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The Ring-tum Phi

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1999

Senior charged with rape, sodomy

Dorm counselor accused by Sweet Briar student in alleged January incident

By Vanessa Chen
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee University senior James McKnight was arrested on Tuesday, Oct. 19, after a female Sweet Briar College student alleged that he forcibly raped and sodomized her. McKnight serves as Washington and Lee assistant dorm counselor.

The alleged incident took place in Graham-Lees Dormitory on Jan. 30 of this year when the female victim was 18 years-old. Now 19, she reported the incident to the police earlier this month after privately undergoing counseling. According to Sergeant Wayne Straub, the investigating officer, she now feels ready to testify against her alleged attacker.

"Often times, a victim doesn't come forward right away and that poses a problem for the police," Straub said.

Vicky Agnor, the victim/witness coordinator for the Lexington Commonwealth Attorney, is working with the victim and believes this will be a difficult case because the victim did not go to the hospital or the police right away.

"It's not typical of a rape victim to go right to the police, but that's what they need to do," Agnor said. "It makes this case harder because there's no DNA evidence and it's been a while since the attack occurred."

In a case like this, it will be McKnight's word against the victim's.

Janette Boyes-Ramos, a forensic nurse examiner at Stonewall Jackson Hospital, says that it's best for a victim to go the hospital right away so the physical evidence can be preserved.

"After 72 hours, there's not much point in doing it," Boyes-Ramos said. "But with rape trauma, a lot of times this doesn't happen."

Forcible rape and forcible sodomy are felonies, each of which carries the punishment of more than one year in prison. Sodomy is defined as oral and/or anal intercourse. The preliminary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 16, but is subject to change and could be continued into December.

There is a preliminary hearing anytime there is a felony charge and the victim must testify at it. If the judge decides there is probable cause, it will go on to the grand jury in circuit court. The grand jury is a group of private citizens who hear evidence in the case and decide whether or not to return an indictment against the defendant. If the defendant is indicted, the case will go to trial and the defendant must plead guilty or not guilty at his arraignment. During the trial, the plaintiff will be called to testify against the defendant.

Agnor says that for the victim, telling her story at each stage of the judicial process will be the most difficult task.

"You have a defense attorney asking you lots of questions and we try to prepare them for that," Agnor said. "We let them know it's going to get harder with every step of the process."

Usually, the defense attorney will bring the victim's character into question and try to establish doubt as to whether what occurred was rape or consensual sex. Straub agrees that this part of the court process is the hardest for the victim.

"The way this [judicial] system's set up, a lot of times the victim is victimized again by the system itself," Straub said.

If McKnight is convicted of a felony, he could lose his ROTC scholarships and consequently have to repay the money. For McKnight, this would be approximately \$100,000 because he was on a full scholarship. Even if he is not convicted, just having felony charges on his record would seriously hinder the military career McKnight is intending to pursue. He would also face disciplinary action from the Student/Faculty Hearing Board at Washington and Lee University. The Board of Trustees could postpone or withhold his degree if he is convicted.

In the meantime, the victim is working on her case with Agnor and receiving counseling. McKnight declined to comment, but has already spoken to his hall about the incident and moved out of his dorm room. Dorm counselors Colin Tate and



photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

MOM, DAD, THIS IS... Junior Bryant Adams and his parents talk with Professor of history Ted Delaney on the Lee House lawn during the parents' luncheon on Saturday.

Michael Crittenden will share responsibility for McKnight's hall. His responsibilities as assistant head dorm counselor will be split among the other assistant heads.

Straub is still investigating the incident and interviewing people. He wants to gather as much information as he can about the case in order to be fair to both sides.

"I'm just trying to find out the truth and in this case, that's the hardest thing," Straub said.

Live Drive back in the saddle again

By Michael Crittenden
NEWS EDITOR

Picture this, you and your roommates have all been drinking out at your country house on a Friday night and you really want to go see The Breakfast Club in town. Thinking that you are "okay" to drive, you grab your keys and head out the door. Instead of all piling into your car and making the long, drunken drive into town, however, you suddenly see a flier above the door with the number 462-8100, the number to Live Drive. That's when you remember the history of students who have died in drunken-driving accidents, and the stiff penalties for getting caught. That's when you call.

"Sometimes I really want to get into town and drive drunk," said a junior who asked to remain anonymous. "Live Drive gives me a chance to not have to do that."

Live Drive is a Washington and Lee volunteer organization that provides sober drivers for students on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m. Three or four student drivers take calls at the Live Drive number and pick up students around Rockbridge County and take them where they want to go. Organization president Christie Phillips said that sometimes students get a little ridiculous asking for rides, but for the most part students respect the student drivers.

"We occasionally have people who will ask for a ride six or seven times a night, back and forth between places, just as a joke," said Phillips. "Most students, however, appreciate the program

Group to educate local youth

By Michael Crittenden
NEWS EDITOR

A new education group hopes to expand campus awareness and involvement in local schools and educational issues.

The yet-to-be-named group was started by junior Dan Birdwhistell and

sophomore Brooks Hickman as a forum for educational discussions, and as an outlet for Washington and Lee students who want to volunteer their time for educational pursuits.

"Our goal is three-fold. First, we want to discuss education reform issues; second, we want to increase tutoring opportunities at local schools; and third, we are planning many service projects to do with the kids," Birdwhistell said.

Birdwhistell said that the main focus of the group would be to organize the numerous tutoring programs that already exist on campus. According to Birdwhistell, there are many opportunities available on campus, but they are widespread and not well organized.

"A lot of times, students only volunteer when they see a flier or hear about an opportunity from a friend," Birdwhistell said. "We hope to act as a central clearinghouse for tutoring on campus, in order to increase involvement."

The other main focus of the group is going to be enrichment projects at local schools, according to freshman group member Jane Ledlie. Ledlie said that the projects will expand on tutoring by involving students at local schools in activities they would not normally participate in.

"We want to give students an op-

portunity to learn and experience things they otherwise wouldn't be able to," Ledlie said. "One idea we had was to take underprivileged students from local schools to the zoo in Washington D.C."

Birdwhistell said other ideas included having Washington and Lee students act as college counselors for Rockbridge County High School students. W&L students would act as a resource for questions the high school students had about the application process, college essays and on choosing the right college.

Initial response for the group has been quite positive said Birdwhistell and Ledlie. Birdwhistell said that one reason for this is the need for a group of this type on campus.

"There is a void for people who are concerned with education issues that must be filled," Birdwhistell said. "The Future Teachers of America (F.T.A.) is more career-oriented, and doesn't fill the service role that we hope to."

The F.T.A. is a student group focused on academic and career issues for Washington and Lee students who are interested in teaching. W&L doesn't offer an education major, but interested students can receive their teaching certification through Mary

SEE 'EDUCATION' ON PAGE 2



photo by Arne Kuhlman/The Trident

I'M CRAZY NAPKIN HEAD: A student and his father enjoy lunch together during the weekend's festivities.

The Ring-tum Phi November 1, 1999

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Baldwin College. F.T.A. member Erin Partridge said that she hopes the two groups can work in conjunction.

"Because we (the F.T.A.) are academic-oriented, and the new education group is more service-oriented, the two groups should be able to help each other," Partridge said. "I can definitely see us working together in the future."

Student interest was very positive at the education group's first meeting said Birdwhistell. He said 30 students were at the meeting, and 20 more had called him about getting involved with tutoring or teaching opportunities. He said the group members are very positive and that he is looking forward to a successful future for the group.

"This is something Washington and Lee needs. We are going to consolidate the tutoring opportunities on campus and give students an even greater opportunity to give back to the local community. This is a college campus that's resources in education go untapped because there is no mechanism to encourage involvement. We hope to be that mechanism."

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smoother, however."

Phillips said that Live Drive is going to apply for a grant that would give it enough money to expand its ability to serve students. The new money could be used to pay drivers more money, and to buy much needed cellular phones for drivers.

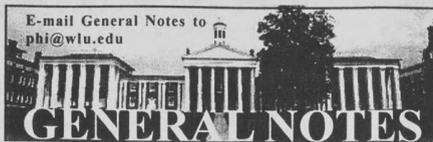
"The greatest problem with Live Drive is that once a driver is out on a run we have no way of reaching them," Phillips said. "With cell phones we would be able to reach people while they were out driving and be much more efficient."

Many other schools have similar programs to Washington and Lee's. The University of San Diego has a program where students can call for a taxi, and then the school will reimburse the taxi company for the fare. USD junior Luke Piepkorn said that the program has helped him more than once.

"I have thought about driving home before, after I've been drinking, but I always remember to call a cab," Piepkorn said. "It's stupid to drive drunk, but sometimes I need to get home. The program has probably saved my life."

With a number of students living off campus, drinking and driving is a major issue at Washington and Lee. According to Phillips, students have to realize there is a better alternative.

"People [at this school] think that because this is Lexington there is no need to worry about driving drunk. Well there is, and we don't need a fatality to prove it. Live Drive is here for the students, so use it."



Academic major nights to be held

The first week in November, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, there will be academic peer mentoring done by the residence life staff. Almost all majors will be covered in one of the three nights. Monday is Science and C-school night, Tuesday is foreign languages, and Wednesday is humanities. Each major will have an approximately 20 minute talk, with a question and answer session at the end. All freshman and sophomores are encouraged to attend! Look for signs in the D-hall and on the residence halls for exact times. All meetings will be held in the C-School. If there are any questions, please contact Sula Jacobs at x4490.

Glasgow Endowment poetry reading

The Glasgow Endowment is sponsoring a program on November 9th in bilingual poetry with readings by

Lamont Prize winning poet, Marilyn Kacker, and French Poet Claire Malroux. It will be at 5pm in Northern Auditorium on Tuesday, November 9th.

PRIDE to host discussion

On Tuesday evening (November 2, 1999) PRIDE (Programming for the Respect of Individuals and Diversity in Education) will host a talk by Burr Datz concerning homosexuality and tolerance. An open discussion will follow. It will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Northern Auditorium in the Leyburn Library.

Flu vaccine available on campus

The Student Health Center is offering the flu vaccine for \$5 to W&L students, faculty and staff and immediate family members (age 13 or over). The vaccine can significantly reduce your chances of coming down with the flu this winter, and if it doesn't offer complete protection, should lessen the severity of the illness. Most people with the flu recover completely, but are usually sick for several days to a week or more. Flu is especially severe in people with underlying chronic illness and may progress to pneumonia to other complications. The virus is easily transmitted in college and dorm environments, and

outbreaks are common on college campuses. Flu is most common in the U.S. from December through March so it is best to get vaccinated between Early October and mid-November.

The vaccine will not give you the flu, because it is a killed virus vaccine. It generally causes only mild side effects such as a sore or tender arms at the injection site, or possibly fever, chills, headache or muscle aches for 24 to 48 hours. People with a serious allergy to eggs should not take the vaccine, and anyone with a fever, acute respiratory or other active infection or illness should wait until they have recovered to get the vaccine. For more information visit the CDC web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/flu.htm>. The flu vaccine will be available at the University Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on November 1, 2, 15 and 16 and December 6 and 7. It is also available at the Student Health Center anytime (except between 12-1 p.m. and 6-7 p.m. daily). Students may bill the \$5 charge home.

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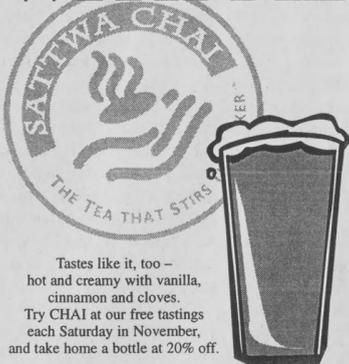
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Keep your clothes on; buttons on wrong side

And so another Parents' Weekend comes to a close, and once again I sit here writing another editorial. I must say, however, that I am rather blank with topics to write on this week. Yeah our parents got drunk, made asses out of themselves like we do every week, and generally had a great time while only getting on our nerves a little bit. I actually was orphaned this weekend, but that's another half-baked story of donnybrooks, burning boots, and firecrackers. Not for the timid of heart. So unfortunately, I

Φ Backporch Balderdash
Michael Crittenden '01

except that I had a good time having beers on the porch of Morris House the other day. So instead I had a fairly mellow weekend, hanging out with Brother Shake Jimson, being on the sidelines for the best football game in school history, and meeting the parents of all the little hellions—I mean freshmen that enjoy keeping me up until 4 a.m. So instead of writing the same old story about your fraternity brother's crazy milf who you were sure you could hook-up with, I am going to write about something much more exciting: the reason why men's and women's clothes button differently.

Word has it from an expert source that there is a definite historical reason for the seemingly useless difference between the buttoning side of men's and women's clothes. The alleged reason is that back in the 15th and 16th centuries, women were dressed by others. (Can I still apply for this?) Thus we owe the current confusion in the minds of clothiers today to women who were too lazy to dress themselves. What, it was too difficult being a member of the royal court, beat up from playing too much croquet, smiling too much etc.?

There is also the more widely accepted idea that the buttons are on the other side for women because women are trying to make it that much more difficult for men to take off their clothes; not put them on, as women would have you believe happened "historically." Instead, I believe it is an evil plot by women of the same ilk as bras in trying to confound men and see how blue the human body can get. Not to say that either obstacle is really that hard in figuring out, but come on, are you trying to tell us that women's clothes couldn't have more velcro or snaps? How hard would it really be to make a good velcro underwire? This is how they get you. Instead of making it easy they make it purposely hard, like an extra row of concentric wire outside of a bunker. Well fortified with their confusing buttons and triple loop clasp bras, they entice and then entrap innocent men everywhere. In fact, there is probably a secret women's newsletter that is mailed around to every estrogen-gifted human on the planet, consisting solely of articles mocking men who were too excited to be able to figure out a pair of button-fly jeans or the one-handed front clasp removal technique.

Thus, it becomes obvious that the reason that women's clothes have buttons on the wrong side is that they are inherently evil beings that revel in teasing us poor defenseless males who are merely captivated by their beauty and faux gentility. It also makes it hard for women and men to exchange clothes. Sure a woman can figure out how to wear a button down as a sexy night shirt, but how are we supposed to figure out how a cardigan set works? Not that I know how, or what, a cardigan set is, but say... oh nevermind. Just remember men, women are trying to get you everyday, with those innocent smiles, Miracle bras and "let's just be friends," they are out there to get you. This is why we must strike back. A man, or cabal of men, need to take over the lingerie and clothes industries, instituting mandatory velcro and easy-undo buttons at all costs. Otherwise, we will be lost.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Admissions diversity attempt takes away from school

Dear Editor,
When you see reviews of Washington & Lee, you see things like big Greek school, big beer drinking school, big liquor school, happiest students on campus, rich in tradition, and the most homogeneous campus.

Unfortunately, I feel all of this is about to change. People that come to this school, come here for what it is known for. Grandparents, parents, brothers, and sisters all attend W&L because of the great stories they heard about how the school was back when. I came here for somewhat similar reasons.

I hadn't heard of W&L until late in high school, at which time I started doing research on it and learning about its history and characteristics. This is when I ran across the items mentioned above. I was intrigued. I was curious. I wanted to know more.

I applied to many schools of varying sizes and characteristics. I chose to come to W&L because of what I saw when I visited. I saw people who were just like me. I saw a beautiful campus filled with happy students and rich tradition.

What I did not see then, I am beginning to see now. I am seeing students segregate themselves from each

other. Not just by race, but by their general characteristics.

People always complain that the speaking tradition isn't being upheld. Well, this is the reason why.

The root of the problem is the W&L Admissions. They seem to be seeking out diversity of all types. Racial diversity. Interest diversity. Social diversity. And any other diversity you can think of.

I don't know if they are sweating now that W&L has slipped a few notches in the Best Liberal Arts College rankings. I don't know if they are trying to find the smart of the smart and forgetting about the rest.

Personality matters. How someone will fit in and enjoy the school and the atmosphere is important. It must be examined in the admissions process. I don't feel they're ignoring it, just not paying enough attention to it.

There are certain changes you can make in a school that will turn out for the best. Changing this institution from all male to co-educational has definitely turned out for the best. It has improved the reputation of the school. It has made it more competitive. That, my friends, is a good change.

What is happening now to W&L is a bad change. Pretty soon, these changes that are taking place are not only going to segregate the present students, but are going to make the school less desirable to those students who, like me, are looking for a big Greek school with lots of beer drinking, rich in tradition and seamless.

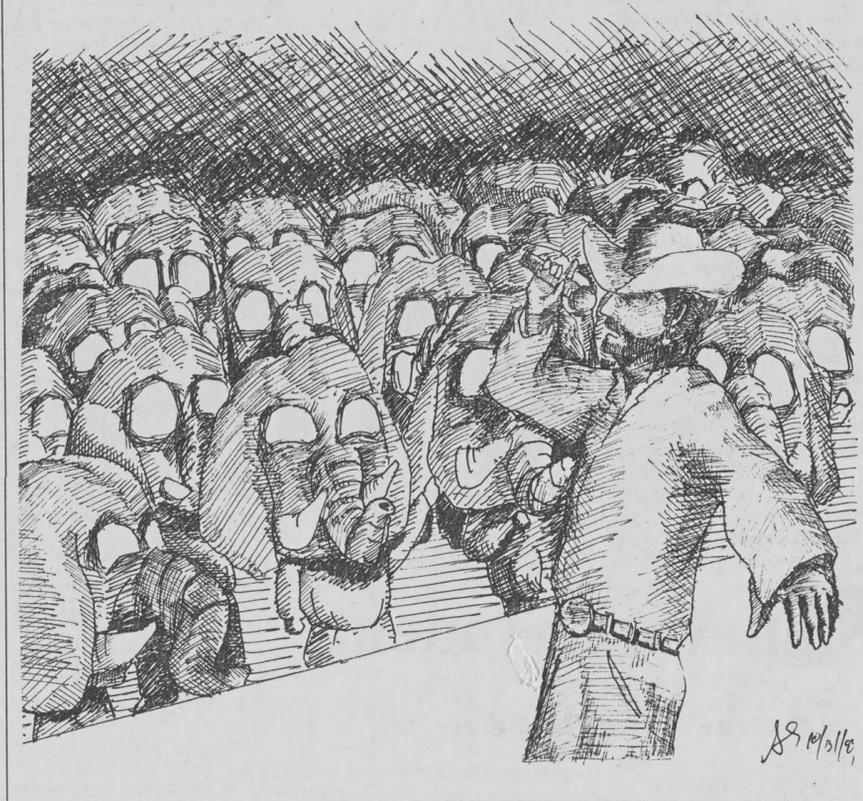
The more admissions tries to recruit GPAs, countries, and backgrounds, the less they will be recruiting people that belong here because of who they are.

Last year, I was chosen by some organization putting together a book about college "bests" to answer a questionnaire. They asked me what phrase sums up our school. I said "work hard, play hard". I'm afraid that if these changes continue the phrase will be "work hard, play with that small-specific-group-of-people-you-feel-similar-to-and-absolutely-no-one-else hard". Not a good thought.

I feel the need to stress this point to everyone because it involves everyone. This is your school. Keep it that way.

—Anonymous

W&L WELCOMES... ROBERT EARL KEEN



Men's swimming coach outraged with dismissal of student

Dear Editor,
In this technological era of shared information, it is inevitable, commonplace, and standard to have errant "mouse-clicks" on a daily, if not hourly basis when working and playing on our computers. What are our "intentions" when double-clicking on anything? What does "intention" actually mean? Well, the handy pocket dictionary that sits on my desk states that "intend" (v) is 1) to have in mind or plan; 2) to mean. And "intent" (n) is 1) aim; purpose; 2) volition; 3) meaning.

These are all very easy to understand. In fact, no action or inaction can ever take place without intent. Intent always precedes action/non-action. Granted, consequences often arise from actions that are genuinely unintended. We, as a society, are often forgiving of unintended results. In fact, in our judicial system intent is actually the difference between manslaughter and murder. So, it seems that intent would normally be a significant factor when considering the fate of an accused person facing jail-time, court proceedings, expulsion, or withdrawing from school.

Except here at W&L during the "discovery" period of the Executive Committee's investigation of an honor violation charge.

What do I mean, you ask? Apparently, swift injustice has again reared its ugly head on this campus. Tuesday, October 26, 1999, a student with honor, integrity, and the character of a true gentleman withdrew from this institution. His appointed legal advisors gave his case a "high probability of conviction," and helped to convince this student that the EC would "probably not" consider the intent of the accused's actions. Nor did his legal advisors feel that the EC would consider that this mistake could happen to anyone [Based on reaction to this case in a recent open forum, it has happened before, and will continue to happen so long as we humans remain... human].

So many variables directly related to his case would senselessly be ignored during the trial. Thus, the fear and the risk of conviction were too high for this student's comfort level. Who could blame him?

Leaving with a "clean record," in order to finish a

degree somewhere else is understandable when your "counsel" is telling you that, though you believe you are innocent, your chances of acquittal are slim.

W&L calls this swift justice? I call it a shame. It is a shame because the Executive Committee seems to relish their "veil of secrecy" in dealing with honor violations—secrecy that has no place in justice.

It is a shame because a person's history of integrity and gentlemanly behavior have no bearing on a legitimate unintentional mistake with a "mouse click." Finally, it is a shame that a person with this history of integrity can't be taken at his word... when his word has been good thus far.

The Washington & Lee community should be outraged that one more student has been hastily railroaded into withdrawing from the university because he was convinced that he would not be given the opportunity to defend himself using every available rationale and argument in his favor. Benefit of the doubt does not exist in your current system.

Each year this school has become increasingly dependent on computers and technology. W&L's age-old honor system MUST be publicly scrutinized to incorporate these advances. If this case is the new precedent when sharing files, then each student is just a "mouse-click" away from withdrawal or dismissal. Scary, huh?

Andrew B. Pulsifer
Associate Professor of Physical Education
Men's Swimming Coach

Quote of the week:

"I always like to have my legs spread. It's just the way I am."

—Anonymous sophomore girl

The Ring-tum Phi

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TALKback... How did you prepare for your parents?



"I had so much work to do, I told my parents NOT to come."
—Jay Duncan '01



"Cleaned and vacuumed for the first time and made sure all my 'stuff' was in order."
—Richard Kilby '03



"I let my roommate's boyfriend clean my room."
—Liz Powers '01



"Cleaned my room and made hotel reservations a year in advance at 7 a.m."
—Stephanie Sweet '02

Student body shows enthusiasm for Mock Con 2000

By Ginger Phillips
FEATURES EDITOR

On Jan. 28 and 29 the Warner Center will be transformed once again. This time, however, it will look unlike anything the current Washington and Lee University student body has seen before. Instead of the dim lights and elegant decorations of the Fancy Dress Ball, students will turn the gym into a veritable convention floor in preparation for Mock Convention 2000.

"Mock Convention is something so unique to our school," said freshman Christina Spofford. "It sounds like it will definitely be an interesting and fun event to be involved in."

If you're not already involved with Mock Con, however, you might be wondering exactly what all the hype is about.

"Mock Convention is an academic, predictive exercise in which students predict the nominee for the out-of-office political party for the 2000 presidential election," said General Chairman Mark Schweppe.

The Mock Convention delegate fair was held on Oct. 25 and 26 in the

Warner Center. Students flocked into the gym as soon as the doors opened to sign up for their favorite state delegations.

"The delegate fair was really successful, and over 1,300 students signed up to participate," said Kirsten Malm, senior and Midwest Regional Coordinator. "We were extremely happy with the turnout, but the excitement is just beginning."

"I wanted to be a delegate because I figured that Mock Con will only happen once during my four years here," freshman Noelle Baer said. "I want the chance to see what Mock Con is all about and to experience it."

The state delegates will fill the convention floor and serve as the spectator and cheering section for the events of the Mock Convention weekend. "People can

still get involved with Mock Con," Schweppe said. "There will be another delegate fair held closer to the convention in order to allow more people to get involved and to fill the delegations of those states that still have openings."

There is a long history behind the quadrennial Mock Convention. The first convention was held in 1908 and students have made 16 correct predictions out of their 21 attempts.

W&L's Mock Convention has gained a reputation as the most accurate of its kind through the hard work and research conducted by students.

"The work I do as a state chair-

man is so intriguing because it's so hard to know how your state is going to vote," said Kristen Binette, senior and New Hampshire State Chairman. "There is so much hard work and dedication involved to ensure that we choose the right person, but I am confident that we will make the right prediction."

Mock Con state chairs and committee members must send out hundreds of letters and surveys to political contacts who serve as invaluable resources during the intense research stage leading up to the convention.

"Research is definitely going well," Schweppe said. "We have political surveys out to all the different states and everyone is working extremely hard to make an accurate prediction."

The Mock Con Steering Committee is also working to secure a variety of prominent speakers for the convention. Members are searching for influential Republicans with big reputations and politicians who will help to make the upcoming convention truly dynamic.

Possible speakers include the Republican presidential candidates, former president George Bush, Congressman J. C. Watts, House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, New Jersey governor Christine Todd Whitman and Secretary of Education Bill Bennett.

The original date was changed from March to January in the hope of facilitating a more useful political experiment.

"The date change was initiated primarily to preserve the predictive nature of Mock Con," Schweppe said. "If we had kept the March 3 date, we

would have followed 12 to 13 primaries, but now it will definitely be more of an experiment and generate more interest."

Although the actual convention is still three months away, the festivities continue this weekend with the Presidential Gala, to be held on Nov. 5 from

9:00—1:00 p.m. in the Warner Center. Tickets and memorabilia go on sale Monday in the University Center.

"Mock Con is such a great way for the whole school to work together," Binette said. "Excitement is building all over campus as the convention gets closer."

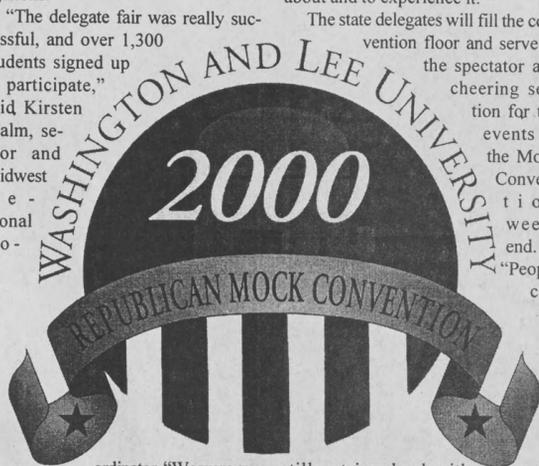


Photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

W&L students rushed to the Warner Center to sign up for favorite state delegations last week. More than 1,300 students are currently participating in Mock Con preparations.

Signature Student

Katie Kennedy '02

Michael Crittenden
NEWS EDITOR

Most Washington and Lee students think that an 8 a.m. class is a cruel and unusual punishment meted out by the university to make students pay for weekend debaucheries.

To sophomore transfer student Katie Kennedy, however, having to wake up at 7 to go to her 8 a.m. Spanish class is a welcomed change from last year's 5 a.m. wake up time. Last year Kennedy was a happy go-lucky plebe at the Naval Academy.

Deciding the fit wasn't right for her, Kennedy transferred to Washington and Lee and is currently enjoying her sophomore year while getting used to the W&L way of life.

"I came to Washington and Lee because of its reputation and the Southern culture," Kennedy said. "I guess I've just always wanted to be an ante-bellum southern girl."

As expected, the transition has been a significant change for the standout swimmer. Kennedy said classes here are more analytical and involve less busy work than she is used to. The W & L social scene has also been a large change from last year's restrictions, when Wednesday partying was a far cry from the norm at the Academy.

"I am used to going to bed on Wednesdays, not partying," Kennedy said. "It's a whole new concept for me."

Kennedy, who's philosophy is to "trust in God, but always do your homework," has already made her mark in the waters of Twombly pool as a member of the women's swim team. Victorious in all of her races over Parents' Weekend, Kennedy said she is

enjoying the Generals' swim program.

Kennedy also loves to watch movies (Favorite: Last of the Mohicans), enjoying nature, and reading F. Scott Fitzgerald. A prospective English major, Kennedy said she would like to be a college



swim coach and a mother with lots of kids. She'd also like to work on a ranch in Montana, riding horses and experiencing the natural world.

One of Kennedy's largest passions is eating, which she says she enjoys more than almost anything.

"My ideal meal would be pizza, ice cream and a Diet Coke," Kennedy said. "I also really love fudge brownie sundaes with marshmallows, caramel, rainbow jimmies and whipped cream. They are the best."

Kennedy said she has enjoyed Washington and Lee so far, and is looking forward to meeting more people and enjoying the "Washington and Lee experience."

"The people I have met so far are awesome and I love it here," she said. "It has been strange sometimes getting used to the intricacies of this place, but I like it."

Parents greeted by sounds of music

W&L's student musicians strutted their stuff as they performed for parents.



Photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor



Photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

LEE CHAPEL TOGA PARTY: (Above) Acapella group Southern Comfort makes an entrance worthy of Caesar himself. Jubilee and General Admission also performed before a packed house during the annual Parents' Weekend Acapella Concert on Saturday evening.

PLAYIN' THE NIGHT AWAY: (Left) The University Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band worked together to put on a wonderful show in Lenfest on Saturday night. "It's great to be able to perform for the parents," junior Lauren LaFauci said. "I've had so much fun doing a concert with the strings and jazz band, since we all don't normally get the opportunity to play together at the same time."

Upcoming events...



Monday, November 1

- 10:00 a.m. Juniors begin Winter Term web registration.
- 4:30 p.m. Faculty meeting, Northen Auditorium, Leyburn Library.
- 7:00 p.m. Lecture, "Constitutional Reform in Great Britain," Prof. Donald Studlar, West Virginia University. Room 327, Williams School.
- 7:30 p.m. Lecture, "Environment, Population, & Consumption: Time of Breakdown or Breakthrough?," Dr. Norman Myers, Oxford University. Northen Auditorium.

Wednesday, November 3

- 10:00 a.m. Sophomores begin Winter Term web registration.
- 5:00 p.m. Alpha Epsilon Delta Health Professions Seminar. "Veterinary School Admissions," Joyce Bohr, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Room 316, VMI New Science Building.

Thursday, November 4

- 8:00 p.m. Lecture, "Chaucer and the Language of Morals," Michael Kuczynski, Tulane University. Room 214, Science Center.

Friday, November 5

- 10:00 a.m. Freshmen begin Winter Term web registration.
- 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. Mock Convention Gala featuring The Dirty Dozen Brass Band. Doremus Gym.

Saturday, November 6

- 8:00 p.m. University-Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra, Keller Theatre, Lenfest Center.



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The Ring-tum Phi

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY'S THIRD-FAVORITE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1999

Brain cells now outnumbered by SUV's at W&L

Neurons also outnumbered by Texans

By Buddy Cole
STAFF WRITER

He already has four, but senior Whit Nelson wanted another SUV. "I like 'em," Nelson said. "I like 'em cuz they big." Nelson, an anthropology major with a staggering 1.4 GPA, currently has nearly twice as many Sports Utility Vehicles as he has brain cells.

Nelson is only part of the problem at W&L; a problem which has grown to epidemic proportions over the past few years. For the first time in school history, there are more SUV's on campus than IQ points.

"I find this trend disturbing and distressing," President Elrod said. "If for no other reason than because it's already hard enough to park in Lexington without those f***ing behemoths taking up space."

This is the most shocking development since earlier this year when it was discovered that there are now

more Texans at W&L than brain cells. "This is a sad day for W&L, but a great day for barbecue," Elrod noted at the time.

How did W&L find itself in this sad state? According to brain surgeon Dr. Wes Collier, "A human brain may contain up to 100 billion neurons. But remember that alcohol kills brain cells at a remarkable rate. W&L is like an Auschwitz for brain cells."

It is estimated that between freshman and senior year, the average W&L student will alcoholically slaughter between 98-140 percent of their original brain cells. How is it possible to kill 140%? "Remember that once people lose 99% of their brain cells, their math skills become somewhat diminished," Collier said.

Not everyone is quite so dumb, obviously. Some philosophy professors have the full 100 billion, while most tenured History professors boast up to twelve functioning brain cells. Then there are others who throw off the



photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

Just one of the 14,437 gleaming SUV's proudly owned by Washington and Lee students.

curve. Some people are so mesmerizingly stupid that just being around them will lower your IQ. These people have negative brain cells, or what is known as "programmer syndrome," so-called because the first group widely diagnosed with this disorder were television programmers.

According to the Student Health Center, the current campus average is 4-5 brain cells per person. This means that, with the advent of on-board computers, most SUV's are now smarter

than the Southerner driving them.

Many W&L professors report having to dumb-down the academic load to accommodate the new brainally-deprived student body. "I used to grade students on their ability to write clearly, prove a thesis and back-up their arguments with textual evidence," English Professor Kary Smout said. "Now I grade mainly on a student's ability to keep drool off their papers."

Things are only likely to get worse, with no beer shortage in sight and GM's recent unveiling of their 2000 "uberSUV," a vehicle that's over three city blocks long. Doubtlessly every South Carolinian's Christmas list will

SEE 'SUV' ON PAGE 2

Honor Code broken 19,400 times during Parents' Weekend

By Al Miller
STAFF WRITER

The beer can collection was "his roommates'." He did "pretty well" on his French midterm. And why were there what looked like puke stains caked on his bed sheets? "I was really sick last week." These are just a few of the 48 lies freshman Justin Hopkins told his parents last weekend.

Freshman Dana Semanaro is no stranger to lying either. When Dana asked her if there were any new men in her life, Dana told him that there was one "really nice guy" she'd gone on "a couple of dates with." But the fourteen hook-ups and eight handjobs Dana has dispensed to various fratboys over the past two months seemed to slip her mind, adding up to twenty-four big lies of omission.

EC President Jeff Cook estimates that as many as 19,400 blatant, bald-faced lies may have passed through the lips of W&L students over Parents' weekend. "Unfortunately, few of these lies are reported as the parents aren't about to turn their kids in and flush 80 grand down the toilet," Cook said. Furthermore, parents are psychologically programmed to overlook obvious lies. A happy lie about your child is always easier than the gritty truth about what a waste your genes

have helped create.

According to Cook, the number of lies told on campus usually remains steadily between 2,000-3,000 during a normal weekend. For instance, Junior Thomas Ince estimates that he lied "probably about 160 times," while he was trying to get freshman Lisa Edwards to sleep with him. "I told her how much I loved her and how I wanted to make our relationship 'more special' or some s**t like that," Ince said. "You know, the usual lies."

But the number of honor violations balloons over Parents' Weekend. Lying isn't the only honor violation that goes on. Every time a student asks mom for more "food money" that they know full well is going for beer, they are stealing.

The estimated 19,400 lies told in one weekend is a stunning new record for W&L. There will probably not be so many lies told in such a short time until the Republican Mock Convention.

No, Sparky, this page is not real.

It was produced, edited and directed by *The Last Word*.

All quotes were entirely fabricated — please don't sue, President Elrod!

W&L Swarthmorification process nears completion

By Herman Menderchuck
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Yesterday feminist scholar Diane Whyner-Lott was appointed the endowed chair of the newly-formed Lesbian Literary Studies department, marking another step in W&L's bid to become Swarthmore. If all goes according to plan, W&L could be Swarthmore by the end of the term.

"This is exciting time for Washington and Gloria Steinem University," President Elrod said, reflecting the recent official name change of our school. (It was decided that being named after a Confederate General, and two white males at that, was simply too culturally insensitive).

The Swarthmorification process began in earnest earlier this year, and the administration struggled to find the right Northern school to model ourselves after. "At first we looked into becoming Williams, Brown or even Sarah Lawrence," Dean of Students David Howison said. "But in the end we decided that when W&L is finally dragged kicking and screaming ten years behind the rest of academia, Swarthmore is the way to go."

Only Swarthmore provided the right combination of rigorous academics, feel-good liberal activism and forced diversity programs that met the exacting criteria the administration was looking for.

When the Swarthmorification policies took affect on campus, it was only a matter of weeks before Assistant Dean Courtney Penn was giving talks on overcoming "ableism, racism and heterophobia." The next step was the addition of the African Womyn's Studies major, the Lesbian Literary Studies Department, the Disabled Left-Handed Indonesian-American Religious Studies Department and the intercollegiate mah-jong team.

Next week the sexist fraternity system will be abolished, with houses either closed altogether or forced to go co-ed. The final step of the Swarthmorification program will be tearing down the historic Colonnade and replacing it with buildings that have that authentic "Swarthmore, Pennsylvania charm."

"Watch out Oberlin, Middlebury and NYU! Washington and Gloria Steinem is on the move, and we're not

SEE 'MORE SWARTHMORE' ON PAGE 2

Wacky "littering" prank Cadavers' zaniest yet!

By Rod Torfulson
STAFF WRITER

Those merry pranksters of W&L, the Cadaver society, have struck a blow for lunacy once again! Wednesday morning, the W&L campus awoke to find that the madcap misfits of the

Cadavers had perpetrated another one of their hilarious pranks on the Colonnade. This time the jovial jokesters... get this... LITTERED ALL OVER THE CAMPUS!

"When I walked to class Wednesday morning, I noticed that there was trash all over the place," said sophomore Rianna Jacobs. "I knew right

away it had to be those wacky Cadavers. I mean, littering all over campus—who else could come up with something that creative?"

Upon closer inspection, the "trash" turned out to be slips of paper with the unforgettable insignia of this great secret society upon it. Their symbol is a dour looking skull with a large letter "C" behind it—a "C" that doubtlessly stands for all of the "crazy capers" the cooky Cadavers have concocted over the years. Among the hilarious pranks the Cadavers have perpetrated include a prank last September in which they put their trash all over campus, one last April when they littered on the Colonnade, and their crowning glory last February when they put slips of paper in trees and bushes.

"Oh, we don't mind the Cadavers' good-natured prankery," said head of security Mike Young. "In fact, sometimes I envy the spirited scamps. What better way for young men to spend a late night than walking around the Hill in masks putting little slips of paper in trees and bushes?"

Yes, W&L is lucky that the Crazy Kadavers are here to keep us on our toes. Who knows what amusing antics these precocious princes of pranksterism will dream up next?



THE SOUTH RISES AGAIN. This first assault on Washington was abandoned after the troops ran low on vital supplies like gunpowder and beer.



WHITE MEN IN SUITS INVADE CAMPUS! The shocking story on page 4.

The Ring-tum Phi
November 1, 1999

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