

W&L Campus Remains Quiet

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LEXINGTON - The Washington and Lee University campus was quiet Thursday, with students heavily attending free university classes and sending out a letter of explanation to parents. The letter, which school authorities are letting students print with university equipment, explains the students' side of a dispute that hit the campus earlier this week. The free university classes and seminars were set up Monday at the urging of the administration and are being taught by W&L professors. In them, the professors are mainly discussing their personal philosophies on a number of current issues. They field questions from the students and let the students comment.

Wednesday night a crowd of several hundred heard a group of Black Panthers from Washington. The Panthers reportedly gathered around the tomb of Robert E. Lee and shouted obscenities. An estimated fifteen per cent of W & L's student body of 1,367 has withdrawn from the university so far on grounds of conscience over the war in Cambodia and the deaths of four students at Kent State University. The faculty voted last week to allow students to withdraw or cut classes for the rest of the semester, on the condition that their work be made up no later than September 30. However, Monday night they turned down the student body's request to suspend classes for the rest of the year. Some students have gone to Washington to express their concern to legislators over Cambodia and Kent State.

Efforts are under way to get U.S. Senators Albert Gore, J. William Fulbright and George S. McGovern, all leading critics of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, to come to W & L and speak. The senators have said they will try to come but did not specify when. Students talking to legislators in Washington reported that they had been "fairly successful" in establishing dialogues with several Southern senators, among them William B. Spong Jr. of Virginia

and Russell Long, Democrat from Louisiana. In addition to sending a letter to parents, students reportedly plan to send an explanation of the disturbance at the university to all 12,000 alumni.