

Former national security advisor to discuss terrorism

Anthony Lake, who served as national security advisor during the Clinton administration, will discuss terrorism and other security issues affecting the country at Washington and Lee University on Tuesday, March 19. Lake's speech, which is open to the public, is at 7:30 p.m. in Lee Chapel. It is sponsored by W&L's student-run Contact Committee. In his speech, Lake will draw on his life-long career as a national security strategist to discuss the role globalization plays in the country's national security, particularly with regard to cyber crime and terrorism. Having served during the Carter and Nixon administrations, Lake was appointed by President Clinton as national security advisor and served as the point man on Clinton's foreign policy team from 1993-96.

"In moments of crisis, in times of triumph, he has always been at my side," Clinton said of Lake and their close relationship. As head of Clinton's foreign policy team, Lake strategized and implemented some of the most pressing foreign policy issues since the end of the Cold War. He guided the United States through such geopolitical hot spots as Bosnia, North Korea, Haiti, Iraq, Somalia and China, while also extending the reach of democracy globally.

Phi Beta Kappa inducts new members

Washington and Lee University's upcoming Phi Beta Kappa and Society of the Cincinnati convocation was held Thursday in Lee Chapel. Joel Weisberg, professor of physics and astronomy at Carleton College, delivered the convocation address "The Lives and Deaths of Stars: From Gas Clouds to White Dwarfs, Pulsars, and Black Holes." The convocation honored W&L students recently accepted into Phi Beta Kappa based on their outstanding character and superior academic records. Phi Beta Kappa advocates that colleges and universities admit no more than 10 per cent of class members. This year, W&L juniors becoming part of Phi Beta Kappa had to have a minimum 3.8 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Courtesy wlu.edu



Today, March 18
Law Classes Resume
8:30 p.m.—Java at the GHQ. Freaky Stylee and DJ Jonas.

Tuesday, March 19
7:30 p.m.—Contact Lecture. "A Long Road Ahead: Globalization and the War on Terrorism," Anthony Lake, former National Security Advisor to President Clinton. Lee Chapel. A reception will immediately follow in the Alumni House.

Wednesday, March 20
6:30 p.m.—Leadership Seminar Series. "Leading with Vision." University Center, Room 205. Facilitated by W.C. "Burr" Datz, director of Leadership Development.
8:00 p.m.—Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting. Fairfax Lounge. All W&L students, faculty/staff and the Lexington community are welcome. Coffee is provided.

Thursday, March 21
3:00 p.m.—Writing Program Activity: Faculty Discussion of Newsletter Essay and Composition Requirement. Fairfax Lounge, University Center. Refreshments provided.
8:00 p.m.—Fancy Dress Concert. Bela Fleck and the Flecktones. Student Activities Pavilion. Doors open at 8 and concert starts at 9. Tickets are \$15 for W&L community, \$18 for non-W&L community. Tickets: on sale on campus 3/18. See <http://sab.wlu.edu/upcoming.htm>.

Friday, March 22
All Day—Frances Lewis Law Center Symposium. The Jurisprudential Legacy of the Warren Court. Moot Court Room, Lewis Hall.
9:00 p.m.—Fancy Dress. Warner Center.

GOT NEWS?
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Φ CORRECTIONS: In the March 11th issue of *The Ring-tum Phi*, Professor Harlan Beckley was incorrectly attributed to say that none of the new presidential candidates worked for Washington and Lee. Helen Hughes was incorrectly stated to be the first female EC officer since Beth Formidoni. That same year junior Jennifer Jackson was secretary. The next year Ashlyn Dannely, a third year law student, was secretary. The *Phi* regrets the errors.

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Forum exposes bigotry and victimization of false diversity forces

At PRIDE's diversity forum held last Thursday, I spoke about my recent article criticizing the Black Female Alliance for what I felt was its racist rhetoric and attempt to polarize W&L. After the forum, I found myself even more shocked by the blatant intolerance and bigotry of many minorities, and their resistance to positive change at W&L.

Several black students spoke about the difficulty of being a black student at W&L. They mentioned feeling like an outsider, being ignored by students as they walked past, and sometimes feeling unsafe, all valid concerns. However, the only apparent solution proposed by the false diversity forces is to continue to falsely diversify and recruit more and more minority students who do not fit in. It is the worst possible solution.

In order to give a reality check to the more enthusiastic supporters of diversity, who were frequently unable to refrain from feeding the emotional lovefest that makes the converted go wild, I urged the need to

realize that for many minorities, diversity is not an issue.

I used the example of two black people who grew up poor—one of them in the Deep South—and went on to achieve national prominence: Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. Despite this, after the forum was over, a friend of mine came over and said that my two examples didn't count because both Secretary Powell and Ms. Rice are Republicans. It's faulty logic, because the Right encourages minorities to stop viewing themselves as victims; if minorities stubbornly choose to take the easy route proposed by the Left of playing the "victim" role, that is their mistake to make.

Most disturbing, however, was the issue of the "traditional" W&L student: the wealthy Southern white male. One audience member told me that "it will probably be at least a generation before (wealthy Southern white males who join fraternities) will

be completely eliminated from this campus," but that doing so is a must.

Beyond the obvious fact that it is this very type of student that made W&L great, and that graces the ranks of our far-reaching alumni network, I challenge anyone advocating this type of change to show me a single college or university in this country where false diversification has made a positive difference. While there are obvious benefits, like being able to interact with people of many different backgrounds if one chooses to do so, the downside is that this is very rarely the case.

The false diversity forces realize this, which is why they want to eliminate the "traditional" W&L student, so that there is no room for friction. This is unfortunate, because it need not be the case. By and large, the "traditional" W&L student is color-blind and accepting of others. However, the minority community is

encouraged by forces like the NAACP—which recently established a chapter at W&L—to perceive race as an issue. They generate a mentality of fear and loathing that causes minorities to believe that when they walk down the Colonnade and are ignored by someone they pass, it is because of racism. They never seem to understand that it's far more likely that the person is simply a jerk. Those people ought to reconsider their actions, anyway, since they contribute directly to the decline of the speaking tradition.

To those who advocate false diversity at Washington and Lee, I urge you once again to heed my words: separate emotion from the facts. Don't make bigoted statements like "we must eliminate wealthy Southern white males from this school." Those statements are frighteningly reminiscent of a "problem" Hitler and his Nazi party faced last century. How

they dealt with it was elimination; the world knows the ugly story.

While the false diversity forces aren't proposing genocide, they certainly seem to harbor a seething hatred of the "traditional" W&L student, and instead of facing their fears and angers, seek to take the easy route. This is why they splinter into groups like the BFA, because it helps them stay in their comfort zone instead of integrating into the W&L community. Witness the self-segregating tables in the D-hall.


It appears that the type of minority student at W&L hasn't progressed much from the 1960's, which suggests that the mentality of minorities in the country as a whole hasn't changed a whole lot either. It's an altogether sad state of affairs, and while W&L certainly cannot take on the problems of the entire country, it can certainly mold its future leaders to advocate positive change. This applies to minorities as well as "traditional" W&L students.

The first class of female students at W&L sought to prove its worth by being extremely studious and abstaining from social "distractions" like sororities. Later female W&L students realized that they could integrate more fully into W&L and embrace its traditions, and the school made every effort to accommodate them, most recently with the construction of those gorgeous sorority houses.

Similarly, the minorities at this school need to realize that the "icebreaker" generation entered this school a long time ago, and they need to move toward integrating more fully into W&L and embracing its traditions. It is they who are lagging far behind the times, not the school. They need to stop pointing the blame at others and take a look at themselves. Several of them have; now it is time for the rest to gather the courage from within themselves and do what they know deep down inside is possible: become true members of the W&L community. We will be with you every step of the way.

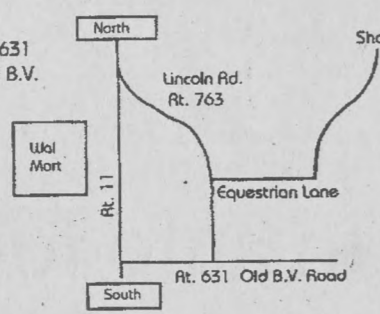
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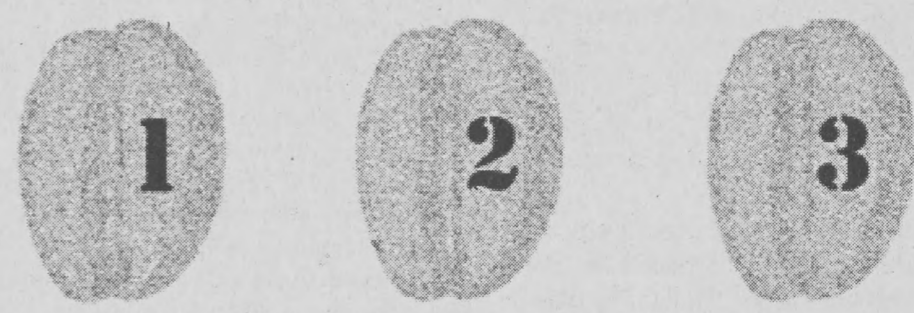
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Lexington native returns to describe growing up gay

BY CATHERINE C. GUY
W&LIFE EDITOR

On Monday, March 25, Lexington native and current San Francisco resident Kirk Read will be coming home to give a talk about being openly gay in high school. He will be speaking here at Northern auditorium at 8pm. The title of Mr. Read's talk is "How We Learn to Snap: Growing Up Gay in the South." His talk is based on his autobiographical book "How I Learned to Snap", which was honored by both the Lambda Literary Awards and the American Library Association. He is an Echols Scholar and graduate of the University of Virginia. He has been writing since the tender age of thirteen, and has done much study in the field of theatre. Since his graduation from college, he has lived in Washington, D.C., New York, Virginia, and now San Francisco. Mr. Read is a freelance writer, who has contributed to many national publications. He is currently working on his second book.

How much of your talk is autobiographical?
This entire book is about my life as a teenager.

True story.

While growing up in Lexington, did you have much contact with W&L or VMI?

If you grew up as a townie in Lexington, chances are you had a lot of contact with VMI and W&L. Since Dad worked at VMI, I practically grew up at VMI athletic events. As a kid I was constantly at the W&L library, wandering the stacks. And from eighth grade on, I went to tons of concerts at the pavilion, where I'd sneak under the railing into the beer garden. This was back in the golden age of college radio, when we'd get lots of bands from Athens, Georgia. Not all this frat boy jam band stuff that come perform now. Neo-Dave Matthews stuff.

Did you attend Rockbridge County High School?

I attended Lexington High School before it was consolidated into Rockbridge County High School. I miss the school being small and intimate. My sense is that teachers were happier at the smaller school because it was more manageable and had architecture that was less institutional.

When did you come out? Were your friends and family accepting of you?

I came out gradually from the beginning of high school onward. I came out to friends and teachers one at a time, then came out to everyone in town in a play I wrote when I was 16. My friends were all very accepting. My family was mostly accepting. Some of them struggled with it and continue to struggle.

What surprised you most about your high school's reaction to your homosexuality?

What I really enjoyed about Lexington high school was that it had pockets of liberal and creative thinking in the faculty. Those people really helped make the school safer for some of us.

Any humorous or touching stories you would like to share?

When I was performing in Richmond last month, we did a benefit for gay youth at the future site of the Virginia Holocaust museum, this big Tobacco Row warehouse. The guy who introduced me was a Holocaust survivor and had lived in a dirt bunker as a child. It was absolutely amazing to hear this man welcome the audience and talk about how gay people were rounded up by the Nazis and assure us that our place in history would be honored there.

I love coming home to Lexington because straight people I went to school with always run up to me and tell me about their gay friend. They always want to set me up with him — "I have this friend, you should meet him, you'd really like him, he reminds me of you." And then I tell them that I like big Bubba types, guys that look like bouncers, and they don't really know what to do with that. It's so sweet, because they're reaching out, doing the best they can. You gotta love that.

What inspired you to write your book and talk to students?

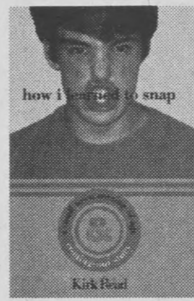
AS A KID I WAS CONSTANTLY AT THE W&L LIBRARY, WANDERING THE STACKS. AND FROM EIGHTH GRADE ON, I WENT TO TONS OF CONCERTS AT THE PAVILION, WHERE I'D SNEAK UNDER THE RAILING INTO THE BEER GARDEN.

I wanted to write the sort of book that would have helped me as a teenager. There were definitely books out there about coming out, but they mostly leave out sex and drugs and drinking because you're not supposed to talk about kids experimenting with those things. Which is a joke, because that's what adolescence is all about for many of us. Kids are so fascinated by sex and drinking and drugs and I think

we do them a huge disservice by not talking about it in an honest way. I also wanted to write about how important music was to me as a teenager. There's this stereotype about gay guys being into disco music and for me it's always been punk and underground music.

What have your personal experiences taught you about life, people, etc.?

Touring with this book has taught me a number of things recently, because I've met several thousand people along the way. I hear so many stories about growing up, and the straight people say that high school was hard for them, too. High school is a nightmare for everybody. Awkward crushes, bad poetry, chasing beer with whiskey, getting grounded, wrecking cars. That stuff transcends sexual identity. One thing I love is giving straight people an opportunity to ask me anything they want with the rule that there are no dumb questions. What ends up happening is that they ask me really sensible questions — how do gay people have sex, when did I know I was gay, those kinds of basic questions. And I ask them the same sorts of questions and we get a dialogue going. I think most prejudice is based on fear of the unknown. I love sitting down with a straight person and saying "Hey, it's okay to be fascinated. What do you want to know?" Giving people freedom to start conversation can be really



healing.

What can we at Washington and Lee look forward to seeing and hearing in your upcoming presentation?

My readings are really funny. I like to teach cheers to the audience, really insane, nonsensical cheers that our high school cheerleading squad did. It scares me how I have total recall of those cheers. I've done a lot of stand up comedy, so there's an element of that in my performances. Definitely don't expect me to sip water and stand behind some boring lectern, kids, because I grew up Methodist and now I just will not DO podiums.

What are your feelings about returning to Lexington? Do you come back here often?

I come back 3-4 times a year to see my mother. I have mixed feelings, now that the book is out. I love Lexington but I feel really exposed when I come back here. I put my adolescence up there on the chopping block and it's completely freaky to know that people who held me as a baby are reading about my first sexual experiences. When I come home for Christmas, I love going to the Palms and seeing

I FEEL REALLY EXPOSED WHEN I COME BACK HERE. I PUT MY ADOLESCENCE UP THERE ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK AND IT'S COMPLETELY FREAKY TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE WHO HELD ME AS A BABY ARE READING ABOUT MY FIRST SEXUAL EXPERIENCES.

friends from high school. I'm always the one calling everyone, keeping in touch with everyone. I love keeping tabs on my high school friends. It grounds me.

Does your background in theatre help you to feel more comfortable

addressing groups?

Definitely. I could tell pretty quickly that I wasn't cut out to be an actor, but I learned a lot from theatre. I started reading my writing out loud when I was in high school, so now when I write, I think of it being read out loud.

Anything else you would like to share?

If you think you have a gay friend, the best thing you can do for that person is to mention gay issues or gay people in casual conversation. Just keep dropping hints and make it clear that you're not freaked out by gay people and that you would be accepting if that person came out to you. Also, if people around you are making antigay jokes or saying "That's so gay," speak up and make it clear that they're being insensitive.

Teachers can make classrooms safer by making it clear that gay people are a part of literature and history. How can you teach English class without mentioning gay writers like James Baldwin, Walt Whitman and Willa Cather? How can you teach history without mentioning Bayard Rustin, the architect of the 1964 March on Washington? How can you leave out the sexuality of Eleanor Roosevelt or Bessie Smith?

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.KIRKREAD.COM

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The Department of Environmental Studies is seeking a Projects Coordinator to begin July 1, 2002. This is a two-year intern position reporting directly to the Director of the Environmental Studies Program.

The Coordinator will serve as liaison between the Environmental Studies Program and the community; and will assist the Director and other faculty in developing internship opportunities, and research, scholarship and fellowship opportunities for students; and in developing funding for the Environmental Studies Program; will provide research assistance to the Director and will coordinate the Maury River Alliance, and the exchange activities associated with the W&L leadership of the US/Brazil Consortium for Environmental Studies. Will also coordinate visiting speakers, conferences, workshops, seminars and similar activities. Will maintain and further develop the department's website and will maintain academic records of students participating in the Environmental Studies Program.

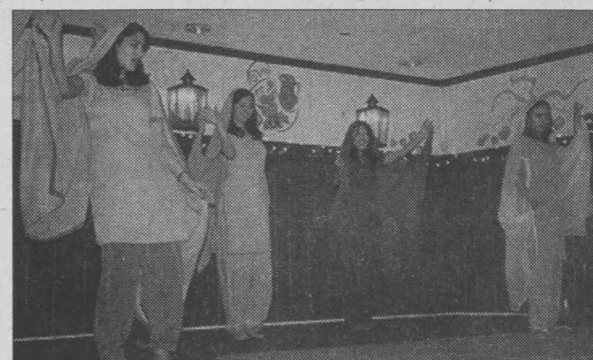
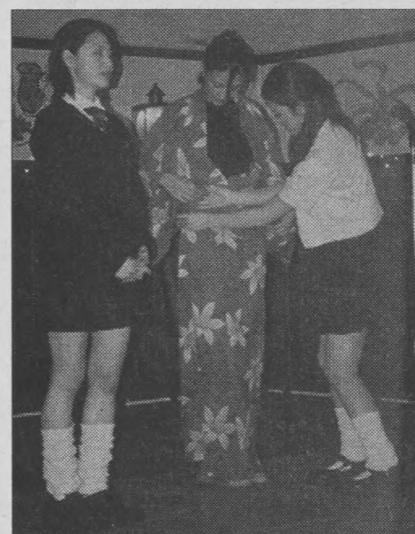
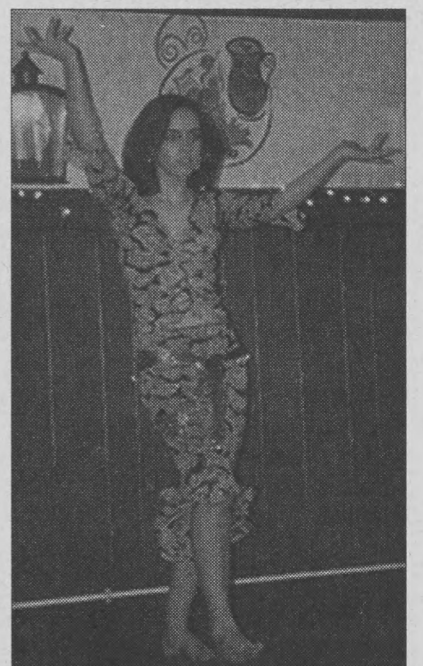
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Track opens outdoor season with home invitational



MARY GUY/The Ring-tum Phi

LONG DISTANCE: Junior Jen Fallon (left) and sophomore Samantha Snabes compete in the 3,000-meter race in the W&L Invitational at Wilson Field on Saturday.

BY DAVE CROWELL
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Washington and Lee track program officially kicked off the outdoor season by hosting the W&L Invitational on Saturday.

On the women's side, the Generals finished ninth out of 12 teams with 22 points. Susquehanna University won the overall title, with Roanoke taking second place and Bridgewater seventh.

Men's coach Norris Aldridge and women's coach John Tucker both agreed that the day proved a success, with a number of athletes achieving season or personal bests.

Aldridge also noted that the level of competition was extraordinary as compared to past years.

"There was a lot of good Division III talent in that field," Aldridge said. "There were a number of records broken and some competitors, including John Carroll's relay team, have already qualified for nationals."

For the 32-year coach, the 10th-place finish was not at all indicative of his team's performance. The Generals are still fighting a few injuries, which caused the team to not com-

pete in eight events, including hurdles and a number of relays.

"Mike Hegg is still coming off some injuries, but I'm sure he would've earned us some points in the hurdles," Aldridge said. "In addition, he leads off our 4x100 relay, so hopefully we'll begin competing in that event when he's completely healthy."

Freshman Wes Bell led the team with a second-place finish in the 1,500-meter run, finishing in a time of 4:03.87, less than one half-second behind the winner.

Aldridge added that Bell probably would have earned points in the 5,000-meter run, but was held out due to a small injury.

Junior Chris Sullivan took fourth place in the 100-meter dash (11.26) and also grabbed seventh in the 200-meter dash (22.87).

Junior Mat Rapoza rounded out the scoring with a fifth-place finish in the

shot put, throwing 42'01.50".

In addition, Aldridge praised the efforts of sophomore Jonathan Brimer — who he believes would have placed in the 400-meter dash if the competition weren't as tight — and freshman Steven Chambers, who ran a couple of personal bests.

As a team, Aldridge believes they are ahead of where he thought they would be at this point of the season, especially following a week of bad weather and shortened preparation time.

On the women's side, Tucker also was happy about the way his team performed.

"I am extremely pleased with the way the team is running and continually improving in competition," he said. "Our girls, in many cases, ran better than they've ever run."

Junior Burke Duncan led the women with a first-place finish in the

10,000-meter run, finishing over a minute ahead of the competition with a time of 41:17.7.

Tucker's squad also benefited from the return of two field athletes. Seniors Sarah Schmidt and Megan Babst both competed for the first time since the end of the basketball season and earned 12 points for the team.

Schmidt finished second in the javelin with a toss of 115 feet, while Babst took fourth in the high jump by clearing five feet.

The women also earned a number of eight or 10th-place finishes in the tough field. Tucker thus believes continual improvement will reap benefits at the ODAC Championships in April. For now, however, the coaches will emphasize a need to continue dropping times and show improvement.

The Generals return to action by competing in the Roanoke Invitational on Saturday.

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