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The Ring-tum Phi

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450

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MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2000

Mock Con predicts Bush as GOP candidate

Texas governor wins sweeping "mock" victory, McCain takes three states

By Max Smith
NEWS EDITOR

Featuring an Exxon Valdez float, "reliable windsocks," and plenty of Texas bashing, Washington and Lee's 2000 Republican Mock Convention went off without a hitch. Students weren't disappointed with the political spectacle that rolls around only once during their W&L career.

"I had a great time," freshman Katherine Hill. "I really enjoyed all of the speeches, especially Bob Dole's."

Capped off with a balloon drop, the convention emphasized good times just as much as it did the serious business of selecting the Republican presidential nominee.

To no one's surprise, Texas Gov. George W. Bush ran away with the electoral votes and nomination. State delegations spent months researching their states' electoral process, political background and candidate support right up until the weekend. Working through a rigorous and structured research system, students contacted several leaders from their state and gauged the state's decision based upon their response. Leaders in the Convention definitely felt the heat of upholding W&L's tradition of accuracy.

"I don't even want to think what would happen to me if we get it wrong," political chairman David Dardis told *The Roanoke Times* on Friday. "They'd prob-

ably strip the flesh from my bones and hang the carcass to all those who might fail in the future."

But most students left the research up to their state leaders and just showed up at state parties and maybe even to help with the float.

States teamed up for parties throughout the week and up to Saturday night. From Tequila Sunrise parties Friday and Saturday morning, to the Southern states' party at the Volcano Wednesday night, students made sure to put a W&L stamp on the whole affair.

Earlier this week, the Student Activities Pavilion was stuffed with state floats in various states of construction. Wood shavings and the noxious fumes of spray paint mixed with beer and pizza as the crunch time of Thursday night drew near.

Friday morning's parade brought plenty of humorous floats toting students fresh from their 7:30 a.m. Champagne Brunch. Some states opted to poke fun at themselves by employing state stereotypes. *The Roanoke Times* emphasized students' irreverence in the parade. Mock Con only set two rules this year: don't throw things at the crowd and don't drink while on the float.

Parade highlights included Alaska's Exxon Valdez float, complete with a drunken captain swerving around the street and oil-covered animals following behind. The Washington, D.C. float carried Monica Lewinsky and President Bill Clinton while reporters surrounded them.

The Hawaii float won most humorous and Georgia triumphed in



MOCK CON LUAU: Members of the Hawaii delegation bring a little "island spirit" to a Republican event. Their float won first place in the "Most Humorous" category.

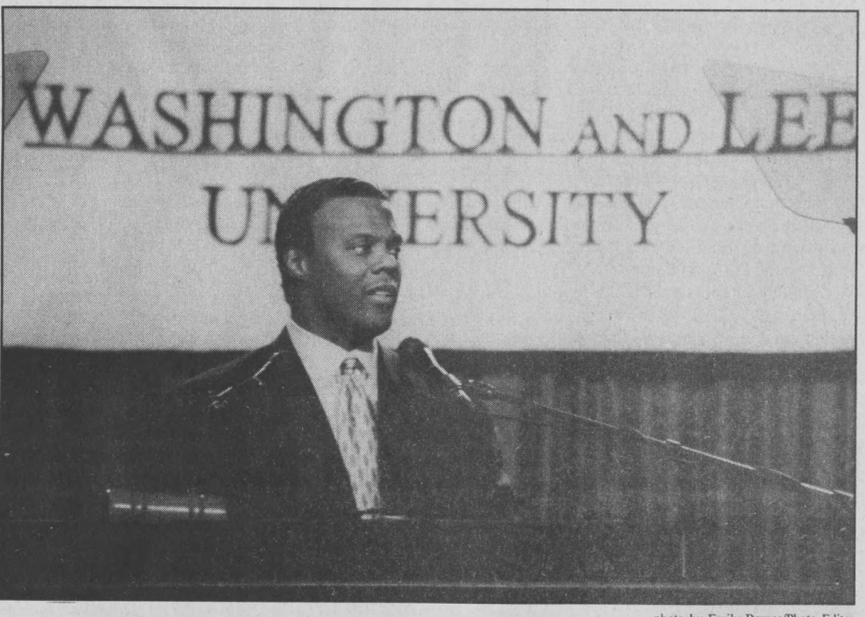
the Best-overall category with their "Midnight Train to Georgia" locomotive.

Friday afternoon and evening was highlighted by its political speakers. Most spent their time preaching the general Republican

platform and bashing Democrats, especially the Clinton presidency. Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating provided memorable fodder by depicting Al Gore as "a reliable windsock" on issues like the NRA, Social Security, tobacco and cam-

paign finance reform. Keating insisted on driving his windsock theme into the ground and students began to chant the slogan with him near

SEE 'MOCK CON' ON PAGE 2



MR. VICE PRESIDENT? Rep. J.C. Watts (R-OK) brings a little "fire and brimstone" to W&L.

Mock Con On-Air

National media flocks to Lexington

By Max Smith
NEWS EDITOR

Mock Con's drunken revelry is going prime time.

CNN, C-SPAN, NPR, the *Washington Times*, FOX News, and the *Dallas Morning News* all attended Saturday's session. The Associated Press and United Press International, both national wire services that provide stories to newspapers nationwide, attended as well.

The Wall Street Journal, *Time* and MTV may feature the Convention. ABC Radio News aired a piece Saturday night.

Media Chair Sean Eddy said students should check the Mock Con web site for national air times.

"Our committee worked really hard in the past months and especially the last two weeks to bring in the press," Eddy said. "This is good publicity for

both Mock Con and the University."

MTV may air a piece on Mock Con for their "Choose or Lose" series. They didn't send a crew, but Eddy said MTV shares footage with CNN.

Eddy said Mock Con's timing before the New Hampshire primaries, where a lot of media are spending the weekend, limited the number of news organizations that could have attended.

CNN, who attended the Convention for the first time, was especially impressed with the logistics and execution of the student-run event, Eddy said. All of the reporters told Eddy that had a fun time covering Mock Con.

The media left Eddy hanging until the end. C-SPAN agreed to come on Tuesday and CNN decided to come on Friday.

Ramsey responds to controversy

Overnight Guest House resident: "I'm not looking for trouble"

By Christie Phillips
STAFF WRITER

"I never denied it when I was arrested. Back then I was young. I drank and did drugs. There isn't a day gone by that I don't want to take it all back."

Todd Lee Ramsey, 33, was charged with attempted rape of a minor in 1986. Weeks ago he moved into the Overnight Guest House, a residence next to the Washington and Lee campus.

"I'm just here working. Everyday working. I'm not looking for trouble," Ramsey said. "I don't judge people until I know them. I did something when I was 18. I'm 33 now — there's a big difference."

Since Ramsey was convicted of attempted rape in 1986, he has been registered with the state as a sex offender. Sex offender records and registries are made available to the public through Megan's Law, a law that allows citi-

zens access to the information so that they know sex offenders living in their neighborhoods. Through this law, W&L security learned that Ramsey was residing in the area.

"He hasn't caused any problems for us yet, but we're keeping our eyes open," said Mike Young, director of security at W&L.

On Tuesday, security sent a campus-wide e-mail about Ramsey and his location. It warned students that Ramsey has been convicted of attempted rape twice, once in 1986 and again in 1998. According to the Virginia State Police sex offender record, three other convicted sex offenders live in Lexington, but Ramsey's proximity to campus worried authorities.

"We felt obligated to let everyone know he's residing there," said Young. "We just want to be safe."

Many students have already taken precautions to ensure their safety.

W&L sophomore Tiffany Friedel lives in Gaines Dormitory, the student residence directly behind the Overnight Guest House.

"I don't walk past that building anymore," she said. "It's very scary. I go all the way around through the gym to get home."

Other students echo Friedel's anxiety about Ramsey's presence.

"I was walking to the Language Lab on Tuesday night after just reading the campus e-mail," said junior Amy Borgman. "It was dark and I got freaked out."

But Ramsey claims he is not here to cause more trouble.

"I did a crime, I did my time," he said. "Everybody wants to judge me. I don't judge people until I get to know them. I'm just like y'all are. My record doesn't speak for it, but I'm a kind person."

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photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

VMI MAKES THEIR MARK. The VMI Color Guard presents the flags opening each session of Mock Con.



BIG SKY COUNTRY: The Montana state float brought some backwoods charm to the streets of Lexington during Friday morning's parade. Those aren't real bears or firearms, by the way.

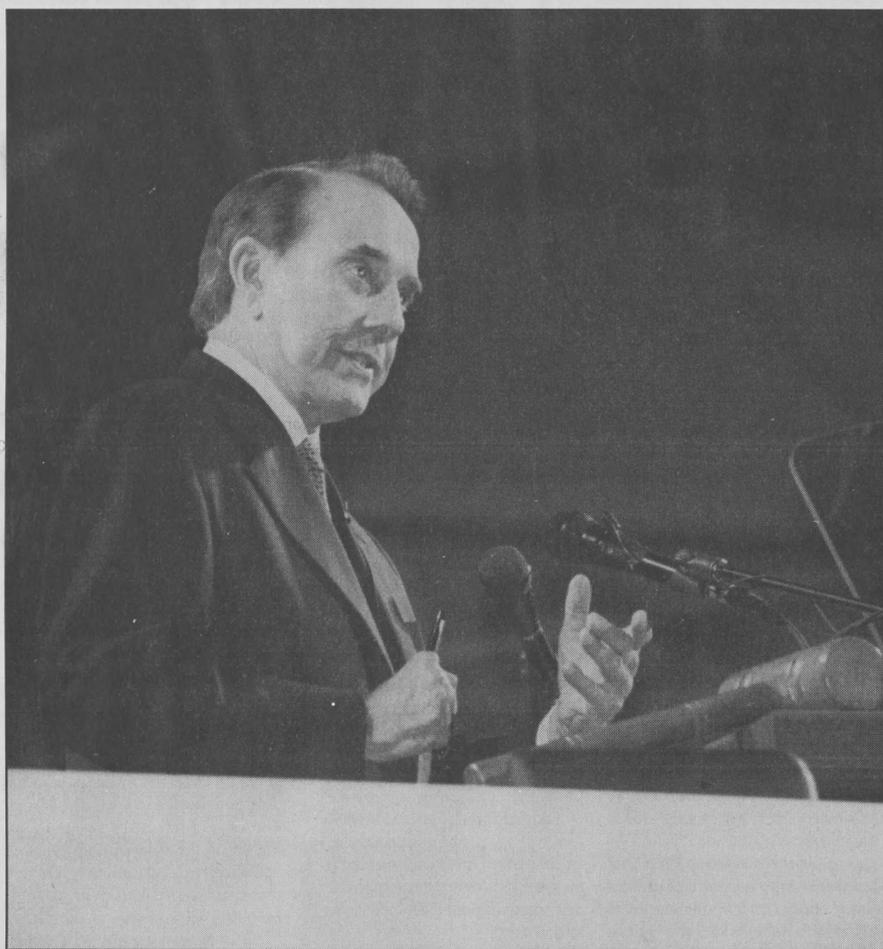


photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

A FLASHBACK TO '96?: Keynote speaker and 1996 GOP Presidential candidate Bob Dole addresses the crowd during Saturday morning's session.

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Ramsey spent 12 years in prison for his conviction in 1986.

"Life inside isn't easy," he said. "Everyone thinks its great in prison - you get three hot meals and a bed to sleep in. But it isn't like that. You wake up in the morning and wonder if you're going to live."

"Prison is, I guess you could say, another world," he continued. "It's nothing compared to this one that you enjoy."

Ramsey was released on Feb. 10, 1997. In 1998 he was again convicted of attempted rape here in Rockbridge County.

"I didn't do it, that second time" Ramsey said. "My lawyer told me to plea bargain, so I plea bargained. If I was found guilty by a judge I would have gone back to jail for good. I didn't want to go back to jail."

Ramsey said he had sex with the woman who accused him of rape the second time, but it was not forced contact.

"Nine times out of 10, the girl who accused me will say I didn't do it," he said. "She just needed someone to blame." For his plea bargain, Ramsey received a sentence of 100 days in jail and five years probation. He is currently serving that probation.

"I'm just a person," he said. "I just want to get on with my life. I want to pay my bills and court fines and get out of here in a couple of months."

Ramsey was arrested Tuesday night on a capias for not paying a court fine. That night he was also charged with three counts of passing worthless checks. After paying a fine, he was released.

"I was arrested for a \$50 court fine," he said. "I had to pay \$300 to get out of jail. Heck, I should have just paid the court fine."

Ramsey is currently working for the electric company on a new construction site in the area. He moved into the Overnight Guest Houses after he caught his live-in girl-

friend with another man.

"I walked in on her and another guy," Ramsey said. "I kicked her and him out butt naked and told her it was over. But I couldn't live in that house anymore. That's why I'm staying here."

Ramsey does not think he's asking for trouble living in the Guest Houses, which are located next to three freshman dorms.

"I'm not trying to go back to prison," he said. "If I look at my past I'll never make a future for myself."

"If you want to know about my past, ask me. I'm ashamed, but I'll talk. Everyone makes mistakes, some are just bigger than others."

Though Ramsey claims he is a gentle man, his past speaks for itself. While in prison, Ramsey stabbed a fellow inmate.

"It was a choice, me or him," he said. "He pulled a knife on me and so I stabbed him. If a guy pulls a knife on you, you know he's going to use it — if not now, sometime."

If caught stabbing the inmate, Ramsey could have earned more time behind bars. But he wasn't caught.

In his 12 years of imprisonment, Ramsey was moved seven times to six different penitentiaries.

"You get moved around a lot when you get in trouble," he said.

Ramsey also continued his drug use in prison. "Me and cocaine, we were good buds," he said. "There are more drugs in prison than on the streets. You want homemade mash, you got it. You want a drink, name your favorite."

Ramsey has two tattoos to show for his years in prison. A huge Guns 'N Roses symbol marks his right forearm. On his left forearm is a heart with a dagger through it and a snake climbing the dagger.

"See that one," he said. "Know what that means? 'Love sucks'."

'MOCK CON' from page 1

the end of the speech. But Keating seemed oblivious to their mocking chants at the press conference afterwards.

"It's an honor and great opportunity for me to come here," Keating said. "I'm really impressed by the number of people involved. These young people are informed and it's essential to know your leaders."

Keating went on to describe why he has come out in support of Gov. Bush.

"Bush is the governor of a country and he's doing it well," Keating said. "He's making tough decisions and advocates a consistent value system."

Keating arrived one hour before taking the stage and left after dinner for Oklahoma City since the state legislature is set to begin budget hearings this week.

Bob Ross, the 1996 Mock Con Political Chairman who is now an Oklahoma City lawyer, suggested the trip to Keating and he immediately agreed. Sophomore Drew Crighton is a friend of Keating's son when they lived in Northern Virginia and met Keating after the speech.

Virginia Attorney General Mark Earley filled the ominous TBA spot in Session II's schedule. He was called late in the week and jumped at the chance to speak.

"I was happy to do it," Earley said. "This is a great opportunity for student and community involvement in the electoral process."

Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson followed with a speech poking fun at Gore's propensity to claim responsibility for popular initiatives like the Internet. Nicholson used slide projections in a speech that seemed like a long string of jokes about Gore and Clinton. Nicholson received a tepid response at best from students for his efforts at humor.

Afterwards, Nicholson praised the convention. "I hope our convention is as well executed and organized as yours," Nicholson said. "The energy and enthusiasm out there is really contagious."

Nicholson also described his opinion of the central issue in the presidential race.

"The character and trust issue will be the most important because people don't trust the president and Gore can't restore that trust," Nicholson said. "He's joined at the hip with Clinton."

Oklahoma Representative J.C. Watts was a crowd favorite. His fiery style was straight out of the preacher's pulpit, where he has spent some time. He managed to quiet the inebriated crowd and bring it to its feet at will. His speech focused on youth, national pride and the need to unite the Republican party.

He ended with a metaphorical story on the disappearance of "little Johnny" and the need to join hands with others for the common good.

"I thought he was a powerful speaker with good things to say about the Republican platform," freshman Patrick Lauler said. "He translated a political message into a sermon."

Watts was one of the keynote speakers at the 1996 Republican Convention. Mock Con Advisor William Connelly said Watts presence is felt throughout the party.

"He has a galvanizing effect on the party," Connelly said. "He broadens the party's base."

The Pressroom was filled with supporters wearing "J.C. Watts for President" buttons after the speech.

Watts talked with only a few in the throng; most were content to watch him up close and try to get an autograph. It was Watts first visit to W&L, although his staff attended in 1996 and advised him to accept the invitation.

"The Republican Party needs to make who we are relevant to young people and a night like tonight doesn't hurt in connecting with the youth," Watts said. "It would be nice if all of Congress could be around this raw energy and not be so jaded."

When asked about running under Bush as Vice President, Watts, who hasn't announced if he will run for the House again, strongly hinted he would take the opportunity.

"It would be like your Mother calling," Watts said. "I am a Bush supporter and will do all I can, but the nominees owe me nothing . . . just good government."

Watts left Washington on Friday, stayed at W&L three hours before his speech, and left after the press conference for the Super Bowl in Atlanta.

Fireworks filled the sky by the footbridge to round out day one.

Area Congressman Bob Goodlatte kicked off Saturday's session. He was followed by former Secretary of Education Bill Bennett. Bennett was spotted at the Palms Friday night and made reference to his "search for virtue" there in his speech.

Bennett focused on attacking Clinton, the Democratic ideal of "big government," and the liberal faults in foreign policy.

"[Clinton] has disgraced and degraded everything he has touched," Bennett said. "It's time to put the grown-ups back in charge of foreign policy."

Convention keynote speaker and 1996 presidential candidate Bob Dole rounded out the speaker list. Dole praised the convention during his speech.

"You may be responsible for hundreds of thousands of people participating in the political process and that is worth the time you spend here," Dole said.

Dole went on to criticize Gore's lack of action in the Clinton White House.

"If you were second in command, our Vice President, in one of the most corrupt administrations in our nation's history and you did nothing to stop it," Dole said, "indeed, you applauded it."



photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

MOCK CON PANDEMONIUM. Delegates show their state pride at one of the sessions, anxiously awaiting the keynote speaker.

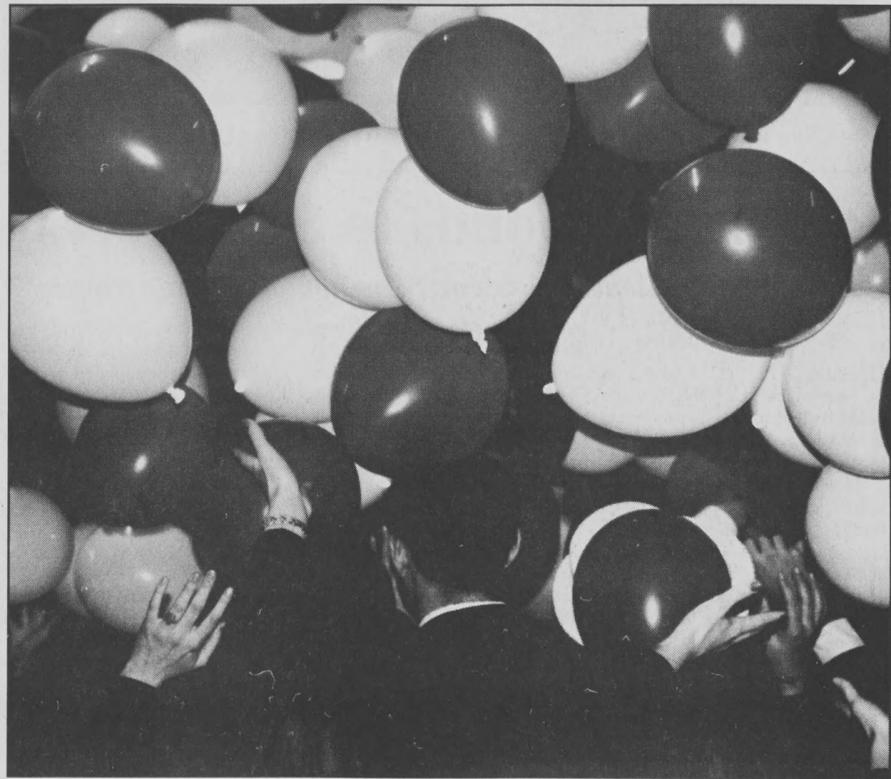


photo by Tiffany Friedel/Assistant Photo Editor

AND THE NOMINEE IS . . . The balloons drop on the crowd Saturday afternoon after the convention nominates George W. Bush as the future Republican candidate for the presidency.

Staff Editorial

Anyone who has ever set foot in the J-school knows Prof. Brian Richardson's famous mantra: "If your mother says she loves you, check it out". This is a lesson often learned the hard way, and most majors finally get the point via a zero received for a fact error.

Obviously, not all of the students who put together W&L student publications are journalism majors, but we all still strive to check everything out.

Last week, we received an advertisement from a private individual who was offering to buy local phone books for \$40. Normally, we don't question advertisers. We operate under the principle that they as much right to buy space in our publication as you, the reader, have to ignore their message.

We have, on very rare occasions, refused advertising based on content. And last week, based on the possibly invasive nature of the advertisement, we did what every survivor of Richardson's class would do: we checked it out.

As we read our crucifixion on the back page of *The Trident* this week, it became apparent that not everybody checks everything out. Your suggestion is duly noted, and returned for your own consideration.

We called the number that you saw last week in the paper long before we ever printed it. It would not accept the collect calls the ad invited. We then called the number that appeared on the check that arrived with the ad; it was also based in Tennessee. The information regarding Todd Ramsey had not been released to the W&L community at that point, and we had no real reason to believe that this was anything more than a waste of money for the advertiser in view of the fact that calls could not be placed.

With the release of Todd Ramsey's past, however, many people in the community jumped to the conclusion that he had placed the ad. He did not. Ramsey has resided in the community long enough to be able to get his hands on a Lexington phone book, and could get a W&L directory simply by going by the Registrar's office. He had no need to offer \$40 from Tennessee for information that could be obtained freely a stone's throw from his place of residence.

Yeah, we have a convicted felon living in our midst. Yeah, we need to take precautions. But even convicted felons have rights in this country, and Ramsey can live wherever he wants to.

The idea behind Megan's Law was to provide knowledge to unsuspecting communities. It was not to ensure that people who had made mistakes would be crucified wherever they went. You are forewarned, W&L. Act accordingly, and let him be.

Quote of the week:

George Washington could not tell a lie, Bill Clinton cannot tell the truth, and Al Gore cannot tell the difference.

—RNC chair Jim Nicholson AND Va. Attorney General Mark Earley

The Ring-tum Phi

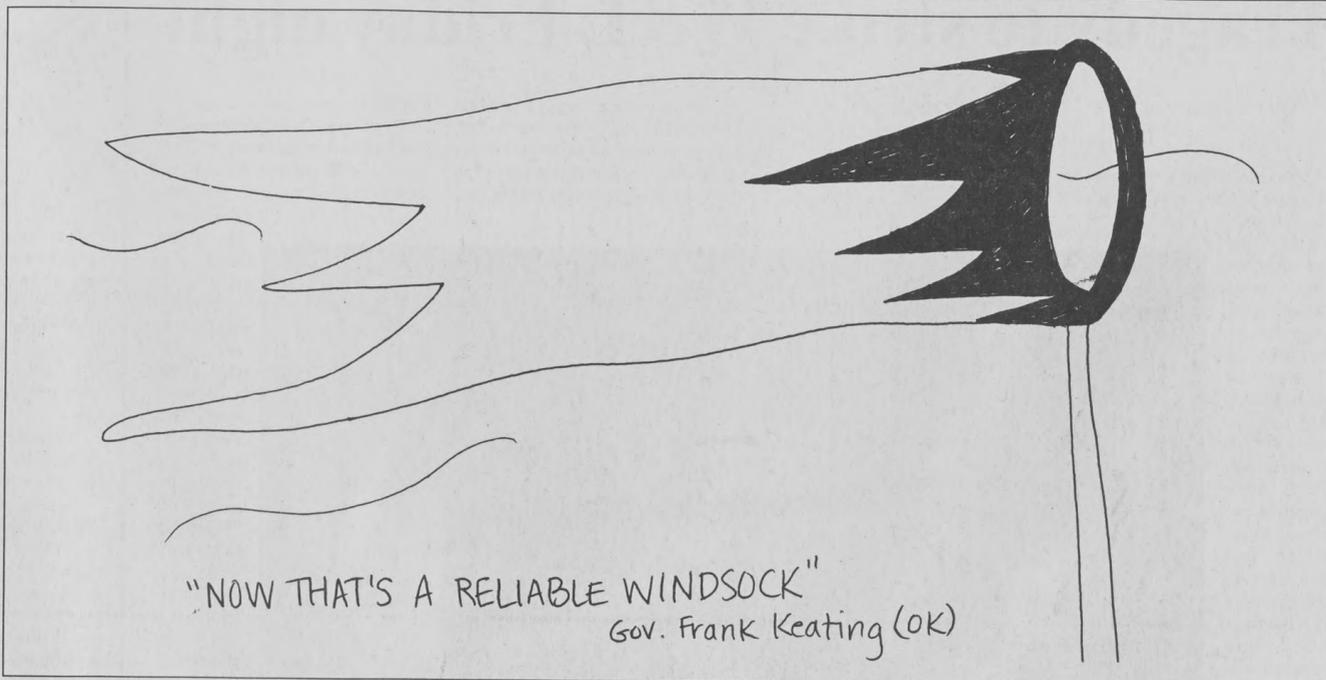
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Impressions of the 2000 Mock Convention

Flags fluttered and swayed around the transformed gymnasium, people roared and clapped, and wrote messages to the world on their party hats. The 2000 Republican Mock Convention has come and gone, and all that is left is our memories, or lack thereof, and our hangovers.

From the haze of the past few days emerge two striking impressions: the lack of respect we as an institution received from the speakers, and the lack of thought which went into our behavior. By this point we have a reputation for being spoiled drunks, perhaps deservedly so. Both our own chairmen and the speakers made crowd-pleasing references to the level of intoxication, nights at the Palms, and how much of a party our Mock Con really is. These were jokes, made to wake up the crowd and evoke some good feeling. However, their frequency reflects the prominence of this aspect of Mock Con, and only serves to cement our reputation.

We were condescended to, egged on like children rather than thinking adults, and we largely did not contradict this. At times the lack of respect shown by the students was embarrassing, as when our bourbon-brined chatter became so loud that speakers had to raise their voices to be heard over us. We were fully aware of the cameras trained on us, and equally aware of the behavior expected of us. By and large, we fulfilled expectations, but not much more.

We had a number of intelligent, powerful, and yes, frankly famous people on stage, relating their ideas on

how we should see the Republican party and democracy in general. Perhaps I underestimate, but how many truly listened with an ear critical enough to separate ideas of potential value from meaningless propaganda and catchwords? By critical listening, I am not implying a lack of loyalty or identification with the Republican party; I am

referring to compassing these speakers by the meaning and weight of their words and behavior.

How much thought did we put into these speeches? We responded to invocations of our revered Reagan, though perhaps with more irony by the fiftieth reference. We responded to sob stories of the noble rising out of piteous circumstances. We responded to Watts' abstract but well delivered charm. We responded to our beloved Elrod, and to Dole's name, seniority and perhaps his sincerity. We responded individually with outbursts of words that amused us - drugs, prostitutes, etc. Last but not least (Texans are excluded) we responded reliably but less convincingly when the Mock Con moment called for it. In comparison, the most eloquent of dissertations on the nature of liberty in our government elicited bleary nods.

Yes, we were stirred. But with the exception of ironic or dutiful applause, it was our emotions which were reached, not our minds. You might argue that it was a party convention, with agreement implicit, needing only to raise the passions. Yet to suspend the action of the critical mind at any time is dangerous. We are Washington and Lee students. We are the potential future leaders, or

the best hope our country has for leaders. Intelligent, well educated, honest, and well versed in social manipulations, we theoretically stand to take up the reins. We are, in fantasy and for two days, hardened committed republican politicians. If we submit our independent critical thought in order to fulfill expectations of soaked, apathetic, aristocrats, and in doing so we fall into the trap of image, power, and emotionalism with which popular politics is conducted, we quietly and unwittingly relinquish any real power and advantages we have. We betray ourselves, and hand control over our futures to those remaining who are all too willing to pick up what we cast aside.

The essence of a democratic republic is the active participation of informed persons in their government. This past weekend has been an exercise in the actual process that controls that system. Our high level of participation and enthusiasm in the Mock Convention commends us, but knowledge and recognition of the forces behind the platforms, ideals, spoken words and impassioned pleas are as important as participation and passion in a real republic. Those who grasp this will ultimately be the ones to control our republic, or to betray it.

Let us be more than well-educated wealthy children who know how to drink hard. Merely fulfilling expected stereotypes leaves us with no surprises for the world and the future - it leaves us stagnant, moving neither forward nor back. Let us question and think, then move beyond expectations. We have the ability to do more than the average spin-doctored public: we have the ability to take our republic and our future, into our own hands.

G.D.I.
 Jessica Helm '00

Snow leaves me searching for the perfect run

As I look out over the white tundra that Lexington has become, I become a tad nostalgic, and a little more reassured that things are almost right in the world.

I grew up with snow in the Lewiston, Maine, where snow is an all encompassing force for five months out of the year. Like a big brother or uncle, it is omnipresent and wise beyond its years, teaching you the basic lessons of life. Maxims like don't eat the yellow snow, a rock in a snowball will always sting a little more, and the perfect sledding run comes only once every fifty years and you have to take it when it comes.

Like Bodhi searching for the perfect wave in Point Break, my friends and I lived for what we envisioned was the perfect sledding run. A combination of a fast slope deep in the woods, well worn trail (ones packed down by snowmobiles are always the best), and the right temperature and night, the perfect run is more than just a sled run. The adrenaline rush of a winter night, the feel of the cold sled through gloves and boots, the cold on your cheeks, the sounds of plastic on snow as you whip down the trail, leaning your body slightly left or right in order to make turns, before finally crashing in a spectacular debacle of

snow and sled; slightly out of breath, your cheeks warm and red from the cold, you lay there and realize that Kurtz was wrong, for this nature's power is beautiful in its omniscience.

That sound in the middle of the woods as you lay there after making a run, where if you listen hard enough you can hear the snow hit around you, and there is nothing else. Just a blank nothingness of sound that blankets you in your excitement and happiness.

My friends and I spent a lifetime in the woods near my house, woods where you could walk for half-a-mile and disappear from civilization for hours. There we would search and experiment for the perfect sledding run, and at the same time slowly grow up and learning about ourselves and our friendships.

I remember waking up at 6:30 in the morning, finding out school was canceled and immediately calling Luke and Matt, invariably waking up their parents. We would be out in the snow within the hour, throwing snowballs, playing king of the snow mountain, making forts that would without failure crash in on us. At some point during the day a feeling would come over us, and looking at each other we would all nod knowingly and run inside, grabbing our sleds and start walking towards the wilderness that held our

perfect run. The silence quickly being broken, we would excitedly yell while trudging through waist deep snow, no one wanting to say that maybe this would be the day, maybe we would find it. We'd sled for hours upon hours, inventing methods of freestyle sledding that others can't even begin to comprehend. Eventually getting tired, we would hurriedly race home to my mom's hot chocolate and beef stew, filling us up with

enough energy to do it all over again. Waiting until around seven or eight at night, when it really was dark, we would bundle back up with gloves and hats, ski pants and parkas, and thick winter boots. We would then go back out and continue that search late into the night. I found that run one day, and it is something that stays with me today, for in that moment the world was perfect in its silence and authority.

My friend Luke and I were in the right place at the right time, and we made that run, the two of us on my little orange sled. Together we made that run, and in that moment I realized real happiness and friendship; a kinship with a friend and nature that will never leave me.

This is what I remember looking out on the snow that has surrounded us in the last week, so enjoy it, it can teach you a lot about yourself, or at least it can for a black bear from Maine living in the south.

Backporch Balderdash
 Michael Crittenden '01

“For in that moment the world was perfect in its silence and authority”

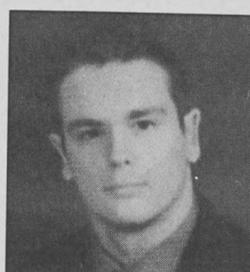
TALKback... What did you think of Mock Con?



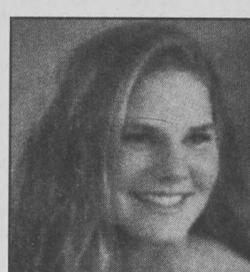
"It was the experience of a lifetime that I didn't go to."
 — Eszter Pados '00



"It was a perfect mix of partying and politics."
 — Natalie Swope '01



"I was impressed by how well-run Mock Con was."
 — Mack Ewing '03



"I liked the elephant."
 — Courtney Rosenthal '03

Tragedy to strike W&L Friday night

By Elianna Marziani
FEATURES EDITOR

Many might think that trying to digest four Shakespeare plays at once might be biting off a little more than you can chew. Orson Welles begged to differ, creating *Chimes at Midnight*, a mix and adaptation of four Shakespeare plays and a history of England. Washington and Lee University Professor J.D. Martinez has since adapted the play into a stage production that will open on Friday, Feb. 4: *Falstaff*.

Falstaff is what has been called a "quirky, arrogant adaptation of several of Shakespeare's plays." It runs through the life of Falstaff and tells the story of his great spirit, in both its strongest and weakest moments.

Martinez said, "This is a story that absorbed Welles throughout his creative and personal life — the story of a paradise lost at the hands of a ruthless bureaucracy."

Best known as an Orson Welles film adaptation, Martinez adapted the script back into a play. The play brings together stories of Falstaff's life related in *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2*, *Henry V*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and a little bit of Holinshed's *Chronicles*, which Martinez described as "a sort of quasi-history of England." "This is a lot of different Shakespeare plays all rolled in to one," he said. "Since it's actually made from a film, I think it's more accessible." Not only does it take key scenes from those plays to tell about Falstaff's life and character, but it is also a story of Prince Henry. "It's

also a story about a boy who is torn between two kinds of fathers," Martinez said. "The prince loves Falstaff who is more fun-loving, and the king."

"Brian is doing a really wonderful job in his role," Martinez said. "In fact, one of the reasons I'm doing this play is because of Brian. Not many can do an older Shakespearean role like that.

Krzysztof Jasiewicz as Canterbury. Tolman is excited about the play. "I love Shakespeare, and the theater provides me with a healthy creative outlet that allows me to forget about academia for a few hours," he said.

This will not just be any performance for him, however. This performance will be unique, as he said, "It is the first time I will ever wear a mullet haircut on stage, and also the first time that I will appear nude. The audience gets the rear view."

The show definitely promises some action/adventure and great comedy. Tolman cited his favorite scenes as a swordfight with McWilliams (Prince Hal), the bathtub scene with Ritter (Lady Percy) and the bar scene between Prisco (Falstaff) and McWilliams.

It has not all been easy. Tolman said, "Long rehearsals and the language proposes difficulty. Of course it is the language that makes it so special, too." The cast hopes all their hard work will be worthwhile, and they are optimistic that it will. They are expecting a fairly good turnout to the performances. Martinez said, "We're going to have a lot of the local school systems out for it... local high schools, English departments."

Tolman agreed, "I think the show is going to sail." The show opens Friday, Feb. 4 and runs Feb. 5 and 7 at 8 p.m. and 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available from the Lenfest Center Box Office, at 463-8000.

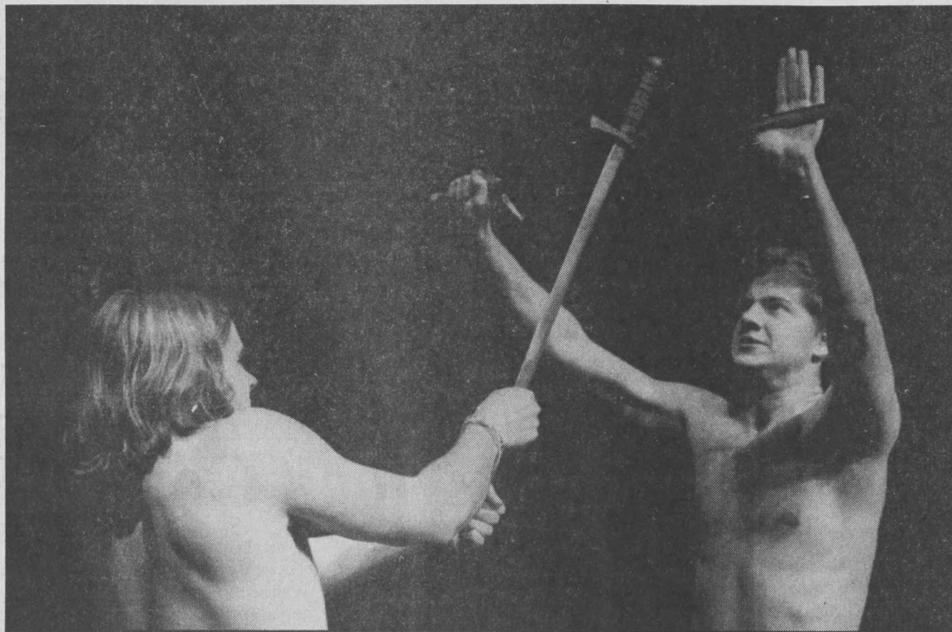


Photo courtesy J.D. Martinez

Micah Tolman (left, as Hotspur) and Francis McWilliams (right, as Prince Henry) battle in *Falstaff*, the stage adaptation of Orson Welles' *Chimes at Midnight*. This Shakespeare adaptation opens Friday, Feb. 4 and runs through Feb. 7 in the Lenfest Center.

The play cannot be totally classified as a comedy or a drama. "It's a little bit of both," Martinez said. "Falstaff is a comic character, but what happens to him is tragic, so in that sense it's a little bit of a drama as well. He's like a stand-up comic who has gotten old, and no one's really laughing at his jokes anymore. You're sympathetic to him, but you also see that he drinks too much, is kind of a pig, steals... so there are things about him that are not very lovable. He's kind of a bittersweet character."

Senior Brian Prisco will play the part of this complex Falstaff, and he is going all out to do the job right.

"We're having him shave his head for the role to make him look older," Martinez said, adding that while Prisco was willing, his mother was not very happy with the arrangement.

Martinez decided last year that he wanted to put this show on this year.

When Brian came along, I thought, "Now's the time to do this." And he does a wonderful job."

So far, the cast has been working on the show for four to five weeks, since everyone returned from break. Students rehearse about three hours a night, five nights a week, plus three hours on one of the days of the weekend.

"The students are rehearsing the play 18-20 hours a week, which is a tremendous amount of time," Martinez said. He is not a total slave-driver, however: he gave the students this week-end off for Mock Con and the Superbowl.

A lot of students are involved in the play - in actors alone, there are almost 30, which is quite a significant number. Some of the cast includes Francis McWilliams as Prince Henry, sophomore Micah Tolman as Hotspur, junior Cassie Ritter as Lady Percy, Hotspur's wife, and even professor

Signature Student Manuel Freire '01

By Elianna Marziani
FEATURES EDITOR

and contemporary."
Q: Do you play any sports?
A: "I might start playing soccer next semester."

It takes a special kind of person to be able to, at 18 years of age, go to another country whose language he did not even know, work his way through college, and make a life for himself there. Junior Manuel Alfredo Freire is just such a person.

Born in Venezuela on Nov. 20, 1973, Freire moved from San Cristobal to Chicago in 1992.

"My father got his MBA at Wharton School in Pennsylvania," Freire said. "He used to talk a lot about the importance of getting an education in the United States."

All this talk must have had some influence on Freire, because he came to the United States and began his education in English at Harper College in Palatine, Ill., where he attended college for two semesters. This was an intensive English as a second language program. After completing the program, Freire decided that he liked life in America, and decided to stay.

He attended Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., for three semesters. He then went to get his AA degree in Liberal Arts in Truman College in Chicago, in addition to managing six shops for Duty Free International at O'Hare International Airport. Later, he went to Northwestern University. At different points in his Northwestern career, he worked for Stephane Kelian (a French Franchise Boutique), Gianni Versace, and Saks Fifth Avenue.

Finally, though, Freire decided it was time to leave Chicago.

"During last spring at Northwestern University, my English professor showed interest in my writing and after a year recommended [that I] come to W&L," Freire said. "She believes that I will be able to improve my writing here much better than if I stayed at Northwestern University. Beverly, my English professor believes that a small school is the place for me."

Currently Freire is a journalism and mass communications major at W&L.

Q: What do you want to do after graduation?

A: "I want to be ready to go back to work for a magazine and eventually I want to start my own."

Q: What is your favorite show?

A: "Michael Moore's 'The Awful Truth.' I like his straightforward interviewing style. The issues he presents are controversial



Photo courtesy Manuel Freire

Q: When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A: "I used to think about planes a lot. I drew planes, built some planes with Lego and collected models to scale. Maybe I wanted to be a F-16 Air Force pilot or a 747 commercial pilot, or I just wanted to travel a lot."

Q: What is your favorite American food?

A: "An American meal I like is New England Clam Chowder with Conch fritters from the Florida Keys and New York style cheesecake for dessert. Probably a Robert Mondavi 1997 Fumé Blanc Reserve wine from Napa Valley is good to accompany a meal like this."

Q: What is your favorite food overall?

A: "I love to eat and to cook, and in 1992, I worked as a Pastry Chef at Le Francais, a French restaurant in Wheeling, Illinois. I also helped to write restaurants reviews during my internship at *Pride Magazine* last Spring... I cook everyday and I can cook a little of everything... I have learned to appreciate different types of cuisine and I do not really have a specific type of food I prefer over others."

Q: What is the biggest difference between Venezuela and the U.S.?

A: "The biggest difference right now between life in the U.S. and in Venezuela is that Venezuela's democratic system is endangered under the governance of populist President (paratrooper, as well) Hugo Chavez who dissolved the Congress, and rewrote the constitution. Cuba's President Fidel Castro is a close friend of President Chavez."

Currently, Freire is enjoying his free and independent life in America, at W&L.

Upcoming events ...



8:00 p.m. Lecture. Wendy Shalit, author of "A Return to Modesty." Lee Chapel. Book signing and reception immediately following at the Alumni House.

Thursday, Feb. 3

7:00 p.m. Basketball (W). W&L vs. Bridgewater College. Warner Center.

Friday, Feb. 4

7:30 p.m. Film Society. "Amistad" (USA, 1998), directed by Steven Spielberg. Troubadour Cinema.

8:00 p.m. Theatre Series. "Falstaff." Adapted and directed by J.D. Martinez. Keller Theatre, Lenfest Center.

8:00 p.m. Lip Sync Contest. Sponsored by SARAH (Students Against Rockbridge Area Hunger) to benefit local food pantries. Student Activities Pavilion.

Saturday, Feb. 5

1:00 p.m. Opera Broadcast. "La Traviata" by Verdi. WLUR-FM (91.5).

3:00 p.m. Basketball (M). W&L vs. Eastern Mennonite University. Warner Center.

7:30 p.m. International Performing Arts Series. Khac Chi Ensemble presents classical music of Vietnam. Lee Chapel.

7:30 p.m. Film Society. "Amistad." Troubadour Cinema.

8:00 p.m. Theatre Series. "Falstaff." Keller Theatre, Lenfest Center.

10:30 p.m. BS&M. Fiji.

11:30 p.m. Virginia Coalition. Sigma Chi.

Sunday, Feb. 6

2:00 p.m. Theatre Series. "Falstaff." Keller Theatre, Lenfest Center.

Monday, Jan. 31

8:00 p.m. Concert Guild. Barbara and Gerhardt Suhrstedts, piano duettists. Johnson Theatre, Lenfest Center. For reservations call the Box Office at 463-8000.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

7:00 p.m. Basketball (W). W&L vs. Randolph-Macon Women's College. Warner Center.

7:00 p.m. Contact Lecture. "Pandering to Fear: the Media's Crisis Mentality." John Stossel, ABC News. Lee Chapel.

7:30 p.m. Winter 2000 Politics Filmfest. "La Traviata" (1986) directed by Franco Zeffirelli. Three-act opera in Italian with English subtitles. Room 221, C-School.

8:00 p.m. Concert Guild. Barbara and Gerhardt Suhrstedts, piano duettists. Johnson Theatre, Lenfest Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

7:30 p.m. Wrestling. W&L vs. Southern Virginia College. Warner Center.

7:30 p.m. Winter 2000 Politics Filmfest. "La Traviata" (1986) directed by Franco Zeffirelli. Room 221, C-School.

8:00 p.m. Concert Guild. Barbara and Gerhardt Suhrstedts, piano duettists. Johnson Theatre, Lenfest Center.

"That is one reliable windsock."
- Gov. Frank Keating (OK)



Write!!!!

The Ring-tum Phi is looking for enthusiastic writers to join its staff and contribute weekly: writers wanted for news, sports, features, opinions, and humor!! New ideas are always welcome, too.

Come be part of the Ring-tum Phi team! For more information, call the office at 462-4060, and let your voice be heard!

FALSTAFF

An Orson Welles' Adaptation of Shakespeare

Feb. 4, 5, 7, 2000 • 8 p.m.
Feb. 6, 2000 • 2 p.m.

Keller Theatre • Lenfest Center

Directed by J. D. Martinez

Generals' effort to humble Hampden-Sydney falls short

By Mike Weil
STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee Generals treated a rare packed Warner center to a commendable effort on Wednesday, but fell short against the nationally top-ranked Hampden-Sydney, 56-49.

The number one ranked squad in Division III basketball sprinted out to a 17-3 lead, but the Generals would not be deterred. They chipped and clawed their way back into the contest, going into the locker room down by only five at the half, 28-23.

W&L kept this momentum up in the second half as they continued to cut into the deficit. They climbed all the way back with 7:51 remaining, tying the game at 41.

A questionable 10 seconds call crushed the Generals momentum however, as the Tigers began to pull away.

W&L had one last run in them cutting the Hampden-Sydney lead to three with 28 seconds to play. The Tigers would go on to make their free throws down the stretch for a seven-point victory.

The Generals were led by freshman Toussaint Crawford, who totaled 12 points on 5-7 shooting. Crawford has displayed true star potential this season, hitting big shots in the big games and emerging as a leader on the court.

Senior Brian Ricketts added eight points and nine boards for W&L.

The Generals' outstanding defense performed well, holding the Tigers to a season-low 33 percent shooting from the floor, and only 56 points, also a season-low.

"Defense was the reason we were able to hang with this team," said Crawford. "Defense was the most important thing for us."

An unsung hero for the Generals was their sixth man on the court, the crowd. For the first time all season, General fans came out in huge numbers, helping generate uncommon electricity in the Warner center.

"The crowd was great," said Crawford. "Playing in front of that crowd was probably the best sports moment I've ever had."

This crowd prompted Coach Jeff Lafave to write a campus e-mail thanking the student body for their support and encouraging them to lend the same support for future ODAC match-ups.

After the defeat the Generals' record moved to 5-10, 4-8 in the ODAC, while Hampden-Sydney remained unbeaten at 17-0.

W&L faced Villa Julie on Sunday in the Warner Center and came out on top, 80-69. The Generals used a season-high 50 percent shooting from the field and went 10 of 15 from three-point range to garner the victory.

W&L hits the road again Wednesday to face Shenandoah. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m.



Photo by David Hanson/Assistant Photo Editor



Photo by Tiffany Friedel/Assistant Photo Editor

ABOVE: Freshman Toussaint Crawford lays another one in for two against Hampden-Sydney. Crawford's leadership and athleticism have already made him a standout on the court. He led the team with 12 points.

ABOVE LEFT: Senior center Brian Ricketts plows through the Tiger's defense. Ricketts posted eight points and nine rebounds for the W&L's cause against Hampden-Sydney.

LEFT: A huge crowd of W&L basketball fans turned out to see the Generals take on the number one ranked Tigers. Coach Jeff Lafave and the rest of the Generals were appreciative of the turnout and support and hopes that the crowds will continue to come out and rally for W&L in future conference games.

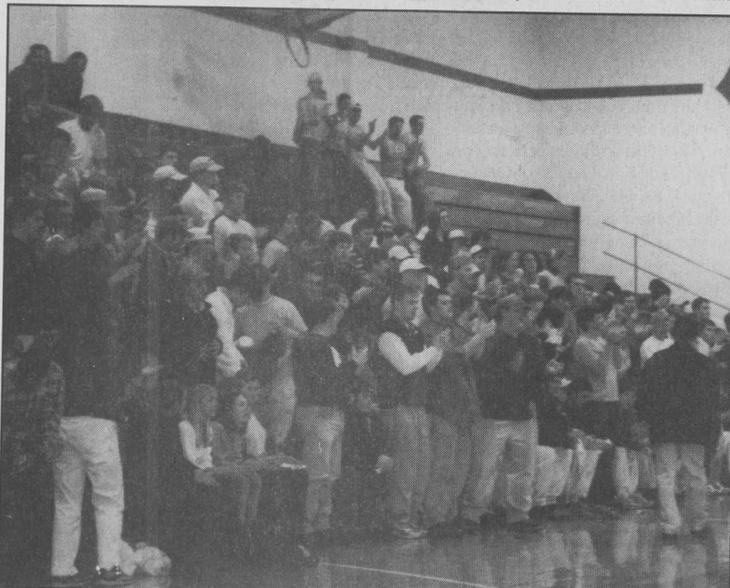


Photo by Tiffany Friedel/Assistant Photo Editor

Women's basketball splits two contests

Miller tops W&L's all-time scoring mark

By Robert Turner
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee's women's basketball team endured another week of mixed results in ODAC competition, defeating Lynchburg on Thursday 61-60 before falling to Guilford on Saturday 70-55.

The Generals traveled to Lynchburg on Thursday and returned with a victory by the smallest of margins. After shooting 51.9 percent in the first half, W&L went into the locker room with a commanding 36-17 lead.

Lynchburg fought back hard to begin the second half. They battled back to a five point advantage, 58-53, with only three minutes left in regulation.

W&L then went on a small run of their own. Sophomore forward Jessica Mentz was able to tie the score at 60 with a layup.

With five seconds left senior guard Jessica Morton went to the line with the score still notched at 60, and she made one of two free throws to give the Generals the important conference victory.

The close finish was not the only drama of the game, as W&L senior Ansley Miller scored eleven points to increase her career total to 1084

points. That effort put Miller over the top and broke W&L's all-time scoring mark previously held by Chrissy Burghardt.

Miller, through it all, still want the focus on the team.

"It's exciting to be a part of a program that has grown so much and to be in the record books," she said.

"The season can go in any direction from this point, and we need to focus on making the climb back up."

After their exciting win Thursday the Generals traveled to Greensboro Saturday to take on ODAC rival Guilford. W&L again came out strong in the first half to take a 33-30 halftime lead on 52.4 percent shooting.

The game remained close in the second half, and the Generals trailed 51-48 with little over seven minutes left in the game. Guilford then went on a 10-0 run, effectively closing out the previously tight contest.

W&L now maintains an overall record of 9-7 and an even 6-6 in the ODAC.

The Generals host Randolph-Macon Women's College next Tuesday. The match-up will be the third in a string of ten ODAC regular season games. W&L has already faced R-MWC once this season and gained one of their most convincing road wins, 69-44.

Wrestling goes 1-2 at Western Maryland

Senior Chad Casto, and juniors Josh Chamberlain and John Sensing each tallied 3-0 records in leading the Washington and Lee wrestling team to a 1-2 record at the Western Maryland Quadrangular on Saturday evening in Westminster, Md.

W&L (3-3, 2-2 Centennial) began the evening with a narrow 21-16 loss to Ursinus College. The Generals quickly rebounded, however, claiming a decisive 42-6 victory over

Swarthmore. The match was highlighted by pin by Sensing in the 285-pound classification.

Following the win over Swarthmore, W&L suffered a 27-12 loss to the host Green Terror.

Other Generals claiming victories in contested matches were junior Greg Valentine, sophomore Ezra Morse, and freshmen John Polena and Ericson Davis.

—Courtesy of Sports Information



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Internship & Job Fair

February 3, 2000

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Summer opportunities in industries like

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★ Public Relations ★ Non-profit ★

★ International ★ Camps ★

CAREER SERVICES
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

Real political parties for real American voters

By Kevin McManemin
SHAME-BASED MAN

Wow, that Mock Con was something else, huh? What was it — seven or eight speakers in a row that all felt the need to mention Al Gore's bone-headed "I invented the Internet" quote? Thanks, fellas, for running that line into the ground faster than Jay

Leno with an OJ joke. It's going to be a long, tedious campaign if they don't find something else to make fun of him for — and quickly.

My other favorite thing about the Convention was how each Republican praised Reagan as pretty much the greatest leader since Alexander the Great and then Bill Bennett went on to lament the national

debt as one of the greatest problems of our age and somehow managed to blame Bill Clinton for it. Huh? Either the former Secretary of Education ain't too good at math, or he conveniently skipped the chapters in history that clearly show that the national deficit and national debt ballooned under Ronald Reagan like Clinton's waistline at an all-you-can-eat buffet.

In general, though, I was very proud of the Republican party. They obviously studied the election of '92 closely and learned how to make the vice president of the United States look like an utter and complete jackass. Gore got the full Quayle treatment — and this time it's fully deserved. Al Gore's quote that Bill Clinton is one of the greatest Presidents in American his-

tory clearly shows that Gore is either a blatant liar or a complete idiot.

So, I wish the Republicans luck in the upcoming campaign, yet, at the same time, I'm a bit sick of the simplicity of our vs. them two party system. Think of how many more candidates there would be to make fun of if the polls reflected the true diversity of opinions and values in America!

It is with that noble goal in mind that I present the following parties, none of which receive any attention from the "mainstream" media. Their ideas may strike you as "crazy," but just remember that 225 years ago some guys had a "crazy" little idea called freedom, and they formed the greatest nation the world has ever scene. Despite Texas.

The stoner party

Nominee: "Herb Man"

Platform: Marijuana is, like, illegal in this country, and we in the Stoner Party totally think that blows. If elected, we promise to make marijuana non-illegal by 2005, or 2007, or, like, as soon as we get around to it.

Our opponents say that marijuana rots the brain and saps the energy from smokers, but we heartily disagree. We think that marijuana is a thing which can be used in a manner in which the case is that... damn, where was I going with this? Oh, like, marijuana is totally... uh... ha ha ha ha, oh man, I'm totally making an ass up myself here, dude. Like, I had this speech all worked out last night while Todd and I were watching "The Matrix," (that movie is SO TOTALLY F***ED UP when you're high!) really, but, ha ha ha ha...

Oh yeah! We've got other platforms too in the Stoner Party. We're not just about primo bud for all ages. Like, we're totally for government subsidies for Doritos and Slim Jims and Phish bootlegs. If elected President, I hope to have in every car cassette deck in America a bootleg copy of Phish's epic Jan. 16, 1999 Boulder, Colorado show (including the 45-minute long improved jam of "Tweezer" and Trey Anastasio's fine wah-pedal work on what many consider the definitive live version of "Peaches En Regalia").

So as you can see, we, like... oh crap, gotta run, Scooby's on.

The academe party

Nominee: Dr. LaTeisha Hembree-Miller, University of Oregon

Abstract: The purpose of this article is to prove that the country would be best governed by a committee of learned college professors.

Platform: As the paradigms of representative democracy have shifted greatly since its inception in the days of Pericles and the Greeks, nonetheless, history has shown that the strongest democracies are those built upon a firm foundation of lecturing and publishing. (Sorensen, 1997) As Thucydides noted, "ζῶν ὄντων, ἡ γὰρ ἕξις ἔστιν ἡ ἀρετή."

Although the media portrays all academics as stuffy and boring, (Fleming, 1991) the aggregate data has yet to fully support that conclusion. According to Dr. Henry P. Lesserman's 1994 study, only 58 percent of academics are described by colleagues as "insufferably dull and boring," while 27 percent are described as "very boring." Most interestingly, the study found that fully 6.54 percent of academics are described by others as "not too terribly boring." (Lesserman, 1994)

Clearly the data supports the underlying conclusion that, contrary to popular belief, not all academics are horribly dull pointyheads incapable of providing inspiring leadership to the masses. Ergo, logically speaking, an academic would vis-a-vis in fact have (continued on pages 17-456)

The virulent misanthrope party

Nominee: none of your business

Platform: It is estimated that there are currently six billion people living on the planet earth — for us in the virulent misanthrope party, that's about 5,999,999,997 too many.

Currently the mainstream parties are debating various proposed gun control measures. Well to gun control supporters we propose this simple truth: guns don't kill people; heroes kill people.

Furthermore, we not only support a woman's right to choose an abortion — we heartily endorse it. The government should provide incentives for women who bravely choose to keep this mind-numbingly stupid degenerate race of human beings from further crowding the planet with their filthy chromosomes. Forced castration for sex offenders is a good start, but we must build on this. How about dumping birth control pills in the water supply?

Health care and Social Security? Hey, we've read Darwin, and we know that keeping alive the weak and the elderly just ain't the way of nature. Midnight basketball for inner-city youth? We think midnight running-into-traffic would keep more kids out of gangs.

Vote the virulent misanthrope party when you go into the voting booths next election. We're at least honest enough to admit that we're only looking to screw you.

the straight guys who enjoy Broadway musicals but are really self-conscious about it party

Nominee: Bryson Shaw

Platform: Now, hey, come on. I'll admit that I loved "Rent." Who didn't? It's just a great show with great music — and I don't see why in this society I can't enjoy a great show without being labelled "gay" by my friends and colleagues.

As the nominee for President for the straight guys who enjoy Broadway musicals but are really self-conscious about it party, I'd just like to point out that I have a steady girlfriend. Her name is Erin, we've been dating for 16 great months, and yes, fellas, we have had frequent sex. That doesn't sound very gay to me, does it?

I've never looked at another guy and thought he was attractive — honestly. Well, I mean, I can tell the difference between ugly guys and good-looking guys, I mean, what women would think is the difference, because I don't think they're good looking myself. Not at all. Really.

Look, I'm getting a bit off the subject here. The platform of our party is simple: we believe that guys should be able to walk out of "Les Mis" or "Miss Saigon" or even "Kiss of the Spider Woman" with their heads held high and their wrists hanging resolutely non-limp at their sides. We intend to support Broadway with tax dollars, to foster the "Lion King" and "Cabaret" of tomorrow.

But I'm not gay. Really. Honestly!

The frat party

Nominee: Preston S. Davidson IV

Platform: Whooooo! Frat party!

Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you today to unveil the frat party's two-point plan to American prosperity. By the twin cornerstones of drinking and hazing, we hope to fully initiate all Americans into prosperity and happiness.

Currently our nation is plagued with a crop of lazy, good-for-nothing immigrants. That's because the U.S. is too easy on them. Our belief is, if you want to become an American, you'll have to earn it. Through a rigorous regiment of immigrant hazing, we can insure that only those who truly deserve to be initiated Americans will make the cut. Give us your tired, your poor, your hungry... and we'll beat the hell out of them.

Our first priority, however, must be the future of America: the children. Under the current tyrannical system of government, only those 21 years of age and older are allowed to enjoy the life-affirming joy that alcohol provides. If the frat party is elected, we promise to drop the legal drinking age to four-and-a-half. All Americans will soon be able to enjoy the freedom to numb the mind that it is our God-given right — nay — our duty to uphold!

Our founding fathers from Sam Adams to George Killian knew what it meant to be Americans. Uphold their legacy by voting the frat party to power. Whooooo! Frat party rules!

Tigerbeat's Totally for girls political party!!!

Nominee: Candice Henson

Platform: If you're a young girl between the ages of 9-14, Tigerbeat magazine is putting together a totally awesome political party just for you!!!!

We're totally committed to, like, a lot of real serious issues that way affect our lives.

Issues such as: CUTE BOYS!!!! We're the only major party committed to putting our national resources toward the conservation of our nation's most precious resource: BOY BANDS! N'Sync and Backstreet Boys will replace those old fogeys on the Supreme Court if we are elected.

Besides conservation of domestic hunks, our foreign policy is totally geared towards bringing foreign studs like RICKY MARTIN and ENRIQUE IGLESIAS to America!!!! If they don't want to come, we'll send way hot marines (boys in uniform are soooooo cute!) to invade any country that refuses to ship its hottest hunks to America.

Tigerbeat's Totally for girls political party!!! is not just about hunks, though. We're also about girl power and stuff. With us in charge, expect way-inspirational leadership from awesome cabinet members like Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera!

So get out there and get involved! Show the world what girl power is all about and help elect the coolest, hippest government ever!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wherefor be it resolved on this, the twenty-ninth day of January in the year of our Lord 2000, that the student body at Washington and Lee University did convene for a mock-convention, and being filled with political zeal, they did draw up a new Bill of Rights with which they agreed to be governed, overthrowing the shackles of tyranny from an oppressive regime, and rededicating the school to the principles of student self-governance and personal responsibility on which Washington and Lee was once founded.

amendment 1

The administration shall make no laws infringing on the rights of the students to have kegs in their frathouses.

amendment 2

Students have the right to say whatever they bloody well feel like without being subjected to persecution by the p.c. thought police.

amendment 3

Students have the right to a fair trial; not the right to be railroaded out of school for sharing your mealplan just because the F.C. was bored that month.

amendment 4

The student body has the right to have a band they actually like play for F.D.

amendment 5

Tenure shall not be used by faculty members as an excuse for sloth and incompetence (and you know who you are).

amendment 6

The official mascot of the school is hereby changed from "the General" to "The S.A.A.-drivin'-Beam-swillin'-Southern-animal."

amendment 7

Cruel and unusual punishments will only be administered during the designated pledgship period and by fully trained and qualified pledgemasters.

amendment 8

The next time B&G tries charging a frathouse \$40 for moving a chair from the third floor to the first floor, they will have their legs broken as the mob extortion racketeers they are.

amendment 9

There is NO amendment 9!

amendment 10

That all rights not given to the administration are reserved by the students and their pledges, respectively.

Ring-tum Phi's profanity policy is a load of...

By Kevin McManemin
MALCONTENT IN THE MIDDLE

Last week Taylor Ruilova said "sh***" in his article in *The Phi*. And you know, I've spent every waking moment since then trying to figure out just what the f*** he meant. I mean, hell, was Taylor saying "shot," or "shop," or "ship," or "shod," or "shed"? Damn it, I want to know!

Then it hit me — "it" being *The Phi's* copy editor for my using the words "damn it" in this article. But as I regained consciousness on the cold floor of the Phi office, I suddenly realized what Taylor was saying — he was actually trying to say a word that some people might think is a naughty combination of four letters used to denote fecal matter, but... don't worry folks... THANK SWEET JESUS CHRIST that our editors rushed in just in time to save the readers from enduring Ruilova's onslaught of filth.

Thank God that those asterisks were placed where those two naughty letters would have gone! Another generation of impressionable W&L youth was left in the dark about what Taylor was really trying to say, confused as I

was by those brave asterisks.

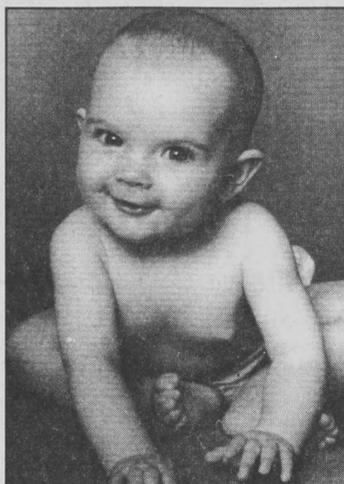
Alright, had enough sarcasm for today? Good. Let's get down to business.

Putting asterisks in the place of the final letters of a blue word is not only patently ridiculous, but in a college paper it only makes us look as if staffed by a bunch of geekish prudes. There are no children to "protect" — there are only college students who know exactly what these words mean and who use them every single day. The "vulgar" message is still being communicated just fine. The asterisks only thoroughly embarrass us.

No, no, no, no, they argue, you misunderstand, as is common with vulgar primates such as yourself. The asterisks do not make us look ridiculous — they make the paper look classy by upholding common decency.

Well, I submit that in an era when the common man uses these "bad words" commonly, that is the new common decency. Censoring words that almost everybody uses only serves to uphold some outmoded, prudish, nonsensical notion of acceptable speech. Just as we don't hold ourselves to old notions of fashion or conduct, why should we hold ourselves to ancient notions of speech?

Please take a second to e-mail *The Phi* with a simple yet brutally direct message: f*** this asterisk bu**sh**.



"I can't wait to work for Special Programs when I grow up and go to W&L"
—Raina Milling '14

THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS HAS SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE FOR W&L STUDENTS.

Alumni College — Resident Assistants
Five Resident Assistants will spend six weeks meeting and assisting Alumni, professors, and other interesting friends of W&L during Alumni College. Responsibilities are varied and include attending meals and other activities with guests, transportation of guests, and maintaining rooms in Gaines Hall. Employment is from June 13 - Aug. 4, 2000 and includes room, board, and tips in addition to salary. Application deadline is Feb. 28, 2000. For information call 463-8723.

Summer Scholars — Counselors
Summer Scholars is a four-week academic program for rising high school seniors. Counselors serve as resident advisors for 10 students in Graham-Lees dormitory and plan evening and weekend activities. Employment is from June 28 - July 30, 2000. Application deadline is Feb. 21, 2000. For further information call 463-8722.