

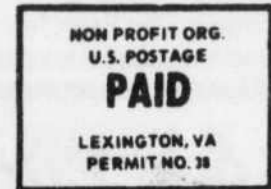


# Ring-tum Phi

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## Fear and loathing in the Galapagos

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JUN 3 1983

By HENRY LANGHORNE  
Special-to-the-Phi

We hit the language barrier in Miami.

The Miami airport resembles a carpeted shopping mall. There are many stores, counters, telephones, and vacuum cleaners, and at 11:40 p.m., not many people pushing vacuum cleaners knew how to speak English.

We were trying to find the Inosphere Lounge on the Eastern wing of the airport. Diane Bowen and Wendy Carter were waiting there for us. Diane was an editor for one of Professor Hickman's books, *The Biology of Animals*. Wendy was a friend Diane met hot-air ballooning. They were from St. Louis, and they said that a lot of people get in baskets attached to balloons and float around St. Louis.

I guess it was natural for each of us to imagine we were Charles Darwin beginning his famous voyage as a naturalist on the H.M.S. Beagle in December 1831. For me there were several parallels with Charles: we were both 22 years old when we left on our trips, we both were planning on going to medical school, and we both had fathers and grandfathers who were doctors. But that's about where the similarities end.

Charles' trip lasted four years, nine months, and two days; mine lasted 20 days. Charles left England on a three-masted, 64-foot, naval survey vessel built in Devonport, England. We boarded a Boeing 727 jet built in Seattle powered by three 7,000 horsepower engines, and cruised at 750 miles per hour, 35,000 feet above the water Charles floated across. There were 74 people packed into the Beagle. More than 200 of us sat comfortably in reclining chairs in an air-conditioned cabin while we were served drinks by beautiful stewardesses.

The stewardesses really weren't that beautiful. It is hard to describe them because they changed so much. It seemed the further south we travelled, the more militaristic they got. By the time we landed in Quito, Ecuador, the guys wheeling the carts down the aisles had machine guns and rocket launchers strapped to their belts.

There were other differences too. Charles had to convince his father that the Beagle was a safe ship, that the captain and crew were fit, and that he would not be speared by some savage

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Five members of the family *Iguanidae* with serrated dorsal crests lounge in the tropical sun of the Galapagos Islands. (Phi photo by Ace Langhorne)

### Phi interview

## Wilson shapes agenda through feedback

By WILLIAM ROBERTS  
Editor-in-Chief

Washington and Lee's new president, Dr. John D. Wilson, said in an interview Friday that the question of coeducation for W&L is an important one and one we should consider very carefully. Wilson also gave his views on the fraternity system, drugs on campus, the faculty and curriculum, university housing, and Black enrollment at W&L.

"I came to Washington and Lee in January without any special preoccupation with the question of coeducation," Wilson said. "I had discussed the question with the Board of Trustees and I said that I admire the Board's decision not to join a fad."

In 1976, the Board of Trustees voted not to allow W&L to go coeducational after an in-depth study of the matter.

"I think it is a terribly important question and I think it is something that is on a lot of people's minds," Wilson said. "This is the kind of thing that you have to take your time about."

Wilson said that he has re-

ceived numerous letters from alumni expressing opinions and asking questions about coeducation. He gave the Rintum Phi copies of some of the correspondence. (Please see page three.)

Wilson emphasized that it is not he who is raising the question of coeducation again; saying that he merely reflects the feelings of alumni, faculty, administrators and students by responding to their comments.

"The 'Baby Boom' carried us for a while, but the demographics have changed," Wilson said. According to a report prepared for the Board of Trustees meeting on May 21, the "population of 18 year-old students will decline from 3.1 to 2.4 million (26 percent) between 1979 and 1994."

"Assuming, one, we are able to hold our present position between now and 1992, two, the economy and the federal financial aid picture remain clear, and three, we will expect to enroll a class in 1992 comparable to 1982, then the Class of 1996 should number no more than 265," the report concluded.

The University Register of Faculty, Staff and Students lists

363 freshman enrolled in 1982 for the Class of 1986. Wilson indicated that these expectations raise questions about the University's policy regarding admission of women.

#### •Black students at W&L

Wilson said he has been talking to people on campus about the problems faced by Black students at Washington and Lee. "I have talked with Johnny White, Dean of Minority Affairs, about some of the problems of Black students, but I have got to get with the students themselves," Wilson said. "I've been invited to go and talk to SABU just to get to know them."

"I think the Black students have a much tougher time than white students because the women's schools do not have many Blacks either," Wilson said.

"I really do hope we can bridge the communication gap so all students at Washington and Lee can participate fully," Wilson said. "I think it is a task we have to face here in America and I think we can do it well in a small, residential community."

Wilson also cited the excellent academic record of Black stu-

dents at W&L. "We have to do all we can to insure that continues and remove all the artificial impediments," he said.

•The Faculty and Curriculum  
Wilson said that in academics, there should be a balance between scholarly work and teaching. "I think the University has achieved an extensively healthy balance between scholarly work and teaching."

"As a model, we have a person who has a scholarly interest in a subject, contributes to the development of that subject, and yet is able to communicate it to young minds in the classroom, and is accessible to them," Wilson said.

"I do think that, in the short-run, we need to develop our curriculum in computer science," Wilson said. "The math department is obliged to rethink its introductory courses and how student enrollment patterns turn out under the new curriculum program." The new curriculum requirements passed by the faculty this year will require students to earn 10 credits in mathematics and laboratory sciences instead of the present-  
(continued on page 3)

# W&L endures . . .

By ALLEN S. ROBERTS  
Phi News Editor

Often we most fully understand our institutions when we step outside them and consider their aspect objectively.

On the eve of graduation, this applies to Washington and Lee, which is sometimes sharply criticized for its closely-held traditions and the comfort many of its students enjoy. The nickname of "Mink" is not inappropriate for much of the student body, who are fortunate enough to wear fine threads and drive finely-crafted cars. But these luxuries are more the hard-earned fruits of successful parents' labors than the mark of haughty affluence.

In our capitalist society, the material manifestations of wealth are accorded more significance than the educational advantages of a well-endowed university. During his 14-year tenure as University President, Robert E. R. Huntley managed a 10-year campaign that garnered \$67 million in support of this university's purpose. The official articulation of that goal is two-fold:

1) "The dedication of all its resources to the development of man's capacity and desire to learn, to understand, and to pass on to others the varied benefits of this intellectual growth."

2) "The pursuit of its educational purpose in a climate of learning that stresses the importance of the individual, his personal honor and integrity, his harmonious relationship with his fellow man, and his responsibility to serve society through the productivity of his training and his talent."

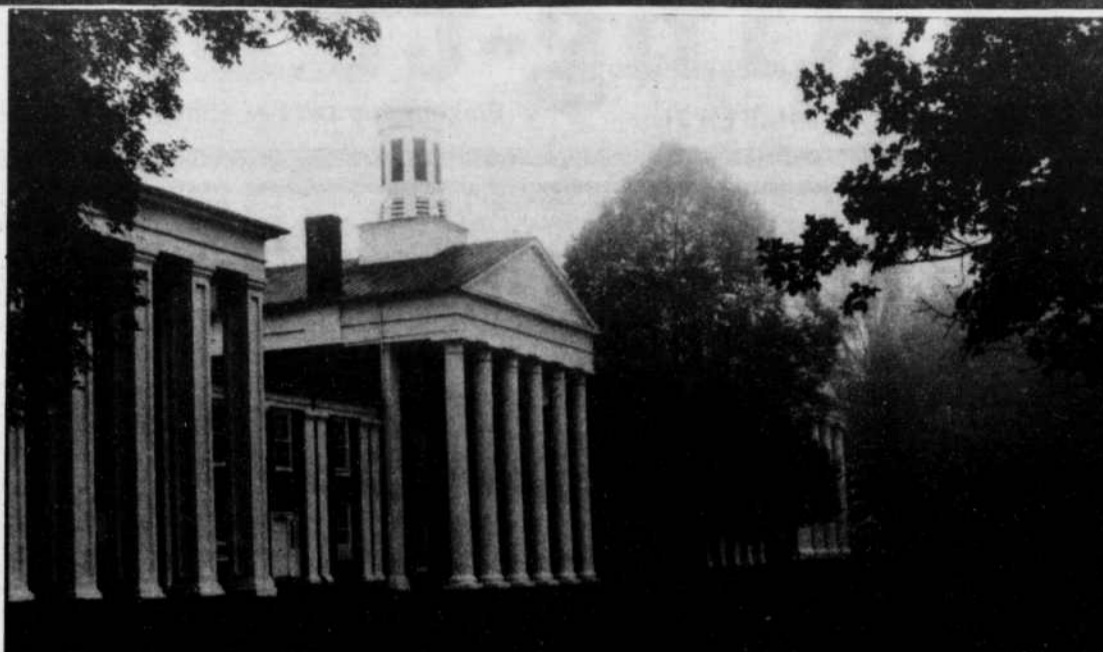
It is not until we have left the classroom and entered the job market that these amorphous aspirations take shape and full impact on our sensibilities. We need not be alumni returning for our twentieth class reunion, however, to feel a sense of missed opportunities and underdeveloped friendships. These regrets surface as soon as we have taken the last exam of our college career. Having cleared the books from our library carrel, their weight is offset by exhilaration as we make our last necessary trek down "the hill."

## The Ring-tum Phi

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The Ring-tum Phi is published every Thursday during the undergraduate school year at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. Funding for the Ring-tum Phi comes primarily from advertising and from a portion of the student activities fee. The Publications Board elects the Editor-in-Chief and Business Manager, but the Ring-tum Phi is otherwise independent.

Letters to the Editor and submissions must be in the Ring-tum Phi office, room 206 of the Student Center, by 5 p.m. Monday of the week they are to be run. This newspaper observes current court definitions of libel and obscenity.



(Phi photo by Peter Cronin)

But even as we feel the vertigo of accomplishment and the promise of a career, few of us escape Sartre's anguish of free will and its responsibilities.

A sheepskin mask is lifted, and we see the resources we have left untapped in preparation for our frightening leap from dependent student to self-reliant individual.

The breadth and accessibility of these resources here is strikingly high for such a small university. This is a fortunate disproportion that spurs our minds when the last grades are in. We may remember that history course we never worked into our tight schedule. We might wish we had attended more CONTACT lectures or spent more time rapping with that especially wizened professor. Suddenly the library looms vast and magnificent, and the colonnade takes on new splendor. We pause to take in the silence of the campus. We finally read the plaque our hurried steps wore thin, and we feel the solidity of the benches and the trees.

Solid and enduring. This is the quality of W&L which money alone will not ensure. The same opportunities existed a century ago, and will again call to be embraced as many years from now. And students will still rush through the academic and social gauntlet of Washington and Lee, intent on achieving their manhood one warm June afternoon. When they do feel that weight of responsibility in a scroll of distinction, the anonymous faces and unread books will still flash before their eyes.

Only the individual student can decide how deeply he will plunge his head and hands into W&L's resources. We can only hope that tradition will sustain the opportunity, and that vision will keep its shape in tune with changing times.

### Streiff and Hall win Fulbrights

Two Washington and Lee University seniors — Scott W. Hall of Danville, Va., and Michael Streiff of Gainesville, Fla. — have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships for graduate study in Europe.

Both Hall and Streiff will use their scholarships to study in Germany.

Hall, a chemistry major at Washington and Lee, will be studying at the Institute for Neurobiology in Julich where he will work under a biochemist who is conducting research on vision. Hall has already been accepted to the University of Virginia's medical school and will begin his studies there in 1984.

At W&L, Hall has been an honor roll (3.5 or above grade-point average on a 4.0 scale) student. He won the Phi Beta Kappa Sophomore Award and

the James Lewis Howe Award in chemistry. He is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the premedical fraternity.

A graduate of George Washington High School, Hall is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Jack W. Hall of Danville.

Streiff, a biology major, plans to use his Fulbright Scholarship to study microbiology at the Pettenkopfer Institute in

Munich. He has been accepted to medical school at the University of Florida and will enter there in 1984.

At W&L, Streiff has been an honor roll student and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He is a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta premedical fraternity.

Streiff is a graduate of Buckholz High School. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Richard R. Streiff of Gainesville.

## Alumnus questions Wilson on coeducation

*Editor's Note: This letter was sent to President Wilson by a W&L Alumnus in November while Wilson was still Provost at VPI.*

Dear Dr. Wilson:

As a graduate of the Class of 1953 (College) and of the Class of 1955 (Law), I send you my hardest congratulations on your election as President of Washington and Lee.

Since we have never met (I certainly hope to meet you soon) it is perhaps presumptuous of me to ask a favor of you, but my request is not just for me but for your daughter, Sara, and my daughter,

Morgan, and all the other bright young women in this world. My request is that when you next meet with the Board of Trustees, ask them why Washington and Lee discriminates against the admission of women to Washington and Lee. Ask them why your daughter, Sara, is not eligible for admission to Washington and Lee. Ask them why their daughters, granddaughters and nieces are not eligible for admission to Washington and Lee.

Fortunately, our daughters, if qualified, can attend Yale, Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, Michigan State, West Point, Annapolis and every other college and university in the United States except for Washington and Lee, VMI and, I am told, only three other colleges.

By now, you have probably heard a great deal about the character of Robert E. Lee. By all accounts, he was intelligent, compassionate and endowed with a mind that was willing to adjust to changing situations. Ask the Washington and Lee Board whether they think that General Lee, if alive today, would discriminate against the admission of women to Washington and Lee.

# Wilson's agenda

(continued from page 1)

ly required six credits. Wilson also said the University will take a close look at the engineering and applied physics programs.

Regarding a replacement for Dean of the College William J. Watt, who is resigning as Dean to resume full time teaching of chemistry at the end of next year, Wilson said, "a search committee has been named and is seeking nominations across the country."

The members of the search committee are; Dr. H.L. Boetsch, Dr. S.M.B. Coulling, Dr. D.G. Elmes, Dr. A.C. Gordon, Dr. J.K. Jennings, Dr. W.L. Sessions, Dean P.H. Simpson, Ph.D., Dr. E.W. Spencer, and Dr. H.T. Williams, with Dr. Wilson as the chairman.

"We hope to make a decision by next fall and get it to the Board of Trustees for their meeting in February," Wilson said.

## •The Fraternity System

"I am not happy with the long standing practice of the fraternities housing sophomores only," Wilson said. "How is it possible to have a strong independent fraternity system with only sophomores living in the houses?"

"I share the faculty's concern about the weakening of the integrity of the academic week," Wilson said. "Not just Wednesday night parties, but we also have Cockpit parties on Tuesdays, and there is quite a bit of travel back and forth."

"I'm not blaming the fraternity guys for this," he said. "I think it is part of the cycle developing in the Valley."

"There is nothing wrong with young people getting together in the middle of the week," he said. "But Wednesday night parties go on too late, people drink too much and then drive."

Wilson said he objects to the "intensity of the thing, when you have a house jammed with people and a band with all the trappings of a weekend party."

"I am interested in talking with the fraternities informally on this," Wilson said.

"I think to have Rush at the first of the year is terrible, though I haven't experienced it here. I have seen it in other places," he said. "I think it is just not right to plunge freshmen into intense social life before they get their academic feet on the ground."

## •University Housing

"I really want to look carefully at our residential character," Wilson said. "Right now I think we need more University housing."

"In a University of 1700 students, we are housing 600. That is only 35 percent," he said. "The idea of W&L suggests that we ought to be housing more."

"All I'm interested in is having more people live in town who can take part in the co-curricular life," Wilson said. "There are lots of things going on in the University and it is hard for guys living in the country to contribute."

## •Student Drug Use

In a recent crackdown by Commonwealth's Attorney Beverly C. "John" Read, two Washington and Lee students have been arrested and charged with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute.

"I've talked to both of these fellows who are now facing charges of possession with intent to distribute and I told them that I want to get to know them as people and find out what had gotten them into the position in their lives where they face prison sentences for the alleged activity," Wilson said.

"I look upon the distribution of drugs for profit with horror and I find it appalling, and certainly I find it inimical to the health of the University," he said. "The policy of the University distinguishes between the use of and the distribution of drugs in terms of the severity of the penalty, but it is all illegal."

"There is a certain myopia we have when we talk about these things," Wilson said. "I hear from knowledgeable sources that alcohol abuse is a bigger problem in American colleges than marijuana."

"I had a feeling at VPI, when a dean said, 'Alcohol is our number one problem,' of relief. This was something familiar, not beannies or reddiees. But there is no reason to be relieved," Wilson said.

"The University is not a sanctuary if there is a warrant and sufficient cause for investigation," Wilson said. "But this is a community built on trust and mutual respect and there are certain circles of privacy involved."

But, "the University is part of a large society. It subscribes to the society's laws," he said.

## •Wilson is confident

"I've been here five months and I've raised certain questions about problems I see," he said. "But that does not mean I don't have great confidence in this place."

"I feel a genuine sense of privilege in being part of it and I hope I can contribute something," Wilson said.



W&L President John D. Wilson. "I share the faculty's concern about the weakening of the integrity of the academic week." (Phi photo by Peter Cronin)

# Wilson's thoughts on coeducation

*President Wilson's reply of December, 1982.  
(Editor's note: This is President Wilson's reply to the letter from the alumnus.)*

Dear Sir,

You fully anticipate, I'm sure, my unwillingness to speak clearly on the issue of coeducation at Washington and Lee before I've had a chance to live and work in the community for awhile. There are things about the experience of the university that cannot merely be read about or talked about. One must try to get a feel for these things, the valuable ones and the less useful ones, too. And this is not likely to come fully to me until I am in office and meet more people and sense something of the rhythm of the place. But I will say these preliminary things at this stage, as much to clarify my own perceptions as for any other reason.

1) I admire the earlier decisions of the Board of Trustees mainly on the ground that coeducation conversions were being shabbily rationalized all over the land in the early seventies (on the specious grounds of 'naturalism' or because of ill-thought-through notions about the psychology of learning). To have declared that the university had not done badly by its students over the past two centuries was very much worth doing. I also admire a Board willing to risk running against the tide...and it was most certainly a tide!

2) That having been said, I must also say that the assumption that co-education was a fad and would be one day be written off as a temporary aberration, no longer looks very good. The demise of the single-sex college for men is now a given. VMI and the Citadel are special cases. Wabash, Hampden-Sydney, and Washington and Lee may be, but I do not now know that, i.e. I don't know how each is special and whether they are alike or different in being special.

3) The college for men did not arise from any special theory of pedagogy. It assumed its character from the dominant shape and mores of the society. It was, as we know, a society that did not universally believe in the importance of educating women. Why should it have been otherwise? Women did not vote (i.e. were not truly citizens) and did not enter the learned professions. When the women's colleges came along in the nineteenth century, most of them rationalized their foundations on the ground that educated men needed equally well educated wives as helpmates. Citizenship and the professions came later still. Today our society, and all western societies, see the matter very differently. This does not negate the value of the very good and very interesting institutions that arose under the old dispensation. But it does impose upon them the burden of rationalizing their single-sex character when the social props have been kicked out from under them.

4) It is probably true to say that Washington and Lee is only half-hearted in its devotion to its single-sex character. I discover no militancy on the question. The most thoughtful simply say that the advocates of change of this sort should carry the burden of predicting how the change will make the university better. This is a good and hard position, for it uncovers the truth about change: in fact, we cannot accurately predict the future, though we can make good guesses.

5) Washington and Lee's lack of militancy on the question can be discovered in the number of women currently enrolled, full-time, in the University. I refer not only to the Law School where there are many female candidates for the university's degree, but also to the undergraduate programs where many special students are enrolled for periods as long

as a full academic year. They are denied candidacy for the baccalaureate degree, the only explicit discouragement to their presence I can point to. Their presence in the university's classrooms and on the playing fields, however, makes more difficult the defense of the practice of denying them candidacy for the baccalaureate degree. Or so it seems to me at the moment.

6) The practical questions associated with co-education are not trivial ones and warrant careful thought. I do not believe a decision to admit women would necessarily involve enlarging the size of the university. But it most certainly would entail residence hall space, athletic accommodations and additions or changes in staff (in the Dean of Students' Office, in the Infirmary, in the coaching staff, etc., etc.) These are not impediments, mind you, but necessities that would require planning and explicit funding.

There are, I am sure, dozens of things I've not thought of or have chosen not to mention. I do believe the Washington and Lee community is currently willing and able to take up a significant question of this sort without chasing false rabbits (e.g. will women graduates support the annual fund?) and without all the posturing that occurred elsewhere back in the seventies. It can do so because it has the confidence that comes from centuries of successful service and because the place is healthy and under no current pressure from admissions or OCR to 'do something.' I'm also pretty confident that the alumni loyalty is so deeply grounded that one would not have to worry about widespread alienation. These are the qualities that attracted me in the first place and I look forward, more than I can say, to my move, in January, to Lee House.

John D. Wilson

# Biology professor retires after 40 years

By STEVE GEARY  
and  
JIM McCABE  
Specials-to-the-Phi

Dr. James Holt Starling will be retiring as Professor of Biology from Washington and Lee University in June 1983. Professor Starling received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Alabama and his Ph.D. from Duke University, where his dissertation involved ecological and taxonomical studies of pauropods of the Duke forest. Dr. Starling joined Washington and Lee's faculty in 1942 and became chairman of the Premedical Committee in 1963. While at Washington and Lee, he taught Vertebrate Comparative Anatomy and General Zoology, with particular interest in the morphology of animals. From 1964 to 1982 during Dr. Starling's chairmanship of the Premedical Committee, 436 students were placed in dental, veterinary, and medical schools. This statistic represents the fact that 80.9 per-

cent of the students applying to professional schools were accepted.

Last Thursday, Dr. "Jim" Starling was the honoree of a cocktail party at the Lee House followed by a dinner in Evans dining Hall. The evening's events were planned in conjunction with the Biomedical Ethics Institute held on the following Friday and Saturday. Of the over 680 health professions alumni invited, approximately 35 medical alumni returned to participate in the joint activities along with current students and faculty. W&L's President John D. Wilson spoke on the developing need for the formal study of ethics and morality. He traced the development of this need from the scientific revolution, which began a diversion of man's emphasis on the humanities, through recent events, Vietnam and Watergate, that have undermined our trust in American government. President Wilson stated his belief that W&L possesses an at-



Dr. James Holt Starling greets wellwishers during festivities in his honor. (Phi Photo by Peter Cronin)

mosphere that promotes the development of ethical conduct. He noted that the Honor System allows for such an atmosphere by dealing with transgressions in an uncompromising and severe manner. President Wilson concluded his address by pointing out that Dr. Starling has been a leader and teacher of ethical conduct by his own living example.

Dr. Starling spoke to the audience between two standing

ovations in his honor. He preached that, "The sooner one can face death, the sooner one can begin to live life and enjoy it." Dr. Starling, or "Jimbo" as he calls himself in class, will always be remembered by his former students. He has the natural abilities to cut through the faculty-student gap and, over the years, to bridge the generation gap in an effort to get to know his students. Always supportive, Dr. Starling

helped students to make high but realistic goals for themselves during a period of uncertainty and decision making.

Dr. Starling's retirement plans include a trip to northern Europe with his wife and frequent visits with his son in Montgomery, Ala. Dr. Starling will remain active within the university community.

# Blazing trails and tortoises

(continued from page 1)

native. We had to convince our parents that we wouldn't get the bends scuba diving and that we would not get gunned-down by some Sandinista rebel.

We landed on an old United States World War II airstrip in our Boeing 727. The United States defended Panama from Japan with help from troops stationed on the Galapagos, and after the war, the United States tried to lease the islands from Ecuador, but they turned us down.

Some South Americans take pride in alienating themselves from the United States. I learned early in the trip not to say I am an American as if being American were a nationality. They consider themselves Americans too.

Many Ecuadorians don't appreciate President Reagan's Latin American policy. I walked into the middle of an anti-U.S. demonstration in Quito. They had a couple effigies of Reagan they burned while I watched.

There is a saying in the Galapagos that you've got to be crazy to live there. The longer you are there the more you believe it.

This year the people aren't the only weird things in the Galapagos. El Nino, the mass of warm water and air off the coast of Central America sits over the islands. El Nino really isn't weird; it usually shows up every year or so about Christmas time, hence its name which means, "the boy child." It

usually lasts a few weeks; this time it stayed for good. People are blaming it for everything from the storms washing away the homes of movie stars in California to a late hurricane season in the Caribbean.

The Galapagos are desert islands. During the breeding season of the galapagos mockingbird two years ago, two inches of rain fell. From January to April this year there has been more than 43 inches.

Birds aren't breeding, and small fish at the beginning of the food chain die because their nutrients remain at the bottom when the warm El Nino is on top.

Plants survive on the archipelago because they tolerate long dry spells. Now cactuses

topple over because their roots can't support their bloated bodies, and the leaves of the Palos Santo are falling off because they've had too much water.

A couple years ago Galapagos researchers finished one of the most important studies in evolution since Darwin's *Origin of Species*. They concluded that evolution usually takes steps much more rapidly than previously thought; populations can change dramatically in several generations under certain conditions. They studied Darwin's finches during several dry years when finches suited for dry weather flourished. Researchers returned to study the effect of the dry weather on the finches, and El Nino hit.

The islands are perfect for studying evolution: they are isolated-virtually no animals migrate or are imported there, and if they do show up, they are easily recognized; human interference is carefully controlled; and, it is very cheap for researchers to live there. You can buy a lobster dinner for \$1.25, and you can mail letters with no stamps.

Whalers set up a post office on Floreana Island in the 18th century. They put a barrel on a post and called it The Barrel Post Office. Sailors would leave mail in the barrel and passing ships would stop to check the barrel and pick up mail on their route. The island became a major stopping point for ships in the

South Pacific.

Whalers also hunted tortoises. The Galapagos Islands were named after the giant tortoises that roam the islands. Tortoises were valuable cargo for a ship because they could be stacked below deck for more than a year with no food or water and still remain alive. The whalers swiped tens of thousands of tortoises.

The Cachalote, a 60-foot steel-hulled sailer powered by a powerful Caterpillar diesel waited for us at the bottom of Alcedo, and it motored us from island to island as we watched birds, iguanas, and tortoises.

We hiked up Alcedo Volcano and camped on its rim for two days. A group of students from Galapagos III were seriously lost for a couple of days as they descended to the shore.

The islands are volcanic. They rose from the depths of the Pacific as lava oozed between plates shifting on the ocean floor. Moray eels, usually hiding in crevices in rocks and coral, cruise around like fish in the Galapagos. We dove with the eels and the sea lions mocking us and our clumsy scuba gear as they'd glide effortlessly down hundreds of feet as we watched.

We returned to the States on a 727. The stewardesses returned to normal, and we could drink the water again.

## Seniors

If you are interested in receiving a Phi next year, fill out this form and give it to Carole Chappell. We will contact you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_