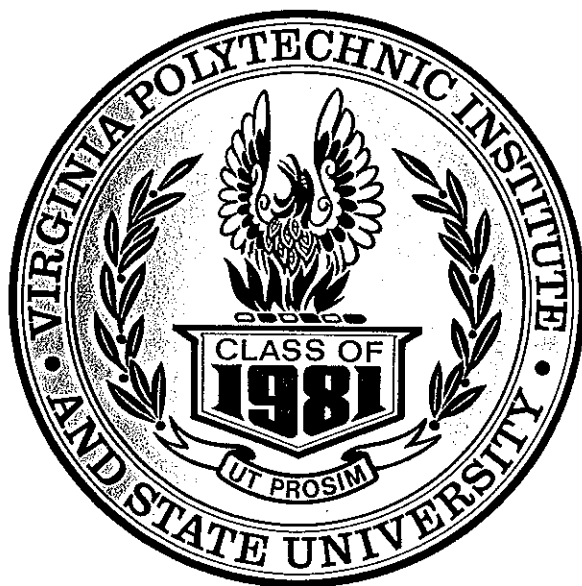
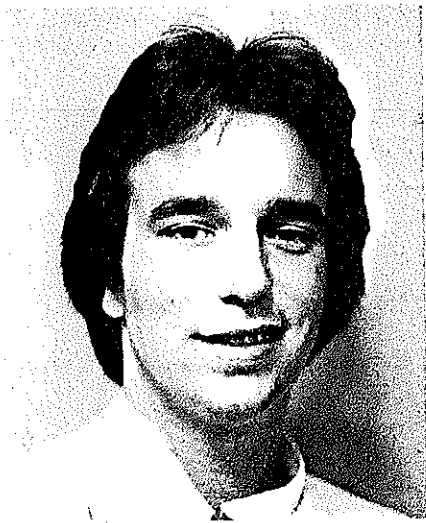


1981



The Ring Committee of the Class of 1981 is pleased to present this latest design for an official Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University ring, to join a long series of distinguished rings of years past in an old and good tradition. We are also able through this book to explain some of the meaning and history of the ring, together with an account of the creation of your ring and accessory jewelry. To conclude what we hope will be a useful guide to ordering your personal jewelry we include a section on gold, stones, and construction.



TO THE CLASS OF 1981

*by Chris Lafferty,
Chairman — Ring Committee*

The presentation of the Virginia Tech Class Ring is a tremendous occasion. The Ring Committee is proud to have had the opportunity to work for the class, and we are sure that our time and efforts were well spent. Our class ring includes some traditional characteristics balanced with a dynamic arrangement of original design concepts.

The committee's main objective in designing the 1981 Class Ring was to represent the University through the individual and we feel that we have not only met our goal but surpassed it. The Ring Committee with the expertise of Josten's, Inc. has created a complete ring program that will meet the needs of all the members of our class.

As chairman of the 1981 Ring Committee I would like to say special thanks for the help I received from the committee, the class officers, the office of student affairs and Josten's, Inc.



The Ring Committee in session



Decision on company is based on many considerations

HISTORY AND TRADITION OF THE RING

by Tom Wilkinson and Reuben Moore



The first VPI ring — 1914

For the past one-hundred-and-nine years a tradition of strong class pride and class unity has developed at Virginia Tech. Throughout the years as a military college and into a new era of varied student composition, old and new traditions have mixed to form a unique class spirit.

The tradition of a symbol of unity began in 1914 with the first Tech ring. The American eagle and national flag have always been on the ring. In addition, each class designs their own ring, incorporating tradition and new symbolism into a product of class identity.

Today, Virginia Tech holds the most prestigious ring account in the nation, with an annual value of over half a million dollars. The large dynamic Tech ring identifies the Hokie individual. We now present the newest chapter in Tech's ring history, the *Image of Difference*.



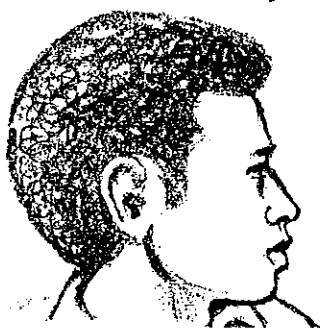
Lotte Dodson



Laurie Black



Burle Stromberg



Jim Blacken



Fran Stahura



Reuben Moore



Melanie Pearson



Bob Phillips



Nicolle Laccetti



Tom Wilkinson



Tracey Ford



Chris Lafferty — Chairman



Jon Whichard

THE CREATIVE PROCESS AND THE COMMITTEE

by D.K. Brockett

How was the 1981 Class Ring conceived and transformed into a reality?

In the beginning there existed a progressive and innovative group of students known as the Class of 1981. The officers, elected to be responsible for activities and programs, made it their goal to select a Ring Committee



D.K. Brockett
President, Class of 1981

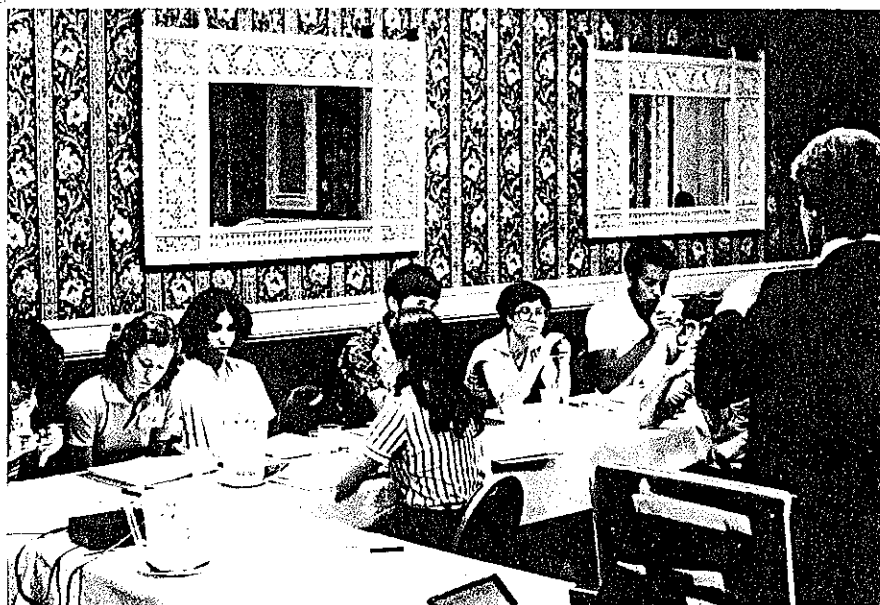


Peggy Patterson
Office of Student Affairs

which was most representative of the class.

Over one-hundred applications were received but only ten positions were available. The ten selected committee members joined the four Class Officers whose responsibility it is to serve on the Ring Committee. The class was privileged to have three companies prepare bids for the 1981 Class Ring. Each bid competitive lasted for twelve hours. After each company had given its presentation and bid, the committee decided that the Josten's Company best represented what was necessary to complete a successful ring program for the Class of 1981. After the company selection, the committee and Josten's again met to complete the design aspects of the ring. After the spring meeting Josten's transformed our graphic ideas into reality and gold. In late August, the committee again met. During their August meeting, the completed product was presented to the committee. The 1981 Ring Premiere and Ring Booklet were also planned at this meeting. This meeting which lasted for two days was very successful.

Many hours of planning, deliberation and thinking have been incorporated into this glorious ring with the specific purpose of satisfying the very unique and great *Class of 1981*.



Working with Josten's after the big decision



THE BEZEL

by Jon Whichard



The "honour point" in heraldry is a special place on the shield of a coat of arms where something personally important to the bearer is displayed. This special place on your ring is reserved for your personal use. The Class of 1981 will be the first to have this option.

By the standards of innovation, composition, and beauty, the 1981 Ring Bezel is both contemporary and dynamic. Complementing the looks of the total ring, the Biform lettering of the Bezel is a feature never utilized by any other class. This style of lettering combines both upper and lower case letters in a manner that solves the problem of certain combinations of letters creating awkward spaces in the continuity of arrangement. The resulting band of smooth flowing inscription frames the stone and forms a balanced edge to the ring. A divider or honour point taken from heraldry centers and divides the lettering. Displayed on the honour point the class member can have a personal choice of his initials, a diamond or a cubic zirconia, fraternity letters, the Skipper, or an engraved eight point star centered by the number one symbolizing our class.

THE THEME . . . Derivation of symbolism used on the ring

by Melanie Pearson and Francine Stahura



OBVERSE



REVERSE

GREAT SEAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The great seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia shall consist of two metallic discs, two inches and one-fourth in diameter, with an ornamental border one-fourth of an inch wide, with such words and figures engraved thereon as will, when used, produce impressions to be described as follows: On the obverse, Virtus, the genius of the Commonwealth, dressed as an Amazon, resting on a spear in her right hand, point downward, touching the earth; and holding in her left hand, a sheathed sword, or parazonium, pointing upward; her head erect and face upturned; her left foot on the form of Tyranny represented by the prostrate body of a man, with his head to her left; his fallen crown near by, a broken chain in his left hand, and a scourge in his right. Above the group and within the border conforming therewith, shall be the word Virginia, and, in the space below, on a curved line, shall be the motto, *Sic Semper Tyrannis*. On the reverse, shall be placed a group consisting of Libertas, holding a wand and pileus in her right hand; on her right, Aeternitas, with a globe and phoenix in her right hand; on the left of Libertas, Ceres, with a cornucopia in her left hand, and an ear of wheat in her right; over this device, in curved line, the word *Perseverando*. Section 1397, Code 1887; Section 321, Code 1919; Chapter 353, Acts 1902-3-4; Chap. 386, page 820, Acts 1930.)

The Phoenix, represented on the Virginia State Seal was chosen to depict the spirit of the class of 1981. This mythological bird has the characteristics of immortality. As the phoenix was reborn out of fire, graduation will be the rebirth of each of us. The fire represents the spirit of competition and disciplined effort which has been necessary to achieve graduation. The uniqueness of each class ring at VPI & SU relates to the Phoenix, because it will endure, yet retain everlasting beauty.



UNIVERSITY SIDE

THE OFFICIAL RING

by Philip Barrager, Josten designer

Our objective from the beginning of our cooperation with the 1981 Ring Committee was to assist them in their objective of making a ring that would be unique to that class yet identifiable as a ring in the Tech tradition. Traditional elements are present — the eagle, *Ut Prosim*, university seal, War Memorial, flag of the United States, and curriculum seals. Used for the first time are details from Virginia's Great Seal, the Phoenix — symbol of renewal and spiritual rebirth, and wheat — appropriate for the bountiful harvests of Virginia and the agricultural contributions made by Tech. The



CLASS SIDE

torch symbolizes education and the warmth of companionship at the school. All these symbols are of ancient origin, but combine in a new and refreshing design.

Overall, the clean lines of the ring reflect the original objective which was to produce a ring in the modern idiom, sleek and clean with "all the fat trimmed away." The top or bezel uses a letter style borrowed from contemporary graphics. In addition to being unusually readable the style provides a continuous band which needs no additional edge to contain it. The added size makes it more legible.

It should be noted that only one year in each decade lends itself to the symmetrical balance attained with the 1981 dates. VATECH and VPISU are used to make unusual closures on the sides.



THE 1981 WOMEN'S OFFICIAL RING

by Lotte Dodson and Bob Phillips

The 1981 Women's Official Ring is a proportioned replica of the Men's Traditional. The ring was designed to symbolize the Tech woman of today, independent and feminine. The smallness of the ring does not affect the detailed features which are on the shanks. The shape of the ring lends itself to a more petite look on the woman's hand. It is a classic woman's ring that exemplifies Tech's traditions in a tasteful manner.

THE DINNER RING

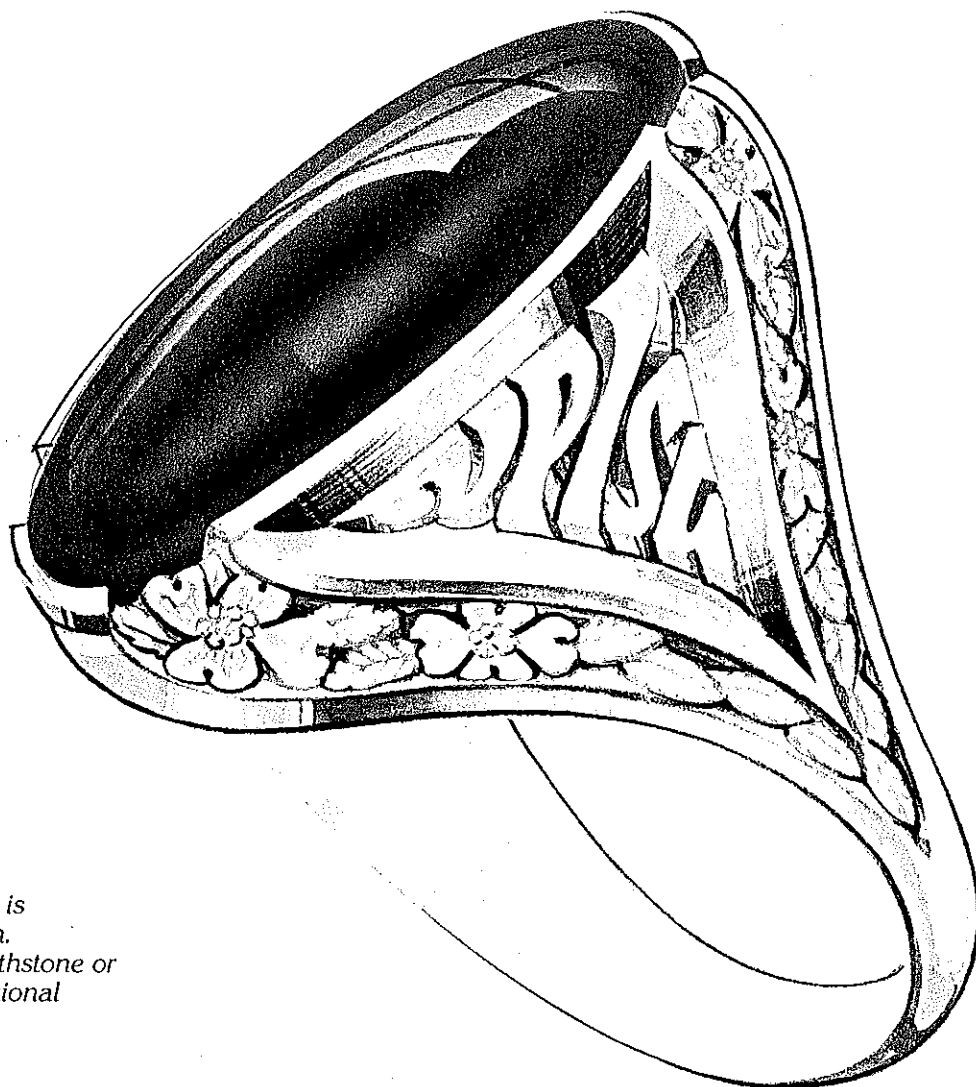
by Nicole G. Laccetti and Laurie A. Black

The 1981 Ring Committee is pleased to present this unusual and attractive women's dinner ring. As an elegant fashion ring it brings a delightful new concept to the dinner ring tradition.

The setting consists of four delicate tabs that embrace the stone and combine with open-back construction to give a look of lightness and femininity.

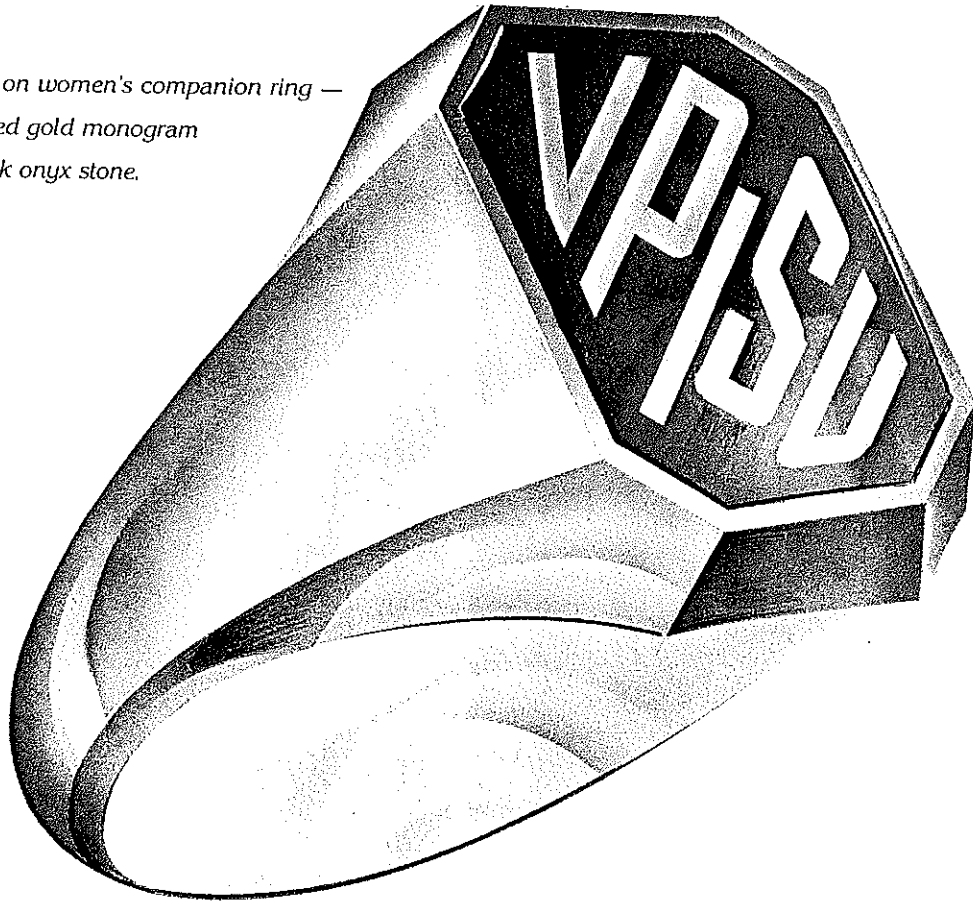
On the sides distinctive concave panels display VPISU and the date in graceful flowing monogram-like style to acknowledge our school and class.

A delicate tracery of traditional Virginia dogwood frames the sides and provides transitional flowing lines into the graceful band.



The stone is longer and slimmer for a different look, but it is unmistakably Tech. Select your own birthstone or favorite color. Traditional yellow gold.

*Shown on women's companion ring —
encrusted gold monogram
on black onyx stone.*



CLASS OF 1981 COMPANION RINGS

by Jim Blacken

A different and fulfilling dimension to the ring program is provided by our companion rings. In the past, the companion ring has been offered chiefly as a ring one buys for a friend. However, the ring has evolved remarkably into a perfect blend of style and taste which would make any Class of '81 member proud to be its wearer. Keeping in line with our class' outstanding solidarity and unity, we have decided to offer identical options for both the men's and women's companion rings.

There will be three exciting top styles from which to choose. One design offers an all gold ring with our school's official seal engraved in it. Another interesting design incorporates the engraving of Tech's seal into an appealing black onyx stone background. The final option offers a VPI&SU monogram written in script and encrusted in gold on a black onyx stone. All of these designs are complemented by a traditional yet becoming octagonally shaped ring.

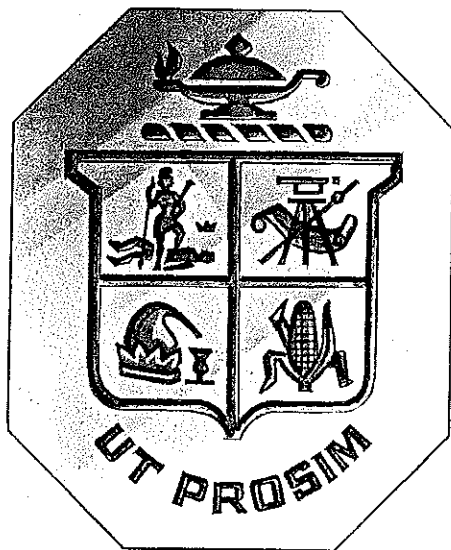
The combination of these features has culminated in a ring which reflects the wit, grace, style, and elegance of our class.



Shown on men's companion ring — engraved onyx top

Both rings offer a choice of three different top styles

1. Gold engraved Tech seal
2. Gold encrusted VPISU on black onyx
3. Engraved Tech seal on black onyx



Alternate all gold engraved top

SPECIAL INFORMATION TO HELP IN ORDERING YOUR RING

GOLD — Pure gold has continued for centuries to be a highly desirable and valuable metal of lasting beauty.

Gold in a pure state is 24 Karat and impractical for use in the manufacture of class rings. It is soft in its original state and requires the addition of other alloying materials, primarily copper, silver and zinc.

Jostens will formulate for your VPISU class ring, a special 10K and 14K "Plumb" alloy. 10K rings will contain in excess of 41% pure gold and 14K rings will contain in excess of 58% pure gold.

Your ring will exceed U.S. Government standards assuring continuing value of your investment. Plumb Gold . . . The Best for Virginia Tech.

STONES — All Jostens synthetic stones and many of the genuine stones are cut and polished to exacting specifications by master cutters in the Herbert Stephan Factory in Idar Oberstein, West Germany. Synthetic stones are not an imitation, but actually synthesized, or man-made — "grown" under controlled conditions — the result of 20th century technological advances. They have all the same chemical, physical, and optical characteristics (such as molecular structure, hardness and brilliance) as their natural stone counterpart. Virtually all types of gem stones have been synthesized — even emeralds and diamonds. Jostens by maintaining its own stone cutting and grading lapidaries insures finest quality. Vastly superior in all respects to imitation stones and fully warranted in your VPI Ring.

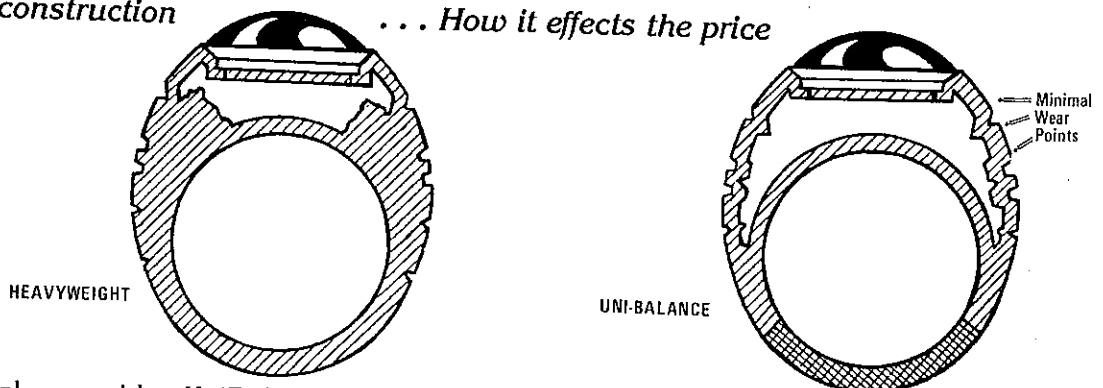
The widest selection of thirty-four stone options is available at Official Ring base prices. A full complement of genuine (natural) stones is also made available and includes jade, turquoise, opals and diamonds, plus additional selections.

Cubic Zirconia

Scientific progress allows Jostens to offer to the Class of '81, Cubic Zirconia, the most convincing diamond substitute yet created. A new man-made diamond simulant, "grown" at nearly 5000° F, Cubic Zirconia has a combination of optical properties which produce a brilliance remarkably close to nature's own diamond. Cubic Zirconia is a distinctive choice and will retain its unique properties, durability and appearance for years.

Size and construction

. . . How it effects the price



Jostens also provides UniBalance rings, a revolutionary new patented process in class ring manufacturing that permits elimination of excess gold (non functional interior portion) without altering or affecting the size, shape, contour or wearing durability. The Men's Traditional, Proportioned and Classic sizes of the VPISU Ring will be available in UniBalance construction resulting in a savings of considerable magnitude. The full selection of VPISU ring sizes and constructions (weights) insures the widest choice in all price ranges.



LIFETIME WARRANTY CLASS of 1981

VPISU

1. All Virginia Tech Class Rings are unconditionally guaranteed against defects in materials and workmanship for the LIFETIME of the purchaser.
2. All stones, both synthetic and genuine, are fully guaranteed and will be replaced at anytime free of charge. Also there will be no charge for an exchange of a stone (within the same price category) if a student is not totally satisfied with his or her original purchase.
3. Josten's agrees to make a new ring free-of-charge should a finger size adjustment be required.
4. Should a student change his major course of study while at Virginia Tech, a new ring with the proper curriculum shield will be exchanged at no charge.
5. If a student is not totally satisfied with his or her original choice of finish, Josten's will refinish the ring at no charge. Finishes are guaranteed for a LIFETIME; and, this option may be exercised anytime.
6. Should a student not graduate with his or her class, a new ring with the proper graduation year will be refunded at no charge, or we will refund to the student the total cost of the ring.
7. While a student at VPISU, any ring accidentally damaged or destroyed will be replaced at no charge. Following graduation and for the owner's lifetime, any ring damaged or destroyed will be replaced at a flat rate of \$15.00 plus stone and the damaged ring.
8. Josten's agrees to replace a lost 1981 VPISU class ring at \$15.00 plus current cost of gold and stone at the time of loss provided a written affidavit is filed with local authorities at time of loss.
9. If a student fails to graduate or for personal reasons wishes to return his or her VPISU ring, a full refund will be made.
10. Any College or High School ring will be credited at current salvage value towards the purchase of a VPISU Ring. Current trade-in value will be available at all order-taking sessions. Josten's will pay double the current gold salvage value on all Josten high school class rings in on trade.
11. Josten's, Inc. will post a \$200,000.00 Bond guaranteeing a faithful performance under the terms of the Agreement. The bond shall remain in effect until graduation of the Class of 1981. Continuance of performance thereafter will be guaranteed by the possibility of disqualification by the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs from future ring competitions at VPISU.
12. It is agreed that your Ring Committee will be the sole and final arbitrator in all matters pertaining to quality and service. Upon graduation, this authority will rest with the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs.

**OUR GOAL IS YOUR GOAL — LIFETIME SATISFACTION FOR
EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR CLASS**