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VOLUME CIV, No. XVI

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2002

Sororities, fraternities receive grades, pledges

Large freshman class helps Greeks enjoy successful rush season

By MATTHEW McDERMOTT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

W&L's record number of freshmen presented a golden opportunity to fraternities and sororities eager to increase membership.

The IFC and Panhellenic Council worked with the Dean of Students Office in the complicated process of sorting more than three fourths of the freshman class into Greek organizations.

SORORITY RECRUITMENT

Panhellenic President Katie Cedarholm, a senior, and Recruiting Chair Elizabeth Saxton, a junior, stayed up past 2 a.m. for nearly a week.

"We've been busy trying to place everyone in a sorority who wants to participate," Saxton said.

"There's a lot of behind the scenes work," Cedarholm added.

This work included organizing invitations to last week's various sorority functions, held last week, which include Philanthropy and Skit Nights. Cedarholm and Saxton also cross-referenced lists and assisted Panhellenic Advisor Teresa Glassman in the selection process, which is electronic.

"We use a DOS program, so I don't know if I'd call it high tech," Glassman said.

The program takes the preferences of the sororities and of the potential new members, and attempts to match them together while maintaining each house's quota.

Quota is set before recruitment, and is the number of participating women divided by five. This year's quota was 37, up from last year's 32. Fully eighty-nine percent of freshman women are participating in this year's rush.

Every woman gets one bid for a sorority. Should she reject it, which the Panhellenic Council discourages, she is unable to pledge another sorority for a calendar year.

Some women "fall through the cracks," and do not get a bid.

"We are very happy that there are fewer girls that didn't get bids this year than last year," Glassman said.

Dean of Freshmen Dawn Watkins has been working with dorm counselors to make sure that the "needs are met" of participants and non participants of recruitment.

There has been, however, no special Residence Life meeting called on rush or pledgship, Watkins said.

FRATERNITY RUSH

The IFC, which had successfully opposed the recent motion to shorten pledgship to six weeks, began planning for rush on a Skylar retreat on Sept. 4.

Several changes grew out of the meeting, including abolishing the usual Lee Chapel assembly.

Instead, IFC representatives met with sections of male dormitory halls. Reading from prepared talking points, they gave advice and answered questions.

"The information sessions helped out a lot," said IFQ President Quincy

Springs, a senior, who believes the personal approach encouraged more freshmen to rush.

IFC Vice President and senior Brent Keene is in charge of fraternity rush.

He edited the Rush Book, a publication that allowed every fraternity two pages to describe their house, list members, and provide pictures of activities.

Before Christmas, freshmen filled out their preference cards, where they listed their top four choices. This past week, freshmen visited them during rush dates one to four, which were two ninety-minute intervals on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Selected freshmen were invited back on rush dates five and six, on Thursday.

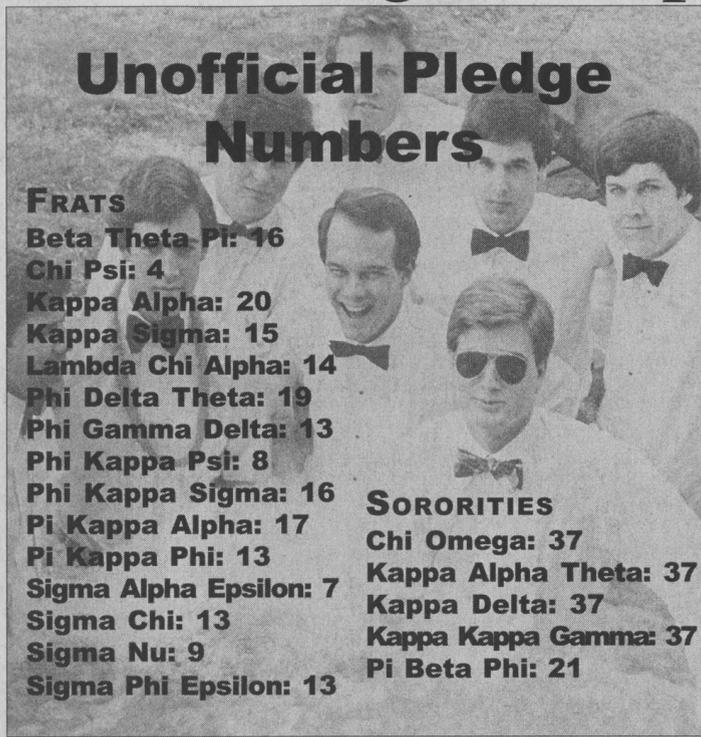
"Some houses have a tendency to hold pledges during rush date five," Springs said. "The IFC patrolled during rush week, which helped the situation."

Springs believes that rush went well. "There were a few bumps in the road," he said, "but they'll be handled at the Monday IFC meeting."

"It looks like there's going to be a lot of alcohol violations from bid night," Keen said.

"All in all we're working out kinks as we work under the new alcohol rules and regulations," Springs said.

Unofficial Pledge Numbers



FRATS

- Beta Theta Pi: 16
- Chi Psi: 4
- Kappa Alpha: 20
- Kappa Sigma: 15
- Lambda Chi Alpha: 14
- Phi Delta Theta: 19
- Phi Gamma Delta: 13
- Phi Kappa Psi: 8
- Phi Kappa Sigma: 16
- Pi Kappa Alpha: 17
- Pi Kappa Phi: 13
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon: 7
- Sigma Chi: 13
- Sigma Nu: 9
- Sigma Phi Epsilon: 13

SORORITIES

- Chi Omega: 37
- Kappa Alpha Theta: 37
- Kappa Delta: 37
- Kappa Kappa Gamma: 37
- Pi Beta Phi: 21

(ABOVE) INFORMATION COURTESY: BRENT KEENE, IFC VICE PRESIDENT, AND SORORITIES/INFOGRAPHIC BY MATTHEW McDERMOTT;
(BELOW) INFORMATION COURTESY: DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

Administration releases Greek GPA's for Fall Term 2001

By MATTHEW McDERMOTT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

By one thousandth of a GPA point, Sigma Nu wrested the academic trophy from Pi Beta Phi for Fall Term 2001. This is the first time in recent memory that a fraternity has beaten a sorority to earn the highest grade average.

Sigma Nu, with a 3.388, has maintained the highest fraternity average for the past two terms.

Sigma Chi, whose 3.339 is the second highest average, climbed from its previous fifth rank.

With a 3.387, Pi Beta Kapa had the highest sorority average.

Chi Omega moved from first to second place, with a 3.335 average.

Two fraternities had an A average and 13 had a B average. Two sororities had an A average and three had a B average.

Every fraternity but Kappa Alpha and Chi Psi had a higher average than non-fraternity men. Every sorority had a higher average than non-sorority women.

Greek men and women had higher averages than non-Greeks. Women had higher averages than men.

The average W&L GPA is 3.095.

Fraternity Rankings

1. Sigma Nu 3.388
2. Sigma Chi 3.339
3. Phi Gamma Delta 3.238
4. Pi Kappa Phi 3.197
5. Phi Delta Theta 3.145
6. Lambda Chi Alpha 3.106
7. Sigma Alpha Epsilon 3.081
8. Phi Kappa Psi 3.055
9. Phi Kappa Sigma 3.046
10. Sigma Phi Epsilon 3.025
11. Beta Theta Pi 3.018
12. Kappa Sigma 2.991
13. Pi Kappa Alpha 2.952
14. Kappa Alpha 2.788
15. Chi Psi 2.777

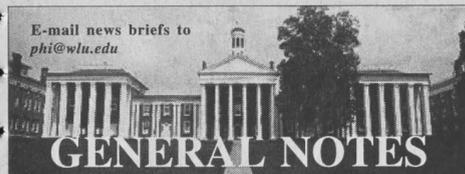
Sorority Rankings

1. Pi Beta Phi 3.387
2. Chi Omega 3.335
3. Kappa Kappa Gamma 3.223
4. Kappa Alpha Theta 3.229
5. Kappa Delta 3.216

Other Scores

- All Sorority 3.274
- All Women 3.194
- Non-Sorority Women 3.111
- All Students 3.095
- All Fraternity 3.075
- All Men 3.015
- Non-Fraternity Men 2.941

Fall 2001 Grade Point Averages



E-mail news briefs to
phi@wlu.edu

GENERAL NOTES

New politics course on terrorism attracts statewide media coverage

Washington and Lee University's new course on terrorism has been in the media spotlight this week with news organizations from across the state visiting campus and interviewing Politics Professor Bob Strong about his creation of the popular 200-level course.

Strong, head of the politics department in W&L's Williams School of Commerce, Economics, and Politics, began planning the course days after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Though having long incorporated issues of terrorism in his classes, Strong has devoted hundreds of hours to developing the new course's examination of the volatile issues facing policy makers grappling with terrorism and its repercussions.

Student demand for the class has been intense, with undergraduates continuing to seek spots in one of three sections of the course as W&L's winter term classes opened this week. Media coverage of the course also has prompted inquiries from faculty at other colleges, said Strong, a nationally known expert on American foreign policy and the U.S. Presidency.

News coverage of the W&L course include articles by the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*, the Associated Press, the *Roanoke Times*, the *Staunton News-Leader* and television reports by WDBJ-7 and WSLN-10 in Roanoke and WSET-13 in Lynchburg.

Roger Mudd '50, Donald McCabe will speak to launch W&L Institute for Honor

Newsman Roger Mudd, a 1950 W&L alumnus and widely respected journalist, and Dr. Donald L. McCabe, one of the country's leading authorities on academic integrity and collegiate Honor Systems, are the featured speakers at Washington and Lee University Founders' Day events and the inaugural session of the W&L Institute for Honor.

The Jan. 18-19 festivities, which include students' initiation into the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society for leadership achievements, are designed to highlight the launching of the W&L Institute for Honor.

The institute and its anticipated annual sessions are being financed by \$750,000, raised by Billy Schaefer '60 from members of the Class of 1960. The Institute's goals are still being formulated but include promoting academic integrity in secondary schools and colleges, while also emphasizing ways that alumni can further promote integrity in the professions and in the workplace, institute organizers said.

In 1992, Washington and Lee was among 24 founding institutions of the Center for Academic Integrity, formerly spearheaded by McCabe and now based at Duke University's Kenan Institute of Ethics. The center's 1997 annual convention was hosted by W&L on its national historic landmark campus in Lexington. Today, the center has about 250 institution members, including many of the country's most eminent colleges and universities.

Mudd, who has become in recent years an avid commentator and speaker on professional ethics, will launch the weekend events with his Founders' Day convocation address, "Honor: Is It Absolute or Is It Relative?" The speech, which is open to the public, is at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18, in Lee Chapel.

McCabe, a Rutgers University professor of organizational management, will deliver the institute's keynote address at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, in the Law School's moot courtroom.

The institute's inaugural two-day session will include a series of workshops and discussions, which are not open to the public, featuring Mudd, McCabe, members of W&L's faculty, University officials and outside speakers.

Professor Frank Settle examines role of chemistry in building the atomic bomb

Frank A. Settle, professor of chemistry at Washington and Lee University, has authored the cover story for this month's issue of *Analytical Chemistry*. Titled "Analytical Chemistry and the Manhattan Project," Settle examines the major role analytical chemists played in the success of the top-secret Manhattan Project to build the first atomic bomb.

For the last two years, Settle, who teaches analytical chemistry and an interdisciplinary course on the nuclear age, has been building a web site, the *Alsos Digital Library for Nuclear Issues*, that is part of the National Science Foundation's \$40 million National Science Digital Library project designed to create, organize and install high-quality educational resources on the Internet.

The Alsos site, created through a \$250,000 NSF grant, provides a rich array of authoritative and reliable references drawn from sources worldwide.

The current Alsos Library is directed by Settle and Thomas P. Whaley, professor of computer science at W&L.



MUDD

ODK initiates new students

W&L-founded national honor society inducts 22 undergrads, 9 law students

COMPILED BY
STAFF REPORTS

Membership in Omicron Delta Kappa is awarded to undergraduate junior and senior students, graduate students, to faculty, staff, administration and alumni; and to persons qualifying for membership *honoris causa*.

Student candidates must rank in the upper 35 percent of their college and must show leadership in scholarship, athletics, community service, social or religious activities, campus government, mass media, or the creative or performing arts.

ODK was founded on Dec. 3, 1914, at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, by 15 student and faculty leaders.

ODK was the first college honor society of a national scope to recognize leadership and service in extracurricular activities.

Class of 2002
Michele Lee Backus
William Jeffrey Bahl
Richard Cappe Black, II
Todd Lavidge Gosselink
Veronica Ellen Griffith
Thomas Galen Grove
Charene Amelia Jones
Anne Monica Lachiewicz
Amanda Lewis
Elizabeth Blair Manning
Elianna Joella Marziani
Robert O'Conner Moynihan
Deeksha Prakash
Harold Ellis Shaw, III
Micah Paul Tolman
Abram Jonas Trosky

Class of 2003
Robert Earl Benson
Agnes Maria Flak
Avery Flinn Gholston

William Guthrie Packard, III
Raphael Bonsi Penteado
Carroll Armour Thompson

Law Class of 2002
Ryan Andrew Becker
John Stanfield Buford
Hillary Beth Coombs
Sarah Margaret Cravens
Christy Lynn McQuality
Stacy Eve Smith

Law Class of 2003
John Frank Eisinger
Heath Holland Galloway
Sara Scott McGeorge

Alumni
Thomas R. Shepherd

Honoris Causa
William F. McCorkle, Jr.
Nancy Shepherd

Wednesday, Jan. 16

8:00 p.m.—Alcoholic Anonymous meeting. Fairfax Lounge. Coffee provided. All invited.

Thursday, Jan. 17

7 p.m.—"Window to Paris." Russian with subtitles. Rm. 221, Williams School.
7:30 p.m.—Guest speaker. "Addressing Poverty in West Africa: The Case of Niger," by Jason Hahn '99, former Peace Corps Volunteer. Room 114, Science Center.

Friday, Jan. 18

Founder's Day/ODK Convocation
11:30 a.m.—ODK Convocation and Inaugural Lecture of Institute for Honor. Roger Mudd '50. Lee Chapel.
7:30 p.m.—Film Society. "Apocalypse Now, Redux" (USA, 1979/2001). Directed by Francis Ford Coppola. Troubadour Cinema.



Today

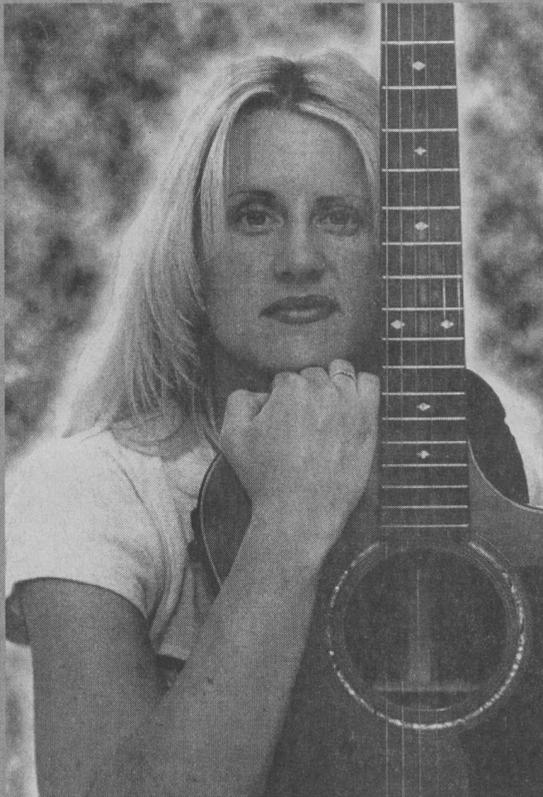
8:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.—Java at the GHQ. Robin Stone, accompanied by percussionist. Soulfolk, fun, and jazz music.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Noon—Fellowship lunch. W&L employees brown bag lunch. Rm 108, University Center.

ROBIN STONE

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mix of
Soulfolk,
Funk,
and
Jazz**



Java at the GHQ
Monday, January 14
8:30 to Midnight

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THE RING-TUM PHI OPINIONS

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2002

STAFF EDITORIAL

Pledgeship 2002: W&L's master class

Professors, take heed. An ever-lengthening and ragged column of freshmen will soon be straggling into your classes at 8:10, 9:05, or even 10:15.

Meanwhile, the empty seats surrounding the tardy will memorialize peers unable to win the battle against alcohol consumption and sleep deprivation.

Some teachers would use this situation as an excuse to "crack down," enforcing pre-established rules on attendance and participation. Nothing could be less fair.

Don't be fooled, professors. Your tender charges are learning—that out-of-classroom, true-to-life learning that W&L values.

All of the academy is contained within pledgeship: the history of one's Greek-letter organization, man's biological response to consuming gallons of alcohol, the chemistry of alternative pharmaceuticals, and the economics of buying cigarettes for house officers.

Weighed against a syllabus like this, anything outside the C-School suddenly loses its luster. The academic disciplines like philology, philosophy, and phenomenology might be well and good, but when you climb down from the ivory tower, you see that networking and assimilation get you the better job.

Understandably, lessons as important as these cannot be taught for a few hours every night. Often instruction continues early into the morning, and lesser subjects must of course make way.

Because students are working so fiendishly outside of class, the solution is for professors to relax within it. Grade-inflation is an ugly and imprecise term; consider it grade-massage.

The grades the Class of 2005 can be subtly influenced by understanding what's going on off the Hill. A paper ordinarily meriting a C can look like a B when you realize its author wrote it after the Keg Relay. A D-quiz can be quite C-ish when you realize only three hours intervened since the student was released from scavenger hunting by his brother.

In the eight weeks ahead, we ask that W&L teachers demonstrate their commitment to the true meaning of education.

W&L must avoid temptation of grade inflation

There are certain things that students miss about heading home for the holidays, namely the lack of schoolwork. As much as I enjoy life here on campus, I would be lying if I said that I didn't miss some aspects of winter break. However, the promise of getting a report card is not one of them.

Just like any other student, I hardly wanted to bring home a 1.0 GPA for Christmas. And just like any other student, there are times when I become so overwhelmed that a part of me wishes that the A's were handed to me on a platter with no work attached.

In light of my dread, I naturally was intrigued by a recent Boston Globe article regarding grade inflation at Harvard University. What I found astounded me.

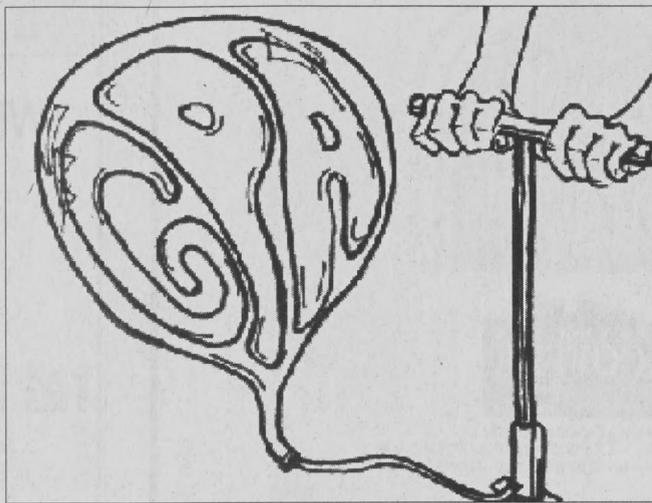
A whopping 91 percent of the class of 2001 graduated with honors, and 48.5 percent of last year's undergraduates earned A's or A-minuses. For the record, the national average is around 27 percent, which itself is up from 7 percent in 1969.

To say that something didn't seem right about the numbers is an understatement. Anyone would agree that even the briefest glance at the lists posted outside Payne Hall indicates that the situation is hardly similar on our campus.

Even Harvard's toughest-grading professor, Harvey C. Mansfield, acknowledged in a *Chronicle of Higher Education* interview last April that Washington and Lee is one of the few selective universities that hasn't fallen victim to unchecked "upward grade homogenization," Yale's official euphemism.

Indeed, one of my reasons for attending W&L was its reputation for honest appraisals of academic ability. Neither my parents nor I wanted to throw away tens of thousands of dollars to a diploma mill or brand school.

In my mind, employers and graduate schools should not respect that kind of system, an opinion bolstered by a Harvard *Crimson* piece in which a professor at the



HOT AIR. Grade inflation has carried schools to sky-high GPAs. W&L should not follow suit.

University of Rochester deemed as now almost worthless the once vaunted Harvard Business School Degree.

Quite simply, whenever higher education succumbs to boosting grades, those with above-average talent cannot be differentiated from the mediocre.

Inevitably, the more I read the more my mind turned to the possibility of inflation in Lexington. By no means am I qualified to determine the current level of grade inflation on the Hill. After all, I've only received a single trimester report card.

Nevertheless, consideration of national trends and accounts of other institutions struggles with pumped-up grades does imply that Washington and Lee is not immune to this insidious epidemic. There is ample reason to believe that the school will need to increase its diligence in upcoming years in order to keep standards high.

Washington Hall must reinforce its fight against the current of popular perception and expectations of a college education. Some have dubbed this trend the "college consumer syndrome," and the term fits well. Applicants browse their catalogs (such as the *US News and World Report* rankings and *Fiske's Guide to Colleges*) and shop around for the most satisfying and comfortable establishment.

Once they have enrolled, the consumer-friendly college must keep students and their paying parents happy in order to retain their financial support (read: throw criticism out the window, lower standards and pacify everyone with A's). In theory, the problem is most acute at universities that rely on tuition for the majority of their funding.

Not that having a donation-dominated cash flow would be much better. Realistically, you would expect your typical deep-

pocketed parent would want to see some sort of return on a sizable investment. With the mounting of the mammoth "Campaign For The Rising Generation," such a point is more pertinent than ever.

If W&L remains steadfast in its commitment to honest grading and refuses to play the game, it will be in the minority. To give in to the pressure would be most tempting if enrollment slackened.

The solution, however, is not to peg grading to a curve or keep rules stagnant. Rather, professors must update and refine their grade scales and expectations as times dictate. One of the favorite arguments of those who believe that inflation is a myth is that the rise in GPA only shows that students have grown more intellectually capable and diligent in their studies.

That's all well and good, but there isn't much point in maintaining a system that compares us to our parents and not our classmates. All it can benefit is how we feel about ourselves, and the last time I checked, no employer has advertised a position for a worker with "high self-esteem."

Also, if the administration lets battles over academic funding get out of hand, the competition could turn lethal to academics. Should a department head aim to boost a sagging program, he or she might suggest that professors drop unpopular assignments in order to accommodate more students.

Such an approach may work in the short-term, but the practice will always prove detrimental to the departments, and therefore the schools, in the long run. The ultimate losers in this grim scenario: the students.

I know that I would be appalled if I found, as Harvey C. Mansfield's students at Harvard do, two grades for each course on my next report card: the official one—and then the unofficial grade the professor felt I truly deserved. The fact that conditions have deteriorated so badly at our nation's supposedly top university is appalling, and to let anything like that happen to Washington and Lee would be even more tragic.

COGENT COMMENTARY ANDREW LATIMER '05

Education can prevent future acts of terrorism

A Jan. 10 *New York Times* article reports on the growing conflict in Indonesia between Muslims and Christians. Terrible anger, on both sides, but particularly among the Muslims, has resulted in horrific atrocities.

Highlighted is a 20-year-old male named Noko, who is described as "sweet-faced." Yet Noko is no longer a sweet boy; he now wears Arab robes when engaging in clashes, because he believes this is his key to heaven. He fights in the name of God.

Ipity Noko, for he is not an evil person. He has merely been seduced by an incredibly well-organized and well-financed worldwide militant movement in the Muslim religion. President Bush and his allies are fighting to rescue men like Noko by attacking terrorism.

Yet the military action employed so far is only one part of a multi-pronged approach to helping the Muslim world discover enlightenment in its own cultural and religious context. I say we educate the Muslim world, one country at a time. First stop: Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, we have the truly unique opportunity to shape a nation. For the first time in our lifetimes, we can witness the actual rebuilding of a nation by international consensus integrating and building upon local opinions.

After militarily devastating Afghanistan and its former Taliban rulers, we have rescued the Afghan people from the tyranny of an unjust government that used a great and peaceful religion as both its shield and sword. We have given them the chance to build a new life, one that is compatible with the Western ideals of freedom, democracy, and human rights, and that rejects the intolerant form of Islam preached by the Osama bin Ladens of this world.

But while our intentions are noble, and the efforts of those involved valiant, we will only succeed on one level: building a better standard of living in Afghanistan. You don't build a better car just by improving the tires or redesigning the suspension. You have to reengineer the whole machine, for it is the sum of its parts.

Think of the car as an analogy to the Muslim world, a disparate collection of different components that together, form a civilization of over a billion people united by a single faith despite geographic, cultural, and political differences. While it is not our job to interpret the Muslim religion for them, we can aid them in creating ideas.

This is where we can truly shine, by making a solid education system the number one priority now that we have installed a friendly and seemingly moderate government. We can do this by providing the necessary funding through the appropriate means to the new Afghan government—and using the sword of swift military action and withdrawal of economic support should they fail to comply—to educate its people.

We will give them the means to design a whole new system of public schools, each of a certain high standard, to teach not only traditional Afghan and Muslim history, but the history of many different cultures. They will also teach science, mathematics, foreign languages, and computer skills. Finally, and most importantly, they will teach Islam.

We will establish the support for the training and retention of scholars of the highest merit from around the world who will become the real agents of change, drawing directly from the Koran and applying it to modern day life. What they teach should be the religious education in Afghan schools, taught to the young of Afghanistan, who will be our colleagues when we become America's leaders.

Should they be taught this form of Islam, they will be our friends, our supporters, and our collaborators in our quest for a more perfect and just world.

This is because Islam does not conflict with Western ideals. The Koran granted universal suffrage and the right to own property and inherit money by both man and woman over 1400 years ago. Murder of innocents was made illegal, as were rape and incest. Backstabbing was described as a sin, along with showing disrespect to one's parents. From the Prophet, we draw wisdom from sayings like "he who educates his sons and daughters equally is assured of a place in Paradise." This is the same Prophet who said, "Seek knowledge, even as far as China, for it has been made incumbent upon you."

This Islam, which is drawn directly from the holy book and its messenger himself, does not conflict with the West. This is the Islam which inspired a civilization that invented algebra, charted the stars, mapped the earth, translated the works of ancient Greek scholars, and produced great works of art and buildings like the Alhambra Palace in

Spain—still admired today for their magnificent beauty. The government of this civilization, led by the Caliph, was so revered for its religious tolerance that on the one hand, the Caliph Ali refused to pray in a Church on the grounds that future generations might seek to turn it into a mosque because he had prayed there, and on the other, was welcome by Christians and Jews alike as a savior from a repressive government. All this while our own civilization was in its darkest times, waging brutal wars across Europe and burning alleged heretics at the stake. Now the Europe of the medieval ages is eerily similar to the Islamic world of today. We need to ensure that the Islamic world enters an Enlightenment of its own, just as Europe did, lest it never emerge from its downward spiral and continue to tolerate and follow false messiahs like Osama bin Laden.

In doing so, we will show our respect to a civilization that, while culturally very different from our own, is in many ways our equal. We just need to help it reach that point, by giving it the means to rediscover its past and build upon that to establish a bright future. Once we have helped establish Afghanistan's educational system, we will help other Islamic nations. We will then have taken our erstwhile enemy (Islam) by his hand, exorcised him of the evil spirits lurking within his body ("fundamentalists" like Osama bin Laden), and given him a new life that reconciles not only with his own heritage but ours as well, in a mutually beneficial relationship that will help preserve both cultures.

There will be problems along the way, to be sure. Poverty will still exist in its saddest form for a very long time, and political tensions over places like Israel and

Kashmir will not disappear overnight. A deep-rooted hatred of America will continue to simmer among some, particularly the old and hardened. And a similar hatred of Islam will still burn among some segments of our own society. But the young—our fellow leaders of tomorrow—will be strong, enlightened and capable of separating

political disputes from religious issues, and fully aware of their own distinct identity while recognizing, accepting, and even taking some parts of ours. Far from imposing our own ideals, we will be taking our shared values and helping them to rebuild their societies based upon these.

We have rescued the Afghan people from the tyranny of an unjust government that used a great and peaceful religion as both its shield and sword.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

AND THEN THEY TOOK US TO THREE SORORITIES, AND MADE US STRIP DOWN TO OUR BRIEFS. —FRESHMAN, FOOLISHLY THINKING THE WORST IS OVER

THE RING-TUM PHI

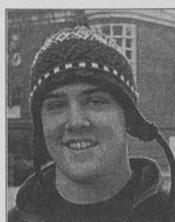
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 Street Address: 31 Washington Street
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TALKBACK: Honestly, what was your least favorite Christmas gift?



"A nose hair trimmer."
—Patrick Connolly '03



"Four pairs of gloves."
—Page Thomas '05



"A rinky-dink tool kit"
—Pete Moore '03

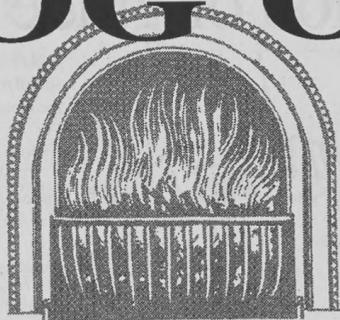


"A phone card."
—McLean Gordon '05



"Mono."
—Kara Coen '04

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Bachelor's degree is required, as is a valid driver's license. All interested candidates should submit a cover letter and résumé, including two references, no later than Monday, February 11, 2002. All materials should be sent to:

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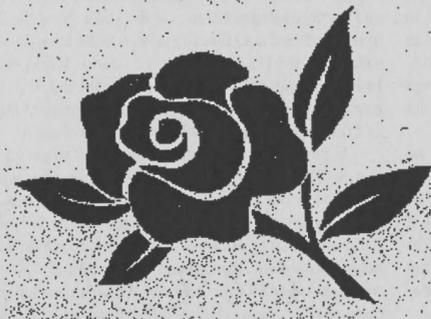
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Daphne Trainor
Ashley Trice
Eleanor Williams

Man behind switchboard speaks 'Rings' reviewed

Sophomore weekend security dispatcher discusses freshmen in towels, Asian Studies, and 50 hard-boiled eggs

By MIKE GEORGE
STAFF WRITER

By MATTHEW A. COURSEN
W&LIFE EDITOR

On most Saturday mornings, you can find sophomore Colin Harding sitting in the Security office on the first floor of Graham-Lees. Since September, Colin has worked the 8-4 shift at the Security Switchboard. The Rockville, Md. native and independent enjoys the surprisingly good wage it pays despite the unenviable hours.

Do you enjoy working this shift?

Well, it is one of the most undesirable shifts, but I love the job. I was built for this job.

What do you mean?

My ass was made for sitting for eight straight hours.

What specifically does your job entail?

I work the switchboard, dispatch officers, and answer calls.

Who is your favorite officer?

I'd probably have to say Larry Stuart.

Are you also a big fan of the Redskins like Larry and myself?

Yes, one of the biggest. Over the break, I went down to New Orleans to visit a friend, and we ended up scalping some cheap tickets to the Saints/Skins game at the Superdome. It was great. Skins crushed 'em.

Wow, sounds like a great time. What is the strangest phone call you've ever received while on duty here?

Well, the strangest phone call is also my favorite call of the year. This kid called up and was very angry because he had locked himself out of his room after taking a shower. So he was just in a towel, freezing cold, without a key. What was so strange was that he acted like he was angry at me, as if it was my fault he forgot his key. He demanded that I do something right then and there, so I called Larry [Stuart] and told him to help the kid out.

That's pretty funny. What's your major?

East Asian studies.

Oh, wow! How'd you get interested in that?



PHOTOS BY MEHUL SRIVASTAVA / The Ring-tum Phi

FIELD OF DREAMS. Sophomore Colin Harding enjoys some free time away from the security switchboard.

Well, I just enjoy it. I would like to visit Japan soon.

Do you think you'll go abroad?

Yeah, actually, I think I'm going to Japan this spring.

What prompted you to come to W&L?

My dad fell in love with the school, and I like it too. I'm very happy here.

How does it feel being independent at a time like this when most kids on campus are involved with formal rush?

I just sleep a lot more.

So you don't mind being an independent?

No, not now. It was harder last year, but now it's fine. Give it a week, and you can go to all of the parties anyway.

That's very true. Do you know a lot of freshmen this year?

Yeah, I know some, from East Asian studies classes.

Do you think there's a difference in the attitude of some of the freshmen with regard to the new alcohol policy compared to your feeling last year?

I don't think the kids are scared of the new policy. I just think the school has been trying to draw a lot more independent students to W&L resulting in a decreased participation in the Greek system. I think the administration has been trying to even out the percentage a little bit.

What do you do on your free time?

I like to mess around with my computer and play the guitar.

Oh, you're a musician?

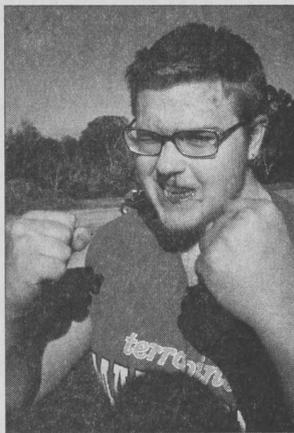
Well, self-taught, I'm still learning.

What's your favorite song to play?

I like to play "Butterfly" by Weezer.

Can you tell me the most interesting fact about you that nobody else knows?

Yeah, It's a funny story. Whenever I say that I can do something, my dad responds with a movie quote from Cool Hand Luke that goes: "Yeah, well I can eat 50 eggs." About two summers ago, I was watching "Cool Hand Luke" with my dad and after it was over, I looked at him and said, "I think I could do that."



What? Eat 50 eggs?

Yeah, so I did.

You ate 50 raw eggs?

No, no. I ate 50 hard-boiled eggs.

Wow! How long did it take you?

About 4 hours. I didn't want to throw it all up, so I took my time.

What did your dad say after you finished?

[Laughing] He said, "Don't ever tell anyone that story!"

If you're looking for my pick for the best picture of 2001, Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" may be it. Packed with an all-star cast and stunning visuals, "Lord of the Rings" may forever change the way we see the fantasy genre, much the same way Tolkien's epic changed the world of fiction.

The film centers on the idea that even the smallest among us may be called upon to do great things. And that everyone, no matter how insignificant, has an important place in the world. When Frodo Baggins, a young hobbit who lives in the peaceful and idyllic world of the shire, receives a magic ring from his uncle, he is swept up in an epic quest to destroy the ring and restore peace in an ancient kingdom.



Though Director Peter Jackson could have easily made a film that few understood, "Lord of the Rings" is not difficult to follow. Every scene and situation is both complex and thought provoking. I left the movie wanting to read every book written by Tolkien and see all of Jackson's films. I saw this movie twice, and each time I noticed different details and themes that moved me.

For me, the mark of a great film is when you can watch a movie again and again and continue to find interesting things about it each time. "Lord of the Rings" is one such film.

The film stars Elijah Wood, Sir Ian McKellen, Ian Holm, Sean Astin and numerous talented actors. Each character has a fascinating story and each actor played his or her part well. There is a tendency in fantasy films to overact, just look at "Beastmaster", but this film was honest and thoughtful in its portrayals. This picture cast aside every prejudice I had about fantasy films. The character Gollum, a former keeper of the ring whose need for the ring's power consumes him, particularly fascinated me. Gollum is an intriguing character who exemplifies the dangers of our needs and desires.

I did have a few problems with the film though. Some of the scenes were sentimental to the point of being hokey. I was most concerned with the natural progression of the film. It is basically split in half, with one part of the film centering on Frodo's flight to safety and the other the beginning of his quest to destroy the ring. You get the sense that the film could end halfway through, and that you are seeing two movies rolled into one.

Despite this small critique, Jackson's visual direction is stunning. Each scene inspired emotion without using words. I actually felt the emotions of the characters and was frightened or happy with them. Jackson's film sucks you into another world, a world so rich and textured that you feel easily a part of it. Touching on basic human themes that inspire and compel, "Lord of the Rings" is a film you can't afford to miss.

PI BETA PHI

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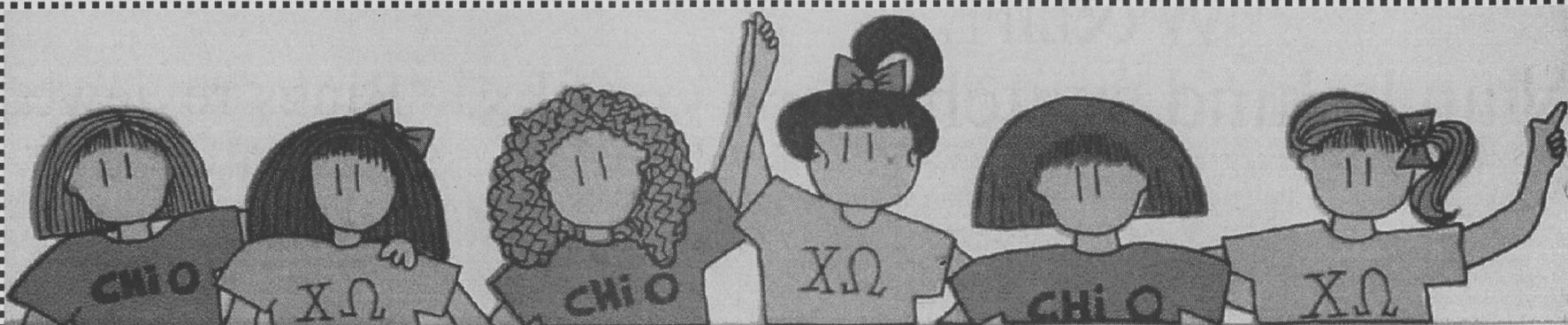


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MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2002

Hampden-Sydney handles W&L

Loss is 5th in 6 games for young Generals team

By JEREMY FRANKLIN
SPORTS EDITOR

After an overtime win against Eastern Mennonite on Wednesday, the Washington and Lee men's basketball team suffered through a pair of home losses over the weekend.

Sunday's 78-51 defeat at the hands of nationally-ranked Hampden-Sydney (13-1, 7-1 Old Dominion Athletic Conference) left the Generals 2-6 in the ODAC, 4-9 overall.

Third-year head coach Jeff Lafave believes his team's primary problems at the season's midway point are depth and the lack of a true big man.

"We've got to have more depth. You can't play the game of basketball with six guys," Lafave said. "We don't have a starting center who can come up and play."

Mike Stuart set a W&L freshman record for points in a game against Eastern Mennonite, draining 33 on 11-of-16 from the floor, 7-of-10 from three-point range. The Generals built a 13-point halftime lead, but a second-half charge by the Royals forced overtime.

Stuart scored 12 points in the extra frame, as W&L eked out a 76-73 win. Junior Scott Hettermann added 17 points for the Generals, and classmate John Warren finished with 12.

W&L let another big halftime lead slip away against Lynchburg in a 75-71 loss on Saturday. The Generals had a 31-19 lead at the 4:11 mark of the first half and were still up by a comfortable 35-28 margin at the break.

However, despite career scoring nights for Hettermann at 25 points and freshman Ian McClure at 17, a 15-2



MARY GUN/ The Ring-tum Phi

ROYAL PERFORMANCE: Freshman Mike Stuart (23) set a Washington and Lee record for most points by a first-year player in the Generals' 76-73, overtime win over Eastern Mennonite at the Warner Center on Wednesday. Freshman Mark Franceski (54) and juniors Scott Hettermann (24) and John Warren trail the play.

second-half run by the Hornets gave them the lead for good. Lynchburg shot 65 percent from the field after halftime.

"Over the course of a 40-minute game, you know you're going to give up some points," Lafave said. "But if we score 71 points, we should win the game at home with the way we play defense."

The coach was still pleased with the performance of Hettermann, who hit 11 of his 15 field goal attempts and grabbed seven rebounds.

"We know Scott's going to be a warrior," Lafave said. "He's going

to play hard for us all the time. He was playing against a guy he could score on, so we knew we could get him the ball."

Hampden-Sydney never trailed in a 78-51 win in the Warner Center on Sunday, opening up a 10-0 lead over the game's first 4:21. The Generals kept within striking distance until the final stretch of the half, but the Tigers outscored W&L 19-5 over the last 5:52 to build an insurmountable 37-15 halftime lead.

The Generals didn't help their cause on the offensive end, turning the ball over 10 times and shoot-

ing 22 percent from the floor prior to the break.

Freshman Mark Franceski led W&L with 12 points, while sophomore Hamill Jones added 10. Matt McKeag and Jason Holman led the Tigers with 16 apiece.

"We couldn't make shots," Lafave said. "You can play hard, but if you can't make baskets, you can't win. We'll keep working at it. The kids played with effort, and that's all you can ask."

W&L returns to ODAC play with a 7 p.m. road contest against Guilford on Wednesday.

Generals knock off Wasps, even record in ODAC play

W&L builds 3-game conference winning streak

By DAVE CROWELL
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Bethany Dannelly dished out nine assists.

After a disappointing home loss to Old Dominion Athletic Conference-leading Bridgewater on Jan. 5, a game in which the women's basketball team held a lead for part of the second half, coach Janet Hollack gave her team some advice for big games.

"I told them not to feel like an underdog," Hollack said. "Sometimes we get too tight and lose our focus when we see who's across the court. We need to simply play our game and focus on our offense."

The W&L (6-6, 4-4 ODAC) offense, led by senior center Megan Babst's 34 points, responded to the challenge by upsetting Emory and Henry (8-4, 5-3), 77-62, on Saturday and opening up a three-game winning streak. The Generals easily rolled past Randolph-Macon Woman's College and Virginia Wesleyan earlier in the week.

In Saturday's impressive victory over the Wasps, Babst shot 13-of-19 from the field and also hit 8-of-9 from the free throw line. Her 34 points also put her over the 1,000 point mark for her career, making her only the fourth woman in W&L history to reach that plateau.

Babst's performance mirrored the strong shooting day that the Generals enjoyed. After focusing on shooting drills throughout the practice week, W&L shot 55 percent from the field (27-of-49) and took advantage of their trips to the charity stripe, making 22-of-23.

Senior forward Jessica Mentz added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Generals, while freshman guard

The trip to Emory proved to be a key game for W&L after wins over two relatively weak teams in the ODAC.

In Thursday's 54-39 defeat of winless Randolph-Macon Woman's College, the Generals led the entire way, starting the game on an 8-0 run before leading at halftime, 30-15.

Babst paced W&L with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Thursday's action proved to be a little more exciting, as the Generals held off a first-half surge by Virginia Wesleyan to coast to a 59-44 victory.

A quick 10-4 run to begin the game was negated by the Marlins, who took a 21-20 lead late in the first half. W&L, however, fought back and went on a 21-7 run that spanned both halves.

The Generals took advantage of their trips to the foul line, shooting 77 percent by hitting 24 of their 31 attempts. Babst led the way with 22 points and 11 rebounds, while senior Sarah Schmidt added 12 points.

In earlier action over winter break, W&L defeated non-conference opponent Greensboro 71-40 on Jan. 2, but suffered a difficult loss to conference foe Eastern Mennonite 56-52 on Jan. 4, despite holding the top scorer in Division III, Emily Mullet, to only four points.

The Generals next play host to Lynchburg on Wednesday night in an important game following Saturday's victory.

"We need to display consistency with the game plan and execute all parts very well," Hollack said.

"The five seniors have brought it to my attention that they, above all, want to work on consistency," the second-year coach added. "Hopefully, we can send them out while fulfilling this goal."



Congratulations to the 2002 Pledge Class of Kappa Kappa Gamma!!!!

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Maggie Speasmaker
Marian Steele
Catherine Stroud
Laurie Timmons
Catherine Turner
Meredith Walker
Romney Willson
Elizabeth Wilson

W&L opens New Year on mats

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Washington and Lee wrestling team began the New Year with the Gettysburg Quadrangular before dropping a home meet against Muhlenberg Wednesday and competing in the Ursinus Invitational Saturday.

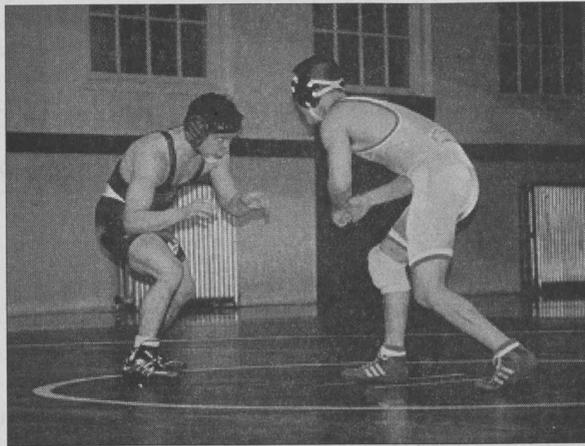
At the Gettysburg Quad on Jan. 5, the Generals lost to Gettysburg and Pensacola Christian and picked up an unofficial victory over Davidson.

In W&L's 24-22 loss to Gettysburg, freshman Brian Avello (157 pounds), junior Alex Poor (165) and sophomore Joe Mueller (184) defeated their opponents. Seniors Ivan Zdanov (174) and heavyweight Matt Jacobs won by forfeit.

Poor was the only General to score a victory in Pensacola Christian's 43-3 win. Five W&L wrestlers were pinned in the defeat.

The third match for W&L was a 24-15 win against Division I Davidson. However, the victory was unofficial, as Davidson did not have enough wrestlers.

Wednesday's return home wasn't kind to the Generals, as Muhlenberg handed them a 40-9 loss in Centennial Conference competition.



MARY GUY/The Ring-Tum Phi

ATTACKING STANCE: Senior 125-pounder Ben Segal (left) prepares to lock up with Muhlenberg's Brian Marcotulli in Wednesday's Centennial Conference match.

Zdanov won his match by pinfall, and Mueller picked up a win at the 184-pound class. They were the only Generals (1-3, 0-2 Centennial) to record victories.

W&L took a break from team competition with the individual-only Ursinus Invitational in Collegeville,

Pa., on Saturday. Zdanov recorded a second-place finish at 174, while Mueller placed third at 184.

Poor and freshman Walt Hoyt also won a match apiece, both at the 165-pound class, for the Generals, who host the W&L Invitational at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Swimmers split road meet vs. Catholic

By MICHAEL LEE
SPORTS WRITER

WASHINGTON—Saturday morning, as Kappa Kappa Gamma pledges were pelted with water balloons from the Gilliam dormitory, the Generals' swim teams were boarding the bus for their trip to Catholic University.

Just minutes from the Pentagon, the men's team defeated the Cardinals 135-67, while the women dropped a 131-74 decision.

Junior Patrick Frankfort won the 200 individual medley and the 500 freestyle, and swam with sophomores Drew Catanese and Eric Ritter and senior Rick Black to win the 400 medley relay.

For the women, senior Laura Ingoldsby won the 1,000 freestyle, and junior Kelli Austin took second in the 100 and 200 freestyle events.

The men's team improved to 3-2 with the win, while the women dropped to 6-3.

The Generals return to action on Monday night, when they host Grove City at Twombly Pool at 6 p.m.

W&L SPORTS SCHEDULE: JAN. 15-28

Wednesday, Jan. 16 Men's Basketball W&L at Guilford, 7 p.m. Women's Basketball Lynchburg at W&L, 7 p.m.	Men's Basketball Randolph-Macon at W&L, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 18 Women's Basketball Hollins at W&L, 7 p.m.	Wednesday, Jan. 23 Men's Basketball W&L at Emory and Henry, 7 p.m. Women's Basketball Guilford at W&L, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 19 Wrestling W&L Invitational, 10 a.m. Women's Basketball W&L at Roanoke, 5:30 p.m.	January 25-26 Indoor Track W&L at Christopher Newport Swimming W&L vs. Johns Hopkins and Mary Washington, TBA
Sunday, Jan. 20 Men's Basketball Virginia Wesleyan at W&L, 1 p.m.	Saturday, Jan. 26 Wrestling W&L Quadrangular, 11 a.m. Women's Basketball W&L at Bridgewater, 4 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 21 Swimming Marymount at W&L, 6 p.m.	Men's Basketball Roanoke at W&L, 7 p.m.

Assistant lacrosse coach named

Lacrosse, football assistant McCabe resigns to accept top post at Hamilton

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Washington and Lee has added another component of Limestone's 2000 Division II National Championship team to its men's lacrosse staff, as Ricky Matthews was named assistant coach this week.

Matthews played for new W&L head coach Mike Cerino at Limestone, where he also served as offensive coordinator and face-off unit coach last season for a team that lost in the national title game.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Ricky's stature working with us at W&L," athletics director Mike Walsh said. "He is an accomplished player who is anxious to begin a successful coaching career. We are pleased to welcome Ricky to our department and men's lacrosse program."

Cerino believes that adding a former player to his staff will "bring some familiarity to the program because of our past success together."

"I am excited about Ricky working with our players because of his enthusiasm and background in the sport of lacrosse," he said.

The move comes after assistant football and assistant men's lacrosse coach Gene McCabe resigned to become head lacrosse and assistant football coach at Hamilton College.

Bidwell, Marcoux named to All-South team

The soccer season is long over, but accolades are still trickling in for the W&L women's team.

Senior midfielder Kate Bidwell and sophomore forward Fontaine Marcoux were named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-South Women's Soccer Team as Second Team selections.

Bidwell, a three-time Third Team choice, scored 10 goals and notched four assists for a team that went 11-4-1 and lost to Roanoke in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Tournament semifinals.

Marcoux had six goals to go along with a school-record 12 assists in 2001.

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The Phi mourns the passing of Dave Thomas founder of Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers

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- Courtney Brent
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- Elizabeth Falco
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- Ginny Helms
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