**VOLUME 102, No.18** 

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450

Monday, January 24, 2000

### **Mock Convention** countdown begins

Organizers scurry to nail down lastminute details as Friday's event nears

> By Polly Doig EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Four days before the first session of Washington and Lee University's Mock Convention opens, students are still playing basketball in the gymspeeches, voting and predicting.

convention will actually happen.

not begin until Wednesday, when virstage will begin based on a time-con-

man Christopher Ball, "we have to in the week to finalize their plans. convert the Warner Center into a convention hall in approximately 30 Schweppe hints at a surprise "visit" hours."

The process will include setting up more than 1,500 folding chairs, in adsetup process, however, is not the floor. only one that still remains for Mock they will come.

'The thing that's been difficult for Con team remains confident. us is that Mock Con falls in between

the Iowa caucus and the New Hampshire primary, and the State of the Union address is the night before the first session," Eddy said. "A lot of TV stations simply don't have the manpower to cover both."

In spite of the conflictive timing, nasium that will become the scene of however, several members of the media have confirmed that they will One might question whether the come. According to Eddy, The Roanoke Times, WSLS, The Dallas In fact, setup for Mock Con will Morning News, and most of the wire services have sent confirmation. Time tual nonstop construction of the magazine will firm up their plans on Tuesday, as well as many of the networks (including the elusive C-SPAN According to co-facilities chair- and MSNBC) who will wait until later

> In addition, general chairman Mark by a candidate, which will take place during the third session.

Schweppe also asks that delegates dition to sound equipment, comput- be on time for each session, and reers, the stage and a balloon drop. The main seated while speakers have the

Although there is still much to be Con planners. Many of the media done and several elements that will contacted have yet to confirm that contribute to Mock Con's success are uncertain, Eddy says that the Mock

"It's all going to come together."

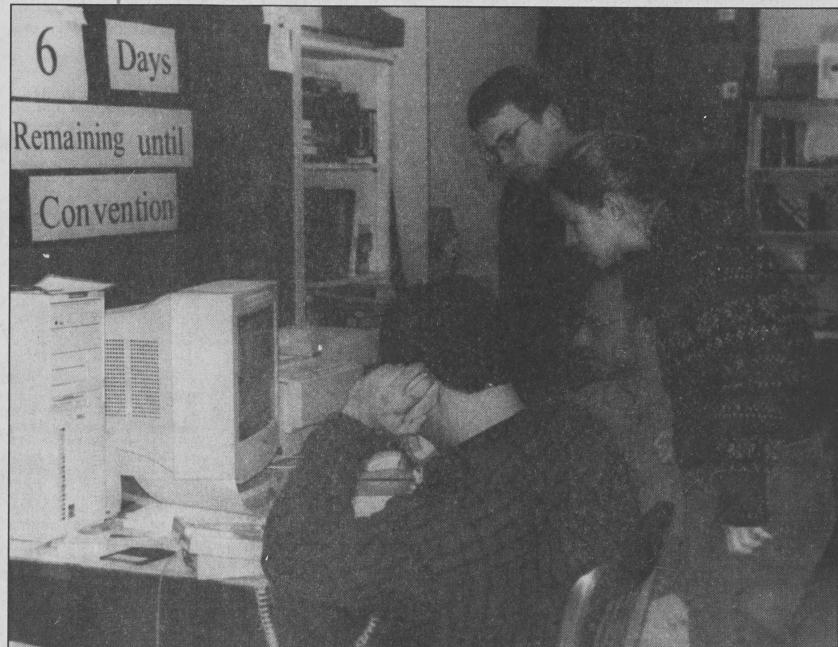


photo by Tiffany Friedel/Assistant Photo Editor

THE CLOCK TICKS: Kirk Garrett, Mark Schweppe, Dave Dardis, and Carolyn Richardson gather around one of the computers in the Mock Con office working on a few last minute details.

#### Coffee house exceeds expectations

#### Wednesday night's "Java at the GHQ" deemed a great success

By Ann Whitam STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday night, students, faculty, and Lexington residents gathered in the GHQ for a night of "We dig Terry Vosbein!" jazz, free coffee, and a respite from at 5:30 p.m.

Put together in just two weeks time, "Java at the GHQ" is a new Wednesday night alternative to parties, the Co-op, or studying for that matter. The brainchild of Dr. Jane Horton, the weekly coffee house is partially funded by a grant from the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control. Through the grant, the ABC hopes to reduce binge and underage drinking on college campuses around the state. Student Activities was able to match the grant amount with funds from the school budget.

Sipping on gourmet coffee from Royal Cup Coffee of Birmingham, the audience listened to the jazz of professor of music Terry Vosbein, senior Josh Harvey, UVA senior Rob nior Kelly Stewart. "And expensive." Hubbard, and Pete Davis.

Spice thinks the coffee house is a

musicians." Music majors Hillary ford to price everything from \$.75-Bryant and Hampton Pasley agree. \$1.85." says Dr. Horton.

that lingering isolation we often stopped in, freshman Jane Ledlie Outing Club Slide Shows lined up sense here in Lex Vegas, where the said that, "it's a good break for those for the coming weeks. "But I would only other coffee shop in town closes of us who can't go out. It's much better than the Co-op!'

Senior Hillary Everist agreed and added, "I think it's great to have faculty here to talk to in a relaxed atmosphere. And it's the only good coffee place open in town this late."

"Java at the GHQ" will be open 8:30p.m-1:00a.m.

Compared to The Ruse, the coffee house on Nelson Street that closed this past fall, many actually prefer "Java at the GHQ.

"I think it might do better than The Ruse," said Hillary Everist. "It's much closer."

Dean of Freshman Mark Dahlhouse claimed, "The Ruse was okay."

"It was kind of dirty," added se-

Over-priced coffee, cappuccino, Professor of music Dr. Gordon and hot chocolate are things that "Java at the GHQ" customers will not

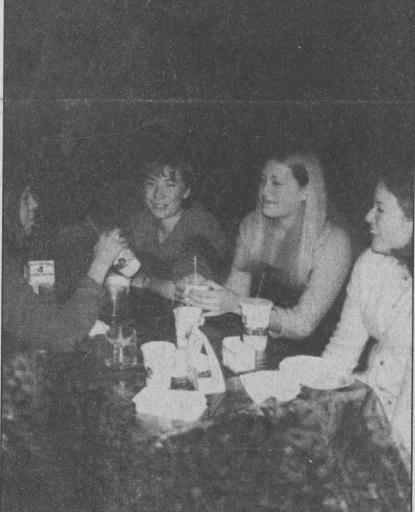
nice alternative to his usual have to worry about. "Thanks to the Wednesday nights, "and I always grant money and Royal Cup's donawant to come out and support the tion of all the equipment, we can af-

Student Activities Marjorie Among the students who Schiff has various bands and two like to see this become a place where students provide the entertainment. Either a student band, a poetry reading, a comedian, or even the IFC renting the place out for a pledge activity. Mindbending Productions is also excited about putting on shows here since The Ruse closed."

Juniors Heather McDonald and Matt Herman are the student managers of "Java at the GHQ." Both have previous experience working in coffee shops. McDonald said that she was "absolutely thrilled" with the turnout.

"It went far and above my expectations. I expected to see a majority of freshman and sophomores, but the group that came was much more diverse.'

"The turn-out was excellent," Herman agreed. "Hopefully we'll see just as many folks there next



MOCHA OR LATTE? Freshmen Sarah Sager, Janet Carter, Vicky Balestriere, and Susan Woodward sip on coffee, eat desserts, and discuss philosophy during "Java at the GHQ's" opening night.

#### "20/20" to land in Lex

By Max Smith NEWS EDITOR

John Stossel, correspondent for ABC's "20/20," and "The John Stossel Specials," is coming to Washington and Lee University next week.

Stossel will speak in Lee Chapel on Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. Titled "Pandering to Fear: The Media's Crisis Mentality," the speech will address the validity of society's criticisms of his own profession. Does the media really blow issues out of proportion?

"We've very excited to have Stossel speak," said Contact chairperson Elizabeth Harvey. "He's known for an atypical perspective on the media."

Stossel joined "20/20" in 1981 and began doing primetime specials in 1994. Stossel has won 19 Emmy Awards and been honored five times for excel-

lence in consumer reporting by the National Press Club. The specials, which have consistently rated among the top news programs when aired, have brought

Stossel critical acclaim. The Dallas Morning News called him "the most consistently thought-provoking TV reporter of our time."

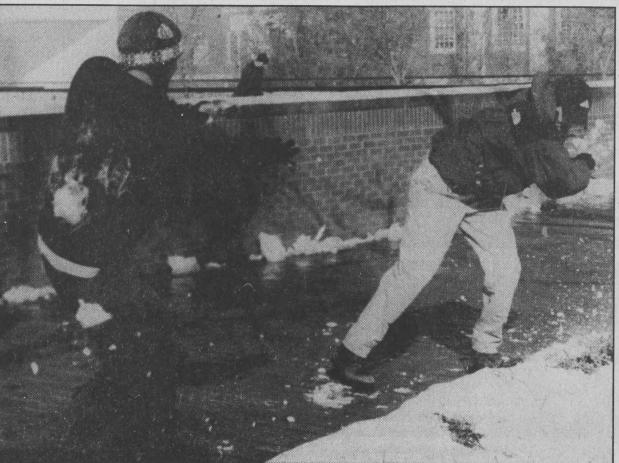


photo by Tiffany Friedel/Assistant Photo Editor

COLD, HARD AND WET. Two students take a break from school work, and pummel each other with snowballs in front of Graham-Lees dormitory after Wednesday night's snowfall.

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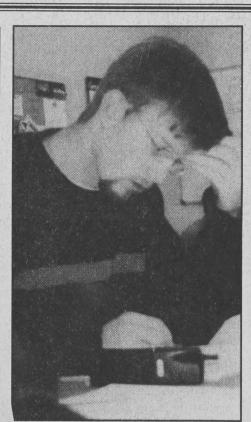


photo by Lisa Lin/Assistant Photo Editor STRESSED OUT: Ben Thompson works feverishly on last minute Mock Con work, see inside.

## PINION The Ring-tum Phi PINION

### 1,001 things that irritate me: Speed freaks

Ungrateful Ninja

Katy Harding '01

Every child, I imagine, has been well informed about the Tortoise and the Hare. And, I would assume that most semi-intelligent kids are able to gather the intended message from it you know, "slow and steady wins the race." Complaint #3 from yours truly is more of a request than a gripe; I motion to have this allegory

banned permanently from the curriculum in Lexington schools. . . wait,

make that all schools in the South.

Before you peg me as book-burner, hear me out and perhaps you will second this motion. The problem is that it appears this 'speed isn't everything' idea has been taken to the extreme in and around Metro-Lex.

Since when does it take 15 minutes to make a junior Frosty? Why does mail take 10 times as long to get to Lexington than it does to leave? Why does it take 45 minutes to order a drink at The Palms and twice as long to get it at Spanky's? Need I ask why movies in Lexington are video releases everywhere else? Why does that take so long? Why does it take 20 minutes stopping at every blasted traffic light to get down Main Street? And, do not even get me started on Lexington drivers!

The frightening thing is that this lethargy is all-consuming and severely contagious. Civilized students all around campus rejoiced at the prospect of the new Applebee's restaurant. "At last!" they cried, "a real restaurant" (forget the fact that I personally would never even have considered my local, Chicago Applebee's a dining option, but I too joined in the elation when this establishment opened its doors earlier this year).

Oh, but Generals! We were so desperately blinded by our delight that we failed to recognize that, national chain or not, this was Lexington! Translation: service is still slow and sluggish because though the name exudes normalcy, the employees remain students of the Tortoise.

And you would think that all this deliberative, unhurried action produces thorough, quality results? Um. . . no. Applebee's still cannot understand that a Diet Coke with no ice means you don't put ice in the glass regardless of how long they ponder the request.

Who do I speak to about this anyway? Is there no one who will claim respon-

sibility for this disorganization and torpor? Who, at Kroger, decides to open only one register on Friday afternoons when every social-minded fraternity guy will be there? Why does Subway only have one sandwich artist working on Sunday evenings?

Don't think that we as students are immune to this infiltration of indolence, however. I am regularly caught striding behind THE SLOWEST WALK-ERS ON EARTH right here on the Hill. You know who these people are and I am not talking about gaping prospectives and their parents. This species of student is a herd animal, often traveling in packs, allowing them to increase their effectiveness at slowing down everyone else simply because they leave no alternative space to pass. They meander down the Colonnade and bumble through the Coop, causing traffic jams like Lexington has never seen.

I am not suggesting that I am racing to get to class, but there is no reason on this earth why I should have to hover in the rain because some students have chosen to hold the next Rumor Mill meeting in the middle of Stemmon's Plaza that I'm supduring the passing period.

The easygoing attitude character- nauseauously istic of Lexington and the South lends certain quaintness to the place. The peaceful silence of inactivity is somewhat welcome when you want to sit back and relax after a hectic day in class. However, I do not think that it was necessary to take this idea and run sey (my home state) has better seat- achs pumped at Stonewall than anywith it. . . or amble slowly along with it. ing than my delegation. At least I get thing Bob Dole says.

uote of the week:

If you're going to be noisy, get a hotel room.

— Anonymous girl



## What the hell is Mock Con anyway?

It's Mock Con time!

What the hell is Mock Con? Does anyone even know what

they're excited about? Of course we're all aware of the enthralling keynote speaker and the pending C-SPAN cov- that the majority of the state floats are erage. Honestly,

all I really know is posed to be

drunk and ride on a flatbed waving a sure the good people of Lexington are flag from a state that I've only been to going to appreciate having the bustling for a few hours. I more excited about streets of town tied up for hours for the not having to go to history class on parade and the elephant sh\*\* and vomit Friday than hearing Bill Bennett speak.

to sit in front of Guam. I love the fact that this school appropriates hundreds of thousands of dollars just so the students can try not to throw up on national television. I also contend that everyone who joined a state that start with an "A" just to be closer to the cameras should be smacked. Here's another little teaser, C-SPAN hasn't even confirmed coverage yet. I'm willing to bet that if this whole debauchery isn't televised, the Warner Center is going to be more deserted than a study skills class on a Friday night.

However, at least this is another in my drunken stupor.

time-honored W&L tradition that encourages youth alcoholism. In acknowledgement of our patronage, Jim Beam bourbon has issued the Mock Convention commemerative fifth. I'm also sure

going to incorpo-

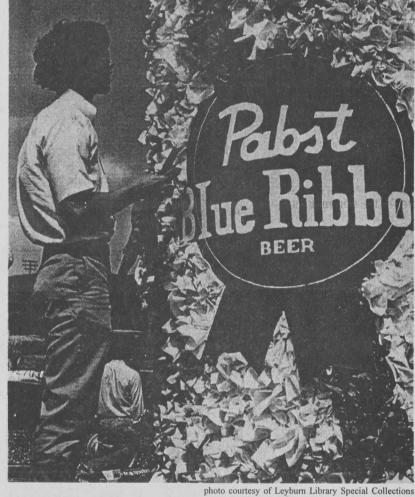
oversized bottles

of booze or giant

Soon to be 5th year rate some type of Taylor Ruilova '00

cans of Natty. I'm cleanup afterwards. Students are more I'm also teed off because New Jer- likely to remember getting their stom-

> I'm not saying that I'm going to sit out for all the festivities, on the contrary, I plan to be drunkenly touting my Republican pride. I do have a problem, however, with such a costly affair that nine out of 10 people are clueless about. All this event really is is an excuse for students to yet again embarass their parents with their alcohol problems, but this time it's televised. Well, here's to Mock Con, so tip back the Beam and try not to fall off the float. Oh, and mom and dad, please excuse me in advance for trying to imitate Dole's arm on stage



1968 MOCK CONVENTION: W&L student works on a float in preparation for the Mock Con parade.

#### The King-tum Phi

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## Good coffee and more found at Java

wondered how it could ever compare to my old haunt, the Ruse. The Ruse was a coffee house in the truest sense of

the word, full of music and poetry, big bowls of coffee, and interesting characters that are indig-

Coffee Talk Heather McDonald '01

enous to coffee houses. The GHQ on the other hand, is a place associated with lunch and dinner and the university meal plan. (Really good quesadillas though.) Could coffee ever come to the GHQ in it's full glory? Apparently... yes. Before the evening, co-manager and general partner in

crime Matt Herman and I were discussing how nervous we were. About the only thing we could say was, "I hope people come. I hope the coffee's good. I hope everything's cool." After the first hour, there were people pouring into

Java @ GHQ. . . When I first heard about the plan I the University Center to get coffee, listen to good jazz and just to see what the whole endeavor was about. All Matt and I could do was stand at the espresso machine and make drinks and smile. Our estimates showed that there were about 300 people in and out through the evening. Maybe it's beginner's luck, but what a rush.

> My experience with coffee shops is probably anything but positive. I'm used to customers getting mad about the amount of foam on their skim-2 pumps of vanilla-latte and threatening to throw it at me. To be able to see the real essence of a coffee house instead of the morning commuter java-stop I'm used to is wonderful. If all works well, this idea of a campus coffee house will be incorporated into the University Commons once it is built. This coffee house would have full coffee house facilities, couches and comfy chairs, yet would still have the convenience of being on campus.

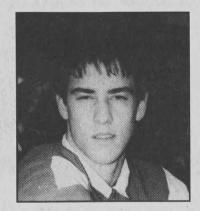
> The next few weeks will be the real test, on whether people come and continue to support Java @ the Q. W&L

students have a bad rap for being apathetic, for simply working hard and partying hard. The students who showed up last Wednesday night proved that image is incorrect, at least with some of the population, and hopefully they and more will keep showing up.

What was so impressive was the mix of people who showed up: Greeks and independents, freshmen and seniors... the mix was truly a mix, which we all know is a rare occurrence at W&L. Some people I've talked to say that it won't last. I know there are a lot of strikes against us. Yes, the program is on-campus, and it is a university program. No one will have stories about Java @ the Q that start off with "One night when I was really drunk..."

Instead, there might be some good music and interesting conversation. You can chill with friends, or do homework somewhere other than the library. And, of course, you can enjoy great coffee and (soon to be famous) hot chocolate. What more could you want? See you Wednesday.

### ALKback...What's the best part about pledgeship?



"Freezing my nipples off and showing off my guns.' -Alex Poor '03



"The cookies." -Kristen Mandaglio '03



"The great upperclassmen and my pledge trainer." -Betsy Ely '03



"I love my pledge trainer. . . I am a happy PiKA pledge.' -Jason Smee '03



SPECIAL MOCK CONVENTION PULLOUT

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 28 - 29, 2000

## Predicting a president: Mock Con gears up

\* Delegates, politicians, and maybe an elephant or two will gather to see if students' research will produce results

Mock Con success rate:

CORRECT WITH WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

CORRECT WITH CHARLES EVANS HUGHES

INCORRECT WITH AURTHUR VANDENBERG

INCORRECT WITH CHARLES L. MCRARY

(LANDON RECEIVED THE NOMINATION)

(WILKIE RECEIVED THE NOMINATION)

(DEWEY RECEIVED THE NOMINATION)

CORRECT WITH DWIGHT EISENHOWER

CORRECT WITH ADLAI STEVENSON

CORRECT WITH JOHN F. KENNEDY

CORRECT WITH RICHARD NIXON

CORRECT WITH JIMMY CARTER

CORRECT WITH RONALD REAGAN

CORRECT WITH WALTER MONDALE

CORRECT WITH MICHAEL DUKAKIS

CORRECT WITH BILL CLINTON

CORRECT WITH BOB DOLE

CORRECT WITH BARRY GOLDWATER

INCORRECT WITH EDWARD M. KENNEDY

(McGovern received the nomination)

(WILSON RECEIVED THE NOMINATION)

INCORRECT WITH JUDSON HARMON

CORRECT WITH JOHN W. DAVIS

CORRECT WITH AL SMITH

CORRECT WITH F.D.R.

No Convention Held

INCORRECT WITH VANDENBERG

No Convention Held

By Elianna Marziani FEATURES EDITOR

Washington and Lee University is four days away from celebrating one of its most exciting events, the famed quadrennial Mock Convention. In past years, Mock Con has gained a national reputation, being named "one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious mock conventions" by The Washington Post it what Harry Truman called "a real convention."

and "a serious attempt to predict how the professionals will line up when the real thing comes along" by Newsweek. Everyone has heard the hype, seen the posters, and paid his \$20 to get onto the floor: now what exactly IS Mock Con?

The W&L Mock Convention is an event in which student body delegates make a prediction as to whom the out-of-office party will nominate as its presidential candidate for the year's election. Traditionally, Mock Con \* has been a uniquely accurate predictor of the ultimate candidate, named "the nation's most accurate mock convention" by United Press International in 1976. As the convention is usually held in March, before most of the \* state conventions, Mock Con serves as a true predictor of the nominee, not merely a reflection of what is already commonly

to remain in the forefront of election predictions and not just a stale repetition of the results of various other polls and primaries.

grassroots research at the state and local levels. Five regional coordinators supervise 55 state and territory chairmen, who are responsible for forming committees to contact officials and citizens of their respective areas and get a feel for public opinion in those areas.

By conducting careful and precise research, students are able to gauge the nation's sentiments and predict its choice for the out-of-office presidential candidate, rather than merely nominating a person that they, as a fairly limited and unrepresentative body, would select independently. This meticulous research is what sets W&L's Mock Convention apart and makes

The chairmen of the convention were selected in 1998, the regional directors in September 1998, the state chairs the middle of last year, the officers of delegations second semester last year, and the delegations themselves in the fall of 1999. Last year, Mock Con Chairman Mark Schweppe said, "We hope to have, by the time the convention takes place . . . close to 90 percent [of students] involved in some way or another."

Now he says "I think we're well over 90 percent at this point. There are 1,660 student delegates, and that doesn't include the 28 member steering committee or the 55 state and territory chairmen."

Don't let anyone fool you into thinking that Mock Con is merely a twoday event on Jan. 28th and 29th. The celebration has been a year-long

known. The students' desire to truly make Mock Con a event to take hold of the student body and get it interpredictor was reflected this year when they switched ested and excited in the changes in national politics the date for Mock Con from March to January, in order and its role in these changes. It began with the Spring Kick-off April 26-28 last year. Mock Con hosted a Presidential Issues Forum, a media panel made up of such notables as Howard Feinman, Bill Schneider, Jim To ensure a correct prediction, students conduct Barnes, and Howard Cook, an address by Lamar Alexander, and in cooperation with the Student Ac-

SEE 'CONVENTION' ON PAGE 4



Delegates at the 1972 Democratic Mock Convention committed a rare error, and mistakenly nominated Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. George McGovern received the nomination.

## Parade full of floats, wrestlers and elephants, oh my!

By Elianna Marziani

FEATURES EDITOR

Coming soon to Lexington: skiiers, surfers, wrestlers, hula dancers, bagpipes, a mariachi band, and an African elephant. This could only be a Mock Con parade.

For more than 20 years, the Mock Convention has sponsored a parade preceding the actual convention, and this year is no exception. Junior biology major Spencer Liles has been working for almost a year as Parade Chairman to coordinate this Mock Convention's parade, and from all accounts, the work will be evident in the event.

Each delegation is required to submit a float in the parade, so there should be 55 floats representing the 50 states and five territories that have votes in the primary Each state was required to spend at least \$85 on its float,

but several delegations have gone above and beyond Ramey, on creating a humorous float the minimum to ensure a wonderful representation of their

state in the parade. The Minnesota delegation, led by sophomores Neely Baker and Alicia Brandt, is putting together a float made into a wrestling ring. They plan on having a World Wrestling Federation theme. The wrestling ring float will carry people dressed up as wrestlers, staging a fight between Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura (an ex-professional wrestler) and Texas Republican hopeful George W. Bush, complete with a referee and announcer. There are 34 delegates, and Brandt hopes that they will all show up to help build the float. The delegation is devoted to making

their float great, and plans on spending about \$200 on it. Liles said that the Washington, D.C. delegation is planning, under the direction of juniors Liz Borges and Emily

based on Bill Clinton and his White House experiences, but he did not

want to reveal all of their secrets. Other promising ideas include the Virginia delegation's "Virginia is for lovers" theme, North Carolina's Andy Griffith theme, the Utah delegation's plan to drag snow skiiers behind them, and the Hawaii delegation's trailing

These delegations will compete with all the others for first, second and third place honors in the Most Humorous and Best Overall categories; the judges will include president John Elrod and possibly Mimi Elrod, professor of accuonting Lyn Wheeler, and Brenda Hartless of the Co-op. Winners will receive trophies and recognition in the first session of Mock Convention on Friday morn-

The hour-long parade will begin Friday morning at 10:30 at Brewbaker Field, the Lexington public field behind the hospital. It will then curve onto Main Street, travel from Main Street to Washington Street, head west toward the W&L campus, and end on the Baker-Davis-Gilliam quad. The floats will then travel up to the Ruins to disassemble.

While the floats appear to be quite promising, they are only one part of the parade. Liles has also secured a few horse groups to come in, including the Victorian Sidesaddle Society. The Lexington Fire Department is bringing a few engines to the parade, as well. Miss Virginia, Crystal Lewis, will be a guest of honor in the parade, riding in a horse-drawn carriage through the streets of Lexington. A

SEE 'PARADE' ON PAGE 6

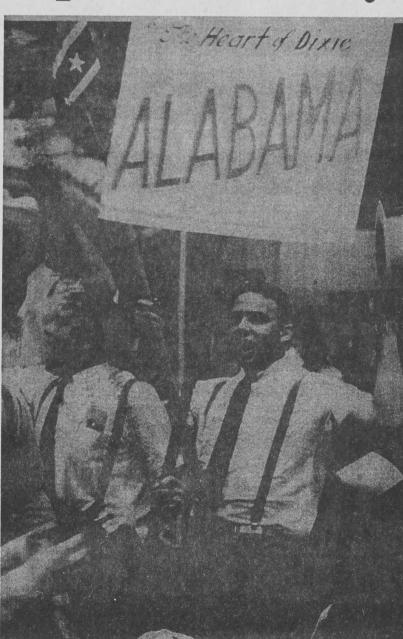


photo courtesy of Leyburn Library Special Collections

'BAMA!: Members of the Alabama delegation get rowdy with the excitement of Mock Convention 1960. The Convention correctly predicted John F. Kennedy, Jr. as the Democratic Party's nominee.



photo courtesy of Leyburn Librarys Special Collection

The 1952 parade, which was held in April, featured a fire truck decorated with toilet paper.

### Key Republican leaders to headline Mock Convention

U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Watts serves in the fourth highest-ranking Republican position in the U.S. House as House Republican Conference Chairman. As a demonstration of his influence, Rep. Watts was selected to give the Republican Response to President Clinton's 1997 State of the Union Address. Watts attended the University of Oklahoma where he after quarterbacking the Sooners to consecutive Big Eight Championships and Orange Bowl vic-

William J. Bennett is one of our nation's most informed and well-respected advocates of education reform. While currently serving as a Co-Director for Empower America in Washington, DC, Dr. Bennett has served as Secretary of Education and Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities under President Reagan and Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy under President

Gov. Frank Keating was reelected in 1998 and became only the second governor in Oklahoma history to win a second consecutive term. In 1985 he accepted appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and later served as Associate Attorney General. In 1990, he joined Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp as General Counsel and Acting Deputy HUD Secretary.

mittee of the National Governors' Association.

Congressman Bob Goodlatte is currently serving his fourth term as the Co-Chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Internet Caucus and the Chairman of the House Republican High Technology Working Group. Goodlatte has been a leader in Congress on a number of Internet and high-tech issues including encryption, piracy prevention, anti-counterfeiting, online service provider and copyright liability, to name a few. Congressman Goodlatte also serves on the Judiciary Committee and the Agriculture Commit-

Jim Nicholson was re-elected to a second two-year term as Republican National Committee (RNC) Chairman in Jan. 1999. During his first term, the RNC enjoyed record-breaking fundraising success, and Nicholson emerged with a reputation for consensus building and focusing on the issues that unite all Republicans. Nicholson also served as the Colorado National Committeeman on the RNC for the past 12 years where he led from a variety of assignments including chairing the RNC's Rules Committee, serving on the budget committee, and representing the Western States as RNC Vice-Chairman. As a small businessman

10:30 a.m.

1:45 p.m. Call to Order

2:00 National Anthem

2:05 Invocation

1:50 Presentation of Colors

1:55 Pledge of Allegiance

2:10 Call for Convention

2:15 Credentials Committee Report

2:25 Election of Permanent Chairmen

2:20 Rules Committee Report

can Governors' Association and sits on the Executive Comnational, Nicholson now serves in the Republican Party's top leadership post.

> Sen. William E. Brock '53 has served in numerous public service capacities. He began his career as a representative for the third district of Tennessee (1963-1970) in the House of Representatives and then held one term as a senator from 1971 to 1976. Following these two positions, Brock was elected Chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1977 to 1980 and served as a U.S. Trade Representative from 1981 to 1985. In addition, Sen. Brock acted as the Secretary of Labor from 1985-1987 under President Reagan.

> Time magazine considers Mayor Bret Schundler one of America's most promising young leaders. At the age of 33, Bret Schundler became the first Republican to be elected Mayor in Jersey City since the First World War. In 1997, he was re-elected in his second landslide victory to Jersey City's longest serving mayor in 30 years: all in a city that was 65 percent minority, largely working-class, and only 6 percent Republican. Nationally, Mayor Schundler is best known as a leader in the fight for parental choice in education and as a defender of religious liberty. Reader's Digest, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Parade Magazine have all profiled Mayor

J.C. Watts, Jr. is currently serving his third term in the Gov. Keating currently serves as Chairman of the Republiand veteran of Republican politics at the local, state, and Schundler. He has appeared on public affairs television programs ranging from "The Charlie Rose Show" to "This Week With David Brinkley."

> Recognized as one of the United States' most prominent figures of the 20th Century, Senator Bob Dole has a distinguished record of public service that continues to make a difference to Americans. As the Republican Presidential nominee in 1996, Dole offered himself to Americans as an honorable leader. Dole's candidacy for the White House cemented his reputation as an honest, respected statesman who will long be considered one of the most powerful legislators of our times. President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom as a tribute to his character and contributions to the nation. Senator Dole was also awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Of Dole as Senate Majority Leader, Ronald Reagan has said, "His title of Leader is not just a job title, it's a description of the man." President Bush called Senator Dole "a great Republican Leader, as great as any in the past." Bob Dole is one of only 16 Americans to serve as Senate Majority Leader and his first stint in that position in the mid-1980s won praise nationwide. According to Congressional Quarterly, Senator Dole, "proved a point that badly needed proving at the time: the Senate could be led."

> > Pre-Convention Entertainment, Wildgrass

Dr. William F. Connelly, Jr.

Chairman Jim Nicholson (RNC)

Representative J. C. Watts (R-OK)

Dr. William F. Connelly, Jr.

VMI Color Guard

Rep. Bob Goodlatte

Secretary William Bennett

The Honorable Robert J. Dole

**Brian Shaw** 

Burr Datz

TBA >

Rev. David Cox

Heather Howard

**David Dardis** 

**David Dardis** 



FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2000

1:15 p.m. Pre-convention entertainment

Parade

Wildgrass 7:40 TBA Dr. William F. Connelly, Jr. Capt. Robert Peniston 8:30 Platform Debate

-Personnel -Political

2:30 Opening Remarks -General Chair

-General

-Personnel Chair -Political Chair

2:45 Address from the University 2:55 Greetings from Lexington

3:05 Address from the Advisory Board

3:20 Address 3:40 Address

4:05 Parade Award Winners

:20 Benediction 4:25 Adjournment

Rev. William Klein 9:40 Benediction Carolyn Richardson 9:45 Adjournment Malloy Evans Kirk Garrett Kirk Garrett Mark Schweppe Juliet Bickford David Dardis 9:20 Invocation President John W. Elrod 9:30 Opening Address Mayor Buddy Derrick 9:45 Address Hon. William E. Brock 10:10 Keynote Address

Gov. Frank Keating (R-OK)

Rev. William Klein

SESSION II 7:15 PM

7:30 Call to Order 7:35 Invocation

8:00 Platform Address

VMI Color Guard 8:25 Platform Committee Report

Southern Comfort 9:10 Friday's Keynote Address

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2000

**SESSION III** 8:30 a.m. Pre-Convention Entertainment

9:00 Call to Order

9:05 Presentation of Colors 9:10 Pledge of Allegiance

9:15 National Anthem

Mayor Bret Schundler (Jersey City, NJ) 10:40 Nominations for President —Roll Call of the States

> Nominations for Vice-President Spencer Liles 12:40 p.m. apprx. Closing

Juliet Bickford 12:45 apprx. Benediction Adjournment

Burr Datz Mark Schweppe

AMERICAN GOTHIC: The Nebraska float in 1968.

#### 'CONVENTION' FROM PAGE 3

tivities Board, Willie Nelson in concert.

This year, students came together in pre-Mock Con excitement to enjoy the November Presidential Gala. This Friday, the Mock Con weekend itself will begin at 10:30 a.m., when floats representing all of the states will parade through the streets of Lexington, adding to the air of excitement surrounding the convention. The Convention will hopefully result in the seventh consecutive and 17th overall correct prediction of the presidential nominee, this time for the Republican party.

W&L students have been correct in 16 of 21 attempts since 1908, when it was started. The first Mock Convention occurred in reaction to the great interest and excitement felt on campus when William Jennings Bryan visited. Students decided to hold a mock Democratic convention, in which they elected Bryan as the democratic candidate — a vote that was then repeated

at the Democratic National Convention, starting W&L off on its prestigious political prediction path. While some of the beginning conventions were clearly tainted by students' own political views and passions (the 1908 convention has become notorious for a fight that started on the floor!), since 1952 the conventions have become much more research-intensive and hence much more accurate. Only one prediction since 1952 has been incorrect; in 1972, students chose Edward Kennedy rather than George McGovern.

Some conventions have been tragic, such as the 1956 election in which former Vice President Alben Barkley of Kentucky collapsed dead on-stage after delivering an exuberant and inspiring speech in the 90 degree convention weather.

Others have been humorous, such as the 1972 convention when unknown Jimmy Carter, then governor

of Georgia, came to deliver the keynote address but was abandoned by his press secretary Jody Powell who had instead joined some W&L students and alumni, and joined them in playing pinball and drinking beer on Main Street during the speech.

Some have been entertaining, such as the 1988 convention when then Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton partied with the students at a fraternity house, playing his saxophone.

Some have been downright amazing, such as the famed famed Mock Convention of 1924, in which students correctly chose W&L alumnus John W. Davis, someone who had not even declared candidacy.

All have been memorable. If the time and energy put into it is any indication, this year's will be no dif-

Check Cable Channel 2 for up-to-theminute coverage of the 2000 Republican Mock Convention.

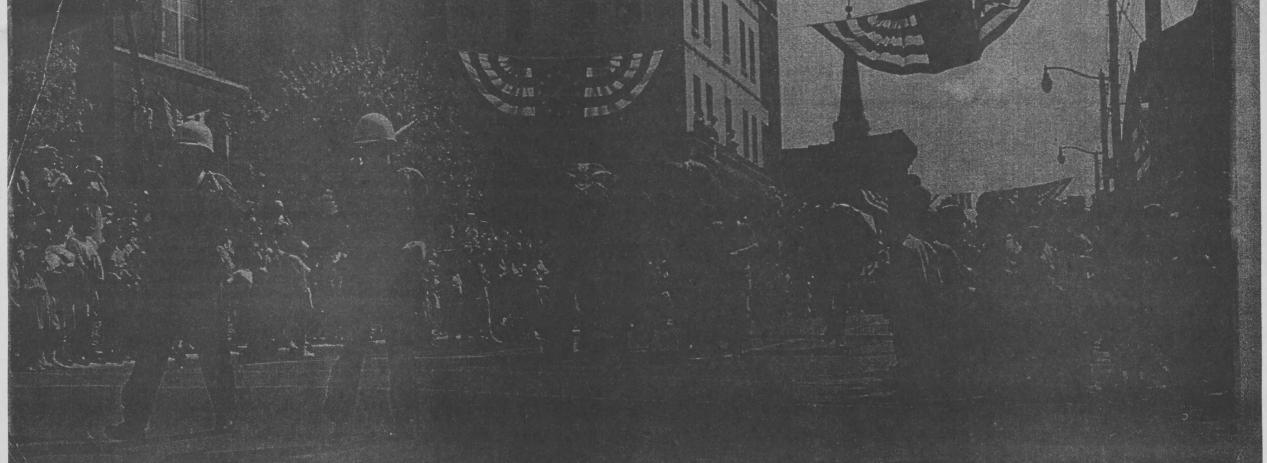


photo courtesy of the Leybrun Library Special Collection

ELEPHANTS ON PARADE: The 1964 Mock Convention Parade walks down Washington Street. The Parade is one of the most anticipated parts of the convention, because it lets students show their delegation pride and also their levels of creativity in float design.

### The floor plan for Mock Con 2000

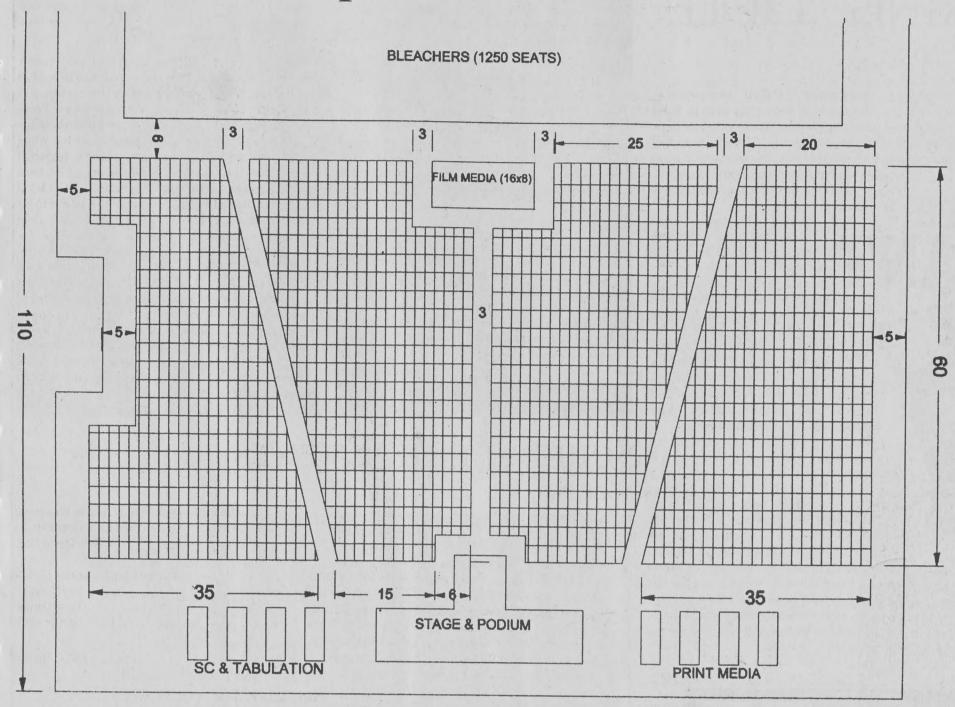
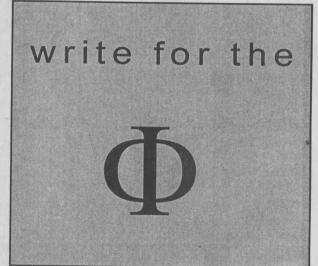
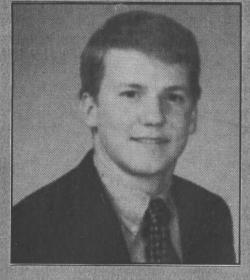




photo courtesy of the Leybrun Library Special Collection. The members of the Puerto Rico delegation took things seriously and got into the island spirit in 1960.





By Elianna Marziani
FEATURES EDITOR

What kind of a guy could major in economics at a very prestigious school, be a "frat boy," and spend 15-25 hours a week for two years volunteering to coordinate a nationwide event including national, state, and local politicians and media, students, alumni, and faculty? Meet Mark Schweppe, senior SAE and Mock Convention General Chairman at Washington and Lee University. Schweppe became involved in Mock Con at the end of his sophomore year, and Mock Con has taken up increasingly large portions of his time and energy since.

Little did he know what he was getting into, or how deeply, when he agreed to chair the convention two years ago.

"I knew I wanted to become involved in a significant extracurricular activity, and it just so happened that I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to become the general chairman for Mock Con," he said. "Initially they said it would require 25 hours a week, definitely by the time the convention came around. I didn't totally believe them, but now I believe them! It has probably been more than that recently."

He has enjoyed it, though.

"I want people to realize that though Mock Con involves a lot of work, it's supposed to be a lot of fun at the same time," he said. "I hope everyone has a blast on the days leading up to the convention and the days of the convention itself, because it's 50 percent work and 50 percent fun, too."

The one problem with being such a prominent figure in such a prominent event is that sometime people begin to associate the figure with the event, and only with the event. When asked if he thought this was

# Signature Student: Mock Con's General Chair Mark Schweppe

the case with him and Mock Con, Schweppe said, "I don't know. I think my name is definitely linked to Mock Con, but I hope that's not all people think about when they hear my name."

So what else is there to this W&L senior?

Not even a politics major, he is actually very interested in economics and finance. Next year he plans on working in Atlanta for Wachovia Securities, doing corporate finance. Eventually he hopes to get his

Being in the C-school was not always been Schweppe's dream. When he was little, he wanted to go to med school. Though his dreams have shifted a bit, that interest is still somewhat there. "Since I've taken some classes over in the C-school, I've decided that I'm going to pursue a career in business, but I still enjoy learning about medicine and health care issues," he said.

Far from spending all his time in books and financial calculators, Schweppe is an avid fly-fisherman and enjoys all sorts of outdoor activities

outdoor activities.

Q: What are your goals or ambitions?

A: "I'd like to work for a large corporation for a few years, go to grad school, then move into a smaller business of some kind that could allow me to have a more significant impact in the day to day decisions."

Q: What was your biggest fear growing

A: "I always set pretty high expectations for myself, and it was a fear of disappointment that I wouldn't fulfill those expectations for myself. That doesn't only go for growing up, but for today as well."

Q: What would you want to be remembered for when you die?

A: "I want to be remembered as personable, hardworking, and interested in others."

Surely Schweppe's dedication to Mock Con and all his interaction with people through it has set him on the path to achieving that goal.



ROCKEFELLER OR NIXON? A student gives a speech at the 1968 Mock Con. Mock Con gives many W&L students leadership opportunities, mainly because the whole school is involved in every organizational aspect of the convention.

## THE WATERING HOLE

THIS WEEK: A NICE MOCK CON BUZZ

By Taylor Ruilova & Michael Crittenden BEER REVIEWERS

vention is said to entail, this week's beer review took tion, you may be thinking that this beer would be as to task the challenge posed by one of Europe's finest lagers,

Carlsberg Imported Elephant beer. Named after the imposing elephant statues on the Elephant Gate Carlsberg's

original brewery in Copenhagen, Denmark, this is one of the most popular beers in the world. In England alone, over one million pints of Carlsberg are sold daily. That's about 23 pints a second. Obviously the brewmasters at Carlsberg are doing something right. Not that I would question the

Danes anyway, any country with women that beautiful I'll tend to trust their judgment. Famous for the style and grace from designers such as Skagen, this well-crafted beer is like a

Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, though not an ugly amount. The paleness of this lager conceals its hearty Carlsberg will make you feel like you have a herd of Main Street Market.

elephants running through your skull. Elephants may never forget, but drinking more than three of these might cause you to forget your name, age, how to tie In the spirit of the drunkenness that Mock Con- your shoes and possibly gender. With this introduc-

heavy as your Aunt Linda, but it is surprisingly pale. The combination could prove to be deadly.

Once the brew emerges from its rather stark and forbidding bottle, it appears to be a bit on the weak side. After the first draught, however, it is readily apparent that this is not a joke. Even for larger individuals, who are well experienced with the darker sides of alcohol, this beer has a definite kick. Honestly, Imported Elephant has bigger stones than the majority of the Republican party. For fans of good head, you will not find it here even though this is a Danish brew.

Despite the evident taste of hops, the beer is smooth with a strong finish. This is definitely a satisfying beer that eats like a meal. The 7.2 percent

creeps up gradually leaving 7.2% Alcohol the consumer in a generally by Volume good mood after a relatively small (by W&L standards)

duckling. Like the pachyderm on the label, this beer body. Imported Elephant may not be the sexiest imhas the ability to run you over, kick you in the ass, port on the market but it is well suited for the events and then stomp you on the chest. In fact, with an al- of the upcoming week. This Carlsberg contender is cohol content of 7.2 percent, a night of drinking well worth the price of \$6.70 and is available at the

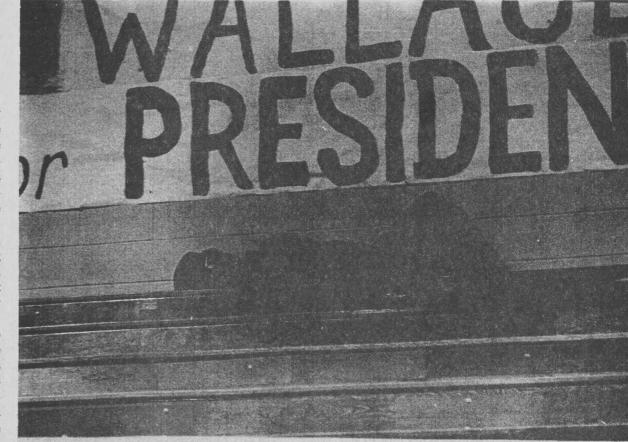


photo courtesy of Leyburn Library Special Collection

MODERATE REPUBLICAN? A participant in the 1972 Mock Convention is a passive participant in the the festivities. Mock Con is legendary among W&L students for its favorite mix of alcohol and politics.

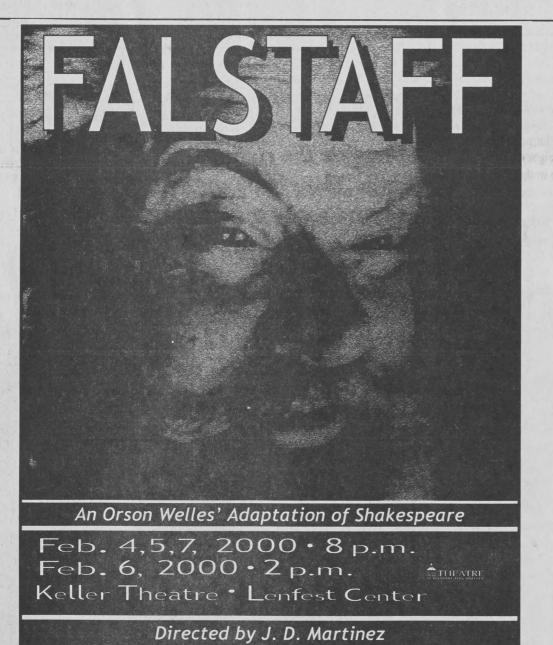
'PARADE,' FROM PAGE 3

group of VMI students will hopefully play their bagpipes in the parade, and a four-person mariachi band it will not snow. Liles has put in 6-12 hours a week for will also add to the festive spirit of the event. The the past three months coordinating this event, and parade also plans on including a stilt walker dressed up like Uncle Sam. Depending on the weather, Natural Bridge Zoo might even bring an African Elephant looking for flatbed trailers recently. The majority of to join the Republican ranks in the parade.

about the weather, but Liles insists, "I'm optimistic." Only in the case of a pouring down rain, a blizzard of snow, or icy conditions has the police chief mandated that the parade would be cancelled. If it is raining or snowing lightly, the parade will go on, although possibly without the African elephant.

This is one case in which students are hoping that everyone involved attests to the fact that it has been a huge time commitment. Delegations have been busy the work on floats will be done at the Student Activi-The recent snowfall has created a bit of concern ties Pavilion from Sunday through Wedensday, when they will be moved to the field. Thursday will be used for touch-up purposes, and Friday morning everyone's hard work will pay off in the event that Lexington can only handle once every four years.

"I just hope everyone comes and enjoy the parade, since it's the kick-off event to the Mock Conweekend. It should be exciting," Liles said.





Chi Omega Congratulates



All of Their Mock Convention Leaders

Stephanie Bianco Indiana State Chair

Nancy Dixon Public Relations Chair

Sarah Hall Arkansas State Co-Chair

Jenny-Anne Kniesel Oregon State Chair

Karly Shallow Utah State Chair **Amy Calce** Montana State Chair

Erin Ferguson New Mexico State Chair

Heather Howard Platform Chair

Allison Ralston Regional Coordinator

Mary Heather Welder Memorabilia Chair

## SPORTS

#### Road woes continue

By Mike Weil STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee Generals dropped to 0-8 on the road with two more losses this week, falling 67-59 at Emory and Henry and 71-62 in a hardfought overtime battle at Eastern Mennonite. The Generals traded buckets with the Wasps of Emory and Henry for 38 minutes, only to let up in the final two minutes of the contest as they were outscored 10-2.

Despite shooting only 38 percent from the field, the Wasps were able to take advantage of 19 W&L turnovers to help them emerge victorious. Junior reserve Chad Braley was the only General to reach the double-digit mark in points, netting 11. Freshman Toussaint Crawford and senior Walt Plyler each contributed nine points in the losing effort and senior Brian Ricketts led the squad in rebounding with seven.

The Generals regulation heroics turned into overtime blues Saturday in their loss at Eastern Mennonite. The Royals held a 57-54 advantage with 4.2 seconds remaining until junior Will Ballard sank a leaning three pointer with .9 seconds left on the clock. W&L could not carry this momentum into the extra frame, however, as EMU hit 10 of 14 free throws to claim a ninepoint victory.

"After Will made that shot, I thought we had the momentum," said senior Scott Hudson. "But we got down early,

By Steele Cooper

SPORTS EDITOR

and women's track programs came out

strong at Saturday afternoon's Leba-

meet, but women's head coach John

Tucker felt that the showing by the

Generals is a sign of good things to

said. "We're a young untested team

On the women's side, the Gener-

als took first place in two relay

events. The 4x200-meter relay team

of seniors Jill Kosch and Nancy

Dixon, junior Amy Calce, and sopho-

more Melissa Palombo with came out

on top with a time of 2:03.0 and the

4x800-meter relay of freshmen Burke

Duncan and Kelly Schlicter, junior

Kathleen Moroney, and senior Au-

tumn Oczkowski won with a time of

Junior Amy Calce placed second

in the long jump with a jump of 15' 5.5"

No team scoring was kept at the

non Valley Invitational.

come for the team.

with a lot of potential."

10:38.6.

The Washington and Lee men's

Strong start for indoor

"Saturday was a great day and a Bridgewater has been dominant in that

good opener for the Generals," Tucker event prior to Watson's arrival on the

and they made their foul shots."

The Royals shot just 36 percent from the field and committed 25 turnovers, but went 33-44 from the charity stripe to aid them in victory. Sophomore Bob Bustamante led the Generals with 15 points, while Hudson tallied 14 points and collected nine re-

W&L now posts a 5-9 record overall, 4-7 in the ODAC. All five of their wins have been at home.

"Obviously we play a lot better at home," said Hudson. "But that's the next step toward becoming a good team. We have to learn to win on the road."

Hudson believes the Generals started to play with the tenacity on Saturday necessary to win on the road. "We played with some passion defensively, passion that's been lacking on

W&L hosts nationally top-ranked Hampden Sydney Wednesday, a team that blew them out the first time they met. "We definitely have a chance," continued Hudson. "We just have the slow the game down, take off 25 or 30 seconds of the shot clock."

Wednesday's game is the kickoff for the Mock Convention weekend. The first 500 students through the doors will receive a free Mock Con cup. Mock Con will be giving away many other promotional prizes at halftime and throughout the game including a VIP pass to the convention and dinner for two at The Wilson Walker House. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

1,500-meter run. Kosch also repeated

the stand out performance with a fourth

showed the speed that makes him an

incredible offensive threat on the foot-

ball field by winning the 55-meter dash

Watson, recovering from the mono-

nucleosis that sidelined him for much

of football season, took the race from

several Bridgewater runners.

Freshman David Hicks took first in

the 1,500-meter, with a time of 4:19.2,

and junior Chris Wahl took fourth in

the shot put with a toss of 38' 7". Se-

nior Hansell Pasco placed third in the

200-meter dash with a time of 25.0 sec-

its arsenal that have not been revealed.

off the bench Saturday and we've got

others that are still playing other

sports," said Tucker.

W&L still has several weapons in

"A lot of great athletes didn't get

W&L travels to Carlisle, Pa., on

event with a time of 6.5 seconds.

For the men, junior Marc Watson

place finish in the 400-meter dash.

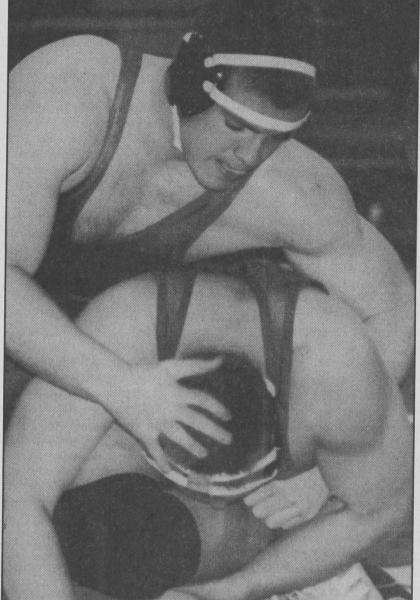


Photo by Dave Hanson/Assistant Photo Editor

Over the top: Junior heavyweight John Sensing overpowers his opponent at the Washington and Lee Invitational Saturday.

### **W&L** invites wrestlers

Ezra Morse won the 197-pound weight class as the Generals placed fifth of eight teams in the Washington and Lee Invitational on Saturday afternoon at the Warner Center.

Longwood College won the team championship with 87 points and was followed by Davidson (63), Washington & Jefferson (53.5), Scranton (52), Washington and Lee (49.5), Cumberland College (47), Pensacola Christian (29), and Gallaudet (0).

the tournament's outstanding wrestler after taking the 157-pound weight

Washington and Lee sophomore class, the third time he has won his

weight class in the W&L Invitational. Also putting together a solid performance for W&L was junior Josh Chamberlain, who finished second in the 149-pound weight class.

Junior Jeff Paul fell to Morse in the championship of the 197-pound weight class, finishing as the runnerup in that division, while junior John Sensing placed third in the heavyweight division.

W&L is back in action on Saturday Ian Kaplan of Davidson was named when they travel to the Western Mary-

land Quadrangular

### More ups and downs

By Robert Turner STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee's women's basketball team (8-6, 5-5) experienced another up and down week going 2-1 and grabbing an ODAC win. W&L earned a victories over ODAC counterpart Randolph-Macon Women's College and Villa-Julie, but fell to ODAC rival Randolph-Macon.

Thursday the Generals traveled to Lynchburg for a match-up with R-MWC and used an 8-0 run to close out the first half on their way to a 69-44 conference win.

The Generals used a nice balance of inside and outside offense to put the Wildcats away as sophomore forwards Jessica Mentz and Carter Thomas had 16 and 12 points, respectively. Senior guard Jessica Morton contributed 15 points to the effort.

The Generals took to the road again Saturday for a game against ODAC Randolph-Macon. W&L struggled from the floor throughout the game, shooting only 28 percent, and left off is set from 7 p.m.

Ashland with a 64-51 loss. Despite the Generals' woes from the floor, the game was knotted 51-51 with 7:31 remaining. R-MC was able to hold W&L scoreless for the remainder to take the

Once again, the Generals were paced by Mentz (15 points) and Morton (12 points), while sophomore center Megan Babst recorded another double-double.

W&L had another road contest Sunday, travelling to Stevenson, MD to take on Villa Julie College.

The Generals performed solidly on both ends of the floor, shooting 44% on offense while forcing 28 turnovers on defense. With that solid play, the Generals were able to cruise to the 70-43 win.

Jessica Morton had another outstanding performance, pouring in 19 points on 8-9 shooting from the field. Mentz (13 points, 6 rebounds) and Babst (9 points, 5 rebounds) also gave solid contributions.

The Generals look to gain an ODAC win at Lynchburg on Thursday. Tip-

#### The split at Sewanee

By Steele Cooper SPORTS EDITOR

The Washington and Lee swim teams returned to a somewhat normal routine after last weekend's back-toback-to-back meets. The Generals traveled to the University of the South Saturday and came away with the split. The men's team defeated the Tigers, 119-73. The women's squad fell, 130-65, to Sewanee.

The meet was originally scheduled for Sunday, but was moved up to avoid the snow that was forecast for the area.

The thirteen-hour drive to Sewanee was the longest trip of the season for the swimmers who are in the middle of a four-meet regular season road stint.

Two swimmers for the W&L men each came away with two wins on the day. Junior Colin Hayes paced the men's squad, finishing first in the 200 free (1:48.19) and 100 fly (52.50). Freshman Patrick Frankfurt won the 500 free (4:56.23) and 100 free (10:12.08), and senior Ken the host Eagles and Rowan College. —Courtesy of Sports Information Ervin won the 50 free with a time of 21.9. The meet will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Freshman Kelli Austin led the women's squad with two individual wins. Austin took first place in the 100 free (56.16) and 200 free (2:01.94). Fellow classmate Blair Huffman won the 100 fly with a time of 1:04.32.

Exhaustion is still a factor for the Generals even though Saturday's meet was the only one for the week.

"We are at the peak of our training right now in the season," said Huffman. "We are having our hardest workouts now and everyone is very tired."

The Generals are hoping that intensity will pay off in the post season, which begins with the ODAC tournament on Feb. 18.

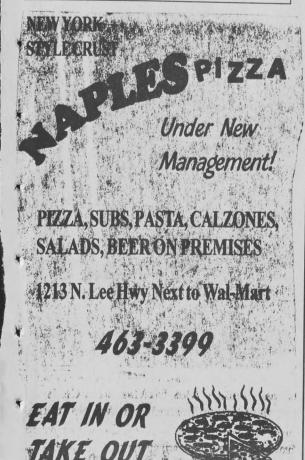
"The pace will slow down in a few weeks so that we can start resting. Everyone is still swimming very well considering how tired we are. The outlook [for ODAC tournament] is positive," said Huffman.

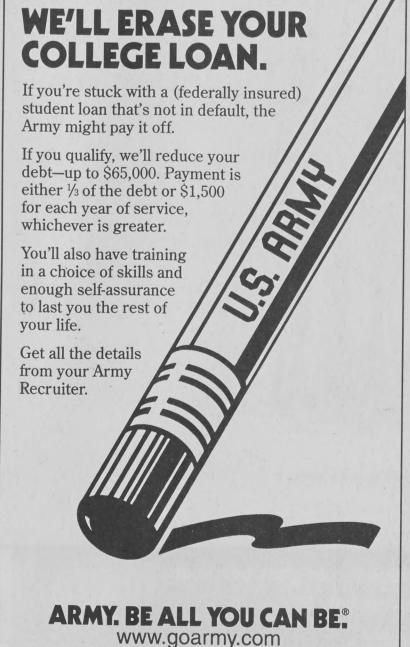
W&L continues its string of road contests on Sunday when it travels to Mary Washington for a tri-meet with

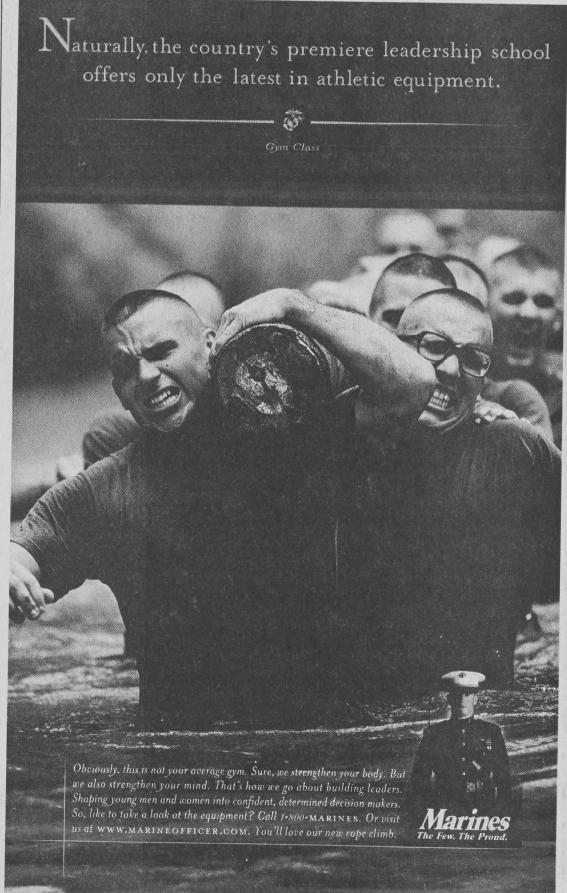
#### YOUR ARTICLE COULD GO HERE. WRITE FOR RING-TUM PHI SPORTS. E-MAIL PHI@WLU.EDU.

Saturday to compete in the Dickinson and Schlicter took fourth place in the \$\$\$ EASY MONEY \$\$\$ I will pay \$40 for your PHONE BOOK. Call Lee Ramsey collect

(856) 577-7237







## LAST WORD Warding Laster than crack than cr

## Mock Con fever is making me ill

By Kevin McManemin DYNAMITE VS. RADICAL HARRY

"Everything is changing. People are taking the comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke." -Will Rogers

The politicians aren't the only ones lying these days. Chew on this quote from the W&L Mock Con brochure: In a decade when America's youth have been dubbed "disengaged," "unmotivated," and "apathetic," the Mock Convention of Washington and Lee University contradicts these generalizations with its raucous realism and remarkable prediction rate.

there, Skippy. Let's not confuse Mock Con fever with real interest in politics — if all Americans got a day off from work and a three-day drunken party for conventions, they'd be pretty friggin' excited about politics too.

Unfortunately, the simple fact is that

returning morality and

accountability to the Of-

a platform of compas-

sionate conservativism

a broad-based, grass-

partisan politics is

gridlocking this country

fice of President

family values

roots campaign

CLICHÉ TRANSLATOR

When the politicians come to town next week, they sure

really mean? Use this handy cliché translator to find out!

are going to use a lot of clichés! But what do they all

Americans are by in large not very interested in democracy anymore, and our generation in particular is about as jaded, cynical and pessimistic as Janeane Garofalo on a three-day downer binge. According to the U.S. census office, only about 20 percent of those between the ages of 18-24 bothered to vote in the 1994 elections. Non-voters are the true largest political group in this country.

So, what happened? I mean, democracy won, right? The spectres of fascism and communism have been exorcised from the world, and Americanstyle democracy rules the planet. Why did our generation start to find politics about as interesting as a PBS Whoa, whoa, slow down pledge drive? Here are a few of the

> 1) The blandification of politics The extraordinary success rate of Mock Con predictions in the past couple of decades is not a sign that we're doing more research than we

> used to — it's a sign that American

electing someone who

will do a better job of

keeping his affairs from

still brutalizing the poor,

but feeling bad about it

my family's values

we couldn't afford a

professional campaign

the other side's partisan

the media

afterwards

politics

dull and predictable as an episode of "Home Improvement."

America is run by two centrist parties that differ more in rhetoric than in ideology (and in recent years they've even begun swapping rhetoric). More importantly, America is really run by an all-powerful mainstream media that brands anyone who dares venture a little to the left or right of the political spectrum a "wacko extremist."

The only candidates who survive in this culture are those more middleof-the-road than a highway divider. We end up with men like George W. and his shot at super-centrism with "compassionate conservatism," a pathetic attempt to combine the feelgood warmth of liberalism with the common sense of conservatism. Will this transparent effort to garner popular support work? Of course it will. We're talking about Americans here, and these are the people for whom the brain is at best the fifth most important vital organ, behind the heart, the stomach, the naughty parts and the wallet (anyone who doesn't consider the wallet a vital organ is a Commie).

American voters are the desperate women in the singles bar of the world, waiting to be picked up by some slick, sleazy and utterly phony huckster who tells them exactly what they want to hear. They know they're only going to get screwed and used and lied to in the end, but they don't care. Pardon non-voters for not buying into it all.

2) The only fights left are the boring fights

The greedy baby boomers snatched up all of the good political causes. They spent their formative years immersing themselves in noble ventures like ending the oppression of minorities and ensuring equal rights for women and stopping an unjust war and finding the hidden messages in Sgt. Pepper. What's left for us? Nothing remotely as exciting.

Despite the media insistence that

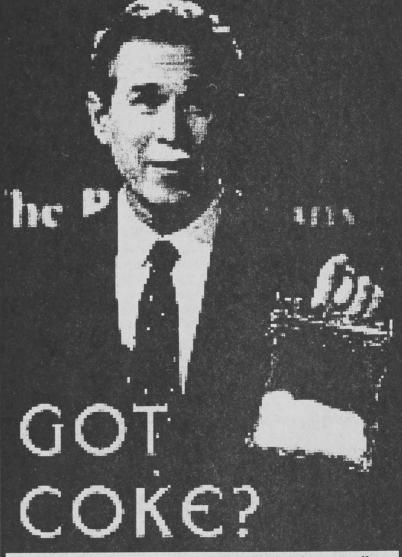
politics has become as utterly banal, the WTO riots in Seattle signify a "rebirth of activism," the fact is that the rioters represent a tiny, tiny fringe of America. The WTO riots have about as much in common with the popular youth rallies and riots of the 1960's as Kid Rock has with Beethoven. The WTO riots were perpetrated by a motley collection of anarchists, animal rights extremists and labor unions. Issues like collective labor arbitration and equal rights for sea turtles are simply not going to capture the attention of a generation the way ending a war or stopping racism did. And anarchism is the political equivalent to chocolate covered pizza — it sounds like a good idea at first, but then when you actually think about it seems pretty damned

We are not very politically involved because idealism and ideology are not nearly as interesting as the Internet. Political activism is nice and all, but is changing the world going to get you a job, or buy you a CD, or provide you with top quality pornography on demand? No. Can the Internet do all of these things? Yes. So pardon me for not being moved to action by the plight of the snow leopards, but I've

3) Where are the duels?

Back in the old days, when men like Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton had disagreements, they settled it by going out into a field and shooting at each other. NOW THAT'S POLITICS!

Sadly, the days of Charles-Sumneresque head thrashings on the floor of Congress are forever behind us. Modern politics is about consensus building, not winning at all costs. Even the much-lamented negative advertising politicians resort to doesn't come close to the nastiness and virility of campaigning back in the 1800's, when political parties actually ran the major newspapers and printed whatever they darned well felt like, no matter how little truth was involved.



Sometimes it takes a special little "pick-me-up" to ride daddy's coat-tails into office. That's why I reach for Coke - it gives me that Courtney-Love-shine I need to keep going all campaign long. Got Coke?

coincidence that politics started getting a lot nicer and a lot more sensible around the same time women were allowed into politics. Public life used to be about gratifying grand egos, amassing power, and crushing the competition - now it's about "caring for the community," "securing our children's futures," and "building bridges."

Sure, this new femocentric (??) political style might be good for the com-So what happened? Well, it's no munity, but, come on, admit it, aren't

you just a little wistful for the good ol' days? Wouldn't it be thoroughly refreshing to see a presidential debate in which Steve Forbes calls Al Gore an "ass clown" and whacks him over the head with a baseball bat?

It's no wonder, then, that a generation weaned on a Clockwork-Orangelike diet of television violence finds politics insipidly boring. Want to save democracy for the 21st century? Three simple words: dueling on C-SPAN.

Fizzus

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