

The Ring-tum Phi

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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Local coffee shop closes abruptly

The Ruse, owned by two W&L alums, shuts down on it's first anniversary

By Heather McDonald
STAFF WRITER

The Ruse abruptly ended only a year after it began.

On the one year anniversary of the opening of the only late-night coffee shop in town, owners Dow Harris and Rich Walter closed down the Ruse, without any prior warning to the public. To celebrate the anniversary, Harris produced a three-act play he had written, entitled "Sedalian Vision."

In the play, one man took over the airwaves, but Harris' character gathered together a group of "tele-rangers" to overthrow the one man in power. Then, there were many television channels to choose from, and the actors performed parodies of different television shows. In the final act, Harris was sweeping up the floor of the Ruse. Then, Walter came up on stage and began talking about ideas with Harris, and how both had dreams they wanted to pursue. However, a fictional coffee shop that failed was standing in the way of these dreams.

Some of the audience began to wonder if the play was actually reality at this point. Then, Harris told Walter that if Walter left, he would crawl out the window and drive to Alabama to gather his tele-rangers. Walter then picked up his guitar and walked out the door, and then Harris crawled out the window. The two stood outside the window, waved good-bye and

closed the shutters. Then both of them drove away.

Senior Lora Ellison said that much of the audience was confused at the play's ending.

"It took people a long time to realize what was going on," Ellison said. "Some people thought it was a joke." Ellison was a regular customer, who went about five times a week to drink coffee, do homework, and talk with other people who gathered at the Ruse.

The Ruse's landlady was also there that night and had no idea that Harris and Walter were planning on closing shop. About seven customers stayed to help clean up and close the Ruse after Harris and Walter left.

"Most people were in shock," sophomore Tom Grove said, who stayed to help out by stacking chairs and mopping the floors.

"It's understandable they had dreams they wanted to pursue, but nobody knew," Grove said. "It's so sad."

Both Harris and Walter are 1998 graduates of Washington and Lee. The Ruse was their dream to bring Lexington's universities and community together in an open and creative setting. They transformed the old Jordan House on East Nelson Street into a multi-roomed coffee shop that often showcased local folk and bluegrass bands and poetry readings.

It is not known exactly what put the Ruse out of business a year after they opened.



photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

NOTHING GOING ON BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: The Ruse coffee shop, which has stood vacant since Halloween. Owners Rich Walter and Dow Harris announced the surprise closing during their first anniversary celebration.

"[Harris and Walter] called it a failure, but there were many, many good things that came out of it," Ellison said. "I know people who were absolutely crushed when they realized the Ruse was closing." Ellison said that she studied abroad last term, and she told stories about the Ruse to people she met in London.

"This was the part of Lexington that I was in love with and wanted to come back to," Ellison said.

Mock Convention stepping up momentum as event nears

Tightened schedule intensifies fundraising to foot \$270,000 bill

By Max Smith
STAFF WRITER

The 2000 Republican Mock Convention is revving up. So is the price tag.

Mock Convention General Chairman Mark Schweppe said that by the time the final balloon drops on Saturday, Jan. 29, one of Washington and Lee's largest student-run activities will have spent \$270,000.

"We want to do some things not done before... [and] the 1996 Convention is a tough act to follow," Schweppe said. "Things are coming together because we've got a lot of people working really hard."

Mock Con will have about \$200,000 after the Presidential Gala this weekend. Schweppe isn't too concerned about raising the rest of the money.

"We're in the heart of fund-raising season right now," Schweppe said.

Mock Con has two fund-raising projects still lined up. They will send letters to students' parents on Monday. Students will call parents and alumni who haven't given money the week before Thanksgiving break. Alumni have already given about \$15,000 through letter campaigns.

"We want more from alumni and at least \$40,000 more in all fund-raising efforts," Schweppe said.

Mock Con based their budget on the 1996 Convention's actual expenses. Individual state delegations are responsible for raising their own funds through contacting businesses and philanthropic organizations in their state. Mock Con is contacting parents and alumni through its own campaign.

Schweppe said one main financial consideration for the 2000 Mock Convention is rising speakers fees. He gave former vice-presidential candidate Jack Kemp as an example of the higher fees. He said Kemp, who they don't plan on asking next year, cost the Convention \$30,000 at its 1995 Kickoff and now charges double for an appearance. But Schweppe said Mock Con must pay such high fees.

"The big name speakers that make the Convention are expensive," Schweppe said.

Schweppe said conservative writer Bill Bennett is the only confirmed speaker so far. He said Bennett is still negotiating a speaking fee with Mock Con through Political Chairman David Dardis, who has worked for him.

They've sent invitations to speak to all of the Republican presidential nominees and Representative J.C. Watts of Oklahoma.

Other Mock Con costs include a \$21,000 facilities budget. Schweppe said building a stage and renting a sound system and projection screen for the Warner Center isn't cheap. Mock Con will also pay technicians for their help with the rented equipment and Physical Plant employees for construction and maintenance help over the weekend. Additionally, Mock Con must rent a lot of the equipment journalists need in the Press Room.

Political publication subscriptions, security at the Convention, decorations and other publicity and travel expenses for speakers must come out of Mock Con's pocket as well. Schweppe said Mock Con even pays if they choose to have an elephant or some clowns in the parade.

Mock Con has stepped up fund-raising efforts after their decision to move up the Convention from its original March 3rd and 4th dates, Schweppe said.

"When we moved up the date, we lost five weeks of fund raising," Schweppe said.

Mock Con established two new raffles this year to make up for the lost time. They held a raffle for parents over Parents Weekend that featured a free stay at W&L's Morris House next year. The University donated that prize and local merchants donated other prizes for the

VMI rat beaten

By Michael Crittenden
NEWS EDITOR

A Virginia Military Institute freshman remains in the school's infirmary after being beaten by fellow cadets Friday.

Theodore P. Francis, 18, of Northern Virginia was apparently beaten early Friday morning by five freshmen cadets, according to VMI spokesman Chuck Steenburgh. Francis was treated at the VMI infirmary for cuts and bruises, then taken to Stonewall Jackson Hospital. The X-rays turned up no additional injuries.

In an interview with the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Steenburgh described the beating this way: "Early this morning [Friday] at 4 a.m., five fourth-classmen apparently entered the room of another fourth-classman, restrained him and proceeded to strike him about the head and shoulders. It drew some blood. He was taken to our post hospital, or infirmary, and treated."

Student investigators, who will report to the school's Executive Committee on the incident, are questioning 'BEATING' ON PAGE 2

Students respond weakly to diversity education workshops

Offered due to recent events, workshops elicit little interest

By Max Smith
STAFF WRITER

Assistant Dean of Students Courtney Penn has always seen a need for diversity education at Washington and Lee University and consequently planned workshops on the issue.

"These recent campus issues highlight the need for us to have the workshops," Penn said. "There's so much ignorance out there, even among extremely bright students. It's a cycle of being socialized in the United States that has oppression so entwined that we don't notice."

Penn hopes his new workshops will educate students about the origins and impact of stereotypes in today's diverse population.

Several campus incidents this year have called W&L's willingness to accept diversity into question. One freshman left before matriculation because of a fraternity member's anti-Semitic and racist remarks. A disc jockey on W&L's campus radio station, WLUR, made homophobic remarks about the president of the Executive Committee. Another student ran on an anti-gay platform in his unopposed bid for a class presidency.

"Due to our homogeneity, we, as an institution, have a responsibility to make sure students are intentionally taught to be clear about these issues," Penn said. "Workshops like this are going to be more and more common as America becomes more diverse."

But few students are going to the

workshops. Nine students are enrolled in the four-week workshop and 10 are enrolled in an intensive one-day workshop.

"I'm disappointed with the numbers because I know more people than that have expressed interest," Penn said.

Some students haven't heard about the workshops despite computer broadcast mailings, fliers around campus, and brief articles in campus newspapers. Others know about them but don't plan on attending.

"This workshop is definitely a good thing considering our recent problems around campus," freshman Bart Peters said. "But I don't think I'll go."

SEE 'DIVERSE' ON PAGE 2



photo by Lisa Lin/Assistant Photo Editor

INDIAN SUMMER: A student uses the unseasonably warm weather to study on the Front Lawn.

The Ring-tum Phi

November 8, 1999

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President of the Universe

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ing the five freshmen that are suspected in the attack. The Executive Committee is made up of nine student judges who could acquit the students or recommend disciplinary proceedings, including dismissal from the school.

Steenburgh said that VMI officials had some idea of the motive for the attack, but that at this time would not elaborate. He also stressed that the attack was a unique "blanket party kind of thing." A blanket party, in military jargon, is an attack during which the victim is held under a blanket and beaten.

"This is not a common occurrence," Steenburgh said. "Cadets have impromptu wrestling matches once in awhile, but they're good natured. This was different. . . There were blood stains in the room."

According to a VMI second classman who wished to remain anonymous, the attack was most likely the result of an encouraged campus attitude of "policing one's own." The source said that if a cadet is not up to the standards of his peers, that the student's fellow cadets are encouraged to make sure that person is brought in line. This attack was

unique, however, because it involved physical violence.

"It has always been a wake-up call to the person, but with no physical violence done to them," the source said. "A cadet may be wrapped up in their mattress and left naked in the shower all night, but never beaten. There may be just a little damage done to their pride, but we don't beat them. Violence like that is not tolerated."

This is not the first violent episode the school has seen in recent years. Last year, six cadets were expelled for lying about a series of spankings. In 1997, a freshman accused seniors of striking him and five other freshmen with a belt. And in 1996, six students were suspended for assaulting a freshman classmate, and nine more cadets were disciplined for their roles in the attack.

The student group investigating the debacle is called the Officer of the Guard Association, and is made up of 12 members, one from each cadet company. The nine-member Executive Committee is made up of the three class officers from each of the three upper classes.

'DIVERSE' from page 1

Penn fears W&L students dismiss any attempt at diversity discussion as "a PC attempt."

"That's not what this is about," Penn said. "This is about being a part of a civil community and I don't think students can learn this when we are as homogenous as we are, it doesn't just happen by accident. This [workshop] can broaden students' horizons."

Penn's new workshops follow W&L's recent efforts at boosting diversity on campus. The University has placed more emphasis in past years on minority enrollment and discussion of diversity issues.

Penn's workshops will educate students on the causes of oppressive behavior.

"I explore these issues from a theory that oppression is really the culprit of all of the inequality and social injustice in the world," Penn said.

Penn said everyone is an agent or target of oppression at times. Individuals, organizations and societies can exhibit oppressive behavior and attitudes to a variety of groups.

Penn has three goals for his students. One is increasing personal awareness on oppression and diversity.

"I want to help students learn more about how they feel about different issues relating to diversity," Penn said, "whether sexism or race relations or any group issue."

Penn also tackles stereotypes with the help of reading materials and open forums of discussion.

"The workshops will feature experiences that allow students to talk freely on perceptions and to explore their origins," Penn said. "Stereotypes come from some truths, but they're overgeneralized and take away from an individual's identity."

Finally, Penn wants students to leave the workshops

prepared to change their communities.

"[Students learn] how not to be part of an oppressive community around them," Penn said.

Penn thinks all students can grasp concepts offered in the workshops.

"These are the simple things we try to do, it's not brain surgery or rocket science," Penn said. "It's just a small step in trying to create a more educated student body."

"We have to challenge these socialized norms because that will determine the next step," Penn said, "whether we discard these norms or perpetuate them."

Despite students' acknowledgment of the workshops' importance, few are actually attending. Of those students, most aren't new to the issue and have participated in other campus diversity groups like PRIDE.

"There is a tendency to preach to the choir," Penn said. "But in reality the choir needs rehearsal too. They rehearse to be good at what they do."

Penn said these students can go into the University community and really make a difference promoting diversity and cultural understanding.

Freshmen and their parents have been especially supportive of his efforts, Penn said. He's received several notes and some verbal encouragement from these parents.

"Parents understand how important it is to be versed on the issue of diversity," Penn said. "You must be able to operate and be comfortable in any environment."

Penn emphasized the objective intent of his workshops. "I'm not going to want to change someone's way of thinking," Penn said. "If you understand why you think a certain way, you're honest with yourself about it and you're happy with it, fine. I just want to give you an opportunity to see the larger picture."

half hours, W&L's four best oral advocates will argue a case directly patterned on *Brzonkala v. Morrison*. Federal appeals court judges from the third, fourth and eighth circuits, one level below the Supreme Court, have agreed to come to Lexington to judge the arguments.

The W&L law students will be taking part in the 20th annual John W. Davis Moot Court Competition. The competition is named after John W. Davis, an 1892 graduate of W&L who also earned his law degree from W&L in 1895 and later taught in the Law School. Davis was a 1924 presidential candidate and also served as a congressman, ambassador and solicitor general of the U.S.

The competition will take place in the Moot Courtroom of Sydney Lewis Hall on the W&L campus.

Jasiewicz receives research grant

Krzysztof Jasiewicz, professor of sociology at Washington and Lee, received a \$40,000 grant from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research for his project "The 2000 Presidential Election in Poland."

Jasiewicz's project will prepare a set of data comprising the most important information about voting behavior in the 2000 presidential election in Poland. Data collected will be analyzed in the context of prospects for political stability in Poland, the debates on voting behavior and the nature and social cleavages in a pluralist democracy.

NCEEER is the largest provider of resources to U.S. scholars for research in the social, political, economic and historical development of Russia, Eurasia and East Europe. These findings help U.S. policymakers, the academic and nonprofit communities and American businesses better understand current developments and their significance for the future.

Business Ethics Institute hosts lecture

The Society of the Professions at Washington and Lee University will hold its 16th annual Business Ethics Institute and is bringing guest lecturer Patricia H. Werhane to campus. Her lecture, "Corruption and Moral Risk," will be held in Room 221 of the Williams Commerce School on Friday, Nov. 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Werhane, the Peter and Adeline Ruffin chair of business ethics and senior fellow of the Olsson Center for Applied Ethics in the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia, is a founding member and past president of the Society of Business Ethics and past president of the American Society for Value Inquiry. From 1989 to 1992 she was chair of the ethics advisory council for Arthur Anderson and Co., which engaged in a five-year teaching business ethics project on the integration of business ethics into traditional business school disciplines.

Werhane is the author or editor of 13 books, including *Ethical Issues in Business*, edited with Tom Donaldson, *Persons, Rights and Corporations* and *Adam Smith and His Legacy for Modern Capitalism*. She has written extensively on employee and employer rights, whistle blowing, mergers and acquisitions, responsibilities of multinational corporations and insider trading. Her most recent work focuses on healthcare organizations and on environmental sustainability.

The public is invited to attend this lecture.



Photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

TWANG, TWANG, TWANG: Robert Earl Keen performed at the Student Activities Pavilion last Saturday night as part of the Mock Convention festivities.

Write for the Phi!
If you're interested in getting involved, send an e-mail to phi@wlu.edu or come to our weekly meetings Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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Film Society presents "Character"

The next presentation of the Washington and Lee Film Society will be the 1998 Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language Film, *Character* (Netherlands, 1997), directed by Mike van Diem. Screenings will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12 and 13 in the Troubadour Cinema, at the corner of Main and Henry Streets. As always, there is no charge for admission, although contributions are gratefully received. This film is in Dutch with English subtitles.

This visually stunning film is set in 1920s Rotterdam, and the plot revolves around the murder of a ruthless slumlord and the relationship between him and his murderer. *Character* is the "dark, bitter, and fascinating" (Roger Ebert) story of a boy growing up in poverty and harshness and finding his own success to be a means of punishing his own father.

Day to speak at Ethics Institute

Louis Day, a professor at Louisiana State University, will be the keynote speaker for Washington and Lee University's 28th Annual Institute on the Ethics of Journalism. Day will deliver a public lecture on Friday, Nov. 12 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 327 of the Williams School of Commerce.

Day teaches media law and ethics in the Manship School of Mass Communication at LSU. He has written numerous articles and papers on the legal liabilities and responsibilities of the media and is the author of *Ethics in Media Communications: Cases and Controversies*, a widely used college text on media ethics. Before embarking on his teaching career, Day worked as a television journalist in Georgia and as a military public affairs officer in Washington, D.C. and Vietnam.

The Institute on the Ethics of Journalism is part of W&L's program in applied ethics, Society and the Professions, which brings nationally recognized scholars to campus to engage in classroom and public discussions on ethics in the fields of law, medicine, business and journalism.

Moot Court to argue current case

Only five years ago, Congress passed a law designed to protect women from domestic violence and sexual abuse. It is called the Violence Against Women Act.

But is the Violence Against Women Act constitutional? The Supreme Court recently announced that it would consider that question. The Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Brzonkala v. Morrison* this spring. The case involves a brutal physical assault on a woman attending school at Virginia Tech who is now attempting to use the Violence Against Women Act to seek redress. Unfortunately, because the Supreme Court does not allow cameras or microphones, only those sitting in the Supreme Court gallery will get to hear, in full, the arguments for and against the Act.

Unless you are at the Washington and Lee University School of Law on Thursday, Nov. 11 at 4 p.m. For one and

The President of the Universe must lead a revolt against the secular crazies

Government by the politicians, for the politicians and of the politicians must now come to an end. The barbaric wars, the extortionary taxes, the eloquent lies, the ruthless shakedown of companies for campaign contributions as well as the continuous manipulation of the American people by the amoral politicians has become intolerable.

Wars are initiated by presidential politicians to enhance their historical status and poll ratings. Fictional threats to national security are stridently declared by the politicians to justify foreign military intervention and the perpetual procurement of weapons of mass destruction, i.e. nuclear, chemical and biological.

Trillions of tax dollars are channeled to create a non-Christian new world order where God is cast aside as He already is in public pseudo education and at the United Nations. Terrible moral crimes such as abortion are legislatively condoned by the compromised politicians facilitated by corrupt court decisions rendered by politically appointed judges and funded by illicit appropriations.

Note that Bill Bradley and Al Gore are both pro-abortion and pro-homosexuality.

Well over 50 percent of the American children of God are directly or indirectly dependent on some form of atheistic government for a mindless job or bureaucratic dole provided by Roosevelt's Social Security and the multitude of degrading assistance programs which are abused by the recipients.

Consequently, a humble dependency upon God as the omnipotent Father and a prayerful weakened by secular government. Christian culture has been vanquished and,

in particular, the Christian virtues of faith, hope and charity have been replaced by mother government's intrusive involvement in every aspect of an individual's life.

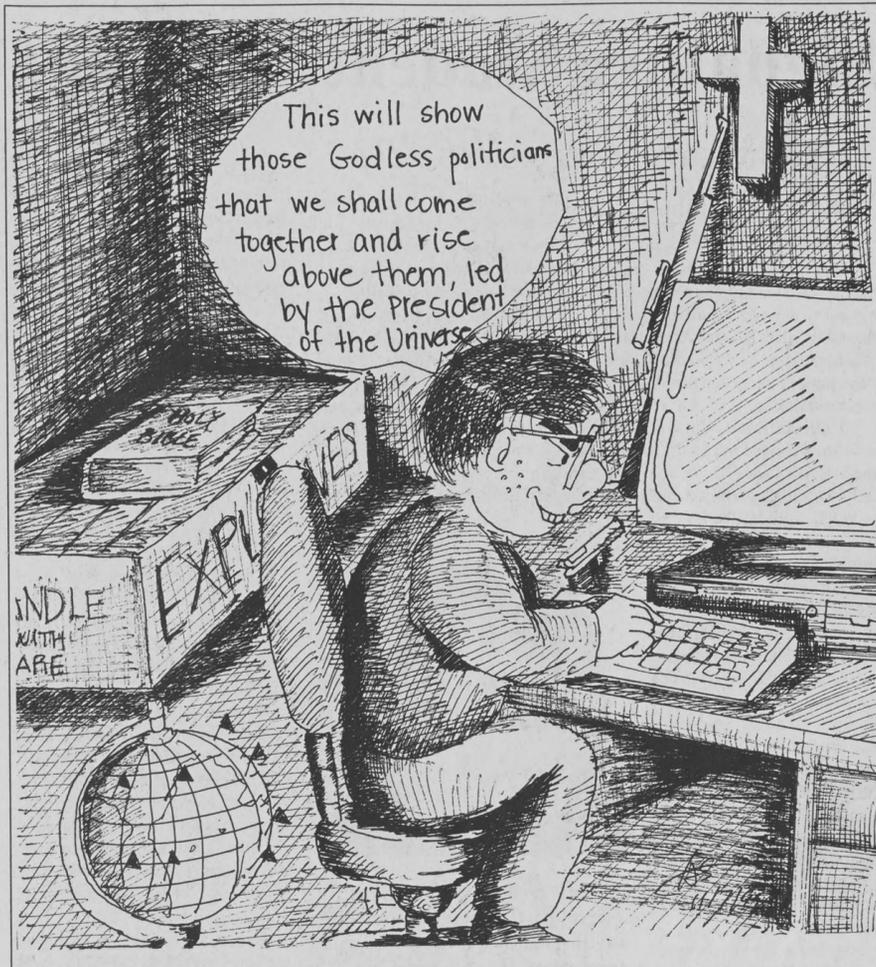
Godless government has evolved into a contemporary idol of worship where 'religious services' are held at the temples of the White House, the U.S. Capitol and the fifty state capitol buildings attended by the parishioners of the news-entertainment industry.

The politicians' programs of counterfeit compassion have spawned massive and heartless bureaucracies staffed by parasitic functionaries who choose not to employ their God given talents for which they will be held accountable by the President of the Universe. The President is omniscient and omnipotent, He will make sure the necessary actions take place.

The solution: pray that God will exorcize the political atheists and through a holy prophet similar to Saint Joan of Arc bring forth a Christian king submissive to the Gospel who will build the City of God as proclaimed by Saint Augustine. This writer, a counseling psychologist, welcomes the opportunity to speak at Washington and Lee about this theme.

— Joseph E. Vallely, M.A.

Editor's Note: The author of this letter has no known connection to Washington and Lee University, and certainly none to The Ring-tum Phi. It was received by The Phi and printed accordingly.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diversity makes W&L more competitive and reputable

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to last week's letter to the editor that called on admissions to cut down the level of diversity at W&L. Allow me to say that the author of that letter, who bravely refused to sign his name, is an ignorant fool. He has mistaken the word "university" for "beer drinking on a homogeneous campus". While I'm not going to argue with beer drinking, homogeneity is not something that should be a goal of any institution of learning. However, three things that Anonymous faults W&L with, "recruit[ing] GPAs, countries, and backgrounds," should indeed be goals of the admissions department. If Washington and Lee wishes to remain one of the premiere institutions of education in the country, it must diversify its student body even more, and do so in a hurry, or suffer a steady decline in the quality of students that arrive here each fall. Diversification at W&L is not a question of lifting up a repressed group of people, but a matter vital to the survival of this institution.

Every year scores of fully qualified minorities turn their backs on W&L because they don't think they'll be welcomed. I know of four minority students from my high school alone that were scared away from W&L as soon as they saw some statistics on the population of minorities here. Those four are now at Harvard, Yale, Williams, and NYU, respectively. They simply looked at the numbers, and didn't feel that they wanted to be part of that small

group that takes up two tables in the D-Hall. Those were four fully qualified students who didn't give W&L a second thought, and I'm positive that this phenomena is repeated at thousands of high schools across the nation. If W&L does not diversify and offer minorities a sizable community they will be comfortable with, W&L will lose qualified students year after year.

While there are minorities who are scared away from W&L, I also have no doubt that there are bigots who feel welcomed by the limited quantity of minorities here, as a number of recent cases would seem to indicate. Appealing to racists, even inadvertently, can have devastating affects on the school that should be self-evident. Many students arrive at college with opinions that are not fully formulated, and if racists are allowed help to mold those opinions, the results could be, and have been, devastating. It is a shame that minorities have had their suspicions of W&L vindicated.

As multiculturalism becomes a greater and greater accepted notion, W&L's national reputation will suffer if it remains mostly white. It will become viewed as a closed minded institution, something that a university should never strive for. As its national reputation suffers, top high school students of all ethnic groups will repeatedly pass it over, and W&L will be left with less qualified students. If it's any consolation to Anonymous, I'm sure these less intelligent student will be white alcoholics.

Lastly, the goal of any educational institution should be to introduce its students to different and unique ideas. Many have said that you learn more from friends than from professors at college. If your friends are all the same as you, its doesn't seem like all that much learning will be going on. More diversity is needed at W&L so that more viewpoints will be offered to challenge students' traditional set of beliefs. Anonymous would prefer we all go through college never learning about what is outside white America.

Washington and Lee needs to do more, not less recruiting of minorities. Diversification at W&L has nothing to do with the advancement of perceived underclass. It has everything to do with staying competitive in the next century, and W&L's ability to attract top minority students while offering the best education that it can. Anonymous calls a "good change" one that "has improved the reputation of the school. Has made it more competitive." A greater proportion of minorities at W&L will do just that, and is something that should be done.

Sincerely,
John Power '02

Three cheers for the anti-diversity bigots of W&L

Dear Editor,

I would like to shake the hand of the brave soul who called him/herself "anonymous" in last week's letters to the editor. In that letter, "Anonymous" explained so eloquently the necessity for bigotry and segregation at W&L and clarified that much of the problems we are experiencing, such as the lapse in the speaking tradition, can be directly linked to the diversity at W&L. You are truly brilliant in your ignorance, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.

History proves that when the status quo is changed or when things seem to go a bit wrong, it is best to lay the blame on those who are different and diverse. What is more logical than that? W&L just may need some good old McCarthy-esque finger pointing in this time where traditional W&L values are so clearly threatened. In the name of homogeneity and North Face jackets, I am now more than willing to follow your lead, whoever your courageousness may be.

After your letter, I am ashamed that I have friends from other countries, who are independents, and who prefer achieving a high GPA to maintaining Washington and Lee's high drinking status on the Princeton Review. Obviously, the values that these "friends" of mine hold are impure, unclean, and downright obscene. But thanks to your enlightening bigotry, I realize that my friendship with these diverse untouchables should be no more. The qualities that I admired in them really do not matter, because their diversity at W&L obviously overshadows all their appealing and likeable characteristics as human beings. They too, in some crafty and conniving way, are involved in a strong and ever-growing "diversity conspiracy" to deal a swift kick to the crotch of W&L's values. I even bet that the diverse are behind the recent problems with the computer network. It's probably those crafty Asians, or maybe it's those sneaky independents in an alliance with the Turks.

The Admissions Office must halt the flow of international students, high GPAs and those who have no desire of going Greek, and support the fact that ignorance is bliss. We must eventually have a degree of homogeneity that George Wallace and David Duke would find comfortable. And if diverse people do somehow keep weaseling their way into W&L, they must be forced to assimilate by requiring them to listen to Widespread Panic and Dave Matthews, while sewing the school's supply of worn out

scruffy hats and sunglasses straps, or by making them wax all the unused kayaks that lay dormant on so many of W&L's SUVs. My dear friend Anonymous we can no longer sit back and watch as Admissions allows diversity infiltration, diversity indoctrination, diversity subversion, and the international diversity conspiracy to sap and impurify all of our precious Washington and Lee values, which I am sure "Anonymous" will be the first to find and expose, anonymously of course.

Sincerely,
John Kerker '02

Joke of the week:

There once were two guys, named Bill and Bob who liked to go hunting. One day they were out hunting with Bill's dog Old Blue. Bob saw a raccoon in a tree and raised his gun. Bill said, "No, no. Put your gun down. Old Blue's got it." So Bill went up in the tree and hit the branch. When the raccoon fell to the ground, Old Blue ran up and humped it to death. Later, Bob saw a bobcat in a tree and raised his gun. Bill said, "No, no. Put your gun down. Old Blue's got it." So Bill went up in the tree and hit the branch. When the bobcat fell to the ground, Old Blue ran up and humped it to death. Bob thought this is awesome. He said, "I can't believe it, we've killed a raccoon and a bobcat and haven't used one bullet yet." Finally, Bob saw a baby black bear in the tree. He raised his gun. Bill said, "No, no, Bob. Put your gun down. Old Blue's got it." So Bill went up into the tree and reached back with his bat to hit the branch. He took a swing and completely missed. Bill began to fall out of the tree and started screaming, "Shoot the dog! Shoot the dog!"

Quote of the week:

“Is a quarter pound enough for three guys for two days?”

— Anonymous sophomore guy

The Ring-tum Phi

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TALKback.. Would you like to be buried in Lee Chapel?



"No, I'd rather be buried outside with the horse, then people would bring me apples and sugar cubes."
—Emilie Wiesner '00



"No, I'd rather be cremated."
—Rena Thragarajan '00



"No, because I don't think I could keep such illustrious company."
—Garret Winstead '03



"No, I'm not a Lee or a horse."
—Mike Malinzak '02

Signature Student

Jessica Parrillo '01

By Ginger Phillips
FEATURES EDITOR

Does taking a full course load, playing on a varsity sports team and having an almost 24 hour job sound like too much to handle? At least one Washington & Lee University student, junior Jessica Parrillo, doesn't seem to think so.

"I am definitely busy, but I wouldn't choose not to do any of the activities which I am involved in," Parrillo said. "My experience at W&L wouldn't be half as great if I weren't doing all these things."

Parrillo is the dorm counselor for 17 freshman girls on the fourth floor of Graham-Lees Dormitory. She feels that being a dorm counselor is rewarding because it gives her the opportunity to share all the things that she loves about W&L with the freshmen and to help make their W&L experience a positive one. She helps her freshmen with everything from deciding which classes to take to listening to and advising them about any serious problems they may have.

"Being a dorm counselor is an almost 24-hour job, but I love it," she said. "The girls on my hall know they can come to me any time to get advice or just to talk about their day. My door's always open."

Parrillo also spends seven days a week keeping in shape for her weekend cross country meets. She is an avid runner and captain of the W&L Cross Country Team.

"Our team is twice the size it was last year," Parrillo said. "We had a lot of new talent come in this year to join the strong base we had from last year."

This year's team has been the strongest cross country team W&L has seen in years, winning third place at the state meet at Bridgewater and first place at ODACs over Parents' Weekend. Parrillo also made the prestigious All ODAC Team.

"Next weekend we have the NCAA Regional meet in Seawannee," she said. "We are hoping to finish off the season just as strong as we started it and run as well as we did at ODACs."

Parrillo, a psychology major, has been successful in balancing her many roles. "Having so much to do forces you to better structure your day," she said. "Plus, there's not much time for sleep!"

She likes to relax and wind down by "spending time with friends, taking a peaceful drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway, going for

a run, or just taking a study break in the Co-op with friends."

What makes her smile? "Well, anyone that knows me knows that I smile and laugh at everything!"

She also likes to listen to music, pretty much any kind except country and heavy metal. "I love bands like Sarah McLachlan, Dave Matthews, Bare Naked Ladies, and my new favorite band, Vertical Horizon," she said. "My roommates throughout the years have also taught me to appreciate rap music as well."



Photo courtesy of Jessica Parrillo

Jessica Parrillo has become an integral part of the W&L community through her positions as dorm counselor and Rho-Chi.

Parrillo already has big plans if she were to win the lottery tomorrow. "My first big purchase would be a new car, a black Saab," she said. "I would also use the money to pay for graduate school and take a year just to travel around the world."

Where exactly would she go? "I would love to drive across the country because there's so much I want to see here that I haven't seen yet," Parrillo said. "Or I would go on a trip to Australia because I've never been and have always had a fascination with it."

Parrillo says her favorite cartoon character would have to be Piglet from Winnie the Pooh.

"He's just this tiny little guy with the biggest heart in the world. Piglet would do anything for his friends, and I think we're a lot alike in that way."

Another of her favorites is the famous Sunday brunch in the Dining Hall. "You can always count on there to be great food at Sunday brunch and it's such a great time to catch up with friends and find out about everyone's weekend."

Although Parrillo is extremely busy enjoying her college experience, she has had some time to reflect a little on life in general, saying that her motto is "The more you open your mind to new things, the more you can learn to appreciate in life."

W&L students give God a grade

Elianna Marziani
FEATURES EDITOR

Ever wondered what kind of grades God would make in college? Wonder no more. The answer is coming to Washington and Lee University in a Mindbenders performance of Richard Orloff's "The Whole Shebang."

"It's a real cute play. It's funny, touching, and it makes you think: what is there about life that is worth living for?" said junior Kathie Soroka, the play's director.

"The Whole Shebang" is a one-act play that presents God as a university student who must defend His honors thesis on the topic of creation before a panel of professors.

The play is yet another look at creation, to top off all of the discussion that has been brewing at W&L since the convocation address by evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould. The play did not emerge as a result of all the creation/evolution discussions going on around campus, but Soroka said, "I did think it would fit in nicely with them."

This play takes on a whole different issue, however. Rather than arguing for or against creationism, this play presents God as a student whose task was to create a universe, and the panel of professors judges how perfect His creation truly was.

Junior Howard Sanborn is the actor playing Professor A, who he described as "a conservative, 'been there' kind of cynical jerk," as opposed

to the more "cutesy, open-minded and liberal" Professor B.

Sanborn explained that God presents His work by bringing in two average people to show the professors; His ideal "average people" could not make the presentation, so God was stuck with two "white trailer-park trash" people to display to the panel for judgment.

What was His grade? The Mindbenders will not reveal it until their performance Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 8:00 p.m.

The cast of this performance includes Brian Prisco, Howard Sanborn, Kathie Soroka, Leah Sawyer, Neal Willetts and Jane Ledlie.

Sanborn cited "the opportunity to work with people on the cast" as one of his main reasons for acting in this performance. "It's really a blast. They're really talented people. I just couldn't pass up the opportunity to work with them again."



Photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

BENDING YOUR MIND: Brian Prisco '00 and Howard Sanborn '01 rehearse with director Kathie Soroka '01 for the upcoming production of "The Whole Shebang," a humorous and thought-provoking account of God's thesis on creation.

life. But, it doesn't make you think too hard. A fun and safe alternative to an otherwise rowdy Tuesday night... just kidding," she said.

Why should you give up all the excitement of a Tuesday night in the library for this performance? Soroka had an answer. "It's about half an hour long and it's funny. And, it makes you think about the human condition, the good things and the not so good things about

And, of course, it may be the only opportunity you get to compare your GPA to God's.

Upcoming events...



Monday, November 8

8:00 p.m. Lenfest Series: The Lula Washington Dance Company presents Reflections in Black. Keller Theatre, Lenfest.

Wednesday, November 10

- 5:00 p.m. AED Seminar. "Medical School Admissions and Making your Decision." John F. Walters, assistant dean for student affairs and financial aid, Washington University School of Medicine. Science Center, room P307.
- 7:00 p.m. Lecture. "The End of Party Government in Europe," Prof. Richard Katz, Johns Hopkins University. Room 327, Williams School.
- 9:00 p.m. DJ party at Pi Phi.

Thursday, November 11

All Day Clean-Up WebReg: All students may continue Winter term Web Registration through 11:59 p.m.

4:00 p.m. Davis Moot Court Finals. Moot Court Room, Sydney Lewis Hall.

4:00 p.m. Math Department Student Reports on Summer Research Projects. Adam Henry '00, Virginia Jernigan '00 and Sybil Prince '01. Room 6, Robinson Hall. Refreshments at 3:30 p.m.

Friday, November 12

- 4:30 p.m. Business Ethics Institute Lecture. "Corruption and Moral Risk." Patricia Werhane, the Darden School, University of Virginia. Room 221, Williams School.
- 4:30 p.m. Journalism Ethics Institute Keynote Lecture. Globalization's Challenge to the Press' Moral Imperative." Dr. Louis Day, LSU. Room 327, Williams School.
- 7:30 p.m. Film Society. "Character" (Holland, 1998), directed by Mike van Diem. Troubadour Cinema.

Saturday, November 13

- 8:30 a.m. Kaplan MCAT Pretest. Everyone taking the MCAT in 2000 should attend. Room A214, Science Center.
- 1:00 p.m. Football. W&L vs. Swarthmore. Wilson Field.
- 5:00 p.m. Emma Gibbs Band and BBQ at Fiji
- 7:30 p.m. Film Society. "Character." Troubadour Cinema.
- 8:00 p.m. Sonoklect. Hornist/composer David Amram and the University Jazz Ensemble. Keller Theatre, Lenfest.

Sunday, November 14

- 1:00 p.m. Swimming (M&W). W&L vs. Gettysburg College. Twombly Pool.



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"People demand freedom of speech to make up for the freedom of thought which they avoid." ~ Kierkegaard

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