

# The Ring-tum Phi

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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1999

From Lexington to Maui, thousands of students, faculty and alumni will celebrate as...

## W&L's 250<sup>th</sup> year ends with a bang

By Polly Doig  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The culmination of two and a half centuries of learning, honor and leadership (not to mention khakis, cocktail parties and debauchery) is finally upon us.

And the banners are back up on the Colonnade, just in case you'd forgotten about it.

The May 1 National Day of Celebration will bring an estimated 10,000 students, faculty and alumni together in spirit (though not in location) to commemorate Washington and Lee University's 250th birthday. A satellite downlink will be beamed to 54 sites across the nation, from two jumbotron screens in the tents at the ruins, to the alumni chapter in Maui, to Spago's in Hollywood.

The national satellite broadcast will begin at 8:30 p.m., and will last approximately 70 minutes. The show will include segments from the 250th video, which has been a year and \$180,000 in the making. In addition, live segments will be interspersed from the Lenfest Center, where History Channel anchor Roger Mudd '51 and WPVI-TV morning weather anchor and reporter Cecily Tynan Badger '91 will be co-hosting the show.

The gala itself will begin at 6 p.m., though students will not be admitted at the ruins until 7:30 p.m., and will last until 12:30 a.m. Throughout the evening, three bands will play at the ruins, including the swing music of The Bo Thorpe Orchestra, and 50s'-90s' cover bands Spectrum and

Casper. A cash bar and elegant buffet will also be available.

"They're serving every possible food you can imagine - from ostrich to tortellini," director of the 250th observance Neil Penick said.

Organizers are expecting roughly 2,000 people, mainly alumni and their families, to roll into town for the event.

"By counting the alumni across the country, we think this will be the largest alumni gathering ever," Penick said, "[with] over 10,000 alumni celebrating the 250th at once."

An additional 1,000 students and faculty are expected, bringing the anticipated grand total to 3,000 people under the tents at the ruins. Three enormous tents, covering nearly 90,000 square feet, are being set up on the athletic fields near the ruins to handle the crowds.

The cost of tickets for students is \$30 per person, a huge discount off the normal price of \$125, according to Penick.

"We want students to participate fully in this grand finale of the 250th Anniversary celebration," Penick said.

Ticket sales to students are substantially behind what organizers expected, however, as only roughly 250 have been sold thus far. Sentiment about the gala is mixed among students.

Freshman Abby Montgomery plans on going, though curiosity seems to be her main motivation.

"I'm pretty sure I'm going to go

SEE 'GALA' ON PAGE 2

## Students 'dig' into Earth Day concert

By Lisa Lin  
STAFF WRITER

Bluegrass, reggae and organic soil capped off a week of Earth Day celebrations.

Starting last Tuesday, April 20, the Outing Club sponsored an eclectic series of events that included everything from a reading of nature poems at the Ruse to a culminating concert at Davidson Park featuring the Larry Keel Experience and Guano Boys.

On Thursday, Larry Keel and the Guano Boys began performing in Davidson Park at 3:00 p.m. and delighted a slowly mounting crowd with their music for about four and a half hours.

"It's so exciting to see the community come together to celebrate such an important holiday for the future of our planet," freshman Helen Downes said about the turnout.

Sophomore Susan Slim agreed.

"The general atmosphere was very enjoyable-it was a great cause," Slim

said "It was a good idea, and it very refreshing to see so many people from the Lexington community involved. I hope next year they do it again."

In addition to the music, several booths were set up next to the park, each representing a local group or a national organization with common environmental goals. Among the displays were several local farmers offering "organic soil," the US Forest Service with informative guides, and the Lexington Healthy Food store with vegetarian snacks.

Among other events was a reading of professor of English Chris Camuto's poems. He found inspiration for most of his pieces from his experiences in the Smokey Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains. After reading, he also gave the audience tips on outdoor writing and journal keeping.

The club also planned a hike on Saturday to the Lexington Reservoir, a natural site which is currently in danger of becoming part of a development project.

Workers erected three giant tents near the Ruins last week in preparation for the grand finale of the 250th Celebration. Now Reunion Weekend will have a circus feel.

## Alexander to kick Mock Con off

Presidential candidate will give keynote address Wednesday for Spring Kickoff

By Polly Doig  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Twenty years ago, Lamar Alexander hiked more than 1,000 miles across Tennessee in his quest for that state's gubernatorial post.

This week, in his new quest for the presidency, Alexander will stop off in Lexington as the keynote speaker for Washington and Lee University's Mock Convention Spring Kickoff.

The former Tenn. governor, and former U.S. Secretary of Education will speak Wednesday at 2 p.m. in front of Lee Chapel.

"We expect to see a great turnout of Washington and Lee students, the southern Virginia community, national media and alumni from around the country for this enthusiastic and educational week," Mock Con political chairman David Dardis said. "The alumni, faculty and student body are excited about hosting Lamar Alexander ... one of the top contenders for the Republican presidential nomination."

Alexander is widely regarded for his stances on education, the environment and economic development, as well as for his informal campaign style.

In addition to Alexander's speech, Spring Kickoff will also include two star-studded panels, and country singer Willie Nelson, who will perform Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Student Pavilion. Tickets for the Nelson concert are currently available and cost \$15 for students and \$20 for the general public.

The Presidential Issues Forum will gather together some of the country's top conservative policymakers in Lee Chapel, Monday evening at 8. The Forum will feature Republican pollster Whit Ayres; Terry Jeffrey, editor of *Human Events*; Barbara Ledeen, executive director of the Independent Women's Forum; Tod Lindberg, former editor of *The Washington Times*; and chairman of the Republican Leadership Council Mark Miller.

Some of the nation's most prominent journalists and political commentators will take part in Mock Con's Media Panel Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Lee Chapel. Participants include Jim Barnes, chief political correspondent for the National Journal; Charlie Cook, of the Cook Political Report;

Howard Fineman, chief political correspondent for *Newsweek*; Tom

Mattesky, deputy Washington bureau chief for CBS News; Joseph McQuaid, editor-in-chief of the *Manchester Union Leader*; and Bill Schneider, senior political analyst for CNN.

In addition, several national media organizations, including *The Washington Post*, CNN, C-SPAN and MSNBC, have been invited to cover the kickoff of what is considered the nation's most accurate mock convention.

W&L's Mock Con boasts an incredible 92 percent prediction rate, and has been correct during 11 out of the last 12 conventions. Mock Con will be held on March 3 and 4, 2000.



Lamar Alexander



photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

MEMBERS OF THE WINNING TEAM — Kappa Alpha Theta sisters Anna Lowden '99 and Heather Shepard '00 join in a Tug O' War competition during Sigma Chi's Derby Days, held last week.

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## THE SHOW

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check it out," Montgomery said, "just to see what it's like."

For others, factors like money and the crowd that will gather will help make their decisions.

"Actually, I haven't really thought about it," freshman Joey Ajayi said. "If it's just going to be a large number of alumni, I'm not going to go because that just doesn't sound like fun."

The celebration weekend officially begins Thursday evening at 8:30 p.m. with the opening reunion assembly at the Liberty Hall site. Bestselling author Tom Wolfe '51 will deliver the keynote address for the event, entitled, "The end of the century and the spirit of Washington and Lee." In addition, Wolfe will hold a book-sign-

ing prior to his speech, for his recent novel "A Man in Full" on Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Fairfax Lounge of the University Center.

Tickets will be available in front of the Co-op from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Wednesday.

### Other events:

Friday:

4:30 p.m. — "A Golden Anniversary: 50 Years of Art at Washington and Lee," celebrating the 50th anniversary of the art department. duPont Gallery.

Evening — private barbecues for the undergraduate and law reunion classes for years ending in nine and four since 1949.

8:30 p.m. — Reunion concert with entertainment by 1964: The Tribute and Liquid Pleasure. Liberty Hall.

Saturday:

11 a.m. — Distinguished Alumni Awards presented to Earle Palmer Brown '44, Jorge Estrada '69 and John Wolf '69, '72L. Distinguished Young Alumni Awards will also be presented to John Taylor '84 and Valerie Pierson '89. Lee Chapel.

12 p.m. - 2 p.m. — Booksigning featuring Prof. Pamela Simpson, ("Cheap, Quick and Easy") and Richard Weaver '96, ("Postcard history of Lexington"). University Bookstore.

2 p.m. — 12th Annual Lee-Jackson Lacrosse Classic. VMI's Alumni Memorial Field.

## Generals' new diamond shines

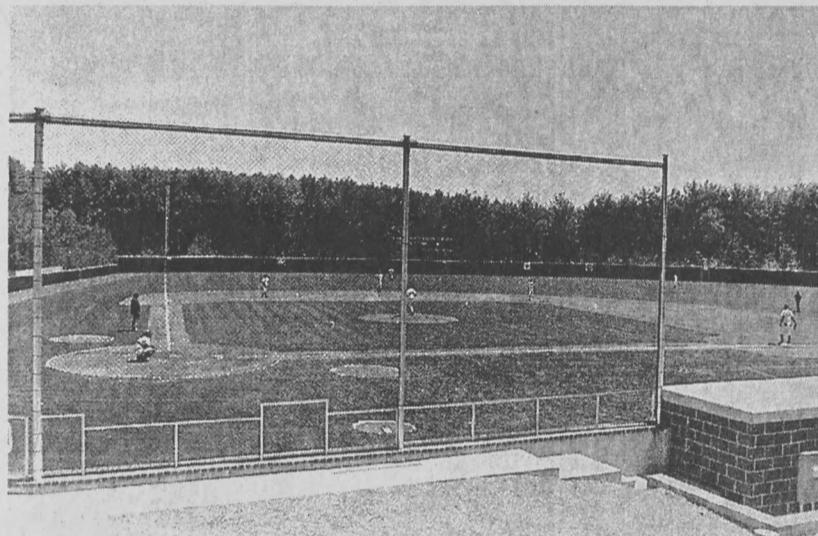
By Frances Groberg  
*SPORTS EDITOR*

It may just be a field of dreams.

Though the formal dedication is not until May 22, the Washington and Lee baseball team was able to play their first games on the new Cap'n Dick Smith Field over break.

The \$1.8 million facility features

permanent seating for 350 spectators and a 1,056 square foot building which houses a press box, concession area, and restrooms. The facility also features sunken dugouts with bathrooms, water fountains, and storage areas, two enclosed bullpens, a 2,340 square-foot building with two indoor hitting cages, and a state-of-the-art public address/sound system.



The outfield fence measures eight feet high, except in right field where it towers at 16 feet. The stadium measures 400 feet to straight-away center, 320 to right, 330 to left, 365 to right center, and 370 to left center. Also, beyond the left-center field fence will be a 36-foot long scoreboard.

Though finishing touches like fan seats have yet to be installed before the dedication, the team is still very excited about their new home.

"We're really excited because getting to play the important games towards the end of the season there is really something in terms of getting us to the playoffs," junior Russell Wrenn said. "We watched it go up all winter. It was really a tribute to the seniors."

Athletic Director Mike Walsh, a former player, coach, and continuously avid fan, has been instrumental to bringing the new field to campus.

The dedication will feature baseball great Stan Musial, along with the Major League's executive vice-president of operations Sandy Alderson.

It's been an amazing season for this team, and they've certainly proved that they deserve such a beautiful facility.

## Bicentennial Gala

### facts:

#### The Food:

— "The Mother of all catering events." So says Jerry Darrell, W&L's longtime director of dining services. As a crowd of 3,000 gathers underneath 90,000 square feet of tent, the task of feeding them will fall on W&L's dining services staff, who normally take on an equally daunting 425 hungry students in the d-hall.

— The May 1 dinner will be only one of more than 35 events the catering department will be handling throughout the course of the weekend.

— Dining services have recruited four colleges' executive chefs to help W&L's own Greg Pearce with the event.

— The extraordinary menu includes wok, dessert, pasta and seafood stations, as well as cheese, and ice and salt sculptures.

#### The Numbers:

\$165,750 — A rough guess at the overall hotel bill based on an average price of \$85 and a two-night stay. W&L booked 975 hotel and bed-and-breakfast rooms from Raphine to Natural Bridge. Now that those have filled, an additional 280 rooms have been blocked in the Roanoke and Staunton areas.

14,000 — the number of shrimp to be served at Saturday night's dinner.

8,000 — estimated number of alumni who will be attending one of the satellite showings, not counting those under the Big Tops.

300 — pounds of Rockbridge County-grown ostrich meat to be served.

40 — gallons of lite Italian salad dressing to marinate the food.

1/6 mile — approximate length of table draping for the buffet.

E-mail General Notes to  
[phi@wlu.edu](mailto:phi@wlu.edu)



### Serving in Memory

As a way to recognize Jonathan Nabors, a member of the class of 2002 who was tragically killed in a car accident on his way back to school from Christmas break, the freshman class will join together on Saturday, May 8 to serve the community in his name.

The service day, which is organized by the Freshman Leadership Committee, will begin with the dedication of a tree and a plaque in memory of Jonathan, followed by a kickoff brunch in the BG quad. Participants will have the opportunity to work with children, animals, and the elderly, according to their preference. The service day will run from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., but participants can work for the length of time they desire. Those who participate will also receive a free t-shirt.

The day should prove to be a great experience for the class, the community, the school, and all for Jonathan, so don't miss out!

### Wolfe booksigning scheduled

Alumnus Tom Wolfe '51 will be one of three authors to hold book-signing events here during Reunion Weekend from April 29 to May 1.

Wolfe will sign copies of his latest novel, *A Man in Full*, in the Fairfax Lounge of the University Center from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 29. Wolfe will also deliver the keynote address at the opening reunion assembly on April 29 at 8:30 p.m. The assembly and all of the book signings are open to the public.

### Artistic depression explored

On Monday, May 3, the Mental Health Association and Washington and Lee's departments of English and psychology will sponsor two events that explore the controversial connection of artistic temperament to manic-depressive illness.

From 4:30 to 6 p.m., Dr. Julie Jennings will lead a discussion on the role played by manic-depressive illness in the lives of well-known writers, musicians, and artists. The seminar will meet from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in Room 313, Parmly Hall.

### 250th is coming

Washington and Lee will have its largest Reunion Weekend crowd ever as the University continues its 250th anniversary celebration.

A gathering of over 3,000 alumni, students, faculty, staff and guests are expected for Saturday evening's 250th National Celebration Gala near the Liberty Hall Ruins. Three large tents have been set up to hold the huge crowds.

Come visit for the  
Phi... if you are  
good enough!!

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# OPINION

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## Opinion & Editorial

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The *Phi* celebrates the beginning of its 102nd year with an all-star cast of characters on the editorial board that should be sure to rub everyone the wrong way!

**Polly Doig** — batting first is this team-leading junior, who assumes the position of executive editor. Having proven her skills by writing the entire front page by herself every week last term, Polly will now simply give death threats to people who don't write, having learned that skill last fall.

**Hollister Hovey** — the position of associate editor goes to this burned-out ex-executive. Mainly she's just going to hang around to laugh at the rest of the staff. She looks forward to once again having a life.

**Dan Grattan** — junior news editor who, in addition to being a good writer, also fills the *Phi*'s quota for ex-Tri-dent staffers and frat boys.

**Op/Ed editor** — is, um, to be determined by Polly after she finishes making up songs and giving death threats...

**Frances Groberg** — returning sophomore sports editor, will balance a normal life with Polly's abusive and obnoxious songs. Her friends think Polly's odd. Hell, we all think Polly's odd.

**Steele Cooper** — the sports gimp, oops, we mean assistant sports editor, is this strapping young freshman. (Whoa! Phi's over the frat boy quota! What do we do?!)

**Elianna Marziani** — features editor and one of the only freshman to keep writing for us, so we thought we'd promote her to a position of responsibility that will quickly result in burnout.

**Ginger Phillips** — sophomore co-features editor currently living it up in Spain while simultaneously escaping the Rockbridge County SWAT team.

**Kevin McManemin** — junior Last Word extraordinaire who will once again keep us busy censoring him and writing apology letters; if the PiKA cook lets him live long enough.

**Heather "Little Mac" McDonald** — sophomore copy editor and official Empress of Excuses, of the official "Uh, guys, I have to study Chinese" excuse. Someone should really tell her that she's majoring in East Asian Studies...

**Emily Barnes** — sophomore photo editor for the upcoming year. This year she plans to have more camera slaves, like assistant photo editor, freshman **Lisa Lin**.

**The unsinkable Lionel "Leo" Brown** — freshman circulation director reminds us all that he really doesn't remember much about having Princess Di as his kindergarten teacher back in the limey land of London. (Leo fulfills the *Phi*'s quota for cynical Brits this year. It's shagarrific!)

**Jason Williams** — returning freshman business manager has fought furiously with the editorial board all year... to keep us out of debt.

**Matt Lorber** — freshman returns as ad director, to keep pounding the pavement in search of financial support so we can continue to print out our little rag.

**Ali Soydan** — freshman online editor sensation, who is off in Never-Never Land seeking high and low for new ways to update the *Phi* Online.

Now if we can just make sure the front page isn't a rough draft...

## The Ring-tum Phi

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W&L Editors	Elianna Marziani
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Assistant Sports Editor	Frances Groberg
Last Word Editor	Steele Cooper
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## POINT / COUNTERPOINT

### THE 250<sup>TH</sup> GALA: BICENQUINQUAGERRIFIC OR NOT?

#### 250<sup>th</sup> celebration the perfect way to commemorate our past

I still remember a conversation I had early in my freshman year with a young lady who informed me that she was accepted at both Washington and Lee and Princeton, but decided to come here for the parties.

They say that everyone has their talents, (British aristocracy excluded) and I think — nay, I know — that here at W&L our collective talent is partying. In a school of 1600 in a town not much bigger, we somehow manage to throw parties every single weekend. Once a year we come together to put on Fancy Dress, endlessly billed in every W&L publication I've ever read as our "\$80,000 answer to the prom" and "the biggest social event in the South."

Throwing big, ridiculous parties is what we do, and we do it damn well. We ain't the brightest group around, we're not exactly a sports powerhouse, but I'll bet you \$20 that we could beat any college twice our size in a chug-off.

When other schools celebrate their past they do it quietly, perhaps with a nice reception or a luncheon. When W&L celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup>, circus tents and satellites somehow get involved. Suddenly the maitre d' at Spago's is telling Steven Spielberg he can't have his regular table tonight because it's reserved for W&L.

The 250<sup>th</sup> gala this weekend is nothing less than the embodiment of the very spirit of W&L itself, and I expect

Φ the Loony Bin

Kevin McManemin '00

us all to take part in this celebration. This weekend I want to see every student out there, dressed in their finest, drunk off their asses, showing the world how we do things here in dear ol' Lex. I want to see every alumni reliving their college prime — and if it means embarrassing the wife or losing your job, well, damn it, suck it up and show some school pride.

I want our entire community to come together — the liberal professors who constantly whine about how we're not into this or that latest P.C. academic fad, the trustees who threaten the frats with closure for doing exactly what the trustees did when they went here, the seemingly worthless deans — I want us all to come together and reflect on just what it means to be a General over a massive game of beer pong.

Just remember to lift the toilet seat up before you puke. 250<sup>th</sup> a perfect waste of good time and money

The Earth has revolved around the sun 250 times since Augusta Academy first opened its door. 250 years, 25 decades, two-and-a-half centuries, a quarter of a millennium — use whatever words you want to describe this man-made invention of the calendar to describe the passage of time. The end result is still

Φ Mi Vida Loca

Polly Doig '00

the same: big deal.

First of all, 250 years ago some guy in another county, that was not Rockbridge, was busy founding a school called Augusta Academy. If you jump through about 48 hoops and follow the Yellow Brick Road that people would like to take you down, then we finally get to Washington College — something which is traceable.

Then there's the fat little tuition hike we all got this year. If my \$450 were spent in the pursuit of branding everything from cups to toilet paper with the 250th logo, then I'm going to writing a strongly worded letter to the White Star Line.

Moving on to the gala, yes, it's going to be wonderful. And wow, we've got some really cool alumni. And what could be better than getting sloppy drunk with them? The Responsibility Symposium... organic chemistry... Baner discovering your car parked in front of Woods Creek at 8 a.m....

However, students are being charged \$30 to dress up real pretty and go pick at the leftover ostrich crumbs on the buffet table that the alumni left us. Drinks are mandatory purchases, so if you're under 21 (like 70 percent of the student body), I guess your evening might be better spent sipping tea in a prom dress at the Ruse.

By the time the 300th rolls around, however, we'll all be Five-Star Generals, and the prospect of spending an evening under a tent watching jumbotron should be pretty darn exciting.

#### Quote of the week:

Do you want some bean-counter telling you what to do?

— Professor Jim Raper, referring to C-school types in his Newspaper Management class.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Alum takes on EC honor verdict

Dear Editor,

In response to the anonymous letter which appeared in the Feb. 8 issue of the *Ring-tum Phi*, I'd like to say a few more words about the forced withdrawal of the W&L student who "stole" from the Dining Hall.

I agree with this student's belief that his or her identity had to be kept anonymous, for fear of repercussions under the Honor System. As a graduate, I don't need to hide behind anonymity, and have the luxury of giving my name. The "real world," as it might surprise the W&L world, seems to be governed more by common sense than blind rule following.

And that is exactly what this EC ruling is, and for that matter the concept of the present honor system. It doesn't seem to have anything to do with really being honorable anymore, just adherence to a rule that is hypocritical and nonsensical.

I worked at the D-Hall for three years when I was at W&L. My understanding of the freshman meal plan is that freshman MUST purchase it. It does not work on a debit system, but the meals are counted at the Dining Hall so they can plan for the amount of food prepared.

It is common knowledge, though, that each freshman has three meals a day, all week. And since freshman never use the meal plan every day, common sense should dictate that they can spare a few meals for their friends. Isn't that honorable? How is wasting food, food that is forcibly paid for by parents, honorable?

Upperclassmen plans act on a debit system, and it is much clearer about many meals are left on the card. Perhaps the smart thing for the Dining Hall to do would be to allocate three meals a day to the freshman, and have it work on a debit as the upperclassman plans do. This would eliminate confusion as to how many meals a freshman had left.

It seems to me that the existing freshman meal plan is an easy way for the university to get away with some extra cash...parents are required to pay for the entire plan, but the school knows that students will not eat all of the meals paid for. God forbid they should share their leftover meals with a friend!

Obviously the W&L Dining Service can't have students wandering in without meal plans and eating for free. This would be dishonorable.

But this is not so in this case. My parents also shared off my plate once or twice. I guess that I am also guilty. I also guess that \$100,000 just isn't enough for chicken cordon bleu and a Dr. Pepper.

Kathryn Mayurnik '98

### 1974 lacrosse game remembered

Dear Editor,

This April marks the 25th anniversary of the greatest lacrosse game ever played, and it occurred on Wilson Field.

Please get out your archives and read about the game between W&L and Towson State. Never before (or since) has a crowd changed the tone of a game (any game) so much. W&L had three first-team All-Americans on the field: goalie Skeeter Chadwick, and midfielders Ted Bauer and Skip Lichtfuss. This was when W&L played Division 1 lacrosse, against schools that had a full roster of scholarship players. This was the best team W&L ever had, and really was the best team in the country that year. Professor McDowell (a former lacrosse star at W&L in 1964) was one of the assistant coaches.

With about 8 minutes left in the game, Towson scored to take a 3-goal lead (17-14). Coach Jack Emmer called timeout, apparently not knowing how to stop the explosive Towson offense. When the teams broke from the timeout, the crowd stood, cheering and showing its support. The cheering continued and kept growing. It became a frenzy. Slowly, everyone on the field realized what was happening, and the W&L players were energized (to put it mildly). No one in the stands sat down. W&L scored three goals, including the tie with about 10 seconds left. In overtime, we scored two more. Towson did not score again, so that for about 18 minutes, we shutout the most explosive offense that anyone at the game had ever seen. Final score: 19-17.

How do you know the impact and significance of this game? Because I can remember it as if it were yesterday, I know the score, and I know that Lichtfuss scored the winning goal. It made such an impression on Towson that the next week they traveled to Charlottesville and crushed UVA. After the game, the team and coaches wrote a letter to the student body thanking the fans for such a dramatic show of support. I think that letter was published in the *Ring-tum Phi*. This was the greatest glory year in W&L lacrosse. (We were undefeated in the regular season, losing in the semifinals of the playoffs, on a controversial call at Johns Hopkins.) The event is worthy of remembering its anniversary. Thanks.

David Rigby '75

### Rusty enjoys being petty

Dear Editor,

First, two statements:

1) I enjoy being petty and, 2) I would have written earlier, but it has taken me six days to finally wade through your meaty March 22nd issue.

Upon reading "Destination: Spring Break 1999" I noticed a glaring error in your photograph captions. Hailing from the Golden State I consider myself fairly knowledgeable of local

landmarks, Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles, Andrew Cunanan's High School, and the Heaven's Gate House. Never though, has California been accused of accommodating one of America's most Peter Northesque landmarks, the "Old Faithful" Geyser. Like clockwork every half-hour for the past couple million years this natural marvel has spewed scalding hot water on animals, baby carriages, and tourists alike, in Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming.

For your grievous error California expects nothing short of a retraction, an apology, and your first born. If you do not address this issue Johnny Cochran, Lance Ito, and I will take matters into our own hands.

Yours,

Rusty Blackwell '99

### Alcohol problems down?

Dear Editor,

Last spring, a group of students led by Andrew Tate '98 worked in cooperation with Trustee Ed Bishop, Dr. Jane Horton and Professor Linda Hooks to develop strategies to reduce the harmful effects of alcohol abuse at Washington and Lee. One of the recommendations was to focus on six "high risk" periods: Freshman Orientation, Homecoming, Winter Weekend, Tear Night, Fancy Dress and Alumni Weekend.

As we look forward to Alumni Weekend and the celebration of our 250th anniversary, I am pleased to report that by nearly every quantifiable measure we have reduced alcohol problems in the five "high risk" periods that have occurred so far during this academic year. Alcohol arrests for the Fall '98/Winter '99 terms were at an all-time low, dropping from 144 in 1988-89 to 56 this year. Emergency room treatments for serious alcohol abuse and alcohol-related visitations to the Health Center have been significantly lower than last year. Alcohol arrests and dormitory alcohol violations by freshmen are also down.

Of course, alcohol abuse still exists and statistics alone do not tell the complete story. Nevertheless, there is a growing consensus among students that the abuse of alcohol hurts our community, and that we need to work together to address this problem. Student leaders have been supportive of our efforts — primarily because students themselves have identified the areas of concern and developed the strategies to improve our social environment. We are making positive progress.

I want to thank all of the students who have worked hard to make this change. And I wish everyone a spirited and safe Alumni Weekend.

David L. Howison  
Dean of Students

## W&L students save the world, one at a time

By Elianna Marziani  
FEATURES EDITOR

### W&L Invades D.C. — and wins

Washington and Lee senior B.J. Walker and junior Mary Hight rubbed elbows with the soon-to-be, wanna-be, and actually powerful last month.

Obtaining national recognition for both themselves and the school, they were awarded with first and third place honors, respectively, in a nationwide essay contest sponsored by the Center for the Study of the Presidency.

"I was completely shocked," Walker said of his win.

He and Hight had been joking before the contest that she could take first place honors and he would yield and be satisfied with second. Little did either of them know how close their predictions would be.

Hight, after hearing that she won third place, admitted, "I was shocked. It was very, very surprising."

The essay topic this year was "Leadership for the New Millennium" or "Lessons Learned in the 20th Century."

Walker's "Our Third Century-Who Will Lead" dealt with leadership in the 21st century, predicting what the presidency's role will be (a copy of his essay is available for viewing at <http://www.cspresidency.org/essay.htm>).

Hight's essay focused on the presidencies of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan, comparing their leadership styles and finding remarkable similarities in them.

Walker won \$250 for his essay. He is a politics and history double-major. Though he interned at the White House last summer, the presidency is not necessarily his greatest interest. He plans to attend law school next year, but he has not yet decided on the university.

Hight won \$100 for her essay. She is a politics major who hopes to go into campaign management.

The Center for the Study of the Presidency is an institution devoted to the study of the presidency, government and politics. It sponsors the Moses Leo Gitelson Essay Contest annually for junior and senior undergraduates.

Universities across the nation send students to the Student Symposium in Washington, D.C., to represent their schools and compete in the contest. Here, students meet with senior government officials, business leaders and scholars in general sessions and panel discussions.



Photo courtesy of [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

**Pres. Bill Clinton signs a bill into law. B.J. Walker ('99) and Mary Hight ('00) wrote essays on the presidency for a national contest and won first and third place, respectively.**

Photo courtesy of <http://www.uni-greifswald.de/~labanum/index.html>

### Using latex to save babies

Think science is weak at liberal arts schools like Washington and Lee? Think again. Sophomore Joel Fechisin is proof of the fallacy of that stereotype. Fechisin's research in neuroscience has been briefly summarized and published in the recent *Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) Journal* and may soon be published in a health/science magazine.

Fechisin, a biology major at W&L, spent last summer conducting research at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Jersey. Fechisin said that he and the team he was working with injected latex beads into the spinal cords of prenatal rats. "We were looking for oxygen-sensitive sites within the brain and found that they reside in local networks of respiratory and sympathetic regions," he said. "If they can find the pathway through which this transpires, they may be able to relate it to SIDS."

SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, is described by the American SIDS Institute as "the sudden and unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant, whose death remains unexplained after the performance of an adequate post-mortem investigation including 1) an autopsy, 2) investigation of the scene and circumstances of the death, and 3) exploration of the medical history of the infant and family... It is not a disease, nor can it be a diagnosis for a living baby." SIDS is associated with more children's deaths than cancer, heart disease, pneumonia, child abuse, AIDS, cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy combined.

Scientists have as yet found no verifiable cause or sure preventative measure for SIDS. Fechisin and his team's research could have implications that would make it a part of a massive worldwide effort to understand SIDS.

Fechisin and his team summarized their research in a short Abstracts article for the *FASEB Journal* and presented their research briefly last week through a poster presentation at FASEB's Experimental Biology conference in Washington, D.C., in April. FASEB provides educational meetings and publications to disperse information about biological research results. Fechisin plans to go back to the hospital this summer to complete the research, and his group hopes to have their research fully published in a magazine sometime shortly thereafter.

Fechisin got involved with this research through Governor's School. That program gave him the opportunity to do research at the hospital.

Fechisin said that while he enjoyed doing contributing work to the study, he is not positive that he really wants to spend his life injecting rats. He eventually wants to go to medical school.

"I just wanted to get my hand into it and see what it's like," he said.

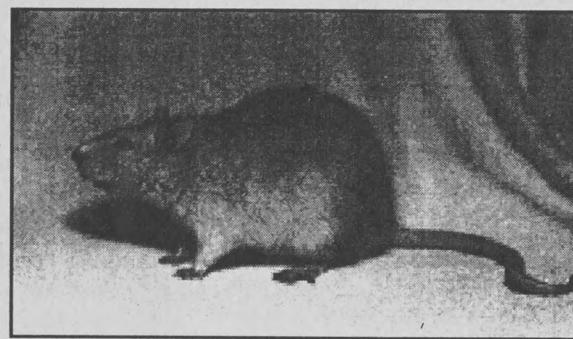


Photo courtesy of <http://www.uni-greifswald.de/~labanum/index.html>

**Joel Fechisin ('01) worked with fetal lab rats while conducting research that may lead to clues about SIDS.**

### Senior fights India's poverty

While other students were skiing and spending time with their families during winter break, senior David Sugerman went halfway around the world to help those less fortunate than himself. Sugerman went to India, serving for a month in Calcutta at Mother Teresa's Homes for the poor.

Sugerman claims that he "had wanted to do a study abroad program" that combined service and study. He went on the Internet and found out about the Partnership for Service-Learning, which sponsors such programs in 11 countries worldwide. He chose India as his destination and left the day after Christmas.



Photo courtesy of <http://www.studyabroad.com/psl/india.html>

**Partnership for Service Learning allows students to study abroad while helping people like this Indian mother and her baby.**

"I finished my exams, and in a few days I was on the plane for Calcutta," he said. Sugerman and three other students from the United States made up the India team. For the first four days, the group stayed in Delhi/New Delhi, the capital city of the Republic of India. Here, the students underwent orientation to India, did some sightseeing in Delhi, and visited Agra and the Taj Mahal. The group then moved on to Calcutta, the base for both their studies and service.

Mother Teresa established a Catholic order in Calcutta to serve the needy, and that is where the students spent their mornings. Working in conjunction with physicians from Doctors Without Borders, students brought medications to the needy, bathed them and washed their sheets by hand.

In the afternoons, students took classes from professors from Calcutta University and Calcutta Presidency College. Their classes were held on a rooftop, and the subjects of lectures included women in India, Indian government, public policy, economics and what Sugerman describes as "a good overview of Indian history and current life." Artists, movie directors and scholars also served as guest speakers for these students. The students attended 14 two-hour seminars on topics covering the history, religions and cultures of India. In addition, they made several field trips to other religious, medical, educational and service institutions in Calcutta. Students had a reading list, wrote a research paper and participated in the program in exchange for six credits in the history/sociology/

See INDIA, page 5

## Spring Term Do's and Don'ts

By Elianna Marziani  
FEATURES EDITOR

While everyone else is hopping about the country and beyond, those of us left behind get to enjoy Spring Term and all the fun it entails.

Here is your complimentary (administration-approved) TO DO list for Spring Term. Before leaving for the summer, you absolutely MUST:

1. Go to Goshen. An oldie but goodie. Directions to Goshen: Take Main Street toward Wal-Mart, but turn left onto Route 39 (the stoplight right before Wal-Mart). Stay on 39, and the popular Goshen picnic spot along the river will eventually appear on the right.

2. Go to a party at Zollman's. Directions to Zollman's: Take Route 11 south to Route 251 (Thornhill Road). Turn right onto 251 and go south, keeping on 251 past Union Run Road. Pass the country club and the Moose Lodge, turn left onto Zollman's Mill Road and stay on it until you reach Zollman's (look for all the other cars full of fellow students having fun).

3. Go to a concert or movie in Charlottesville, unless you enjoy waiting until the movie you've been waiting for is practically out on videocassette before seeing it at the Lexington theater. Directions to Charlottesville: Take Interstate 64 east for 63 miles until it crosses U.S. 29. Go east on U.S. 29 almost 3 miles until it crosses U.S. 250. Take U.S. 250 east for a mile straight into Charlottesville.

4. Go to Roanoke for a day of shopping and eating somewhere other than Salerno's or Spanky's. Directions to Roanoke: Take Nelson (Route 60) toward Harris Teeter and stay on Nelson until it crosses Interstate 81. Go south on I-81 for about an hour until the Roanoke exit appears (it is a left exit onto Interstate 581). To get to Valley View Mall, stay on I- 581 to the second Hershberger Road exit and follow the signs.

5. Go to D.C. if you're going through big-city withdrawal. General directions to Washington, D.C.: Take Interstate 81 northeast for about 110 miles until it intersects Interstate 66. Take I-66 east for about 73 miles right into Washington, D.C. More maps for the D.C. area can be found online at [www.mindspring.com/~chadallen/dc/layers/](http://www.mindspring.com/~chadallen/dc/layers/).

6. Go ANYWHERE — organize a group of friends to go on a random road trip, and go where the road leads you. There's something to be said for spontaneity.

DISCLAIMER: You really don't need to leave Lexington to have fun, as these first six options might have implied. The carless can have a great spring term, too. Read on.

7. Have a picnic with your friends out at the Ruins. Women: if you make it (the food), they (the guys) will come. Guys: free food. No further argument necessary.

8. Play Ultimate Frisbee in the BDG quad or on the front lawn.

9. Sit out on the front lawn or quad, talking, reading or working on that tan that you'll hate yourself for when the wrinkles come in another 30 years.

10. Help at Habitat for Humanity or your favorite com-

munity service group in the area.

12. Go see a couple of those three-month-old Lex movies. C'mon, it's part of the Washington and Lee experience.

13. Go to a couple of those sports events you've been "too busy" for so far in the year.

14. Join a new club. There are lots of new ones springing up, especially dance ones like the Swing Club. Learn something new.

15. Stargaze.

16. Go to some of those lectures you never had time for. We actually do get some pretty impressive speakers here. Make Mom and Dad proud: next time you call home (another great Spring Term resolution), throw around some impressive names of lecturers you've heard.

17. Attend the Mock Con Spring Kick-off: April 26-28.

18. Go to *Candide*.

19. Hang out with friends you haven't seen for a while because you've been conducting or undergoing pledging.

20. Think of something special to do for Mom — mark May 9th on your calendar. It's Mother's Day, SHE won't forget, so you'd better not either.

And if you're feeling really lazy...

21. Catch up on a couple of e-mails to long-distance friends you've abandoned during hectic winter term.

22. Have a movie marathon with some friends.

23. Play cards. Learn a new game.

24. SLEEP — this IS spring term, after all!

Here is your DO NOT list. It is shorter, so it should be easy to remember. Things you should not be caught DEAD doing spring term:

1. Sitting in your room chatting online. IM (instant messaging) is occasionally (emphasis on OCCASIONALLY) excusable, but chatrooms are a definite no-no spring term. It's just too nice outside to waste the weather.

2. Overloading coursework. Yes, you are a W&L student, but you are human, too. Take a break! Six credits is more than enough. Hey, who are we kidding, three credits sounds good, too!

3. Proving for yourself that I am honest when I say that the custodians start cleaning the library around 3 a.m. in the morning. You should have absolutely no clue if I am telling the truth or not (aside from the fact that I am a W&L student and thus have to live according to the honor system!) ... DO NOT be caught in the library that late. Ever.

4. Taking advantage of D-hall's ice cream bar. Only five weeks 'til summer and long days at the pool and the beach in your swimsuit. Think about it.

5. Following the advice in #4. C'mon, you only live once!

6. Making excuses for not going outside. If you follow #2 and #3, you should not have too much work. And in this modern age of Benadryl®, Dimetapp®, and a personal favorite, Claritin®, allergies are no excuse either. Spring days are too gorgeous NOT to enjoy.

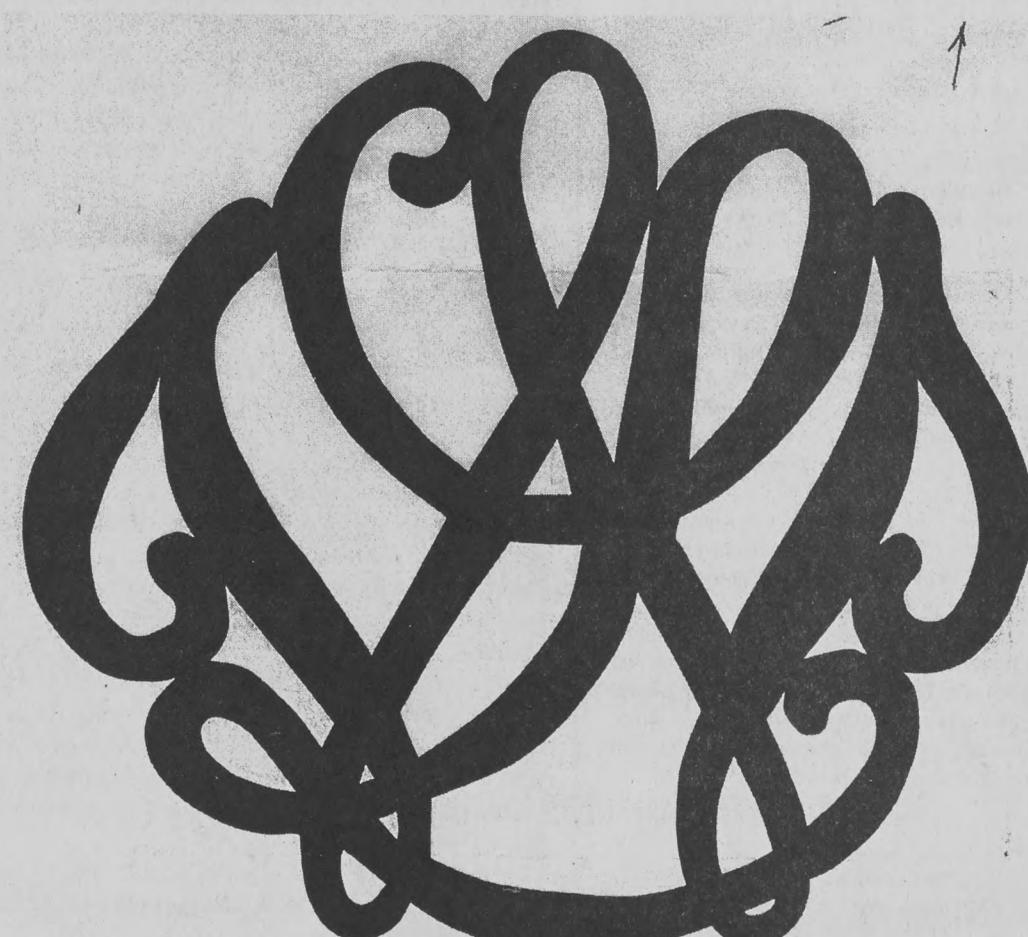
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## Need an escape? Try the beach

By Erica Prosser  
SENIOR EDITOR

Does the warmer weather have you itching to travel? Do you have absolutely no idea what there is to do in Virginia for fun over a weekend? Do you need help planning your next spring road trip? Look no further! In this week's travel feature, we explore Virginia Beach, the proof that we are not as land-locked as we feel here in Lexington.

You don't have to go all the way to Florida to have your sand craving satisfied. Just 243 miles east of here is Virginia Beach, a region of Virginia that actually touches the ocean. Best of all, other attractions, such as museums and water parks, are close by, so if you decide to come in out of the sun, there are other things to do for fun. But first, the beaches themselves ...

Atlantic Avenue is the famous "strip" in Virginia Beach and is listed as the world's largest resort beach by Guinness World Records. This area features three miles of boardwalk, restaurants, patio bars, shops and other attractions. This is great if you're a tourist (or if you want to soak up the tourist ambience).

If you want a beach slightly less busy, try Sandbridge, just south of the strip. It still has services such as lifeguards, but it stays a little quieter.

For the most peaceful beach experiences, try the beaches preferred by locals who are trying to avoid tourists. Chick's Beach and Ft. Story, both on the Chesapeake, are quiet and pleasant, but parking can be tough to find in these areas.

If you're looking for a rustic, nature-filled beach, try the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The beaches here are not accessible by car and are well off the beaten path, but they are worth the visit.

If you want to play in the water but not on the beach, local services offer many ways to enjoy the surf. You can rent jet skis or take pontoon boat tours from Virginia Beach, and you can take a harbor tour or rent a kayak from Norfolk. Fishing, parasailing and surfing are all available, too. So whatever your relationship to water, Virginia Beach has you covered.



Photo courtesy of <http://www.ego.net/us/va/vb/index.htm>

**Surfers enjoy the waves at Virginia Beach.**



Photo courtesy of <http://www.ego.net/us/va/vb/index.htm>

**The popular boardwalk in Virginia Beach appeals to people of all ages.**

events, try [www.va-beach.net](http://www.va-beach.net) for more information.

Have fun, and don't forget to wear sunscreen!

### INDIA, continued from page 4

religion/literature field.

Sugerman had mixed reactions about his trip, happy to gain the experience but understandably disturbed by all the poverty and destitution he witnessed in Calcutta. Sugerman, a pre-med major, said, "I went to India to see what international medicine would be like. I certainly still have an interest in it. It's just difficult to see men that are '45 years old and weigh 80 pounds. Now I'm still interested in [international medicine], but I've realized that it's not going to be all that idealistic."

His time in India served as a wake-up call to the horrible realities of life for many people. "To realize that you're only getting a fraction of the people who need help . . . it's overwhelming," he said. He stressed that even though he had expected shocking poverty, there is no way to prepare yourself for what you actually witness in India. "It was difficult," he said.

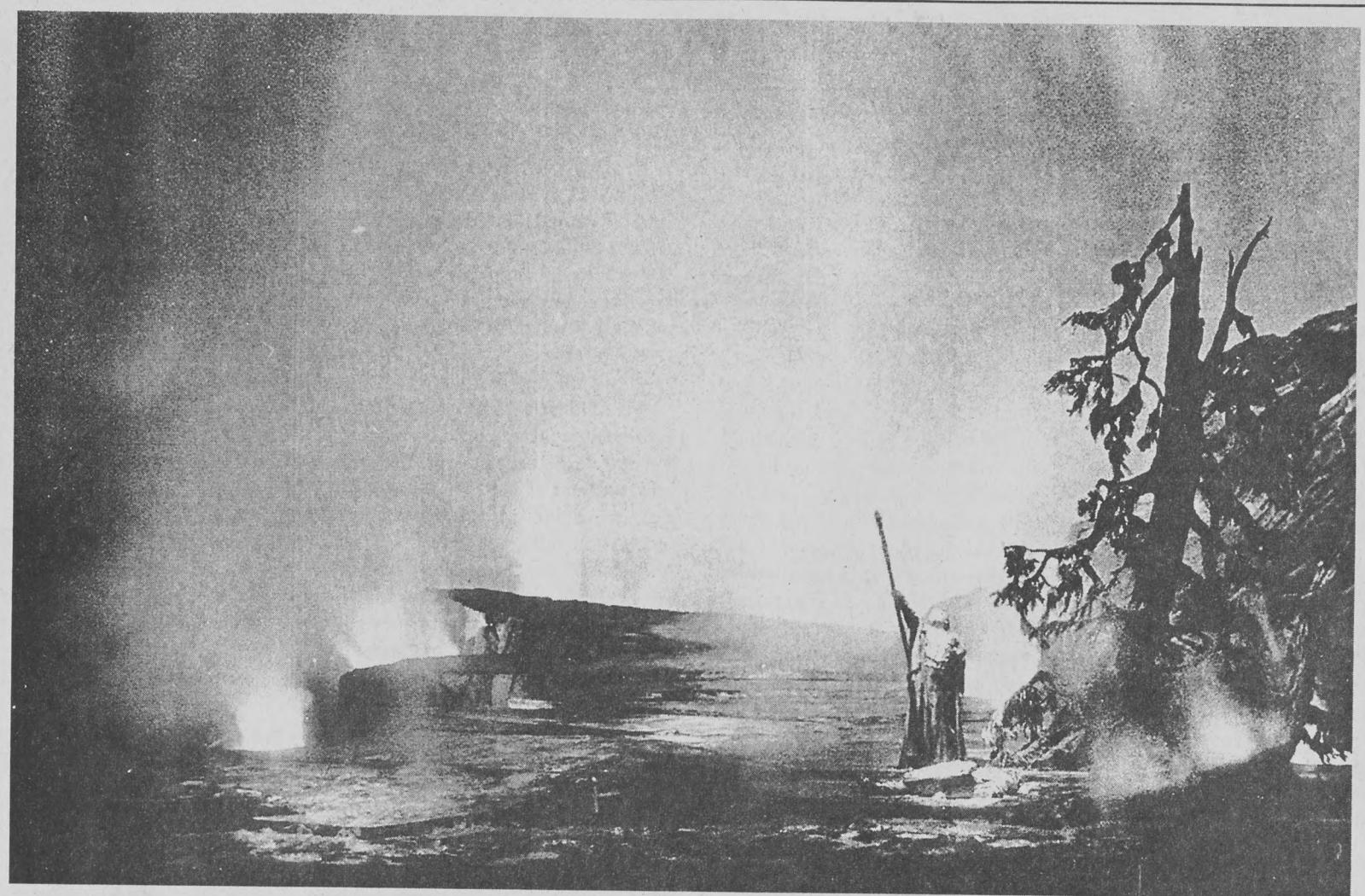
Sugerman plans to go to medical school at either the Medical College of Virginia or Thomas Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia.

Though some experiences in India were difficult, Sugerman was able to say, "I'm very glad I went."

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## What exactly is going on in this photo?

Take a look at this fascinating photograph. Now tell us what you see. Is it Moses chatting with God?

Is it the Washington and Lee chemistry department after an experiment gone horribly wrong?

Is it the fate of those who do not return library books within the specified time?

Tell us what you think this picture is, and your twisted ideas could be featured in next week's *Ring-tum Phi*.

Just send an e-mail with your name and class to [marzianie@wlu.edu](mailto:marzianie@wlu.edu) or [eprosser@wlu.edu](mailto:eprosser@wlu.edu). Tell us what you think the caption of this picture should be. We will choose the best suggested caption and run it with this picture next week.

We will also include the runners-up for best caption, just to be fair. And remember: if the winning caption cannot fulfill its duties, it is the job of the first runner-up to step in ...

Some rules for you creative minds out there before you start sending us your thoughts:

Don't send us any words or phrases that could get you slapped by

your grandmother. You know what we mean.

Don't send us anything offensive or really horrible about a specific, named person or group on this campus (we may be forced to slap you ourselves).

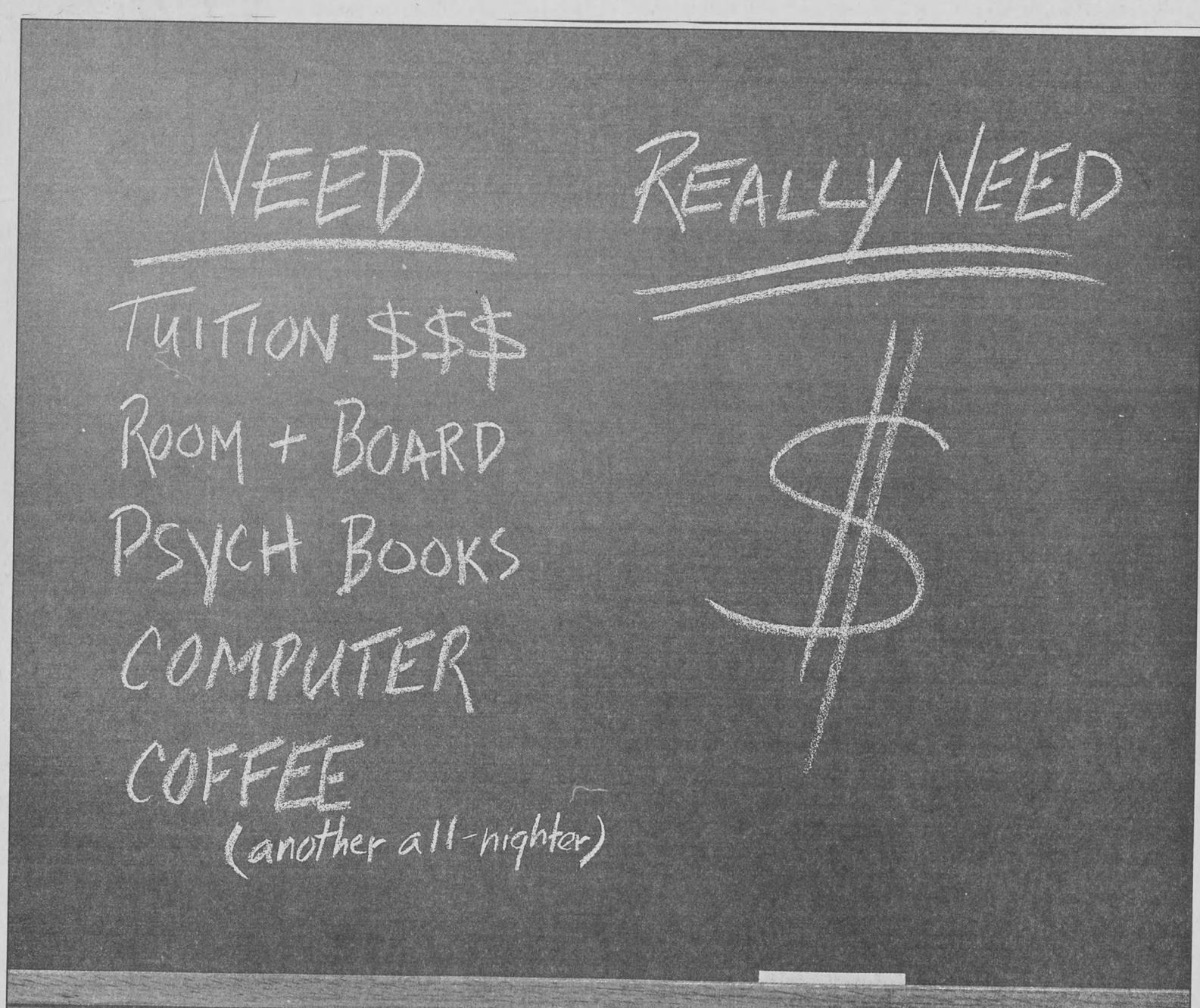
All captions must be in English and no longer than a paragraph (just a sentence or two should do it).

Get the submissions in before 5 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 1999 if you want them considered.

If you are allergic to e-mail, you can also submit captions by placing them in the manila envelope marked "W&Life" outside *The Ring-tum Phi* office, which is located in the University Center, room 208. If you do this, make sure captions are legible and that your name and class appear clearly with the caption. If we can't read your writing, we're not going to bother calling you to ask about it.

Captions will not be returned, no matter how much you plead. If we get a strong enough response, we will try to run a photo caption contest as a weekly feature in the W&Life section.

Be creative, and good luck!



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# The Ring-tum Phi SPORTS

APRIL 26, 1999

PAGE 7

## Women's lax ousted in semis



Photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

Seniors Lauren Francis, Cory Mettee, Kimmy Lubin, and Karin Treese are honored before the first-round ODAC game against Bridgewater. The seniors were highlighted for their play.

By Frances Groberg  
*SPORTS EDITOR*

Once again, Randolph-Macon proved to be a stumbling block for this year's Generals. In the semifinals of the ODAC Tournament, the third-seeded Washington and Lee women's lacrosse team fell to the second-seeded Yellow Jackets by a score of 10-6. With the loss, the team ends their season with a record of 7-8.

Randolph-Macon jumped out to an early lead, scoring six of the first seven goals. The Generals went into halftime down 7-2. During the break, the team tried to find a way to adjust their outlook on the game.

"I think we went into the game scared," junior defense Ansley Miller said. "At halftime we realized that we really needed to go out and take charge, that it wasn't just going to come to us. The score was bad, but we knew it wasn't impossible. We were in control of our own destiny."

Behind goals from sophomore attack Liz Borges and senior midfielder Karin Treese, the Generals were able to pull within 7-4 with 13:41 remaining, but Macon responded with three quick goals to dash the hopes of W&L.

"Our attitude was that we had nothing to lose," Head Coach Jan Hathorn said. "Early in the game we had our opportunities to score the goals and cash in, but we didn't. They played their game, and played it very well."

The Generals were led offensively by sophomore midfielder Caroline Gee, who scored two goals. Junior goalkeeper Ginny Jernigan recorded 11 saves on the day.

To get to the semifinals, the Generals recorded a solid 17-4 victory over the sixth-seeded Bridgewater College. Borges tied a career high six goals and also added two assists to the effort. The Generals scored the last three goals to go into halftime with a 7-3 lead.

After halftime, the Generals scored the first eight goals of the second half en route to the 13-goal victory. The Generals were led offensively by Borges. Freshman attack Eloise Priest and junior attack Katherine Riddle scored three goals apiece. W&L junior goalkeeper Ginny Jernigan collected six saves for the Generals.

"I think we experienced a lot of growing pains this year," Miller said. "Every team has to go through that at some point. I hope that the feeling we had at the end of the game will stay with everyone and motivate us for next year."

Hathorn has no regrets about the season.

"There were times when we were absolutely brilliant, and times when we showed how young we are. My greatest goal for them was to learn the level at which you have to play day in, day out, minute after minute to be successful at a high level, and I think we did that."



Photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor



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## Where have you gone?

Pondering the loss of sports heroes in 1999 and kudos to W&L spring sports.

By Dan Grattan  
*NEWS EDITOR*

1999 may be remembered as the year of the lost superstar. Not even a third of the way through the year, and professional basketball, baseball, hockey and now football have all said goodbye to the great ambassadors of their sport.

In January, Michael Jordan bid farewell to basketball after mesmerizing the world with his amazing abilities over the past 14 years. He ended his career as the all-time NBA career scoring average leader, putting in 31.5 points per game. He may very well have been the greatest basketball player ever.

Baseball also lost an immortal figure earlier this year in Joe DiMaggio, who died at age 84 this April. Known as the "Yankee Clipper" and "Joltin' Joe", DiMaggio was the embodiment of what a professional baseball player was supposed to be; he played for the love of the sport and not for the love of his contract.

Last week, Wayne Gretzky, known as "The Great One", retired from hockey after 21 seasons, four Stanley Cups, and every NHL scoring record worth having to his credit. Gretzky retired as a New York Ranger, but won all of his championships in the 1980's with the

then-dominant Edmonton Oilers.

And now John Elway, whose name has become synonymous with the Denver Broncos, will soon announce his retirement from football, according to ESPN. He is one of the last transcendent athletes our time who, like Jordan, will leave the game on top, riding out the thrill of repeating as World Champion.

So where does that leave professional sports? Any league lacking a true superstar is not for me. I anxiously await the arrival of a player that can take his sport to another level in the near future, like Jordan and Gretzky did ten years ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

On a most positive note, congratulations to the W&L Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis and Men's Lacrosse teams for capturing the ODAC Championships this past weekend.

And cheers to the baseball team who, along with top-seeded Bridgewater earned a spot in the ODAC baseball tournament next weekend. If the bats stay lively and the defense steady for the Generals, we may have to make room for one more championship trophy in the case.

## Tennis cleans up at ODACs

By Robert Turner  
*SPORTS WRITER*

The Washington and Lee men's tennis team had another successful ODAC tournament this weekend, winning their fourth consecutive conference championship.

The Generals finished eight points ahead of runner-up Hampden-Sydney and twenty-eight points in front of third place Virginia Wesleyan.

The team had success in both singles and doubles competition, as sophomore Kelly Radford, senior Scott Babka, freshman Rhys James, senior David Lehman, and freshman Andrew Roberts all won singles titles.

Doubles teams consisting of senior Dale Pretila/Babka, James/Radford, and Roberts/senior Tom Washburn swept the doubles competition. Despite their tremendous success in ODACs, the team still

waits to see if they will receive a bid to the 1999 NCAA Tournament which will be held in California.

"By winning ODACs we lived up to some of our pre-season expectations. We would have liked to win the region but nothing at ODACs was a disappointment," freshman Andrew Robertson said.

On Tuesday, the women's team destroyed Roanoke 9-0 in their final match of the season. Wins in singles were posted by junior Brook Hartzell, senior Erin Eggers, freshman Melissa Hatley, freshman Manning Willard, sophomore Christina Campbell, and sophomore Anne Castello.

All doubles teams were also victorious, including Hartzell/Hatley, Eggers/Willard, and Campbell/Castello. The win improved the team to 16-4 overall and 11-0 in the ODAC.

The ODAC tournament was held at Sweet Briar College from Friday to Sunday. The results of the tournament were not available at press time.

**ARTHUR  
ANDERSEN**  
*Warmly Welcomes*

The Class of 1999 Full Time Staff

*Assurance & Business Advisory Services, Vienna*  
Amy Greenberg  
Stephen Guenther  
Rachel Nitsche

*Office of Government Services, Washington, D.C.*  
Cory Mettee

The Class of 2000 Summer Interns

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We congratulate them on their outstanding achievements at Washington and Lee University and look forward to having them on the team.

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# LAST WORD

APRIL 26, 1999

## In the wake of the Trench Coat Mafia

By Kevin McManemin  
*RAVING AND DROOLING*

Let's review a few of the arguments that have been floating around the media since a couple of Colorado kids turned their high school into their own wacky shooting range:

**We need to put God back in our schools. This never would have happened if we taught basic Judeo-Christian morality in our public schools.**

First of all, has anybody ever heard of parents?

Second of all, the public school system does a bad enough job of teaching too many subjects already. If we add morality classes, all that will do is give America's students one more subject to fail. In addition to not learning history and not learning math, our children can not learn about morality as well. Super. Next thing you know we'll be reading about how far our kids are behind the Koreans in the number of Commandments they can name.

Finally, Judeo-Christian morality has been around for a long time and let's face it, folks, it hasn't exactly worked that swimmingly. The history

of humanity is filled with Inquisitions, Crusades, Kathie Lee Gifford Christmas Specials and other nasty things.

"Hey, let's teach the kids about Jesus!" Yeah, great. Maybe instead of opening fire on the jocks they'll just shoot up an abortion clinic instead.

**Violent movies and television are to blame. We need more censorship to protect our children.**

Every time. Every single time some loser off a few of his classmates, we blame the movies and television. This argument has more flaws than OJ Simpson's defense. First of all, a lot of people watch violent movies and surprisingly few of them turn into homicidal maniacs. In fact, Hollywood's shoot-em-up violence epics score big on the international box office yet it's only American kids who seem to have this little murder problem. Canadians watch most of the same movies we do, and have you looked at the crime statistics for Canada? Their idea of a crime wave is two shopliftings in the same province in the same month, eh?

Yet fat-headed idiots still go on CNN and blame the movies. One guy suggested we put a tax on violent movies — charge the filmmakers mil-

lions for violent content and jack up ticket prices to \$50 each (I know that's so ridiculous it sounds like a joke but I'm serious, some lackwit actually said that).

Why aren't we blaming CNN? Do you suppose this crime might have been influenced by the other highly-publicized school slaughters that happened in the past few years? Isn't CNN just feeding into these pathetic kids' goal of getting attention?

They say these kids idolized Hitler. Oh, I don't know, but do you suppose the whole "mass murder" idea might have had a bit more to do with Hitler and a bit less to do with Quentin Tarantino? I suppose we should outlaw all books about Adolph and World War II, lest some kid get a bad idea. And let's look at Hitler. I doubt he ever rented any Scorsese flicks at the Berlin Blockbuster, but he seemed to have that whole "violence" thing down pretty well.

**We need stricter...**

Hold on, I'm not done with that last one yet. Nothing makes me madder than the egregious flaws in logic evident in the "let's censor violent entertainment" argument. If we go after violent movies, I guess we should take

Shakespeare out of our schools — most of his plays end with someone getting stabbed. They even gouge a man's eyes out in "King Lear." THEY GOUGE GLOUCESTER'S EYES OUT FOR GOD'S SAKE! That's high art, but "Reservoir Dogs" is pure crap? (Though, granted, Shakespeare doesn't resort to the f-word five times a sentence).

Violence is a simple fact of human existence. It's in our blood, and we're not about to get rid of it unless we change human society, human history, human physiology and human psychology. Changing the picture shows at the local cinematatorium won't change a thing. Entertainment is our release from the problems of this world, not the cause. Clinton bombs the Serbs and we cheer; kids bomb the cafeteria and suddenly people are asking "where did they learn this behavior?" Wake up, folks, it ain't the movies.

like it if some psychopath opened up at W&L, unless he just bombed the Law School in which case I think there would be widespread dancing and carousing in the streets the likes of which haven't been seen since V-J day.

You wouldn't say that if you were a law student.  
If I were a law student I'd do my civic duty and slit my own wrists.

This is pointless.  
Thank you.

## FUN FOR ALUMS!

**Make your own college yarn**

An official W&L  
**250th**  
activity

"250 years of meaningless milestones"

[1]  
Flipsy  
Dink  
Royce  
Sneetch

[2]  
C. Preston Buckworthy IV  
T. Wescott Haupt-Lang III  
Dr. H.R. Pennington C. Lee IV  
J. Wembley Stuart Stewart VIII

[3]  
Natty Bo  
Bootleg turpentine & rat poison  
Syphilis  
Fine Cabbage Liquor

[4]  
Dance the Charleston with a horse  
Run naked all the way to Belgium  
Go out with a lady — UNESCORTED!  
Lynch a carpetbagger

[5]  
The backseat of our covered wagon  
President Taft's daughter  
Tarnation, dag rabbit  
Beano's weed supply (for '70s' alums)

**Are you done with that one yet?**  
Yeah, let's move on to the next argument.

**We need stricter gun control laws.**

Now I'm no legal scholar, but aren't there already laws against minors owning guns? Those laws didn't really seem to work in this case, did they? Why do we think more laws are going to solve things? Why am I suddenly asking so many questions? I'm not offering very many solutions, am I? Is this piece over yet?

**These senseless killings are a great tragedy.**

Let's put things in perspective. The popularity of Backstreet Boys, In Sync and 98° — now there's a tragedy.

**That's not nice. How would you like it if some psychopath opened fire at W&L?**

Don't worry, Prof. Holliday left.

**That was just a rumor. It wasn't true.**

Well, anyway, I suppose I wouldn't

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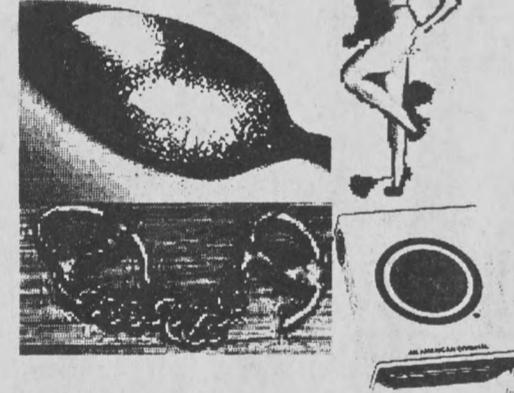
*Darryl's shopping spree*

**Hooker: \$50**

**Cocaine: \$75**

**Pack of prison cigarettes: \$10**

**Ruining your professional baseball career: priceless**



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