenuous and trying times of their young lives. Gradually they became united as one, sometimes by not so peaceful means. They stuck together despite all the obstacles which tried to prevent their unity, such as being deemed unworthy of being rats and becoming "college freshmen" for a week. Although they were forced to get destructive and cost their dykes thousands of dollars, they pulled through and became one. Finally, after six months and one day of blood, sweat, and tears, the mass of 97+3 became the last all male class in the history of the Institute, the CLASS OF 2000. Now as they have completed another year of the V.M.I. experience, they have proven themselves as being the best class in barracks. Now the sky is the only limit that faces the last real class at V.M.I.

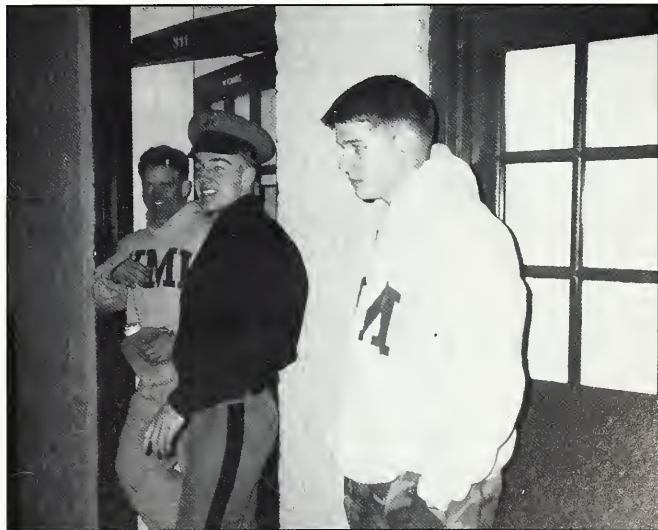
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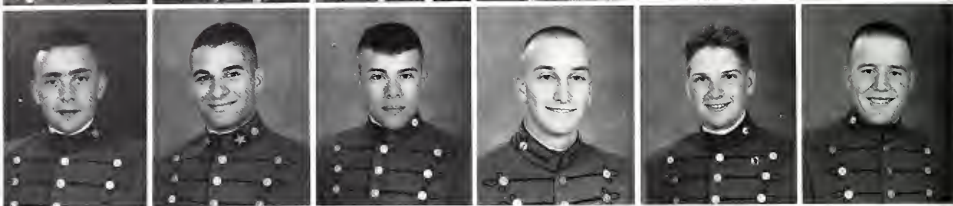




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Eric Adams  
Bradley Allen  
Landen Allen  
Ronald Allen  
Daniel Alvarez



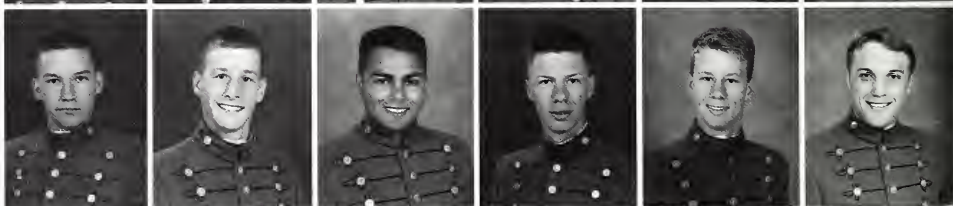
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Seaton Angley  
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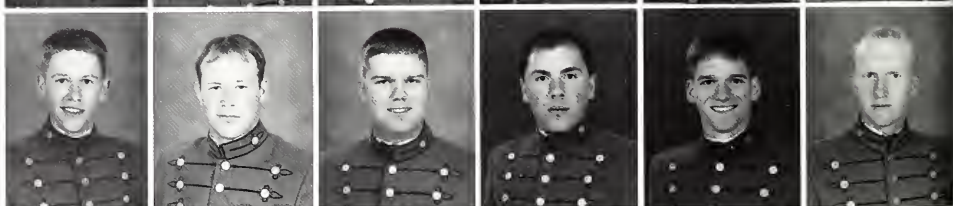
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James Banton  
Willy Barquero  
Joseph Bartolomeo  
Paul Belmont



Jeremy Berry  
William Beverlin  
Mitten Bhavsar  
Conrad Bicknell  
Jacob Bilthuis  
Douglas Black



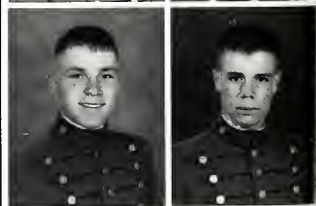
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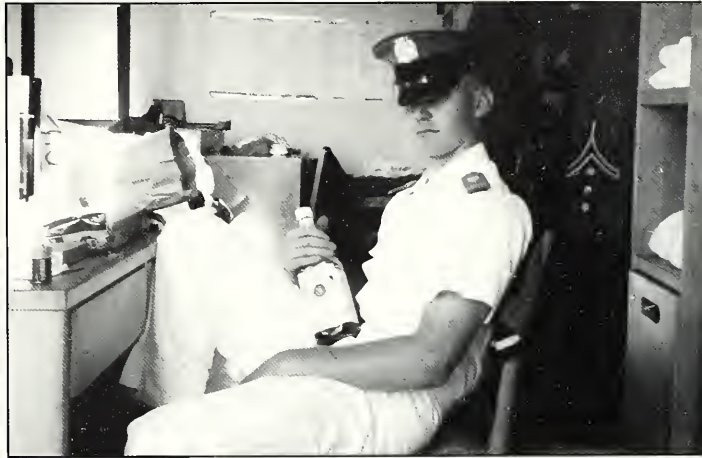


Jason Brown  
Winston Brown





Left: Ferguson has just won the Natural Light sweepstakes and plans on consuming his winnings. Right: Corporal Newman has had enough of the rats, and plans to kick back and relax. Below: Looks like Cantley is enjoying the good life at one of the neighboring girls school.



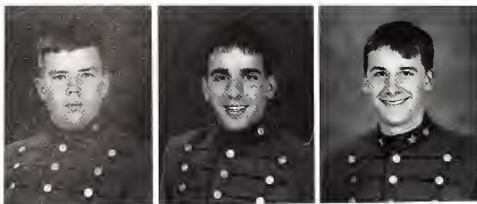
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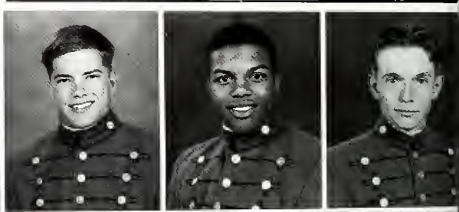
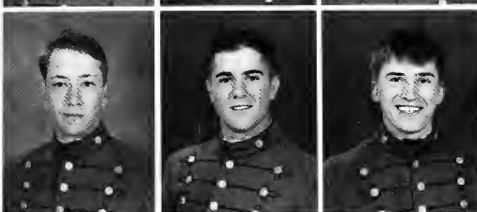
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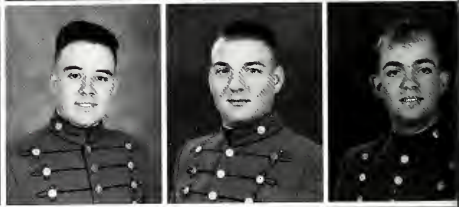
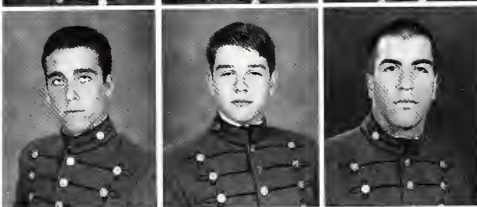
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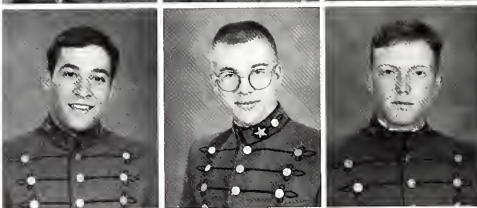
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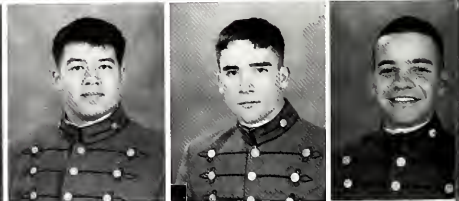
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Odudu Ekpoudom  
David Emmerich

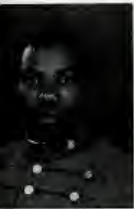


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David Epperly  
George Esteve  
Greg Feder  
John Ferguson  
Don Ferguson



Stephen Fern  
Shawn Fisher  
Raymond Fletcher  
Sean Foley  
Nathan Friedline  
Ross Fuller





Derrick Funches  
Charles Gallienne  
Chris Gamble  
Michael Gereau  
John Gilbert  
Craig Giorgis



Michael Goldman  
Luis Gonzalez  
Joseph Gorski  
Daniel Graham  
Paul Gray  
Patrick Haddock



Lucas Hale  
Nathaniel Haley  
Carl Hammond  
Chris Hancy  
Nicholas Harding  
William Harrington

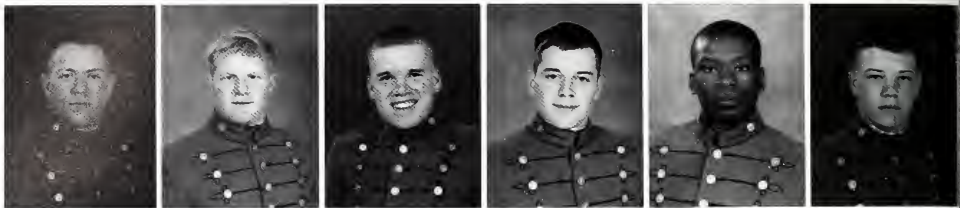


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Brian Hay



John Herrin  
Matt Herrnberger

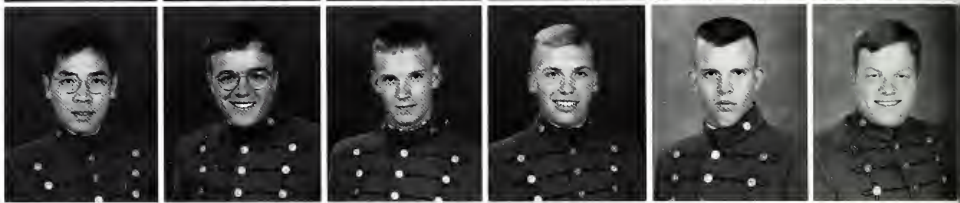
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 Scott Hillyer  
 David Hoffman  
 Richard Holland  
 Phillip Hopkins



Paul Hotze  
 William Huffman  
 David Hunt  
 Benedict Inyama  
 Frank Jackson  
 John Jackson



Chyn-der Jah  
 Alan Johnson  
 William Johnson  
 Whitaker Johnston  
 Charles Jones  
 Devon Jones



Just when the class of 2000 thought they were done with the worst of their cadetship, they became thirds. As third classmen, they found themselves in a vastly different school than what they had just adjusted to last year. They were able to now roam the stoop, have a stereo, and most of all yell at rats. On top of this, they found the "academic ratline." Thirds learned that teachers aren't sympathetic anymore and expect a lot more from them. It seems it did not matter how much or how well they studied, grades were still bad. After experiencing the joys of breakout, and summer vacation, returning as thirds was simply, in one word...depressing. With ring figure still several months away, and graduation light years away--it seems, VMI's last children of the Old Corps were in a state of limbo. Well, at least things couldn't get any worse. Next stop, Ring Figure!

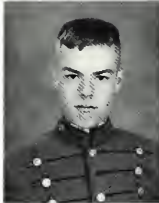
Written By Daniel Alvarez



Douglas Jordan  
Benjamin Kaler  
Matthew Kass



John Kearney  
Abbott Keesee  
Paul Keeton



Matthew Keller  
Brent Kennedy  
Robert Kennedy  
Todd Kennedy  
Joseph Knick  
Scott Kuebler



William Lambert  
Kenneth Landberg  
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Paul Lee  
Michael Leonard



Michael Lim  
Mark Lineberry  
Jonathan Long  
Chris Lowrance  
Chris Lucas  
Frank Lucero



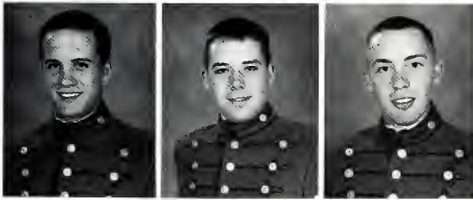
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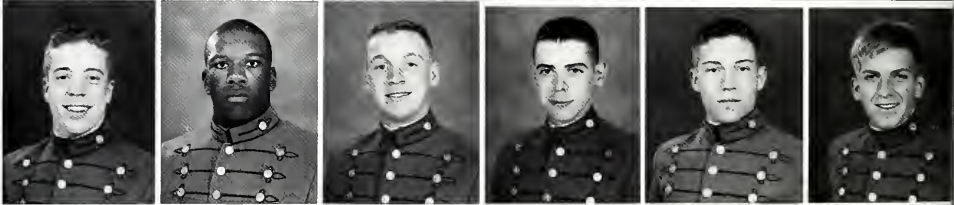
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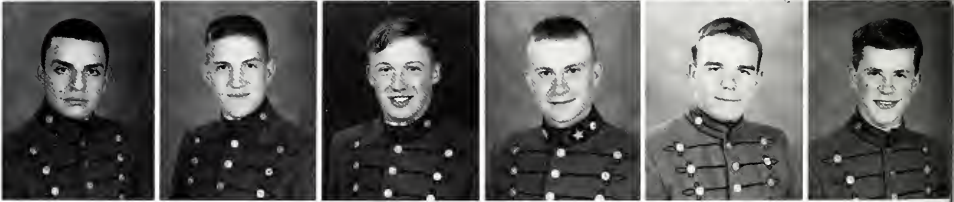
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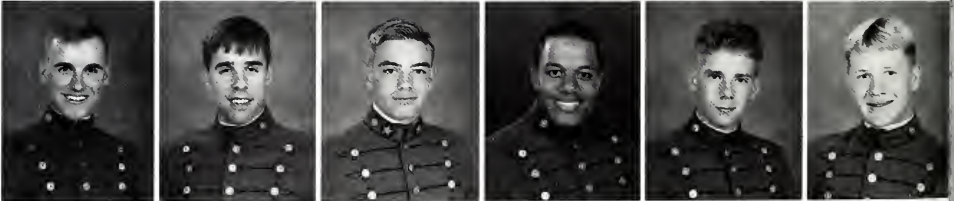
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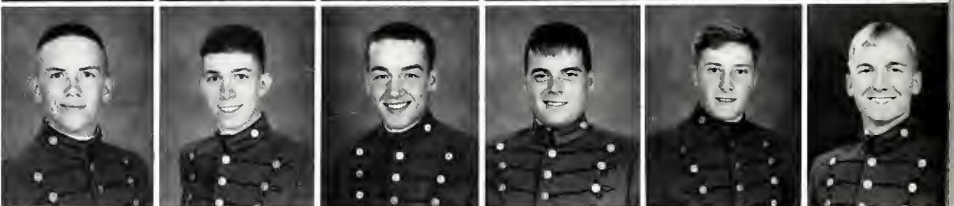
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 William Moore



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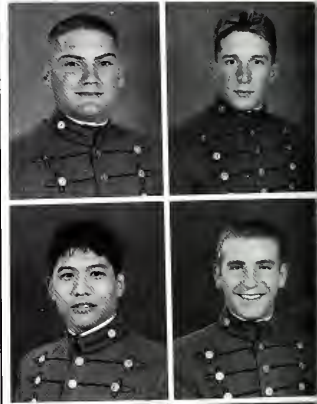
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Adam Pool



Joseph Poppa  
James Powell

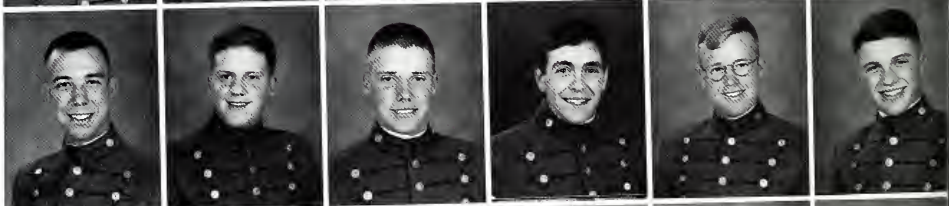


Charles Pramawat  
Adam Priest

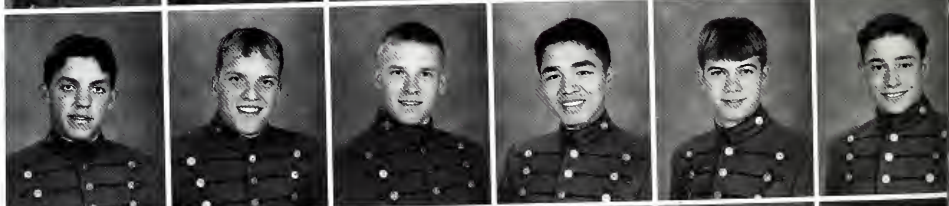
Justin Pusczykowski  
Jason Rasch  
Anthony Rayome  
Jeffrey Rhodes  
Thomas Rhodes  
Stephen Roman



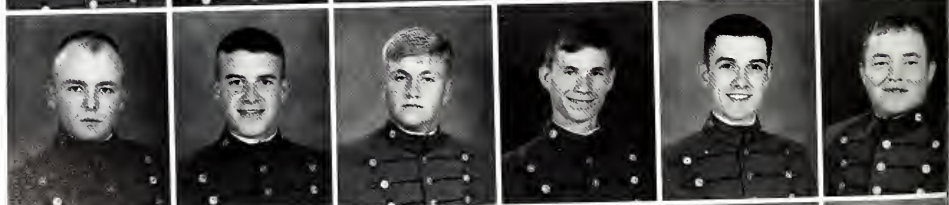
James Royce  
Eric Samaritoni  
Joseph Shulkens  
Adam Schwarzschild  
Joseph Segar  
Shawn Segreti



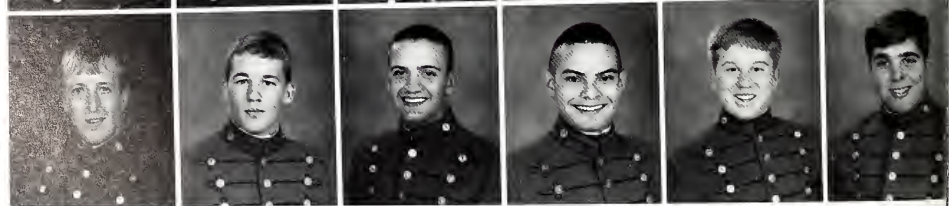
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Josh Setina  
James Sheldon  
Guang Shyong  
Martin Silman  
William Sjem

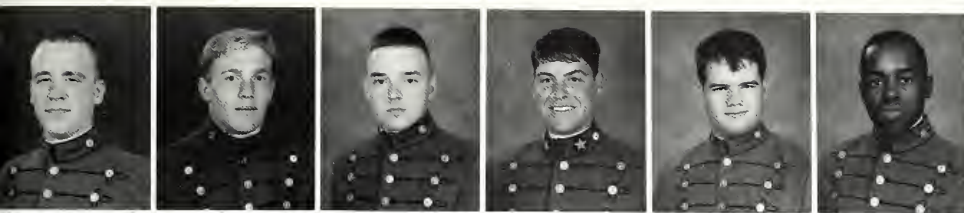


Brian Skusa  
Andrew Smith  
Jason Smith  
Joseph Smith  
Jared Snawder  
Josh Spradlin

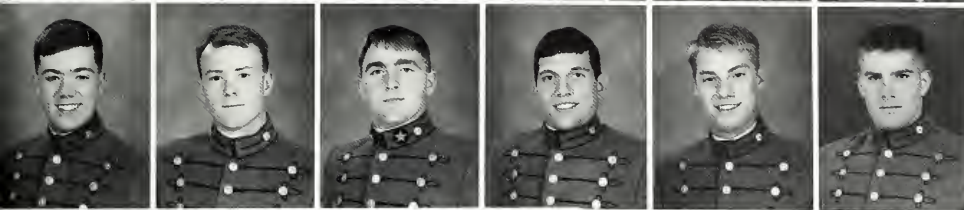


Paul Staton  
Stewart Staton  
John Stewart  
Kenny Stigler  
Timothy Storek  
David Stormont

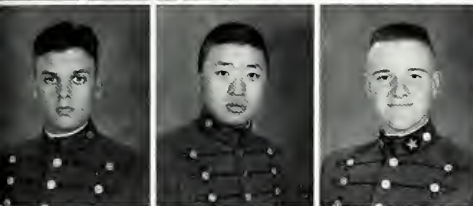




Stefan Supon  
Kenneth Sykes  
Aaron Taylor  
Bruce Taylor  
Jack Thornton  
Abdoul Touray



Charlie Townes  
Matthew Tyson  
Kelly Underwood  
Josh Wagner  
Eric Walker  
Thomas Walker



James Wallace  
Lei Wang  
Will Ward



William Warthen  
Jerry Webb  
Paul Webber

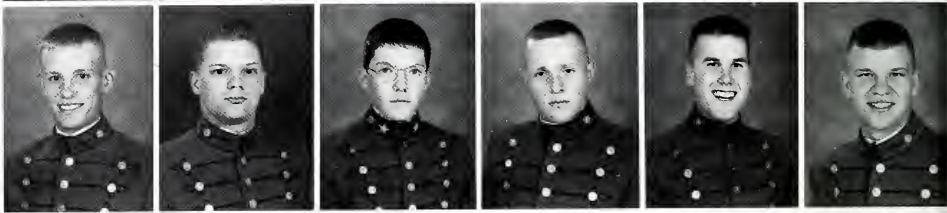


Above: The third class commandos have entirely too much time on their hands. Left: Esteve and Alvarez get ready for a parade. Right: Rat Smith is kindly introduced to the third classmen who live around Sally Port.

Chad Welch  
 Ryan Wheeler  
 David Whetstone  
 Ronald White  
 Matt Williams  
 Matthew Williams



Jacob Wilson  
 John Wilson  
 Kenneth Wing  
 James Witten  
 Justin Wood  
 Jeremy Woodhouse





Our dearest John,

You entered VMI a boy and are leaving a man. We encourage you to put your special touch on everything you do.

The Future is yours.

We are incredibly proud of you,  
May God bless you and watch over you.  
Congratulations to you and the Class of 1998!

With all our love,  
Your family



**RESERVED SEATING**

**ADMIT ONE**

**ADMIT ONE**

FOR \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
24 HOUR NOTICE NECESSARY FOR CANCELLATION

H. LEE BLEVINS, D.D.S.  
13321 C MIDLOTHIAN TURNPIKE  
P.O. BOX 636  
MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA 23113  
TELEPHONE (804) 794-5304

**JAMES  
BLANFORD**

Sea Cadets  
Eagle Scout  
JROTC Captain  
VMI S4 LT  
USMC 2nd Lt

WOW, What a trip!

Remember to put God  
first, and HE will be  
your ultimate guide &  
shield through life!  
[Psalm 91].

We're proud of you, and  
we love you!

Dad, Mom, Jeremy,  
Jonathan, Granny &  
Papa, and Grandma



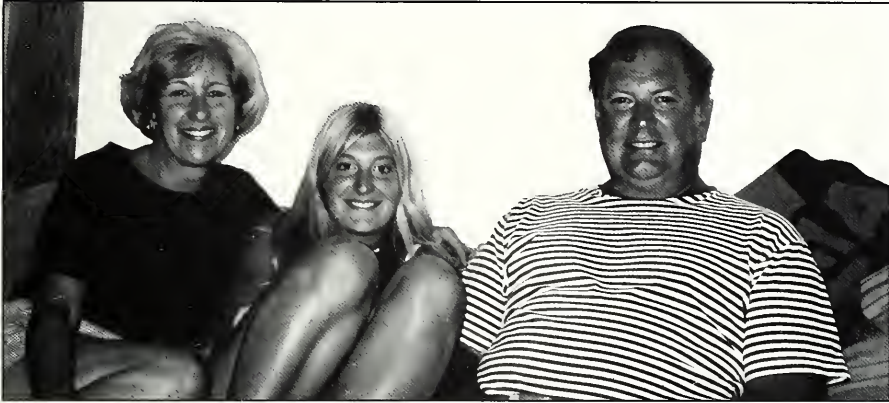
**VMI  
1998**



Congratulations to the  
Class of 1998  
Managed Service, Managed  
Better  
VMI Dining Hall  
Keydet Kanteen Snack Bar  
Managed Services  
Managed Better  
"We are here to serve You."

# Congratulations, Brook and the VMI Class of 1998

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.  
Talent will not;  
nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with great talent.  
Genius will not;  
unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.  
Education will not;  
the world is full of educated derelicts.  
Persistence, determination alone are omnipotent."



Love ya and thanks for your persistence -- Mom, Dad, and Christie



## Hey Brookie, you made it! VMI '98 '98' 98

Thanks for treating us to all of the  
good times at VMI - tailgating, football  
games and parades,  
And for enduring the tough times  
without us  
WE LOVE YOU!!

Cherie and Ron  
Andrew, Jenna, and Evan

Kim and Rick  
Joshua, Lauren, Timothy and Alyssa

Pam and Eric

Grammy Barbour  
Gramie and Granddad Fox  
Gramie and Granddad Wusthof



Little did we know...



**Langston Mitchell White**  
 "One secret to success is to know your own weakness. An even greater secret is to know the One who is the source of strength."

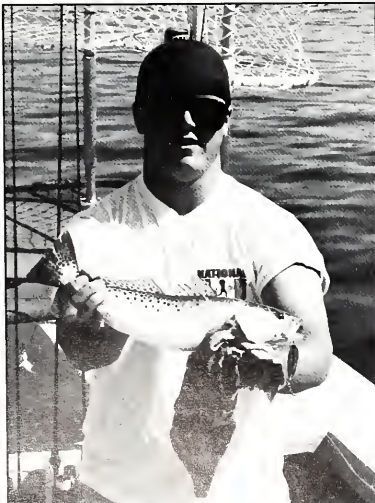


"From Groucho to Graduate"

Life is a gift                    accept it  
 Life is adventure            dare it  
 Life is a mystery            unfold it  
 Life is a game                play it  
 Life is a struggle            face it  
 Life is beauty                praise it  
 Life is a puzzle              solve it  
 Life is opportunity        take it  
 Life is sorrowful            experience it  
 Life is a song                sing it  
 Life is a goal                achieve it  
 Life is a mission            fulfill it

Your Mother, your Brother and I  
thank God everyday for choosing us  
 to share your life.

We love you!  
 Chuck, Jody, and Chad



When dreams are small Results are small.



Let your dreams grow with you.



## Cadet Captain Edward J. Neibert '98



Remember Ed: The mightiest oak was once a little nut that held its ground.

God, family and VMI have given you foundation, roots and eagles wings. Now soar to fulfill your dreams.

Put others before yourself and you will become a true leader of men.

"Live free or die"

Good courage, and God bless

Love-- Mom, Dad and Marie



## Bryan E. Bailey

What you are is Gods  
Gift to you ....

What you become is your gift to God.  
Our prayers for a long, happy and  
successful life. You are indeed a  
Special person.

Love, Dad, Mum, Chris, Marti and  
Jimmy



**F**ootball games are a chance for the rat mass to relax together and release some of the built up aggressions on the opposing team.

# A NEW BEGINNING

## THE FOURTH CLASS

You've asked about it countless times. You've received much information from people detailing the process, what to expect, what to bring, even what stairs to use. You try to prepare for the hardship and challenge. For two days you are slowly acclimated to the ways of the institute. Don't

look at the upperclass. Don't talk while you eat. Lose all your hair. When the day finally comes, you're almost looking forward to it. The time has been spent taking tests and meeting other matriculants, not yet your BRs. When you march in, your heart pounds. The anticipation level rises. Everyone is screaming at you. The drum roll starts. Your heart stops. When it starts up again, your mind races. Suddenly you're not so big. Cadre marches in, the fear factor rising

with each step they take. The speech begins. Everyone there has heard it before, some have it memorized, others wish they could forget it. They will teach and you will learn. Indeed. The next ten minutes are a blur. Screaming, angry men come at you from all directions. Already you're learning. Your name has been reduced to a last name and two initials, and you, the rat, are nothing. From the sweat of the trunk room to the rush of the firsts on hell night, cadre week is a whirlwind. You learn the basics the hard way. You realize that no amount of explanation by those who have gone before could really do justice to the experience. Classes start, a break from the constant attention of cadre. The first week takes forever, but after that, things start flying by. You survive long days and short weeks. Life is measured by the time between things, be they

football games, classes, or time with family. By the time parents weekend rolls around, the ratline has become more instinctive. The ways of the rat are ingrained in your every move, and unity is the new buzzword. You have come to realize over the last two months that you need your brother rats

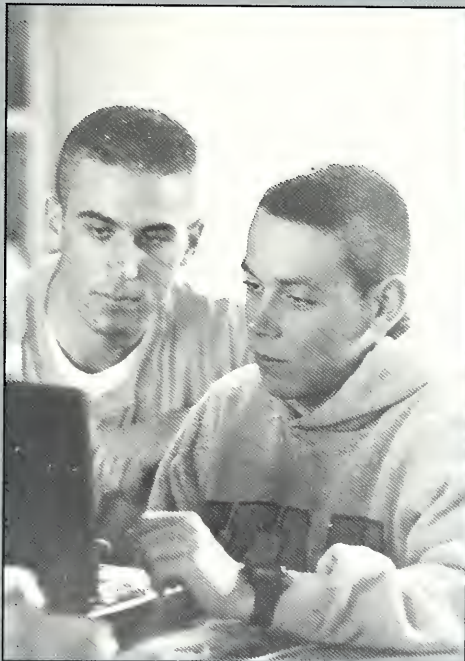
and they need you. You do everything together, enjoying the successes and dreading the failures. The daily routine is familiar to you now, and the surprises less frequent. You are learning when to focus on class and the other military aspects of your life.

Finally, Fall Break arrives. Classes end and you savor the beginning of the freedom that will be yours for the weekend. Some go home to see family, friends and girlfriends. Others travel to the homes of their BRs or Dykes, while still others stay on. When the corps returns, there are stories to tell, and though most are sad at leaving home for a second time, it's not long before

everyone has settled back into the routine of daily life, and begun counting the days until the next break.

When ring figure comes, the seconds begin to awaken. They are even momentarily nice. Questions arise. What will we put on our rings? What will we do to make our mass stand out? A remodeling of the mess hall brings more attention upon the mass and an unexpected change in uniform.

On Thursday Rat Olympics arrive. It is cold, but not freezing, and the anticipation coupled with the brisk air gets the adrenaline



flowing. For weeks on end, rat challenge cadre has led the way through obstacle courses, circuit training, problem solving, and special challenges like house mountain. It was tough, but nothing could surpass the feelings of achievement and accomplishment. Spirit, unity, and perseverance radiate from each company, and you push yourself harder and harder, striving to succeed for your brother rats. When the day ends, you can barely see the rest of your company gathered around you. The sun has set on what may be the most important day since you matriculated. When all is said and done, it matters not who won and who lost. The immense pride beaming from the eyes of the tired, happy faces surrounding you illustrate the real accomplishment of the day, the unity forged in Rat Challenge.

A few miles from the rifle range where the results of Rat Olympics are announced stand several buildings housing the classrooms of VMI. One large hurdle has been surpassed, but school will continue as usual tomorrow, and there is work to be done. Once again, your teachers have overloaded you in anticipation of the break. Welcoming tests, quizzes, and numerous other assignments await.

As the Doxology ends another season of football, the stands empty at an alarming rate. The week provides a much needed respite from the rigors of the "I". With a little effort, you forget about the "Mother I", and put the ratline completely out of your mind. Turkey abounds, and the horrors of Crozet subside for a while.

Again you return to the Institute and enter the arch, the only comfort being the escape from the rain. The cold dreary night seems fitting. Home fills your mind, and for a short while the institute is still far away. As your feet instinctively trace the steps of the ratline and you automatically pull your chin in, you catch a glimpse of the light in your window. At least the company of your BR's dulls the pain of leaving home for a little while, "Thanks".

The progression of days reveals that exams are just around the corner, followed by Christmas break. Classes are winding down, and the difference between the fortunate and the unfortunate is thirteen and nineteen days left till escape. Exams bring a relaxed schedule, and many of the daily military rigors of the institute subside. After a few days of lenient formations and substantial rack time, you finish your final exam. Over the break you enjoy the freedom of nearly a month at home, without the shadow of barracks looming in the horizon. Until the last day. Suddenly things come back into focus, and you are faced with the difficult decision of returning. Coming back from Christmas is different.

Despite the voice in your head asking the shared question "Why", you return. After a few days, you realize that you have reached a milestone, and that the end is hopefully near. You feel a sense of pride that comes from having accomplished something important, something which has affected your life significantly.

The future holds surprises that you already know about. Breakout will come eventually, and your time as a rat will end. Much like matriculating, you realize, no description can do justice to the experience itself, one that will signify your acceptance into the institute. Only time can tell what the future holds, and the only thing left to do is squeeze all that you can out that which remains.



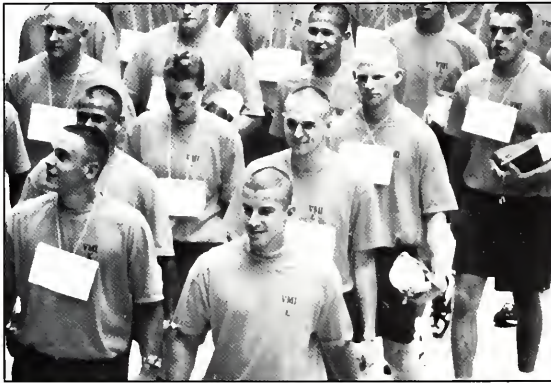
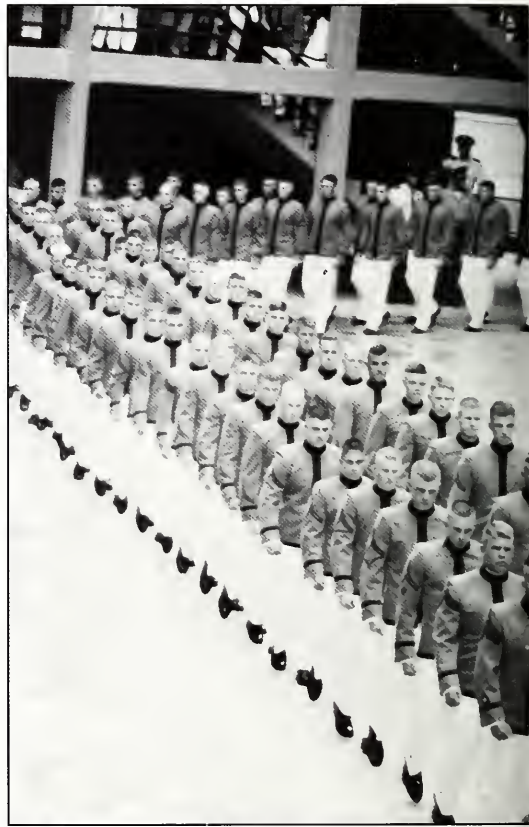


*Top right:* The first class welcomes the new rat sentinel to the joys of marching post. *Bottom right:* An afternoon spent with the RDC counting the holes in the cement. *Bottom left:* Stop lip straining son. *Middle left:* Remodeling of the mess hall. *Top left:* "I'm not alright with this"





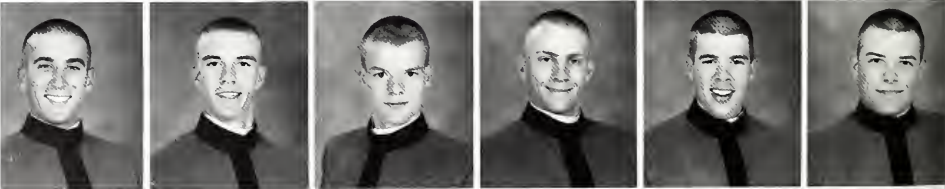
Top left: "Hi Mom"  
 Top right: The  
 corps finest  
 executing perfect  
 cover and  
 alignment  
 Bottom: Rat-ties  
 eagerly awaiting  
 the introduction  
 to cadre.



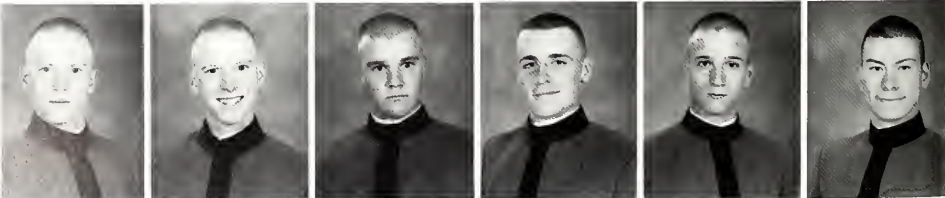
Thomas Abbott  
 Alexis Abrams  
 Dela Aekah  
 Anwar Alken  
 Jeffery Akers  
 Oscar Alfalo



Keith Allen  
 William Alley  
 Richard Allman  
 Michael Andriunas  
 Todd Anthony  
 Jeffery Armentrout



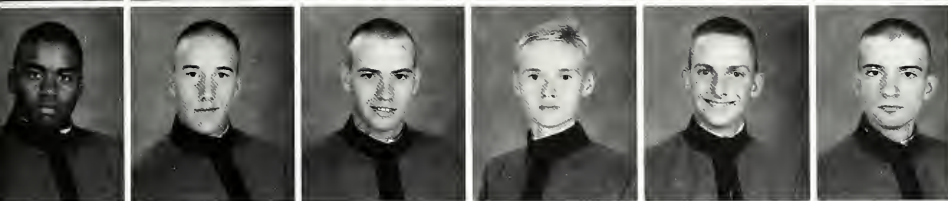
Britton Armstrong  
 Stanley Armstrong  
 Anthony Ashley  
 Weston Ashley  
 Albert August  
 Dan Ballard







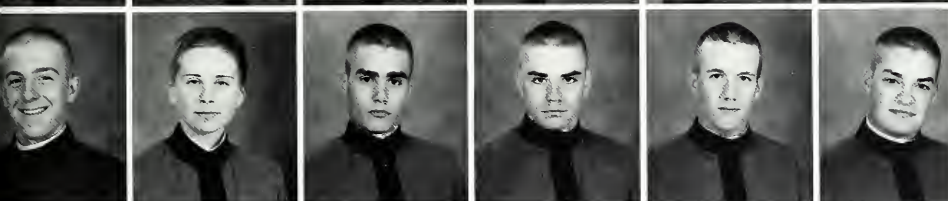
Christian Barrett  
 Lukas Bartosiewicz  
 Doug Bates  
 Mark Bauserman  
 Nicholas Baxter  
 Charles Beard



Larry Beasley  
 Luther Beazley  
 Adam Belmont  
 Yulia Beltikova  
 Charles Benbow  
 Steven Benelli



Ryan Beyer  
 David Bickley  
 Ryan Blake  
 Charles Blanton  
 Donald Blaylock  
 Daniel Blevins



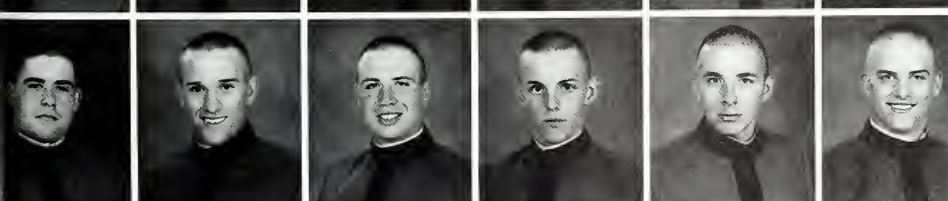
Jarrett Blevins  
 JenniferBoensch  
 Cory Bond  
 William Boulware  
 James Bourie  
 James Bowden



Coy Bowling  
 Brandon Bowman  
 Anthony Bravo  
 Adam Breeding  
 Russell Briley  
 Joshua Brink



Chris Brooks  
 Adam Brown  
 Stephen Brown  
 Richard Bruce  
 Charles Bunting  
 Eric Burleson

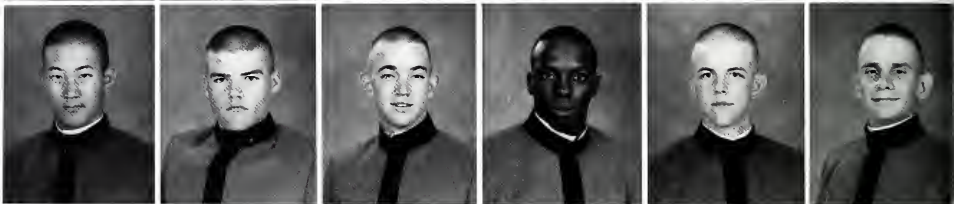


Gregg Burns  
 Adam Burton  
 Christopher Butera  
 Michael Butterfield  
 NathanielBuxhoeveden  
 Andrew Carbone

Jon Cabrera  
 Daniel Campbell  
 Kenneth Carmichael  
 Brett Carter  
 Speros Casey  
 Ryan Cates



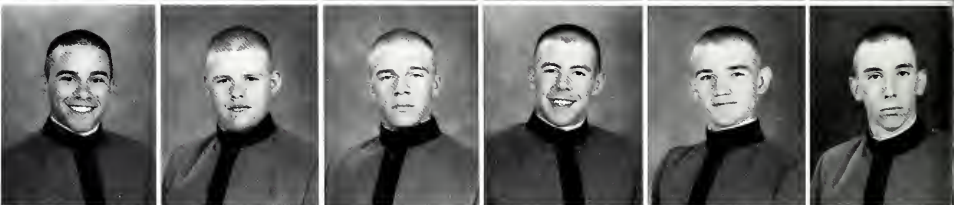
Charles Chang  
 Nathan Charles  
 William Charles  
 Uche Chekwa  
 Chad Christianson  
 Michael Christenson



Tennille Chisholm  
 Paul Chu  
 Joel Cintron  
 Erin Claunch  
 Jason Co  
 Michael Collins



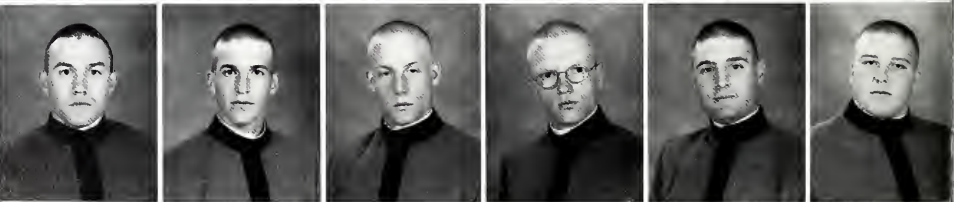
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 Michael Conlan  
 Drew Conover  
 Kevin Consedine  
 Anthony Conway  
 Howard Cook



Thomas Cornell  
 Michael Cortese  
 Michael Covert  
 Brandon Crane  
 Jarrod Cronin  
 Brian Cummings

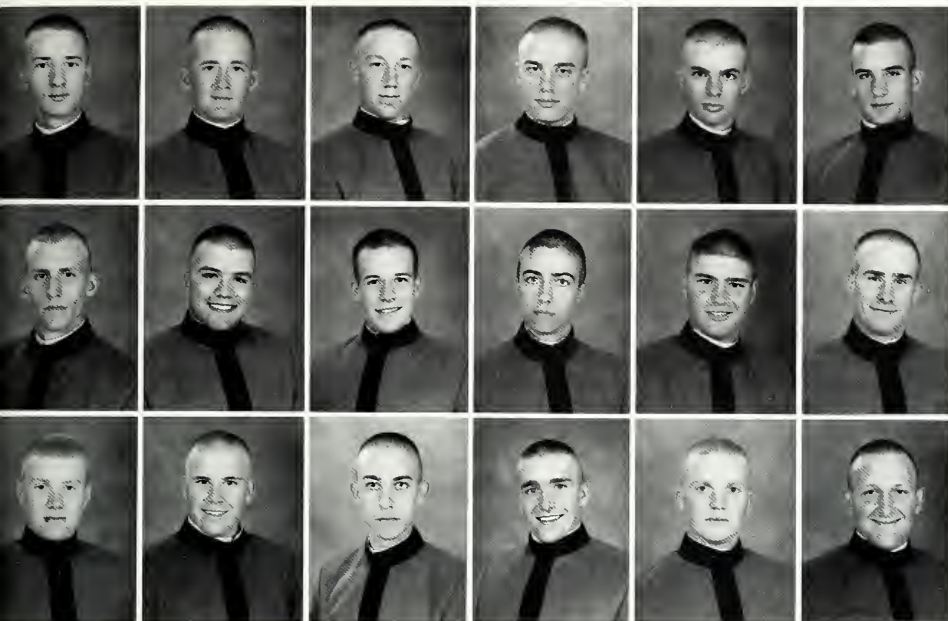


Stewart Curcio  
 Patrick Curtis  
 Jason Cutair  
 Shimon Cymanow  
 Chris Dabaldo  
 Bryan Dalton



Luke Damiani  
 Brady Daniels  
 Andrew Dannenberger  
 Chris Davis  
 John Davis  
 Robert Davis

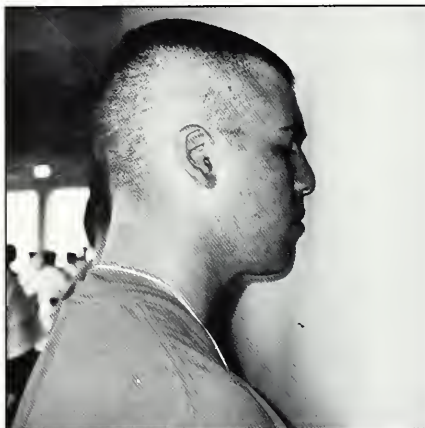




Charles De Courcel  
Eric DeHart  
Jack Dempsey  
Zachary Denton  
David Dewey  
William Dickinson

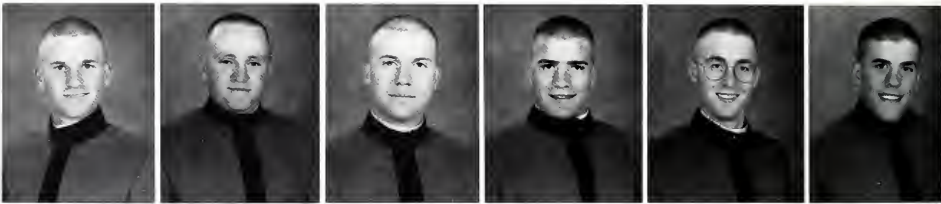
Jamie Dillon  
Brian Donald  
Matthew Dotson  
Chris Douglas  
James Douglas  
Stephen Dugan

Michael Dukes  
William Duncan  
Jarek Dyhouse  
James Echols  
Richard Essig  
William Farris

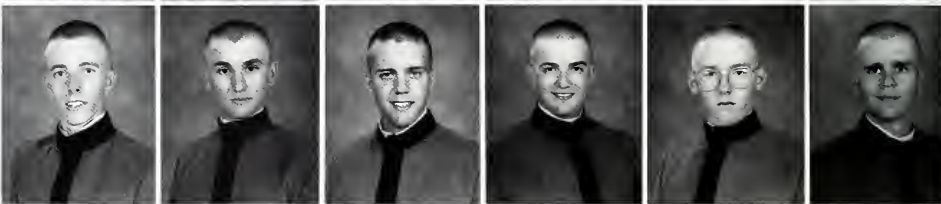


*Far Left:* Yut cut ready to address the mass. *Top right:* Say it, don't spray it! *Bottom Right:* There's no place like home, there's no place like home.

William Felvey  
 Brian Ferguson  
 Ron Fiocca  
 Jeffrey Firks  
 Sam Fishburne  
 Harry  
 Fitzpatrick



Gregory Ford  
 Brian Frank  
 Austin Freeman  
 Kevin Fromm  
 Matthew Frye  
 Joe Furtek



Christopher Gaddy  
 Eric Gannon  
 Michael Gantert  
 Glenn Garrett  
 Angelica Garza  
 Matthew Gehring



Above: The  
 benefits of a well  
 executed  
 parade. Right:  
 Second  
 thoughts?





Anthony Gelormine  
George Gilmore  
James Gleason  
Jason Gleason  
Thomas Gleason  
Arnold Gore



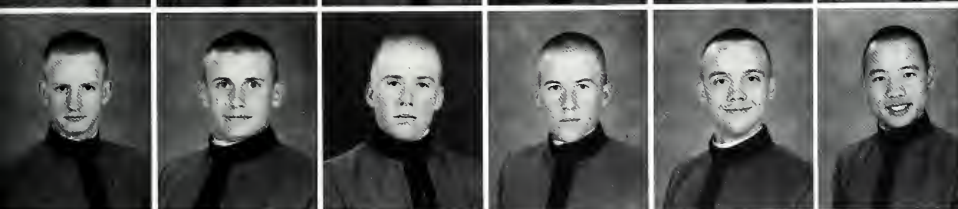
David Gouge  
Michael Graber  
Melissa Graham  
Thomas Graham  
Hassan Grari  
David Gray



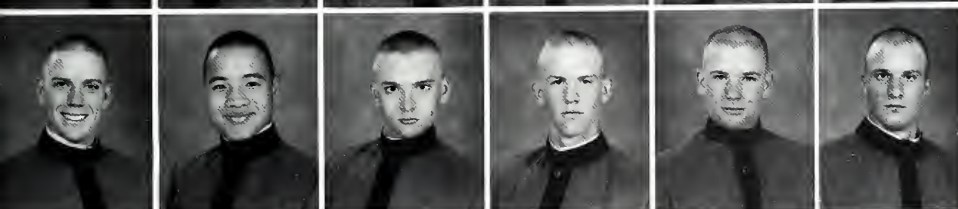
Brooke Green  
Jeremy Griffin  
David Grilli  
Richard Groen  
Joseph Gunter  
Ronny Gupta



Jeremy Guy  
Carl Haas  
Timothy Hackler  
John Hagel  
Randy Hager  
Fred Hair



Eric Ham  
Justin Harbor  
John Hardy  
Marshall Hardy  
William Harley  
Kenith Harman



Robert Harman  
Thomas Harman  
Steven Harris  
Robert Harrison  
Nicholas Hathaway  
Sidney Hazelwood

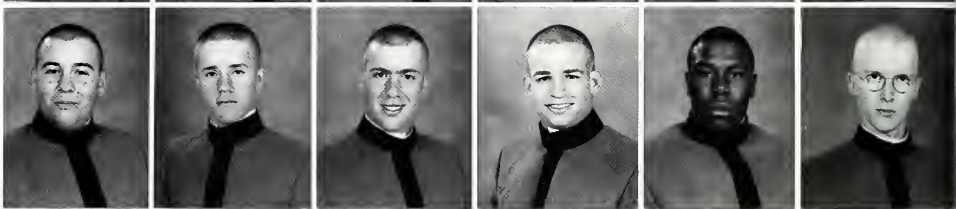


Kimberly Herbert  
Bradford Herrell  
Chih-Yaun Ho  
Shawn Hobbs  
Richard Hodge  
Douglas Hoffman

Beth Hogan  
Eric Houck-  
Whitaker  
Clinttron Hull  
John Humphries  
Joseph Hurley  
Patrick Hurley



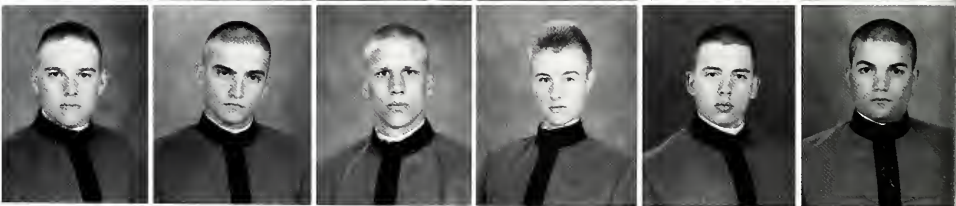
Michel Ienco  
Roger Imhoff  
George Ioannidis  
David Jackson  
Pomroy Jackson  
Harri Jahkola



Todd Jasper  
James Jayco  
John Jicha  
Zachary Johnson  
Jennifer Jolin  
David Jones



Richard Joyner  
James Judge  
Keith Just  
Amanda Kaufman  
Jonathan Kendrick  
Richard Kennedy



David Kalek  
Philip King  
Alex Kipp  
John Kitt  
Stephen Kolenich  
John Koubaroulis



Kyle Kramer  
Jeff Kuehne  
Jared Kuhnhehn  
Benjamin Lafon  
Brian Lakin  
Brandon  
Lambiaso



Sam Laneave  
Matthew Larrison  
Eric Lauer  
Drew Law  
James Lawlor  
Charles Lawrence





Far Right: What was the command again. Port arms or order arms? Below: Oh I am sorry, I thought you were Corporal Brady BR



Dong Ha Lee  
Bradley Leigh  
John Lenart  
Brian Lengvasky  
John Lentivech  
Jonathan Lewinn

Tao Li  
Dan Lieber  
Harry Lilly  
Chih-Wei Lin  
John Llewellyn  
Chad Lloyd

David Lopez  
Gussie Lord  
Adam Love  
Rachel Love  
Scott Lowe  
Delton Lowery

Charner Lumpkin  
Philip Lutz  
Richmond Lykins  
Marcus Lynch  
Daxton Lyon  
Brian Maclauchlan



Robert Magruder  
Adam Maldonado  
Adam Maneen  
Tamina Mars  
Jonathan Martin  
Michael Martin



Michael Martyn  
Joseph Matthews  
Taylor Mawyer  
Jonathan Mazur  
Frank McCabe  
Ebony McElroy



John McGrady  
Anthony Mendoza  
Matthew Meyers  
Clyde Middleton  
William Miles  
Eric Miller



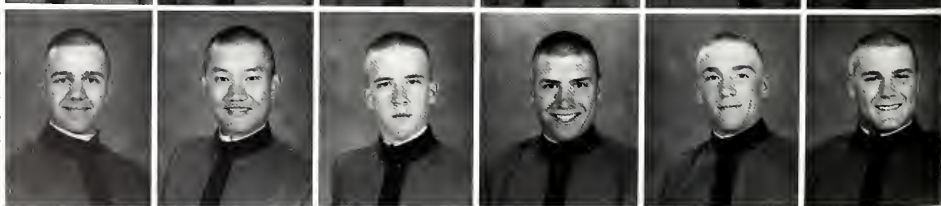
Natasha Miller  
Andrew Modisett  
Rhett Morris  
James Morroe  
Willie Moses  
Robert Moss



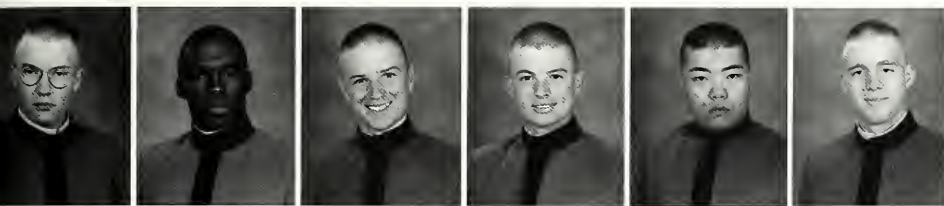
Deffy Mubangu  
Wilson Mustian  
Brad Muston  
Angela Myers  
William Myers  
David Nagel



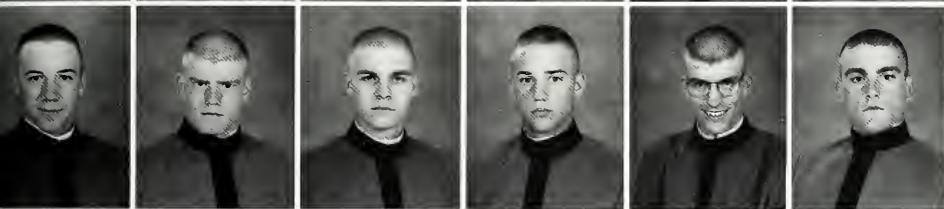
Mark Nemeth  
Howard Ni  
John Niederhaus  
Charles Noll  
Ben Norris  
Thomas O'Brien







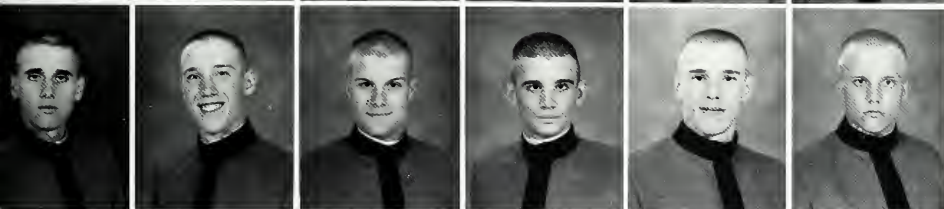
William O'Neal  
 Anthony Olds  
 David Oliver  
 Ian Ostlund  
 Songho Pak  
 Thera Palmer



John Parson  
 Paul Part  
 Stephen Pasciak  
 Stuart Patterson  
 Luke Pernotto  
 Andy Peterson



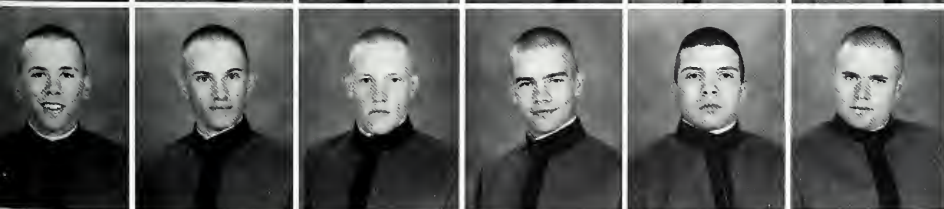
Jonathan Pettry  
 Torrey Phanelson  
 Angela Pickett  
 Paul Piper  
 Nicholas  
 Pohoreskey  
 Eric Poole



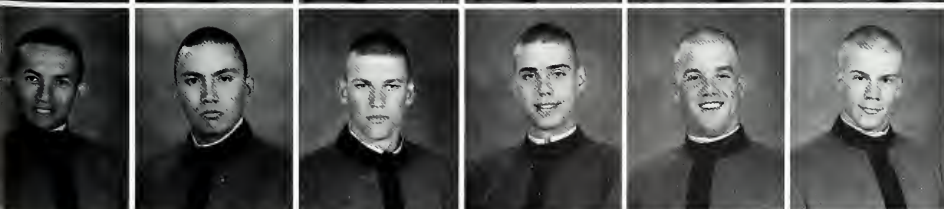
Scott Presser  
 William Prible  
 Chadwick Price  
 Justin Prior  
 Matthew Prokop  
 Bradley Purcell



Charles Ransom  
 Parker Reeves  
 Chase Reno  
 Nick Richardson  
 Christopher Riley  
 Robert Riley

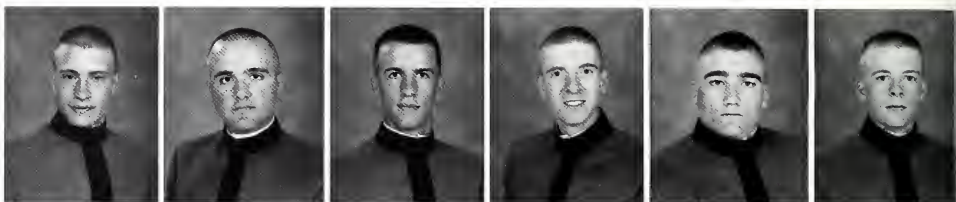


Michael Roberts  
 Christopher Rodgers  
 Andrew Rogers  
 Kevin Ryan  
 Angelo Sakellariou  
 Kristopher Sandlin

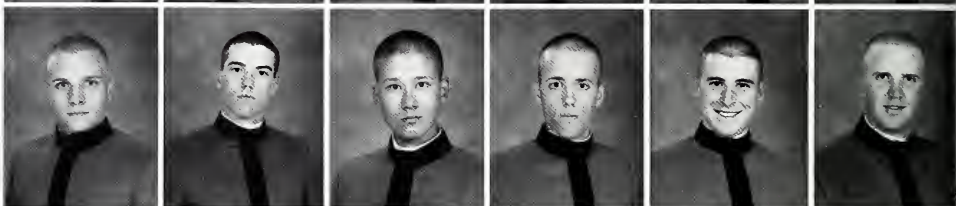


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 Russell Savatt  
 Daniel Schindler  
 Kevin Schnute  
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 David Schreck

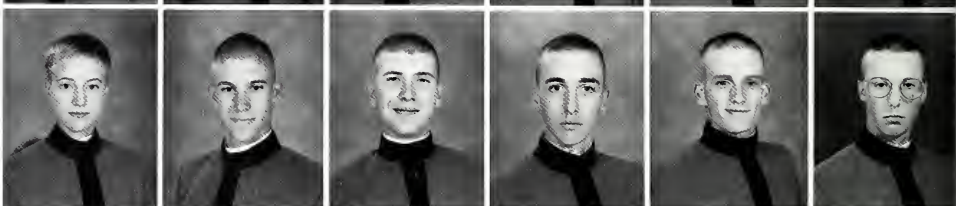
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 Thomas Sebrell  
 Dale Seymour  
 Charles Sharp



Joshua Shiley  
 Erik Siebert  
 Steven Simon  
 Chris Simpson  
 John Sirhal  
 Stephen Skakandy



Megan Smith  
 Scott Smith  
 Jarrett Somers  
 Frank Spano  
 Ben Stanley  
 Adam Stanley-Smith



Eugene Stiltner  
 Daniel Stock  
 Kelly Sullivan  
 Sandjiri Sy  
 Alex Tedla  
 John Tempone



James Thompson  
 Paul Thompson  
 Sidney Toland  
 Othman Triki  
 Aaron Trombley  
 John Turner

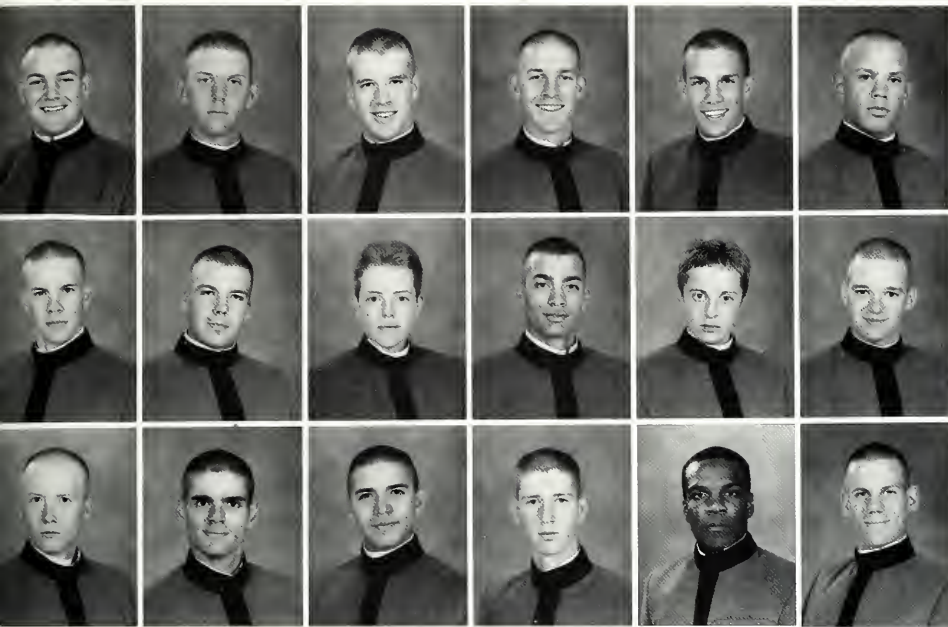


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 Mia Utz  
 Maria Vasile  
 Adam Vergne  
 Shane Vinales



George Wade  
 Justin Walskey  
 Elijah Ward  
 William Washington  
 Michael Washington  
 Daryl Watkins





William Webb  
 Ethan Weber  
 Philip Weismiller  
 Ryan Welsh  
 Jason Whitaker  
 Stephen Wiegel

James Wilkinson  
 Jacob Williams  
 Melissa Williams  
 Brian Wilson  
 Angela Winters  
 Joseph Wonder

Guy Workman  
 Justin Wouters  
 Adam Woytowich  
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 Aaron Yarbough  
 Mark Zagrocki

Victor Zottig

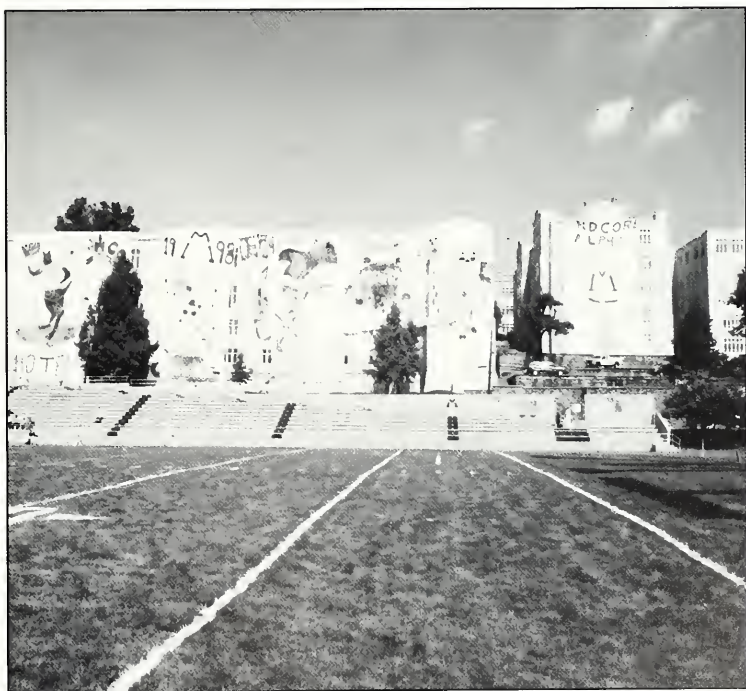




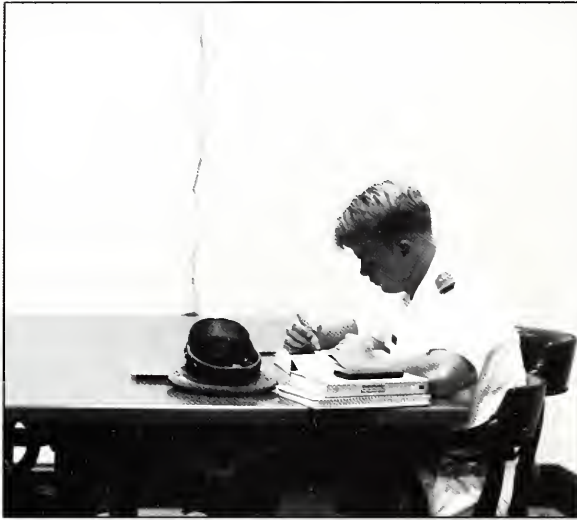
*Top: Halftime show. Middle: Name and initials gentlemen. Bottom: BR's enjoying a soccer game and the freedom to talk amongst themselves.*



*Top left:* The obstacles of Rat Challenge. *Top right:* The break of a football game. *Bottom left:* Halloween antics, Trick orTreat, smell my feet, give me something good to eat. *Bottom right:* Excellent display of Spirit banners.



# ACADEMICS



**D**espite the many aspects of life at the Virginia Military Institute; military, athletics, and social, one predominates over all these: academics. It is the highest priority of all cadets. As the popular saying goes, "I don't care how good you shine your shoes, you're not staying here without the grades." The

atmosphere of the school plays an integral role in the students' academics. VMI is not an institution of large lectures with three hundred students peering down at a graduate student as a teacher, rather VMI prides itself on small classes with emphasis on student-teacher interaction. The accessibility of the instructors is of particular importance to the corps. All teachers have an "open door policy" in which cadets are free to ask questions and gain constructive criticism. Many teachers encourage students to call them at home with questions they may have. This close-knit, interactive environment, is crucial in order to achieve effective learning. Such a strong emphasis on the student-teacher relationship distinguishes VMI from many other rural colleges.

Written by Patrick Forrest



# 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



In everyone's life there comes a time to choose whether they will follow the road of the masses or "the one less traveled by." Many people start life with visions of grandeur, but soon let the intense fire within their heart fizzle and die. I am going to praise a man that not only remained faithful to his heart, but also inspired countless others to find their own individual paths as well.

For fifty years Colonel Thomas Gentry has led his students on a journey through the lines of both poetry and prose. During his classes students could not avoid noticing the personal connection that Colonel Gentry had with the material he taught. At times Colonel Gentry's readings would invoke a sense of excitement, or other times of deep melancholy, but always an appreciation for the professor and the material. I often wondered how a man that has taught the same material for over fifty years still shows so much affection toward it? The answer is simple; this is not an ordinary man but rather one born with an extraordinary gift, the love of teaching.

Colonel Gentry is retiring at the end of this year. Those who have had the privilege to experience his classroom know how great a loss this will be for both the students and the Institute. The path for Colonel Gentry after fifty years of sharing his love of life and literature leads elsewhere, and the Institute is helpless to do all but wish him

well. One cannot help but shed a tear realizing that after this year when they pass by his office door, or his classroom during the lunch hour or between classes, Colonel Gentry will not be there. His voice will no longer resonate within the walls of the classroom as they once did, but instead will remain within those he taught. It seems nearly impossible to imagine a VMI devoid of such a wonderful professor and friend. I for one will always remember what you taught me, both about literature and myself, Colonel Gentry, and know that I do not speak alone.

Some natural tears they dropped, but wiped them soon;  
The world was all before them, where to choose  
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide:  
They hand in hand with wand'ring steps and slow,  
Through Eden took their solitary way.

---Paradise Lost

Your student and friend,  
Jason Duffy

# *Behavioral Science*



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## **Lt. Colonel Thomas N. Merriwether**

LTC. Thomas N. Merriwether is married with two daughters, Christina and Stephanie, and a son, Tom. He earned his Ph.D and M.S. in Organizational Psychology at the University of Tennessee and his B.A. in history at Vanderbilt University. He joined the U.S. Army in 1968 and remained until retiring from the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1990. While in the Army, he had such achievements as being the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Army and the Interim Staff Director for Senator Richard Shelby. After retiring, he was an Adjunct Professor at Marymount University, Strayer College, and Averett College for courses in Organizational Effectiveness, Performance Analysis, Organizational Behavior, and Human Resources Management. Finally, he came to VMI in 1995 after being the Games Staffing Manager for the Olympic Games in Atlanta. LTC. Merriwether is very helpful to cadets. "The door is always open to cadets." "I try to be as good a mentor as I can."





# *Biology*



# *Chemistry*



# *Physics*



# *Math & C.S.*



# *Civil Engineering*



# *Electrical Engineering*



# *Mechanical Engineering*



# *English*



# *Economics & Business*



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## **Major Lisa Gutermuth**

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The Economics and Business department's latest addition, Major Gutermuth, has been assigned as an instructor in the subject of Statistics. As an undergraduate, she received her BS in Economics at Louisiana State University. Also at LSU, the new instructor went on to earn her Ph.D. Her actual research field was in Health Economics. Major Gutermuth is the mother of two sons, one at the age of fourteen and the other at eighteen.

# *Physical Education*



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## **Lt. Colonel Holly Richardson**

LTC. Richardson is VMI's newest instructor in the Physical Education department. She grew up in Iowa City with her mother and father, and two brothers. She attended the University of Iowa. From there, she proceeded to earn a Ph.D at Ohio State. LTC. Richardson loves it here at VMI. "I like VMI because it's a balance between academics and physical training."



# *Modern Languages*



# *History & I.S.*



# *Air Force*



# *Army*





# *Navy / Marines*



# *Kilbourne*





**D**ave Whetstone and Josh Petry take a minute to pose for a picture and enjoy the scenery. Hiking is one of the several activities that various clubs take part. The Shenandoah Valley is beautiful all year round, and also presents a great escape for

# CLUB ACTIVITIES

## CREATING THE DIVERSITY

There are those who believe the Corps of VMI is too unified and lacks in diversity. Whether it be the uniforms, parades, or just the general military concepts, these beliefs are somewhat universal themselves. Actually, it is quite the opposite. A cadet's tenure at VMI is based on just how diverse he or she can be in a seemingly unified society. So, if the truth be known, if you have seen one cadet you most certainly have not seen them all.

Clubs play an important role in the diverse society of VMI. They can really be the difference between an enjoyable stay and a not so enjoyable stay. Because VMI itself encompasses so much, thus its clubs do as well.

Athletics, social life, politics, military, and academics are all involved in this entity of cadet life.

Cadets have choices that range from the volleyball team to the pistol team and the ever-so-

graceful rugby team. A competitive spirit is highly encouraged at VMI, and is positively allowed through these successful organizations.

In another light, clubs dealing with politics and

other social factors allow cadets to keep up with the world events and not be so consumed by all of their classes. The Promaji Club and the Religious Affairs Council are popular organizations that are active at VMI. While the Young Republicans encourage cadets to get involved in the politics of America.

The last two spheres of the clubs at VMI probably make up what cadet life is all about for some people. Academics and military are large portions of time in a cadet's stay, and to help further a cadet's perspective, clubs play an important role. There is little free time in the day at VMI, but with the array of en-

joyable activities the clubs provide it is time well spent.

Written by Aaron Frazier

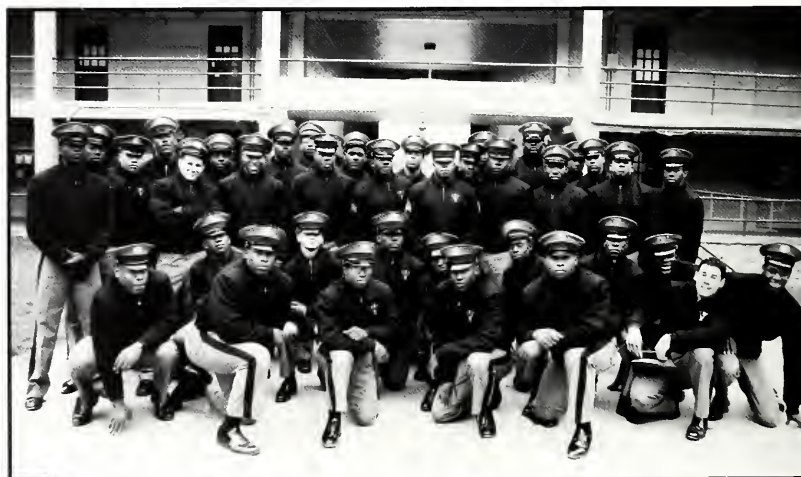


# The VMI ACS



The VMI-ACS is a student affiliate of the American Chemical Society. The VMI-ACS is made up of twenty-four members and is open to all science and engineering majors. The goal of the ACS is to invite speakers to talk about some of the applications of a scientific degree. The ACS also sets up tours with graduate schools and companies where a scientific degree would be used. The ACS has taken tours of the Medical College of Virginia's Pharmaceutical program and the pharmaceutical production facilities of Merck. In the future, the ACS will have speakers talking about inorganic chemistry and forensics investigations. The ACS will also visit an ATF investigation facility and UNC Chapel Hill's graduate school. President, Nicholas R. Wilk Jr.; Vice President, T.J. Wojciechowski; Treasurer, Andy P. Gehring; Secretary, Robin Huckaby.

# The Promaji Club



The mission of the VMI Promaji Club is based on commitment, loyalty, and earnest respect by the members of the foundation and the three pillars of Promaji. The three pillars are: community service, cultural awareness, and club unity. Through these pillars, we strive to project the voices of the minority cadets and create a more culturally sensitive atmosphere at the VMI. President, Andre Thorton; Vice President, Avi Hopkins; Vice President, Cardell Winfield; Treasurer, Andre Curtis; Secretary, Abdul Touray.



## *The Powerlifting Team*

The '97-'98 VMI Powerlifting Team is comprised of 36 members of the Corps of Cadets. The mission of the team is to allow cadets to train for and, compete in, various competitions throughout the state and surrounding region. Due to limitations on the number of members, the team is highly selective. All members must demonstrate their ability and desire to achieve the goals that are set for them. Currently there are several members of the team that are of a national caliber. Furthermore, the team plans to send a contingent to the national championships in Maryland.

The leadership of the '97-'98 VMI Powerlifting Team is as follows:  
Maj. Granger, Faculty Advisor; Sean Hicklin, CIC; Ben Chang, ACIC; Nate Friedline, ACIC.



## *The College Republicans*

The VMI College Republicans' mission is to increase cadet involvement and activism in the political process, specifically within the Republican Party. The 1997 College Republicans were extremely active this year due to the election year for the State of Virginia. First, the club organized an absentee ballot drive in which over 600 absentee ballot forms were given out with instructions for voting. Second, a hugely successful mock election was run by the CRs and sponsored by the highest turnout of any school in the state. Press releases on the event went out to major publications across the state and nation including the Washington Post and Usa Today. After the conservative sweep in the election, the club sent about ten cadets to Washington D.C. for a national conservative convention.

## *The Parachute Team*



The VMI Parachute Team consists of five cadets working toward their civilian parachute license. Their ultimate goal is to enter into competitions with other skydive clubs throughout the nation. The team is looking to expand in the future. Member: David Nash, Dan Gibson, Mike Meads, Alan Bull, Cliff Flournoy.

## *Emergency Response Team*



This team aids the Corps in medical emergencies. They have been involved with RDC functions, Rat Challenge, and emergency calls. This team is made up of EMT's as well as members in the training and are on call twenty-four hours a day. Members: David Nash, Eric Eisemon, David Poularis, Chris Craft, Alan Bull, Carl Trask, Cliff Ford, Todd Bishop, Jason Shartarsky, Mark Robinson, Josh Hahnen, Mike Wilson, Cliff Flournoy.



## *The Pre-Law Society*

Over the course of the past year the Pre-Law Society has undergone many drastic changes, to include the altering of the Mission and the By-laws. Our society has also gone from one that partakes in relatively few events to one of the most active on post. The goal and success' of the society lay in the hopes that VMI will continue to produce some of the finest statements and judges that serve are society. We have taken every step along the path preparing cadets for law school as well as getting then into the school of their choice. In the year to come we look forward to the continued success of the society under the leadership of Col. Bush and through the dedication of the officers.

Officers:  
President: Charles Marr  
Vice President: Jeffrey Morrison

Vice President: Jason Estes  
Secretary: Tom Warburton  
Treasurer: Willis Tatterson



## *The Rock Climbing Club*

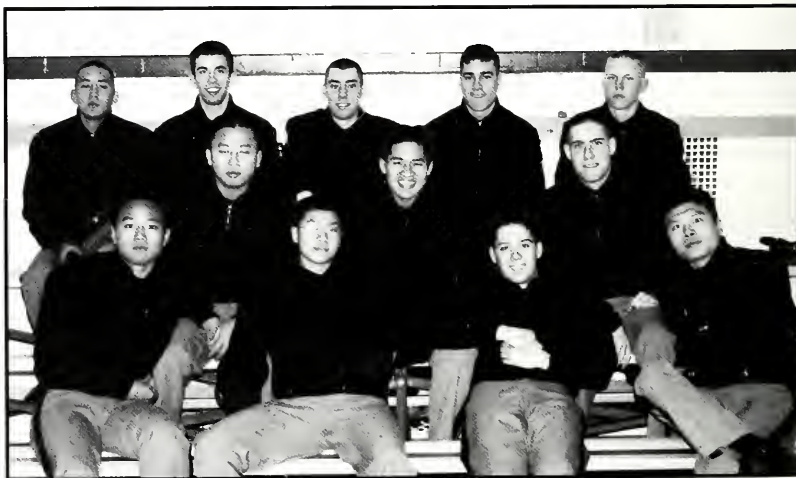
Since its inception last Ferbruary the climbing club has grown tremendously. A club that started relatively small has grown to include over twenty-five members that participate in several competitions. In addition to this the climbing club has raised capital and started to build an indoor climbing wall that will be completed sometime in January. This wall will not only provide a new training facility, but will provide the Corps with a new way to enjoy their time. Throughout the next year we look forward to the continued growth of the club as well as futher success' in the compeition circuit. Officers: President: Charles Marr, Vice Presidents: David Nash & Shawn Ward.

## *Marathon Club*



The VMI Marathon Club's roster has decreased over the past year, but the quality of the runners is still present for the competitive spirit involved for the nature of racing. Cadet McKenna will be running his first Boston Marathon this semester. He qualified with a time of 2:47:03, placing him 69 out of 15,238 finishing runners in the 21st Marine Corps Marathon. Cadet Varner is also Boston qualified and ran in last year's 101st Boston Marathon. He is presently running Ultra Marathons and plans on running the Old Dominion 100-miler later this year. Cadet Nash is a three time marathon runner and has hopes of qualifying for Boston this spring. Cadet Watson will be running in his third marathon this spring and he is also the VMI Ice Hockey Club's team captain. Cadet Pearson will be running in his second marathon this spring and has a personal goal of improving his previous marathon time by over 20 minutes.

## *Volleyball Team*



The purpose of the VMI Volleyball Team is to provide an opportunity for cadets to learn and play competitive organized volleyball. Run completely by cadets, we manage our own funds, schedule matches, coach, and play volleyball. In past years, the volleyball team has played against competitive schools such as University of Virginia and Duke. This year we played at the University of Maryland. Captains: Thai Trinh, Matt Irving





## *College Democrats*

For the first time in many years at VMI, the College Democrats formed with a promising amount of interest from the Corps. With over 55 members, the club looks to have a very promising future. The reason for the clubs' birth was to cater to the political beliefs and interests of a certain segment of the student body which has on the most part been ignored up until now. Under young leadership and enthusiasm from the members, things look very bright for this club.

Co-Presidents: Daniel Alvarez & Dave Hunt

Vice-Presidents: Justin Wood & Pat McDowell

Historian: Charles Bryan

Treasurer: Ted Coberly



## *Civil War Round Table*

For years, the VMI CWRT has done nothing but participate in reenactments. This past year, the CWRT participated in everything from reenactments to living histories and symposiums. The CWRT has brought pride to the Old South, and will continue to educate the general public and relive the lives of cadets and soldiers during the War Between the States. In the words of Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, "the Institute will be heard from today." President: Brad Wineman; Vice Presidents: Chad Brady, Colin Mahle.

## *English Society*



The English Society is composed of students with various majors who share an appreciation for the English Language and the great works which it contains. This year the English Society journeyed to Richmond and Washington D.C. in search of both art and literary experiences. Along with the trips, the English Society had the pleasure of hearing various speakers who spoke on topics ranging from The Civil War, to Bob Dylan. This year's president was Jason Duffy who was assisted in planning and organizing the society's events by vice-president Shane Finley, secretary Mark Redman and treasurer Joe Lowman.

Special thanks to Colonel Alan Baragona for all his hard work and patience—thank you sir.

## *Gospel Choir*



The purpose of the VMI Gospel Choir is to uplift the name of the Lord through spirit and song. Each class is represented in the choir giving the choir a total of approximately 30 members. Throughout the year the choir attempts to perform at various functions which include cultural events, church functions, and the Black History Month celebration. It is my pleasure to be the Gospel Choir President for the 97-98 school year. President: Al Lester



## *Virginia Historical Society*

The Virginia History Society is a club sponsored by the VMI History department and is open to cadets of all majors with an interest in the Commonwealth's history. Although the club is relatively new to the VMI community it has already taken shape as an active group with a strong membership. An elected student body as well as faculty sponsor, Mr. David Coffey, a history instructor at VMI, manages the club. In the past two years since its founding it has visited several historic sites. Some of these include Colonial Williamsburg, Monticello, Westover plantation, Jamestown, as well several other attractions in Richmond's historic district. Activities also included cadets working with the local chapter of the APVA recording historic sites in Rockbridge County, and cosponsoring the "Jamestown People's" lecture series last fall.



## *Model Arab League*

The Model Arab League will attend Washington, D.C. for the National Model of the Model Arab League. This year 16 cadets from three classes will represent VMI on April 1-4. This is an improvement from last year and will hopefully continue a trend of VMI becoming more familiar with the Middle East. The model is not just a chance to become familiar with the Middle East, but a chance to become familiar with other schools.

## *Outreach*



VMI Outreach is a community service organization, which works in conjunction with the Chaplain's office. Its primary focus is to improve the quality of life in the Lexington community by helping people with various needs. VMI Outreach provides needed assistance to individuals and other organizations in the area (Lexington and Rockbridge County). Through these contacts we help create a communal bond and nurture a sense of civil responsibility in participating members of the Corps. This year's projects included sponsoring local canned food drives, along with working at the Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA) food pantry twice a week, and also being part of a restoration project in the community. The CIC is Michael Kelleher. Active members include: Cadets Paul Belmont, Matt Vordermark, Collin Mahle, Mike Mule, Justin Cole and Jason Cole.

## *Water Polo*



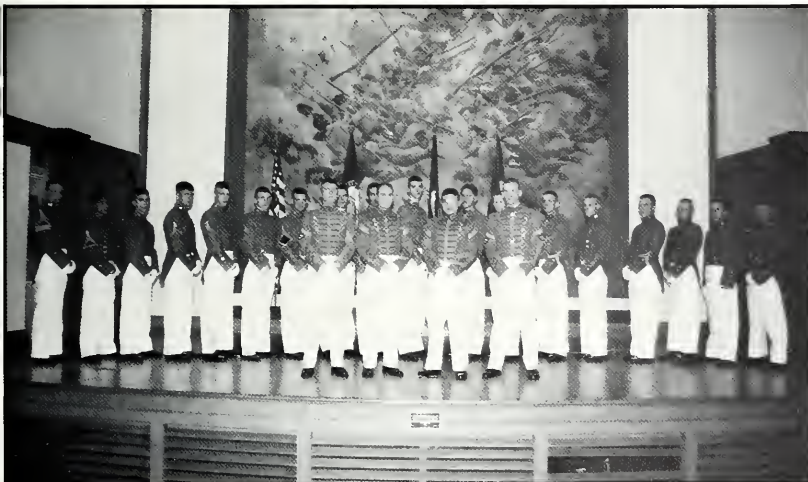
Most people at VMI don't even know that we have a water polo team and are surprised when they find out. Many schools such as JMU, VA. Tech, W&L, and most other schools in the state have teams. We travel all around the region, participating in East Coast tournaments. It is very competitive, but since it is a club sport everyone is really cool and there is always a party after the match. Most of us are not spectacular swimmers, but we work hard and we play as a team. We are a very competitive team.



## *Glee Club*

This year the VMI Glee Club consists of approximately 35 members of the Corps comprised of both Rats and Upperclassmen. It has been a good year for the club. We have had the pleasure of performing for The Council for Americas First Freedom, the Board of Visitors, Coach Bobby Ross, and last but not least, a myriad of girls schools around the region. The director of the Glee Club this year is Mr. Alan Lane and Officers Michael Kelleher '98 and Paul Balassa '98 are the Cadets in charge of the club.

Within the Glee Club is an elite group of 13 cadets who comprise the VMI Sentinels. The Sentinels are strictly acapella and perform at functions when the whole club is not needed. This has been the strongest year for the Sentinels in recent memory and they have been called upon for more shows requests than in any other year. The CIC of the Sentinels is Michael Kelleher. Look for them in a area near you!



## *Semper Fi Society*

The Semper Fi Society is a public service organization that is designed to provide an informal environment for future Marines, through which they may gain greater insight into the Marine Corps. It is the Society's objective to provide community service, and promote professionalism and social etiquette in future Marine officers. The Society is involved in such projects as Toys for Tots, VMI blood drives, and raising money for various nonprofit organizations.

## *Boxing Team*



The VMI Boxing Team is an organization for those members of the corps who enjoy the sport. The goal of the VMI Boxing Team is to be competitive in the N.C.B.A. Members of the boxing club practice four days a week under the careful watch of Coach Caulkins. Usually each member spars up to twelve rounds a week, and competes at invitationals along the east coast. In addition to their military duty workouts, members run on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 0600 hrs. The boxing team is not for everyone, as members of the corps can attest. The boxing team is composed of people who confront fear face to face on a daily basis. Cadet Ernesto Sampson explains it best: "boxing is an endless process of disciplining one's body and mind, while another man is trying to destroy every part of it."

## *Arnold Air Society*



The Arnold Air Society is a community service organization for Air Force ROTC cadets. The Arnold Air Society promotes the development of leadership skills needed in the Air Force and a positive image of the Air Force in the community.



## *Timmons Society*

It is the mission of the Timmons society to aid in raising general consciousness concerning what is typically known as classical music. We are the classical music society. We exist for the benefit of our members first, the VMI Family second, and finally the world at large. Throughout the year our members participate in a variety of events related to the appreciation of classical music. From operatic to symphonic and from Modern to Baroque, the Timmons society experiences the full range of genres and time periods. The highlight of every year is the society's trip to New York in which members of the society are exposed to a higher level of existence and thought through exposure to the musical and artistic opportunities that abound on Manhattan Island. Simply put, the Timmons society is a group of cadets who find a common exhilarating experience in the art of music, and who enjoy sharing that experience with others.



## *Pistol Team*

The VMI Pistol Team is comprised of a group of Cadets who enjoy the challenges and patience of competitive shooting. There are also members who shoot to increase their accuracy through "paper punching". The team has placed in such events as the Quantico invitational as well as sectional championships. The team is coached by Sgt. Thorpe and meets in VMI's own pistol and rifle range located in Kilbourne Hall.

# *Cadet Program Board*



The Cadet Program Board, helping to take VMI into the 21st century. John Dillard Cocks led the way first semester and Jimmy Duncan picked up second semester. Along the way, we had fun planning events and had some great shows. Thanks to Captain Fultz, Marci Lawhorn, Emily Tillery and Colonel Green for providing the assistance and support, it could not have been done without you. To next year's leaders, John Boland and Seamus Toolan, Good Luck

# *Eagle Scout Association*



The Eagle Scout Association allows the 127 cadets that have gone through the rigors of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout come together in brotherhood. We attend two dinners a year that feature speakers that have gone through a similar experience in the Boy Scouts of America as well as the experiences we have gained here at VMI.





## *Fencing Team*

Under the close tutorage of Coach Rebecca Worth and advisor Colonel Wingfield, the VMI fencing team has gained the respect that it has long deserved. We are a club sport, but, with the dedication of its team members, we are competing against other varsity teams. The team has competed with many schools in the region, including Johns-Hopkins, Duke, UVA, and Va. Tech. With the leadership of team veterans Ron White (captain) and Michael Lim (co-captain) and Matthew Crowgey, the team and its many members have been able to compete in the three weapons of fencing-sabre, epee, and foil. The team recently traveled to Paris, France to compete against Europe's best. Thanks to the entire team for sticking through the rough times and seeing us turn into fierce competitors.



## *Cadet Investment Group*

The VMI Foundation each year entrusts the Cadet Investment Group with investing \$200,000 into the stock market. The unique opportunity to invest real money in a live portfolio provides our members with something more than mere edification, we gain an experience unattainable elsewhere. The officers and members of the group have worked hard this year. They have been rewarded with an invaluable experience that will serve them well in their futures as VMI men. – Michael T. Baumgardner Chairman

## *Cadet Newspaper*



*The Cadet* newspaper has served to voice the Corps' opinions and given us details of the outside world of which we all too often are ignorant. The CIC, Jason Harding, has struggled with the administration over journalism rights and the degree of tastefulness of the humor page. With all of the pressure to get a paper out every week and all of the heat they take, *The Cadet* deserves the Corps' support and applause.

## *Ultimate Frisbee Team*



The Ultimate Frisbee Team, coached by Capt. Hirlinger, is an intermural sport that meets during the week at mil duty.



## *VMI W.O.L.F.*

W.O.L.F., Wildlife Oriented Lifesaving Foundation, began its life this year as it broke away from Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group to become its own search and rescue club at the Institute. After taking several training classes from BRMRG in Charlottesville, W.O.L.F. is becoming its own entity of the lifesaving community. The group includes Field Training Leaders and Callout Qualified personnel who are on call twenty four hours a day. Events in the past have included trips to House Mountain for simulated searches, two and three day training camps in Roanoke and a winter freeze hike on the Appalachian Trail. To keep the integrity of the group high, each person must be voted into the club. Future goals of the club include the acquisition of a W.O.L.F. Jeep and becoming a member of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference. The club continues to conduct wildlife research; however, ninety percent of its efforts are towards search and rescue.



## *Polar Bear Club*

The VMI Polar Bear is a fairly new club, whose mission is to defy the laws of nature and take a dive into the freezing cold water of Goshen Pass. These brave (or crazy) cadets seek adventure in white rapids while Old Man Winter controls the thermostat. Although this may seem strange and idiotic, it can be quite invigorating and is actually a healthy thing to do, that is, only if done once in a while!

## Triathlon



For the first time in over three years, VMI cadets once again had the opportunity to participate on a Triathlon team. The turnout expectations for such a team was well met, with cadets eager to take part in America's premier test of endurance and speed, the triathlon race. Even though most of the races took place in the Spring, many of the Triathlon team's members kept in shape by running road races in the Fall. Standouts for the team included Scott Hillyer and Jason Wells, with respectable top ten finishes at the VMI affiliated "Mark Wilson 5K." Should the team perform as well in the future as they have this season, the Triathlon team is certain to remain at VMI for a long time. CIC: Kevin Ryan; ACIC, Jason Wells.

## Quad A

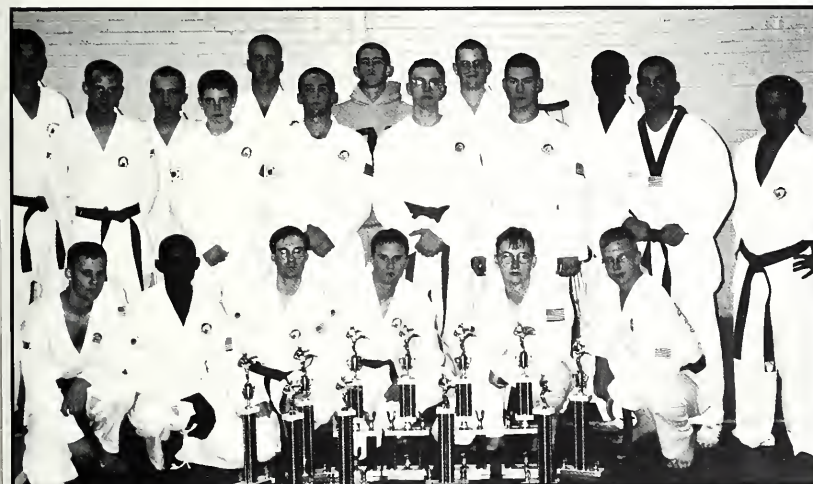


The Army Aviation Association of America is a professional group composed of active duty personnel, industry personnel, and aviation supporters. The VMI Chapter is headed by Colonel Mike Bissel and meets once a month. The chapter has regular guest speakers including Army Astronauts, test pilots and VMI alumni in aviation. Once a year, they travel to the National Convention held in various cities around the country. Quad A is open to all cadets, regardless of service affiliation.



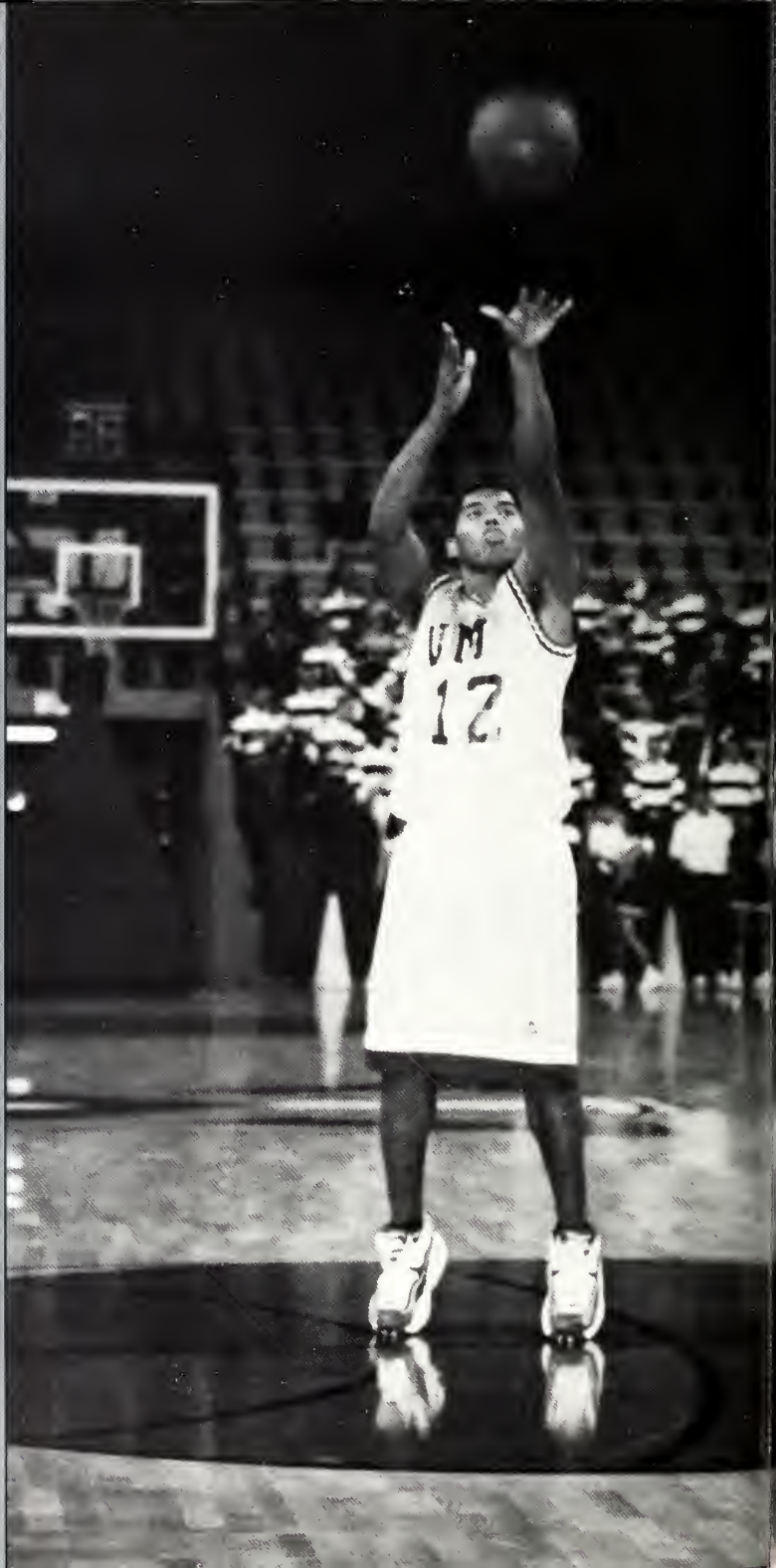
## *VMI Theater*

The VMI Theater is a varying group of cadets that come together for their love of the theater. This year we have performed three shows "Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor", "Stocking Stuffers" and "Kiss Me, Katě. We have also hosted the one-woman show "Mrs. Fiske: Against The Wind" with the English Department.



## *Tae Kwon Do*

The Tae Kwon Do club is dedicated to practicing and perfecting the art of Tae Kwon Do. Its members must be of the highest discipline and dedication. They have competed in many tournaments and are looking for more chances to show-off their martial arts skills.



The VMI pep band looks on as first classman Jason Bell releases the ball from the half court line.

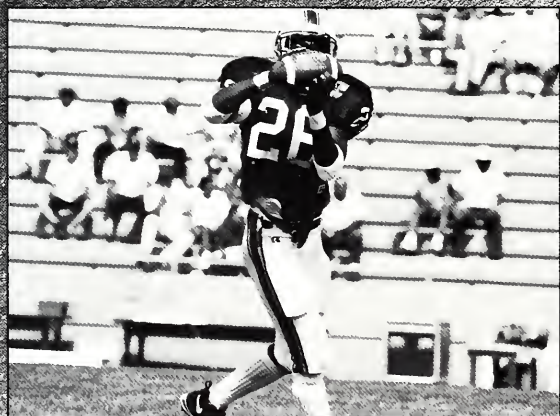
# SPORTS



**H**ere at the Institute there is something called the Three-Legged Stool. This stool represents the three main aspects of VMI, military, academics, and athletics. The three-legged stool is the foundation upon which we find ourselves forever trying to build. Approximately 25% of the corps participate in athletics. The members of the Bomb recognize the importance of VMI's athletics program. Athletics allows those cadets to remain in top physical condition as well as enabling those cadets who may not shine exuberantly in the class room to take their place in the lime light. VMI's third leg allows cadets to participate in healthy competition and teaches them to be team players which will be advantageous in the life beyond these barracks walls. We at the Bomb would like to offer our recognition of the members of VMI's athletic teams for being an integral part in the making of the VMI man.

# ONE SPIRIT, ONE CORPS, ONE TEAM!

This was the emphasis of the Keyder football team this year. No matter the circumstances, the Corps "always rooted the loudest." Under new Head Coach Cane, the football team went through a reconstruction stage. This was a tough season for the Keyders. Facing the toughest teams from the Southern Conference, the team fell short in some close losses. Yet through all the pain and sweat, the Corps held true to their team. Coach Cane and his staff brought the team together, not only between themselves, but also with the whole institution. It may not be







shown by the coaches, but the team fought and drove to a win over the Vikings.

Headed by the phenomenal Chris Alister, Mike Jones, and Devin Robinson, the spirit-filled team really went through it. The Kruders marched on head to head with eight closer games against 14 Glensboro. The team fought with all their heart for the comeback in the end game to a season that would read 24-27. With the loss of key seniors, the team will have another young team, but expectations are high for the upcoming season.

Written By: Josh Wagner

# KICKING THEIR WAY TO THE TOP

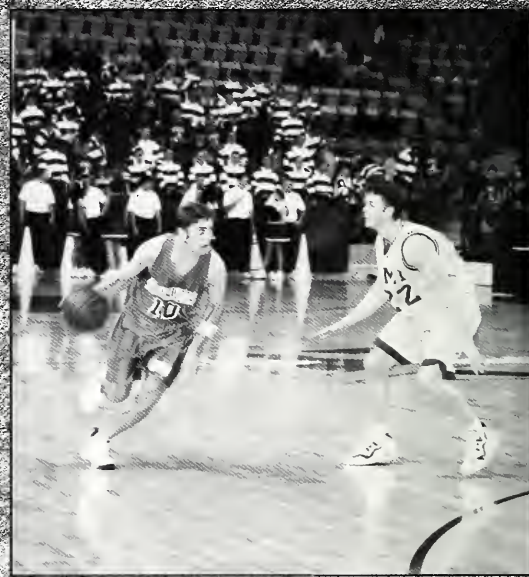
The 1997-98 Soccer team struggled this year in the powerful Southern Conference. Their record however, was no indication of how hard the team actually played. There were many close games with the highlight being the decisive victory over the Citadel Bulldogs. Leading the line for the team were team captains, first classman Rich Daughtridge and Second classman Matt Bryant. Daughtridge had a magnificent career at the "P" receiving many awards. Among them were First team All-Southern Conference 93-95, 97. Third team All-South Atlantic Region honors from UMBRO and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) and Second team All-South Atlantic from the Virginia Sports Information Directors (VAISID). Losing only three First classmen, Head Coach Stephen Rose is very optimistic about next year.

Written by Megan Sutton and Willie Buchanan





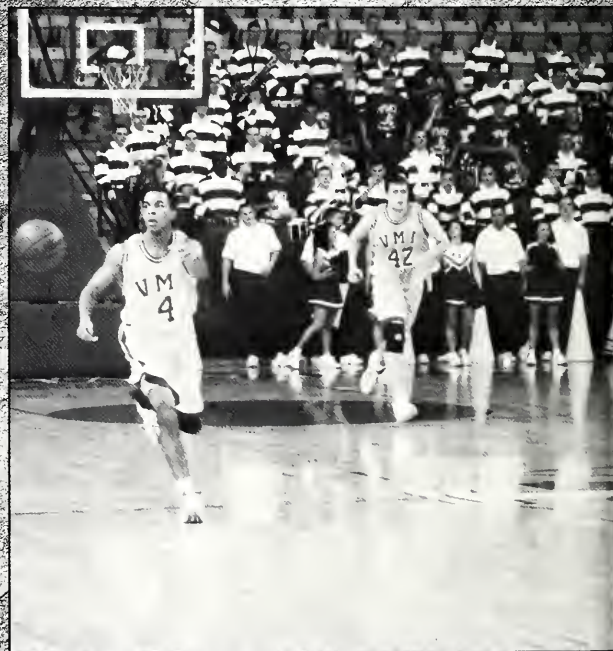
# RUNNING ROOS COMPETE

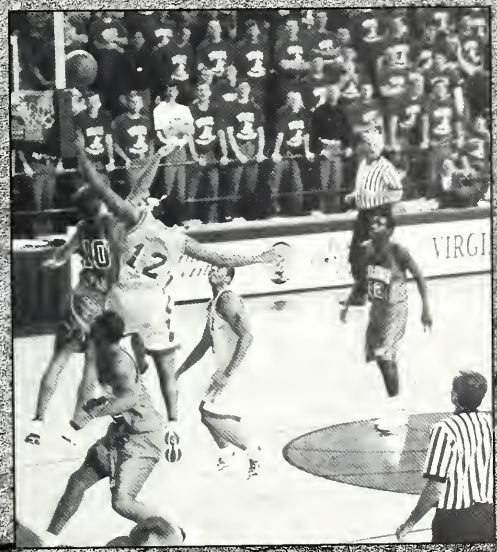
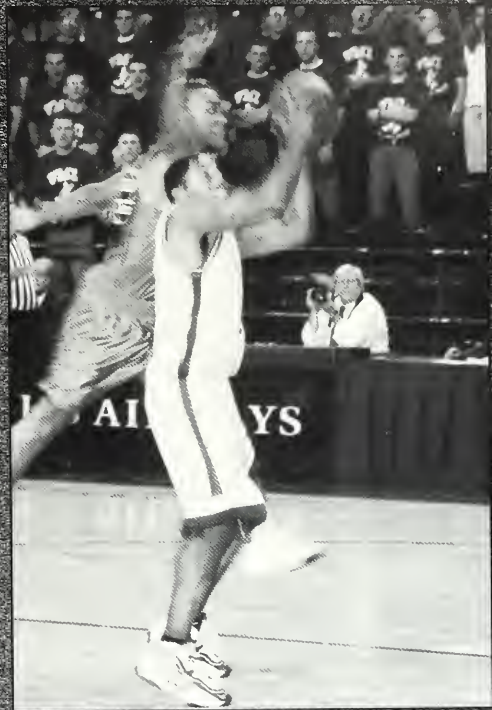
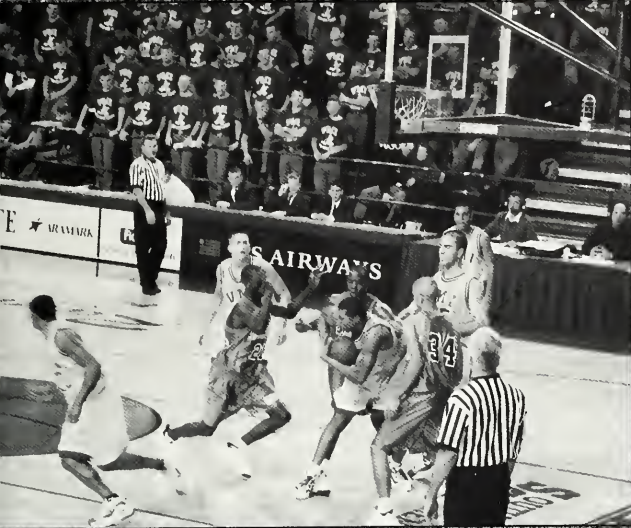


The VMI Basketball team entered the 1997-1998 season with very high expectations. Returning most of their play-makers from the previous year, the "Running Roos" were ready to contend for the Southern Conference championship. Leading the attack for the Roos were first classmen David Faulkner, Mike Spradley, second classman Jason Bell, and sophomore sensation, Aaron DeHaene. Perhaps one of the key victories was the stunning 71-68 defeat of the then undefeated Penn State Nittany Lions in Cameron Hall. This was the first time the Keydets have ever defeated a Big Ten team. In his short tenure here at VMI, head coach Bart Bellars and his staff have made the "Running Roos" a powerhouse in the Southern Conference.

As always, the Big Red Club has made its presence felt in Cameron Hall. The Corps was the sixth man that pulled the Roos through on those close home games. The Keydets expect to be even better next year with the return of Second classmen Brent Conley and Andre Charles. It should be something special next year.

Written by Stewart Staton & Willy Barquera



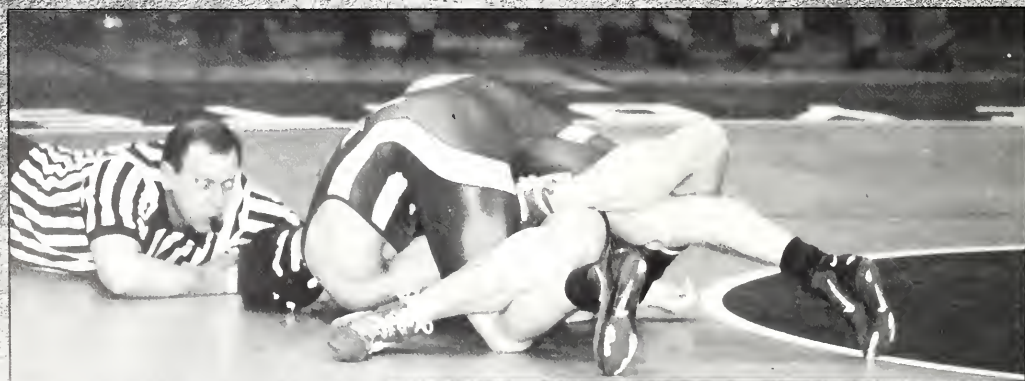
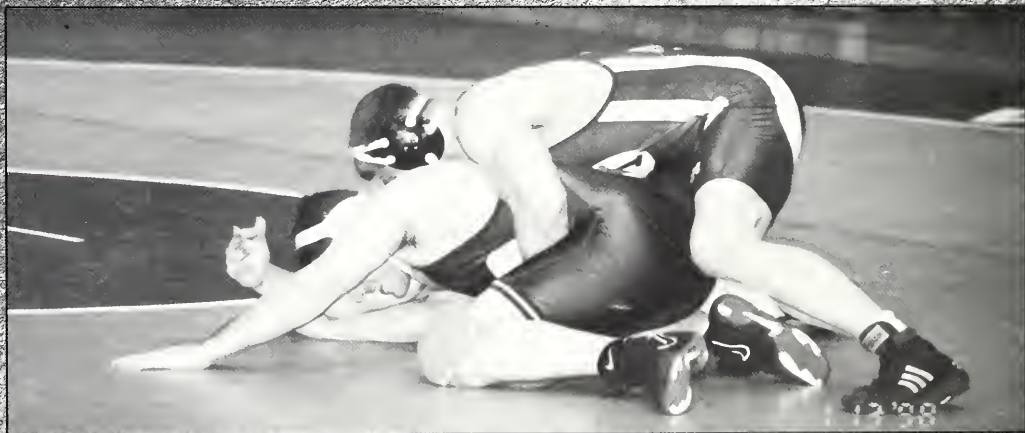
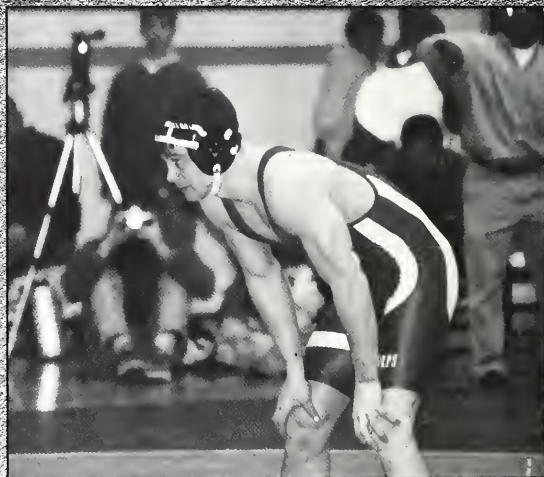


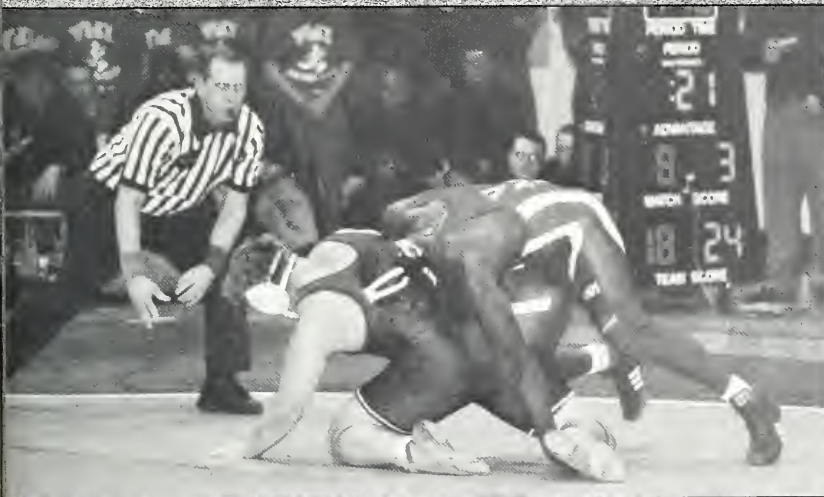
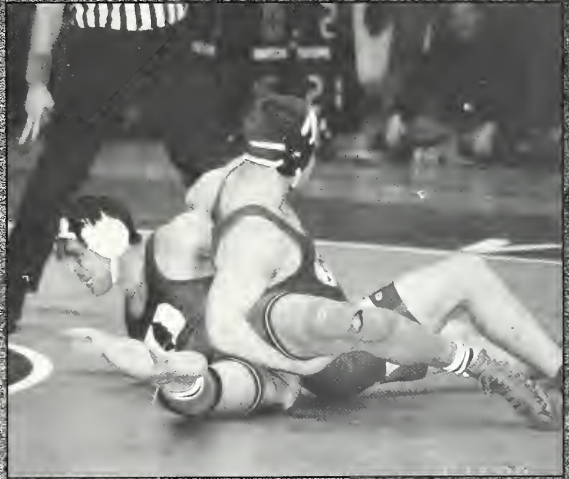
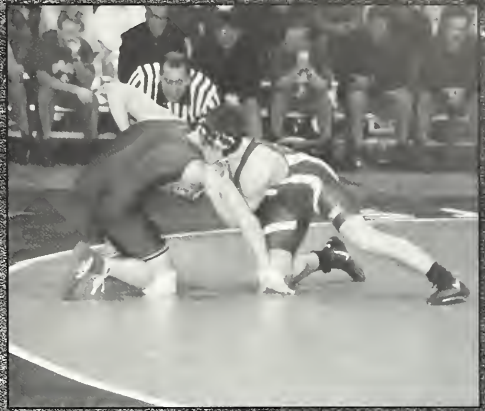
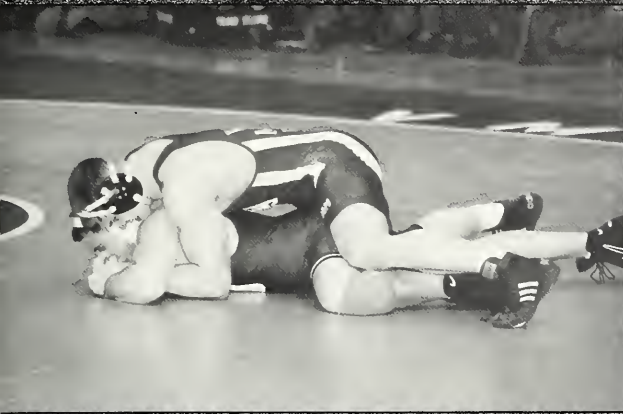
# BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS!

Under the guidance of Head Coach John Trudgson, and Assistant Coach Aaron Bruce, the Keydets Wrestling team made an outstanding performance in the Thunder Dome (Coke's Hall). Led by team captains First Classman Jarrod Fitzpatrick, and Second Classmen Isaac Moore and Leshe Apedoc, pre-ranked 7th in the nation, the wrestlers grappled their way through a rough season against tough competition. The young team, with only one First Classman (Jarrod) and three Second Classmen, had a rebuilding season.

The season started with a trek above the Mason-Dixon line to the competitive Blountsburg Invitational. Although the Keydets didn't win the team title, Apedoc captured the Heavyweight title, and Jarrod followed with a second place finish at the 167 lb weight class. The team grappled their way to the prestigious Penn State Open, where Apedoc, once again, took the Heavyweight crown.

With Coke Hall packed, these masters of technique





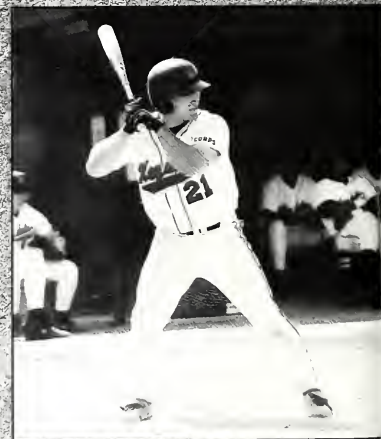
battled through the toughest teams the Southern Conference could dish out. These soldiers fought to earn their points, pushing their bodies far past their limits, sacrificing all just for the chance to get their hand raised in glory. They compete in what some people call one of the closest things to a real fight. Some were victorious wins, some were victorious losses. The spirit of VMI was behind them as they fought for themselves, and for the Corps.

Written by Josh Wagner

# BATTLING WITH BATS & BALLS

Under the guidance of Head Coach Scott Gages, the Baseball team has a tremendous chance of making a huge mark in the Southern Conference this year. A 1983 VMI graduate, Coach Gages is in his fourth year as head coach. He leads a young team this year, with only two seniors on the team: Jay Adams and Romando Harrison. With the help of Assistant Coaches Chris Cherrusky '93 and Michael Parker '93, the Diamond Field warriors are on their way to a successful season. These masters of the glove, ball, and bat have a packed schedule with a thirty-one game season, competing among the best in the nation.

Written by Josh Wagner



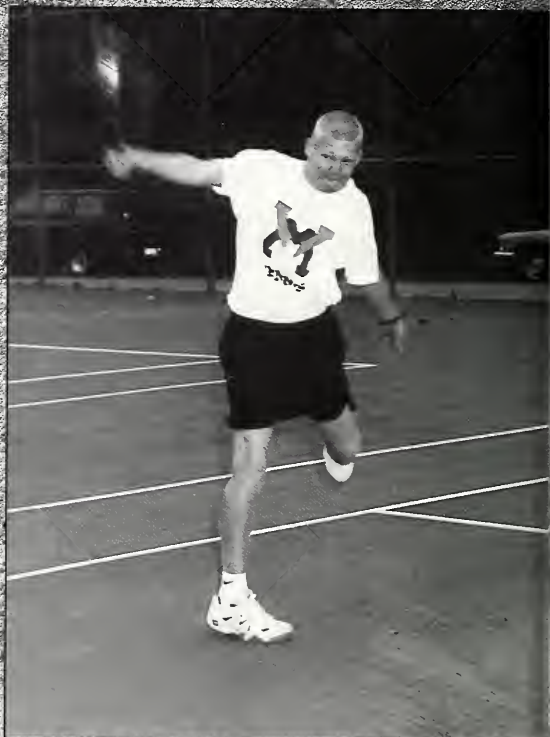




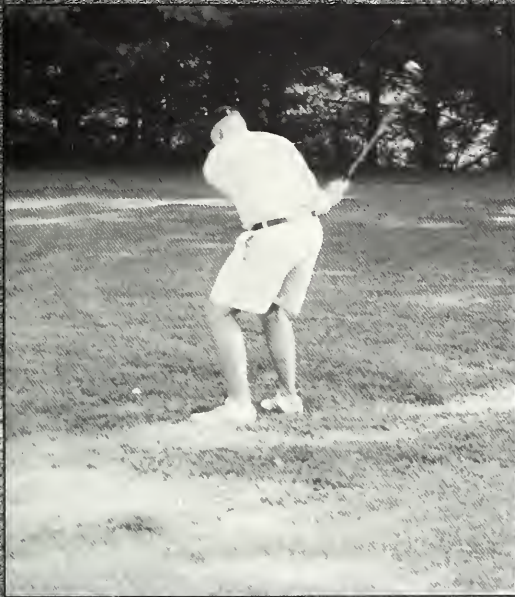
# SWINGING AWAY THE COMPETITION

This year the tennis team under the leadership of first classmen Hayden McQuay and Chris Braun had a solid season on the hard court. McQuay and Braun came in first in doubles at the Washington and Lee Invitational tournament. McQuay finished third in #1 singles bracket. Alan Johnson came in 4<sup>th</sup> in #3 singles bracket. Jae Kwan fifth in #2 singles bracket, and Jamie Kane came in sixth in #4 singles. With the exceptional guidance of head coach Bruce Harrison the team seems certain for glory and success.

Written by Dan Alvarez

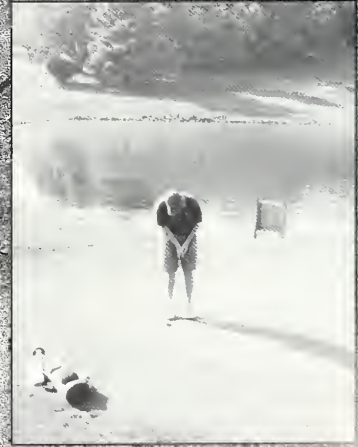


# TEE TIME 4 THE CORPS!



The VMI Golf Team has had its ups and downs this year. It didn't place nearly as well in the Virginia Intercollegiate competition as in previous years, but says that captain Chris Boswell (freshman) Boswell's score at the tournament was the lowest ever coming from the VMI side of the house. The golf team also experienced a disappointing finish at the W&L Invitational since they placed 11th out of 16. Behind the leadership of Chris Boswell and Chris Reed, the golf team just might chip its way out of the sand trap and move onto the green. All evidence points toward a VMI golf resurgence.

Written by Dan Abner



# RE-LAX



If there was any team for the corps to back during the '97-'98 season it would definitely have been the Lacrosse team. Returning twenty-two players from the previous season including six seniors, Coach Bartlett and his troops showed great promise by going 3-1 in their brief fall season. The VMI Lac Team posted three victories during the 11th Annual VMI Lacrosse Tournament held on the Parade Deck on October 19, including a 16-1 defeat over The Citadel. With their spring season beginning against Air Force on March 1st and ending May 2nd against W&L, VMI can look forward to another action-packed lacrosse season.

Written By Aaron "Casper" Canby



# SCRUM DOWN!

The football players from the 1979 season will soon be over William and Mary and never look back. The Kovalev team may go down in Division II state championships. Led by quarterback Dan Fawcett, tight end Phantom Proulx, and center Steve the Kicker, Kovalev advanced to the Atlantic Regionals before suffering a crushing defeat. With all their class, hard work, and the support of the fans, they will be back to give promise for the years to come.



# CROSSING THE LINE!

The cross-country team coached by Mike Bozeman had a fantastic season and placing fifth in the Southern Conference. This was the highest placing by VMI since 1990. The young team was led by first classman Jon Gonzalez, third classman Joe Smith, and rat Randy Hager. Smith was the most dominant runner for VMI by winning the Winthrop Invitational, earning All-Southern Conference honors and being the highest placing Keydeter in five of VMI's seven meets. Gonzalez finished the regular season by being the Keydeter's highest individual placer in the two remaining events.

The women in their first year program competed very well, with Rachel Love leading the way for the young Keydeters. Love had a very impressive season improving each meet as the season progressed with a 19<sup>th</sup> overall placing in the Southern Conference. Coach Bozeman expects Love to be a contender for all-conference honors next season.

Written by Stewart Stalon



# RUN VIRGINIA MIT!

With the trials and tribulations of each day, the 1997-1998 track team will set the standard for the Southern Conference. Head Coach Mike Byers, who along with assistant coaches Paul D. Carter, Jason Webb, and Charles L. J. will bring the team to their full potential. They have in the past, Stanford Jordan Branda has made a huge impact from the start, bringing a new school of thought in the program and combined with the VMI Coach of the Week Award, showing that a great season with the team will be an even more successful.

Written by Coach Byers



# PLAYING HARD IN THE CREASE!

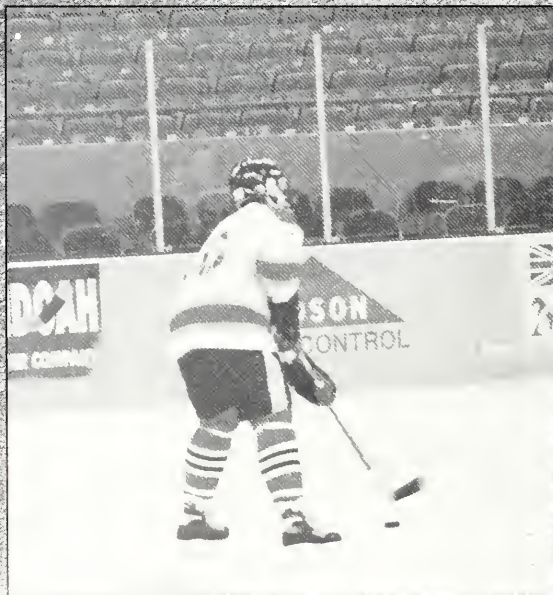
The Ice Hockey team was started over three years ago by two cadets. Their goal was to share their passion for hockey with cadets with the same love. Over the three years the team had some rocky times trying to gain validity in the eyes of the administration and more importantly the corps. Things finally came together this year and most importantly we felt like a team. Everyone sacrificed a lot of their time and received little in compensation, other than the joy of being on the ice. Long drives to Roanoke at all times of the day, returning long after taps, and stops at Denny's and gas stations all brought the team together and more importantly made it fun. We lost some close games and came through at the last second on many more.

I appreciate the dedication of Henry Elger, the seconds, Duncan, Trubenbach, and Eric Martin, Kearney the lone third, several rats including the Gleason brothers, Berk, Stock the puck stopper, Lewart, and Crogan the Boston barbarian, and the faculty advisors Col. Brodie and Officer Bennett. Last but not least, John Stock, my winger over the years and the one guy who was there when it all started and now when it ends. Thanks for everything guys and keep skating.

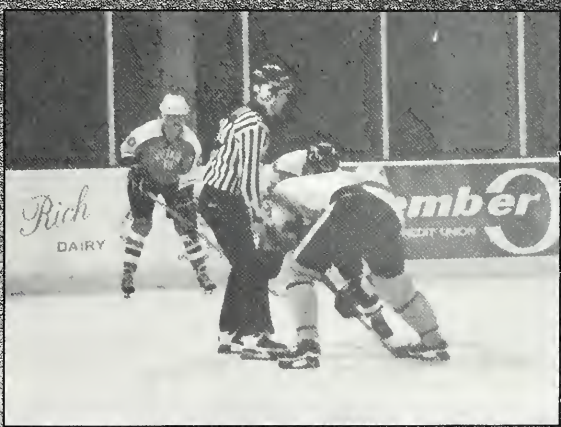
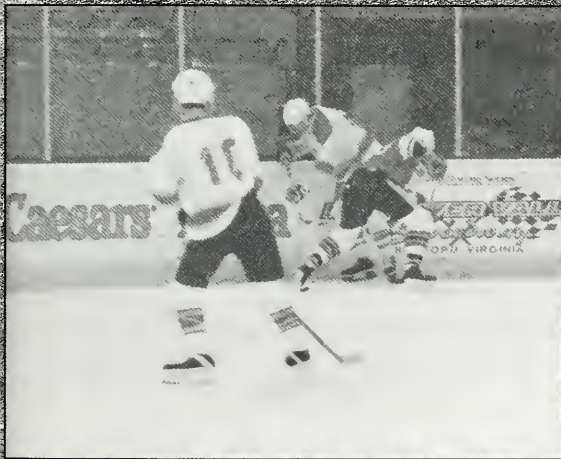
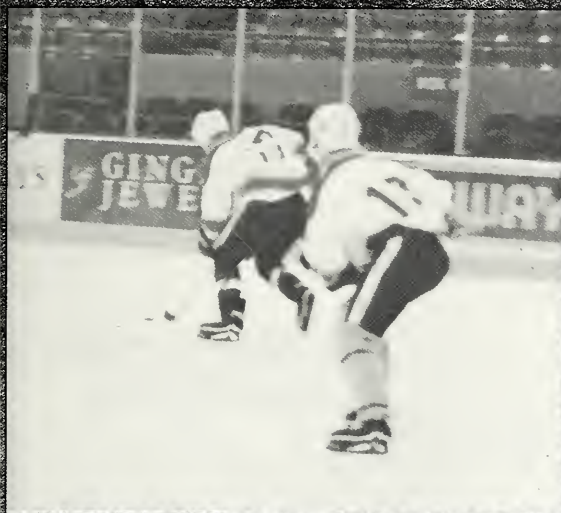
*"TO YOU FROM FALLING HANDS WE THROW THE TORCH, BE YOURS TO HOLD IT HIGH!"*

-Famous quote from the Montreal Forum

Written by Matt Watson, Team Captain





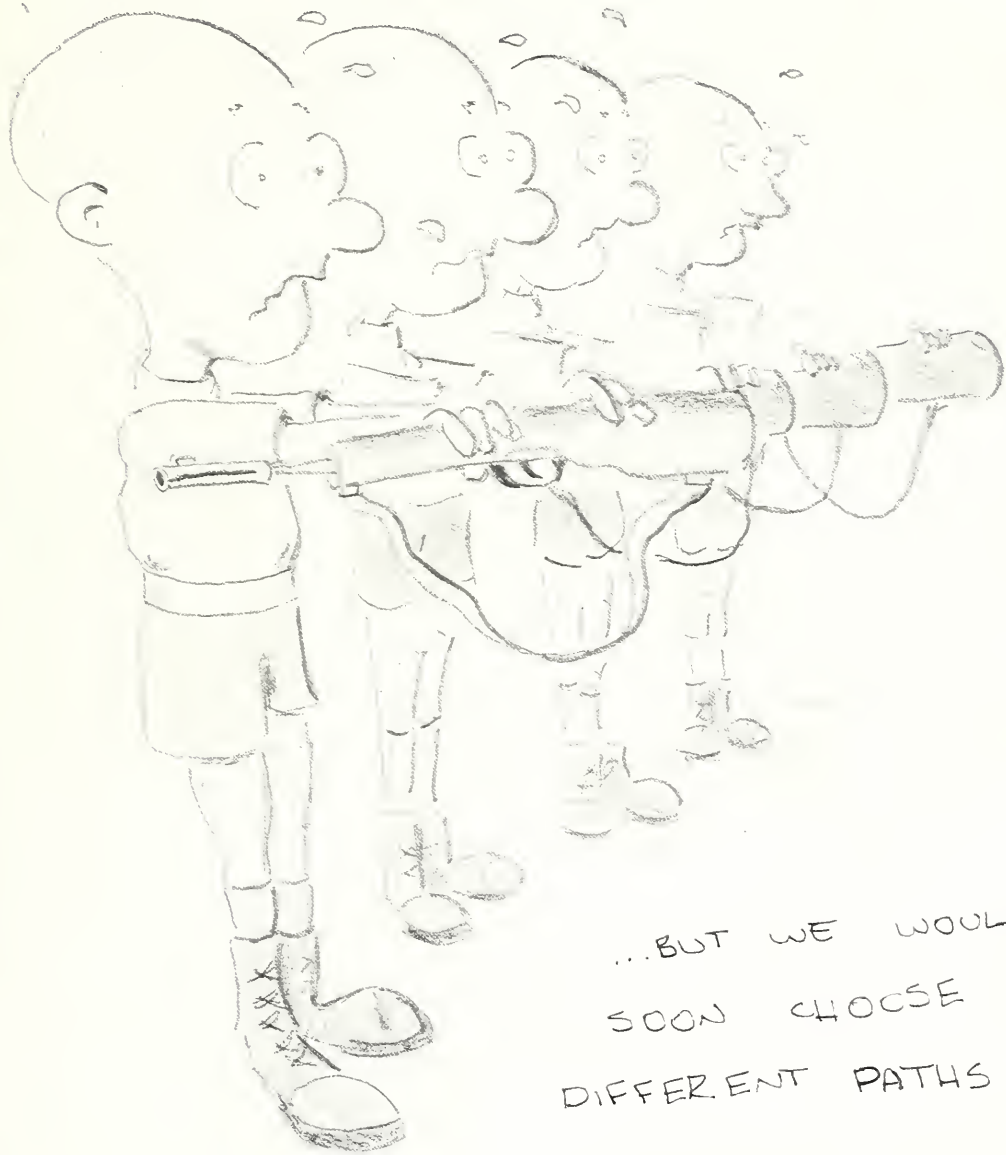




WE ENTERED AS THE MASS OF 95+3,  
EACH OF US AS DIFFERENT AS NIGHT  
AND DAY...



WE BECAME NEARLY IDENTICAL OVER THE  
NEXT NINE MONTHS,



...BUT WE WOULD  
SOON CHOOSE  
DIFFERENT PATHS:

... SOME MAJORED IN LIBERAL ARTS



... OTHERS PRESSED UP THE HILL OF SCIENCE





... SOME OF US PLAYED SPORTS



... SOME OF US WERE JUST TOO TIRED

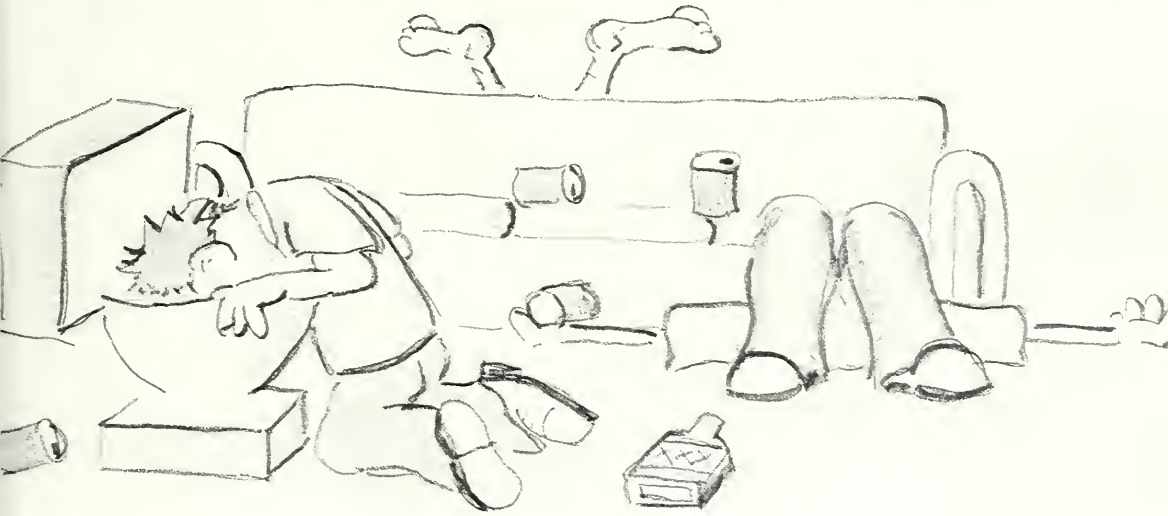
SOME OF US VENTURED ABROAD



...WHILE SOME FOUND IT HARD TO LEAVE VM I



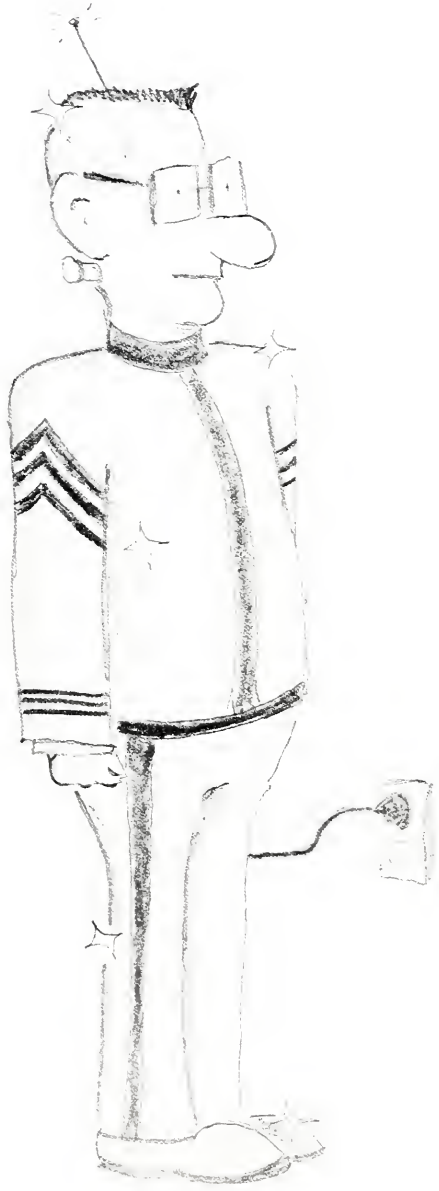
... SOME GOT TO LEAVE ON THE WEEKENDS



... OTHERS HAD BETTER THINGS TO DO , LIKE  
SERVE CONFINEMENT



... UMMM... THIS IS SELF-EXPLANATORY





**B**UT WE ALL REACHED THE  
SAME GOAL!



# Penalty Number One

They are the unforgiven. Their woeful stories are depicted here as a reckoning of the misconducted behavior that has banished their souls to a fiery pit of confinement and penalty tours. The Instituté's own, if you will, that can never embrace the public again for the wrong-doings these wretched youths have committed. Though their crimes, consisting of: use of wild spirits, breaking curfew and staying out late on a school night, wanting to celebrate the Fourth of July just a little early, wanting some "free timē in an un-

authorized facility, mistaking a Winnebago for barracks, and streaking do not necessarily threaten national security nor require federal attention, the hierarchy of the state within a state seeks a different opinion. These faces have thrown caution into the wind, and their tours of duty may not have come to a close. Do not be coerced into the deeds they have done. Be prudent, ladies and gentlemen, because these are the members of the Number One Club.



**Vice President  
Jim Milleron**

**CONVICTED:**

Unlawfully entering a locked Winnebago parked in front of barracks while under the influence of liquid nirvana. Thought the motorhome was barracks.



**President  
David Nash**

**CONVICTED:**

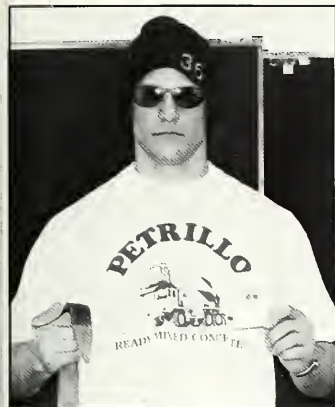
Habiting in an unauthorized apartment on post (in Cocke Hall) i.e. storing and consuming mass quantities of alcohol, possessing a ceremonial knife with a 12 inch blade, hay rack with mattress, microwave, television, storing civilian luggage and clothes, maintaining recreational gear.



**Vice President  
Heath "Moose" Edmiston**

**CONVICTED:**

- 1.) Borrowing dykes jeep without permission, wearing civies, and leading an alumni on a car chase through town.
- 2.) Providing four cases of Red Dog beer to football recruits in barracks.



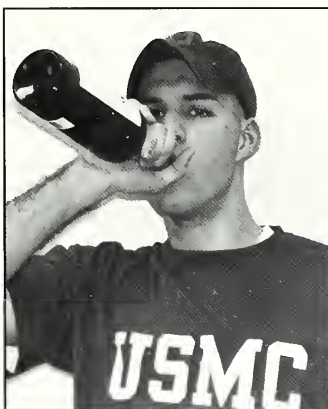
Steve Schwanke

Unauthorized rat-line activities, mishaps after losing a game of cards with a rat.



Justin May

**CONVICTED:**  
Succumbing to the desire to partake of the hospitality and euphoria of Mr. Daniels and Mr. Walker.



John Spitzer

**CONVICTED:**  
First penalty # 1 from within the Class of 1998. Charged with overconsumption of alcohol after the first hop of the year and visiting the hospital to have his stomach pumped.

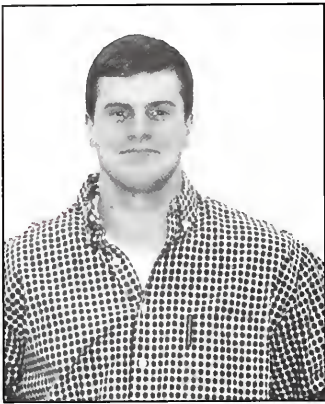


Jason Duffy



Jack Beason

**CONVICTED:**  
1.) Moose's partner in crime in supplying football recruits with beer. 2.) Forgetting to hide alcohol in the room second class year. 3.) Unauthorized off post after taps in an unauthorized car.



Jimmy Peay

**CONVICTED:**  
Over-indulgence of alcohol and returning to barracks while wearing civilian clothes (not drunk enough to get arrested uptown).



Clark Twiddy

**CONVICTED:**  
Engaged in illegal ratline activities on the 4th stoop after taps and was given an E.C. #1. Suspended by the Dean.



Phil Toumazatos

**CONVICTED:**  
Accepted an invitation to join Beason and Edmiston in having multiple Red Dog beers with the football recruits. Pleaded insanity, but was found guilty as charged.



Will Kump

**CONVICTED:**  
Overconsumption of numerous bottles of holy water during Ring Figure, requiring a trip to Stonewall Hospital.



Andy Gehring

**CONVICTED:**  
Unauthorized possession and use of explosive devices and membership in a secret terrorist group. Last seen departing post in a yellow rental van.



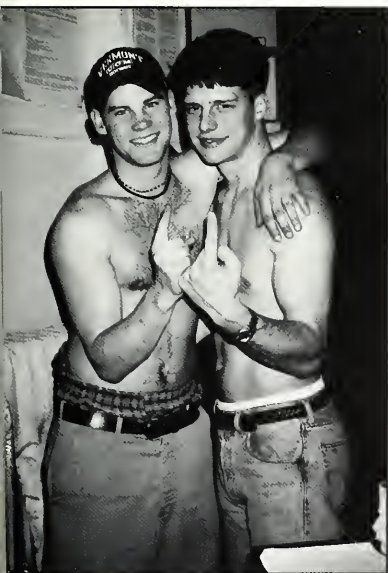
**Jeff Gormon**

**CONVICTED:**  
 Enjoying liquid spirits while at local mixer. Decided to sleep on the floor in the Sweet Briar Conference Center and was kindly awakened by the police in the morning.



**Brian Kurtz**

**CONVICTED:**  
 Attempting to lighten the atmosphere in barracks with a demonstration of firepower. Rumored to be an associate of Theodore Kaszyinski.



**John Strock and Brad Vier**

**CONVICTED:**  
 Cavorting naked across the parade deck while under the influence of alcohol in the presence of female civilians. Caught and arrested by Col. Simpson.



**Trey Ashman**

**Mike Baumann**

**Jimmy Duncan**

**CONVICTED:**  
 1.) Answered the late night lure of greater Lextropolis.  
 2.) Consuming alcohol in barracks and failure to invite the TAC to his party

**CONVICTED:**  
 1.) Discharging a fire extinguisher in barracks and wearing only boxers in an academic building.  
 2.) Attempting to improve the taste of a rat's food.

**CONVICTED:**  
 Celebrating the 4th of July a few months too early with unauthorized explosives.

## Countdown 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

As just a rat, the belt was white.  
When deemed a class, turned black.  
You always knew your choice was right.  
You're too fat to turn back.

From cocky 3rd, you made it through  
To get your ring of gold,  
In '97, a second class  
The story's almost told.

Now '98- a 1st at last  
You've made your dreams come true.  
Your Mom & Dad want the world to know,  
We're VMI proud of you!



Congratulations  
Bradley C. Arnold VMI '98



## VMI's Most Famous Alum

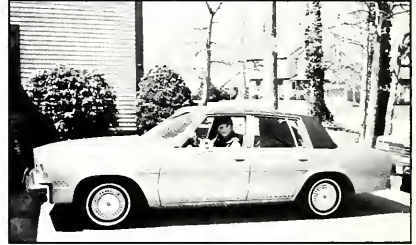
- never owned a business, but managed the business of World War II;
- never ran for office, but was revered by presidents and political leaders;
- never lied to Congress, his honesty earned their trust and respect;
- never sought fame or fortune, but his name became a symbol of global hope.

Make a commitment now to support the preservation of General Marshall's VMI experience and his life's legacy.

It's a matter of honor.

George C. Foundation's Museum, Research Library & Archives  
P.O. Drawer 1600, VMI Parade, Lexington, Virginia 24450 540 463 7103

Congratulations to EJ Iannelli. We are proud of you and wish you success.



God bless you and the class of '98. Love Mom, Dad, Sara and Meg.

Congratulation; Jason

Time to celebrate!

We are proud of you

Love

Mom & Dad



**E**lectronic Manufacturer's Corporation (EMC) was established in 1985 as a contract manufacturer committed to producing high-quality circuit boards, cables, wire harnesses, control panels, and electromechanical assemblies.

The company focuses on high quality standards, low-to-medium production volume, quick turn-around to meet their client's just-in-time delivery dates, testing and customer service to help their partners become leaders in their market. With full time engineers on staff, EMC can assist with any engineering or design problems; and software can also be sourced through the company.

EMC's vast network of complementary support companies and high volume purchasing power provides real advantages to their partners. The company has sources for hard-to-find components and fabricators, and seek long-term partnerships to meet all of their original equipment manufacturer's needs.



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**CONGRATULATIONS STEFAN &  
THE CLASS of 1998**

We are so proud of what you have accomplished. You have always worked hard toward your goals. We wish you the Best in your future as a U.S. Marine Officer.

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." ---Goethe

Love,  
Mom, Dad and Michael



Marcus A. Lynch  
**Congratulations Marcus!**

We're so very proud that you had the tenacity to persevere. We knew you could do it. We love you, Your Family

Congratulations Cadet Timothy O'Bryant and  
THE CLASS of 1998



Love, Mom, Dad and Mimi



**!!Congratulations!!**

**David Killian**

**and the Class of '98**



We are so very proud of you son, and of your steadfast determination in achieving your goals. Your future is bright with promise -- follow your dreams!

***"Fair winds and following seas"***

*Best wishes, Ryan*

Our love always,  
***Mom, Dad and Michael***

*Best wishes, Chuck*

Cadet Matthew J. Bertsch

Congratulations Matt!  
You made it. We are very proud of you. You have the world in your hands so keep reaching for the stars.

Love,  
Mom, Grandma, and Grandpa



God Bless You Matt  
&  
God Bless the Class of 1998

Congratulations!  
Justin, Chris, Matt and Chris  
'98

Way to go, guys  
Marty and Barry Wolfe



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
CADET ROBERT JOSEPH MCGRATH  
YOUR FAMILY IS VERY PROUD OF YOU.



**Chris Copenhaver**

The step path will be worth the view!!  
Congratulations - We are so proud of you.  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

FOR DAVID FARNSWORTH NASH '98

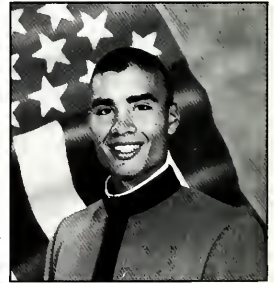
TO DREAM ANYTHING THAT YOU WANT TO DREAM --- THAT IS THE BEAUTY OF THE HUMAN MIND.

TO DO ANYTHING THAT YOU WANT TO DO --- THAT IS THE STRENGTH OF THE HUMAN WILL.

TO TRUST YOURSELF TO TEST YOUR LIMITS --- THAT IS THE COURAGE TO SUCCEED.

LOVE AND GODSPEED!  
MOM, DAD, CATHERINE, AND SARA

"Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things"  
Philippians 4:8  
Jeremy you are the joy of our life.  
Mom, Dad, Julie and Jeff



**"Congratulations"**

MARK COX

Job well done!

We are very Proud!

Love - Mom & Dad

Soar,  
Jaybird.  
(1998)  
Love,  
Mom



Dearest Bong-Bong ("ad"ing/Marc),

We're glad you "hung in there!"  
Best of luck in the future.

Love, prayers, and xoxoxo,  
Mom, Dad, and Manang



*Let's Go Bowling*  
*at*  
**LEXINGTON LANES**

98 North Wind Lane  
Lexington, VA. 24450  
(540) 464-BOWL (2695)

Debora Briggs  
Manager

May God Bless and Direct you and the Class  
of 1998 in all avenues taken!

98



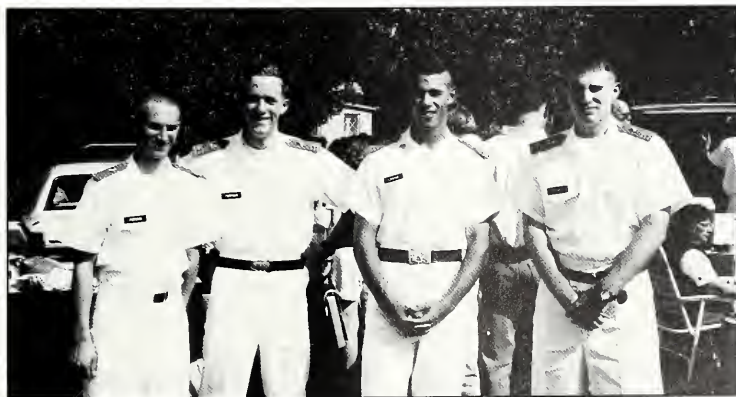
The  
Pride  
is  
forever  
for  
the  
Road  
Less  
Traveled!

Love, Dad, Mom, and Paul

**CONGRATULATIONS  
AND  
BEST WISHES!**

“Flo”, “Tub”, and “Nate Dogg”

S-11 Rats



Do you remember when the award for  
slain civil rights activist and  
Episcopal Church martyr  
Jonathan Daniels, VMI Class of 1961,  
was inaugurated?

We do.\*

The **VMI**  
**Museum**  

---

**The Memory of the Institute**

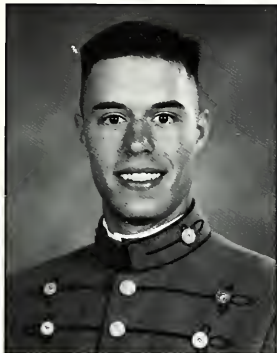
\* 6 Febuary, 1998

# GREG ELLEN VMI CLASS OF 1998

YOU TOOK THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED  
AND MADE IT THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS.

CONGRATULATIONS!  
WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU.

LOVE,  
DAD, MOM, AND LAURA



We're so proud of you, Trey!!  
We love you  
Mom & Rob



## Joe Gunter 2001

Congratulations, son.  
We are proud of you!  
Mom & Dad

1997

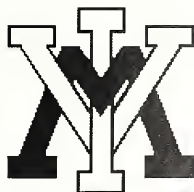


Erin,

So bright, so quick your mind-  
no boundaries may it ever find.  
Of your beauty inside and out-  
we are proud of you without a doubt.  
Your quest has begun.  
Remember the Truth is out there.

You are forever loved,

Mom, Dad, Courtney  
Grandma & Grandpa



1998



Class of  
2001

Thomas M. Barnhill

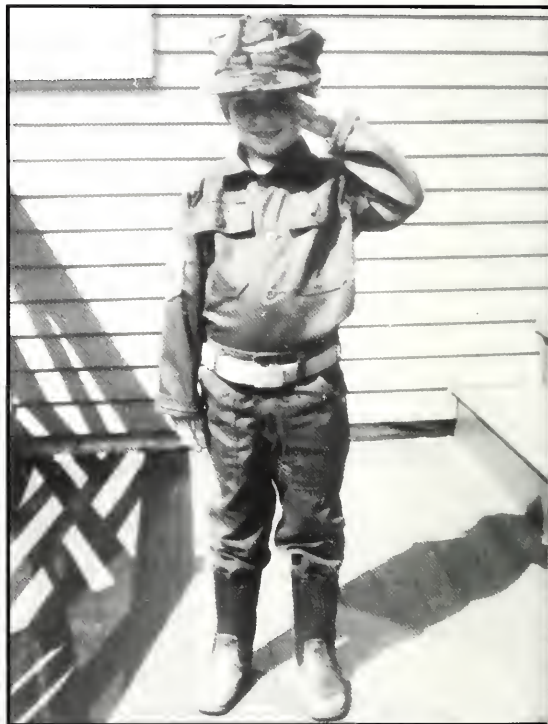
Congratulations

With much love and pride

We salute you!

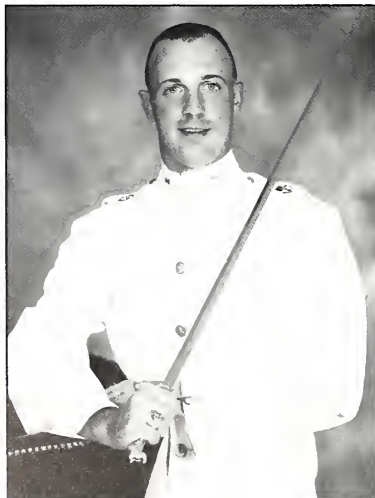
Mom, Dad, Jane and

Ben



Congratualtions  
Cadet Dale Paxton!

We are proud of you  
Love,  
Mom and Dad



Jeff:

We have always been so very proud of you,  
but not any prouder than right now.

**WAY TO GO!!**

Love ya,  
Mom, Dad and Stephanie

**CHRISTOPHER CHAN**

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



CONGRATULATION CHRIS AND THE CLASS OF 1998



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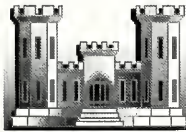
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CONGRATULATIONS TO MY SON JOHN ON THE  
 COMPLETION OF HIS FIRST YEAR. God Bless You. From  
 Mom & Dad, SFC & Mrs. Robert L. Pettry.



The 1030th Engr Bn Invites interested new Reserve Army Officers  
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**Dr. and Mrs. Luther A. Beazley, III**

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**Allen and Kathleen Presser**

**James and Linda Schindler**



# *The BOMB*

*would like to give a  
special thanks to  
Major General Josiah  
Bunting, III*

*and  
Felix E. Deane, II  
for their support and  
encouragement this year.*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

***to the Class of 1999***

***on Ring Figure.***

***Welcome to the***

***Brotherhood.***

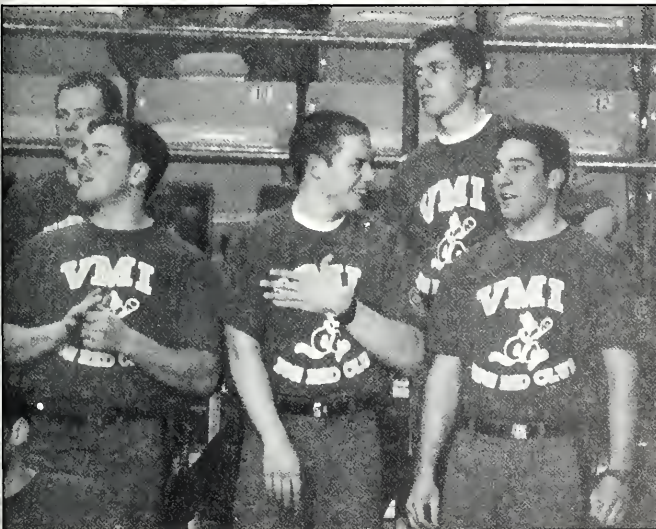
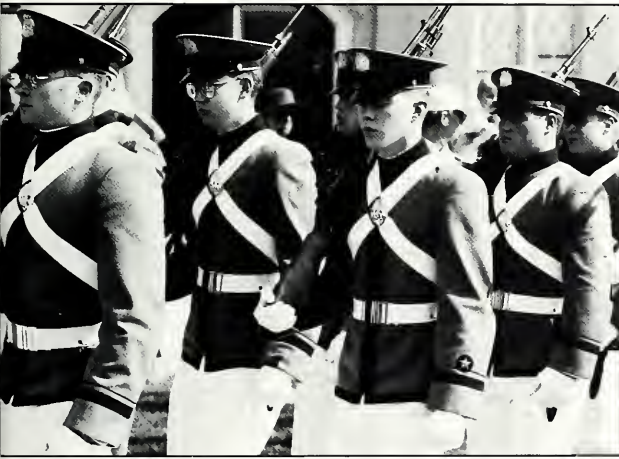
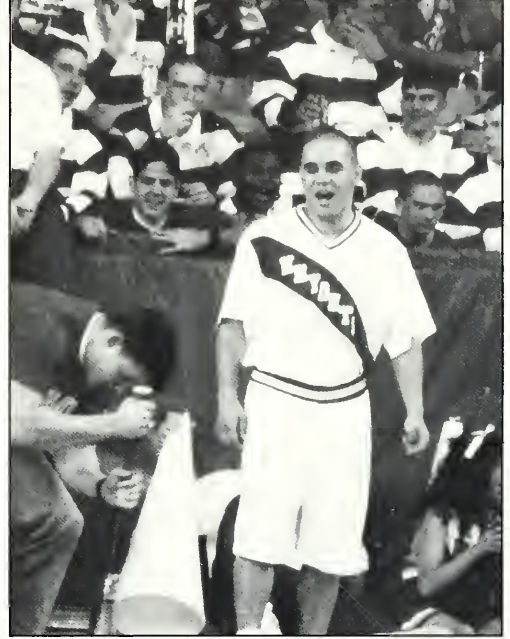
*Below:* Keydets take a moment from Beach Break festivities. *Bottom Left:* There is nothing like a good Ring Figure speech to motivate you. *Top Right:* Tyler and Steve express their deep love for each other. We always wondered about the Army guys....

*Right:* The General and EJ pose with their women. How much did you say you payed them?? *Bottom Right:* We could not come up with a quote that would do these guys justice.





*Top Left:* What is it with VMI keydets and their choice of sunglasses? *Left:* Notorious F.U.D. and his buddies shuffle by the Saturday crowd. *Bottom Left:* Uh, Hopkins? I think your heart is on the other side of your chest. *Below:* Halftime entertainment in Cameron Hall . . . spin till you puke! *Bottom Right:* Show her who the boss is, Justin!





*Top Left:* A time to celebrate with those important things in life...booze, friends and women!

*Top Right:* Doug and Bill took the initiative and changed the Guard Team SOP themselves. Free beer and optional SRC for Alpha Company!

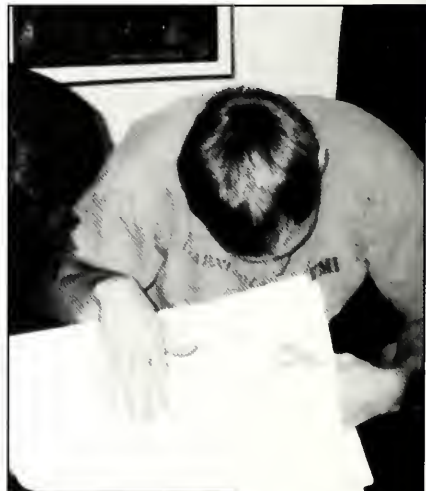
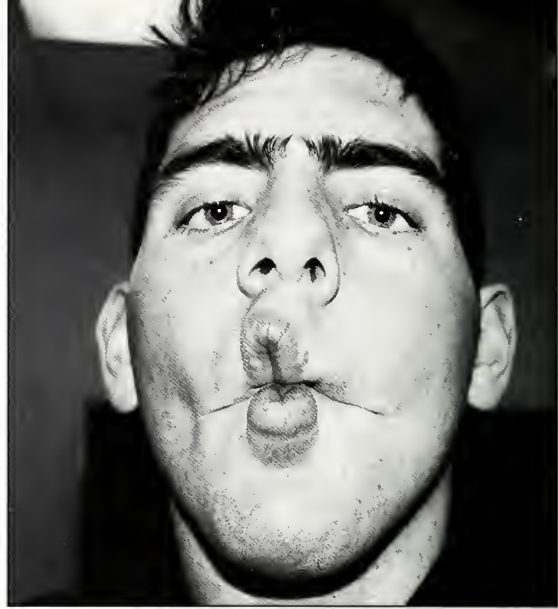
*Below Left:* The Rats keep the VMI spirit alive at a football game.

*Bottom Left:* Disco Night makes an attempt to find its way back into barracks.

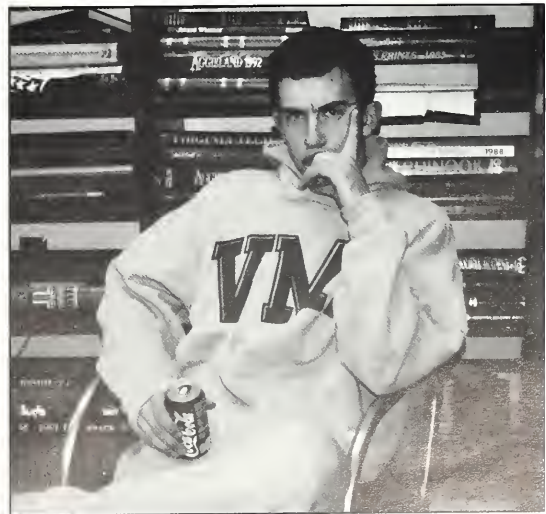
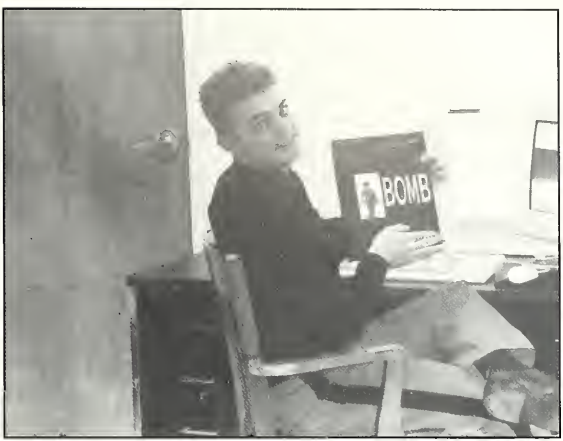
*Bottom Right:* Hey! There is nothing to see here. Go mind your own business!



# *THE BOMB STAFF*







# THE EDITOR'S LETTER..

As I sit here in front of the computer again, I wonder what to write. There has been so much that has happened the last three years I have been on the BOMB. I just don't know where to start. My first experience with the BOMB was my rat year. I had a stat in my room after parents weekend telling to me to come to the BOMB room to do the rat section. Well, I did and I was up until 4 am in the morning. This must have foreshadowed the years to come, because I sit here now at 3 in the morning. After that I did not do much with the yearbook until my third class year. The staff that year consisted of all about four staff members, me, the editor, managing editor and the business manager, and the book surely should it that year. I worked my --- off that year, because I was the only one who knew how to crop a picture and lay a page out. I spent many nights up until BRC trying to make deadlines. As soon as something seemed to go right for the book about 5 other things went wrong like pictures lost or not even taken. Second class year I was offered the position of managing editor and I saw this as my chance really make a difference in the '98 BOMB. After the year before there was so much work that needed to be done to change any doubts people had about the publication. I had learned what not to do

and what was needed. The BOMB staff was now at an all time low and so I first built a staff. I quickly recruited 20 diligent cadets who learned all the advantages of being on the bomb staff, getting out of PT's, parades, personal work out, CTT and anything else you did not want to do. They also realized all the hard work that goes in the BOMB. I knew I had to help make a successful BOMB, because if not the publica-

tion would be taken away from the cadets. After making things happen at the beginning of the year the editor got suspended for trying to get pictures taken for the BOMB. So the wonderful job fell to me and being foolish I took it. Now I sit here writing this letter. The BOMB would not have happened if it was not for every on the staff. Jimmy Stanly making a profit for the BOMB by selling ads

and BOMBS, with the help of Jason Crigler, in his spare time between battles in the game Lords of the Realm II, Sir James. Some how you figured a way to make money this year with all the expenses we had. Bill Fallon, you worked the hardest and put in the most hours out of anybody. The first class histories would not have even gotten done if it was not for you. You made sure that everybody turned one in and then

were always willing to do anything that needed to be done. The effort truly shows, just look at the the beginning of each section. The pictures would have not been possible without Mark Redman, well maybe. You got the pictures taken, maybe not when we wanted them, but I finally have the picture of a rat walking through the arch (page 15) five months later. It was cool working with you because I got to know you and hang out. You are a cool guy. I wish you and Kadrina good luck. Did you get your reservations for McDonalds? Jason Duffy added his artistic touch through his writing. Your writing has made this BOMB interesting to read, because you always found a way to de-



tion would be taken away from the cadets. After making things happen at the beginning of the year the editor got suspended for trying to get pictures taken for the BOMB. So the wonderful job fell to me and being foolish I took it. Now I sit here writing this letter. The BOMB would not have happened if it was not for every on the staff. Jimmy Stanly making a profit for the BOMB by selling ads

single-handedly placed each one in the computer. I don't know how you did it, but you did, and did it well. It did not matter what job was thrown your way you worked with a smile and without any help or questions. You were truly dedicated to the BOMB and it shows. Aaron Frazier brought all the intros to each section and part of the intro to the BOMB. If it was not for him we would be lost. You

cause you always found a way to described things differently and make the reader have emotions of what its like being a rat or just being here. You are an interesting character and different from any one I have ever meet. Eric Martin brought humor to us all. You always seemed to lighten up any situation, and I look forward to hopefully working with you again next year if you decide to work on the BOMB again. It did not matter what you did you picked it up, learned it and did it with no questions asked. The work you did was top rate. Randy and Patrick who pulled the Ring Figure section together in about a weeks time, thanks. I dont know how you did, but it was amazing that you guys got it done. Thanks for putting up with me and all my crap. I know I was not the easiest person to work with, but thank god you guys figured a way. Randy you and I have had our dif-

ferences this year but I am glad we have worked them out, just remember to hang in there. Martin Ratigan gave us our connection to Sports Information. You were always willing to come in at night and get work done. Josh Wagner and Stuart Staton did not come onto the permit until second semester, but you seemed to learn and pick everything up quickly. I could have not picked anybody better to do the sports section. You all put a lot of time and effort into it, above and beyond what was expected and it shows. I could not ask for some one more eager than Josh. You always wanted to do something for the BOMB and I cant wait to work with you next year. Kevin I dont know why you want to be on the staff next year, but I am glad. What ever kind of ---- job I threw your way you did it with the smile. You helped me out a lot and I think if you stick with it you will be



editor when the time comes. You learned a lot this year which will take you there. Lelia Crabtree and George Olsen, I hope we restored your faith this year. You had a lot to be skeptical about. You provided the finest training and offered copious support. Lelia had definite opinions, and she made clear the maze of Taylor's production process. Anywhere, any time, anything,

seemed to be Kurt Arujo and Candid Color's motto. Kurt delivered everything on time and never made excuses. He went above and beyond what was expected. It was my privilege to work with him and his dedicated firm. For the rest of the Corps, it was your cooperation that really helped. Everybody turned histories, CO letters, and club write ups in on time. It did not matter when we asked, mostly at the last minute. This BOMB is just as much yours as it is mine. It was your cooperation that really made things happen. My wish for this publication is to serve as an accurate history of this year. Despite the lousy grades, lost sleep, extra weight it cost me, it will all be worth it when it's on the shelf with it's forbears. My work, my staff's work, all of it I submit to the Corp of Cadets and the VMI community. If you like it, I am delighted, and proud to present it to you. If you

dont like it, my apology is extended. But this is intended for the Corp first and everyone else second. "The Institute shall be heard from today!"

Willis P. Tatterson  
Editor-in-Chief of  
the 1998 BOMB

THE END



# THE 1998 VMI BOMB

**Thierry R. Lemercier**  
Editor-in-Chief in the Fall

**Willis P. Tatterson**  
Managing Editor in the Fall  
Editor-in-Chief in the Spring

**James S. Stanely**  
Business Manager

## CADETS LOVE LOOKING AT VMI...

### Introduction Section

Jason Duffy  
Aaron Frazier  
Eric Martin

**Ring Figure**  
Patrick Forrest  
Randy McMath

**Homecoming**  
Eric Martin

**Chain of Command**  
Martin Ratigan

**First Class**  
Bill Fallon

**Second Class**  
Patrick Forrest  
Eric Martin

**Third Class**  
Charles Townes  
Tony Gagliardi

**Rat Mass**  
Kevin Ryan



## THROUGH THE REARVIEW MIRROR

The One-Hundred Fourth edition of *The BOMB* was edited by Thierry Lemercier and Willis Tatterson. The staff was managed by Willis Tatterson. Taylor Publishing Company, with offices in Malvern, PA, and Dallas, TX printed the book. Lelia Crabtree was our Service Representative and Curtis Wright served as in-factory representative. *The BOMB* was produced solely by cadets and is not legally attached to the school's curriculum. All content is controlled by the offices of

*The BOMB* are located on the 300 level of Maury-Brooke Hall. The offices hours are from 4pm until 2am during the Academic Year. The business phone number is 540-463-9513. All correspondence should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief, VMI Box 8, Lexington, Virginia 24450.

**Design:** This publication was printed using Adobe PageMaker, version 6.5 on one 120Mhz Dell Dimension Pentium and one 200Mhz Digital Venturis Pentium computer. Body text was 12 point GourmandT, italicized

headings and 10 point names are in TimesT, and first class names are in FinesseT. All fonts are PostScript Level one and two. The cover concept was designed by James S. Stanely with artwork by April Murphy, using embossed Black 075 Cordova grain and silver myler. The endsheets are Rainbow black antique and are binded using Smyth binding. The paper is 100 enamel.

**Photography:** Portrait photography was conducted by Candid Color Photography, 11010 Bacon Race Road, Woodbridge VA. 22192. All

other photography was conducted by the staff, primarily using a Nikon FM-2 and Minolta 530si with technical help from Candid Color.

The operating budget of *The VMI BOMB* is \$55, raised solely through private means. *The BOMB* receives state money. Per-order books cost \$40 prior to 1 January, 1997. One thousand twenty-five copies were printed. No portion of *The 1998 BOMB* may be reproduced without written permission from the Editor-in-Chief. *The 1998 BOMB*.

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Josh Wagner

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