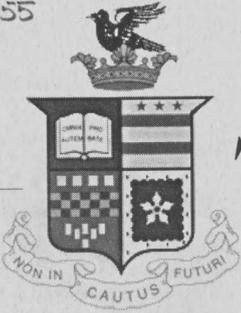


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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI

VOLUME CV, No. XVI
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003

The student voice of Washington and Lee University since 1897 Φ Online at: phi.wlu.edu

Recruitment/Rush weeks tally new members for Greeks

BY CALEY ANDERSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Another rush has come and gone at Washington & Lee University, and an estimated total of 377 new pledges will be joining W&L fraternities or sororities this year. While numbers from this year's rush do not differ significantly from last year's, there are some notable differences between the number of students who chose to pledge each individual fraternity.

The most obvious difference was in the pledgship at fraternity Phi Gamma Delta. While Fiji reaped 13 pledges last year, an astonishing 25 freshmen chose to pledge Phi Gamma Delta in 2003, making them the fraternity to gain the largest number of pledges in 2003. The fraternity that had the biggest dropoff in number of pledges from last year was Kappa Alpha, which dropped to 10 pledges this year from 20 last year. Overall, the fraternities that took in the fewest pledges in 2003 were Sigma Nu and Phi Kappa Psi, each of which took in four pledges each. On the sorority side, the biggest gainer this year over last was Pi Beta Phi, who took in 27 pledges, six more than last year's total, though Kappa Kappa Gamma and Kappa Alpha Theta gained the most overall new members, at 38 each. On the whole, the sorority that took in the fewest pledges as compared to last year was Chi Omega, who took in one less from last year's total of 37. The sorority which took in the fewest pledges overall was Pi Beta Phi. Overall, nine Greek organizations gained more pledges this year than last, eight gained fewer pledges this year than last, and three remained the same.

An interesting development was the number of sophomores who pledged sororities this year. Under the Panhellenic Council's rules, sororities may take a quota of 36 new pledges each year. However, each sorority is also allowed sophomores who do not count towards this total. This rule was implemented to allow a more easy process of pledgship for sophomore women. As of press time, three of the five sororities had taken advantage of this rule; Kappa Kappa Gamma took two new sophomores, Kappa Delta took one, and Kappa Alpha Theta took three.

In the class of 2006 as a whole, approximately 80 percent of freshman men pledged a fraternity, whereas 72 percent of freshman women pledged a sorority; these are approximately the same percentages as those of upperclassmen who belong to a Greek organization. Both numbers are up from the 2002 rush, when 78 percent of the male freshman class pledged, and 71 percent of the freshman women pledged.

As is the case during every year, the IFC and the Panhellenic Council oversaw the process to ensure a fair rush process for both the rushees and the Greek organizations involved. The rushing duties of these supervisory organizations, whose leaders and members often work late into the night during Rush week to ensure an optimal pledge placement, will now focus on overseeing the two-month long pledgship period.

Unofficial New Member Totals:

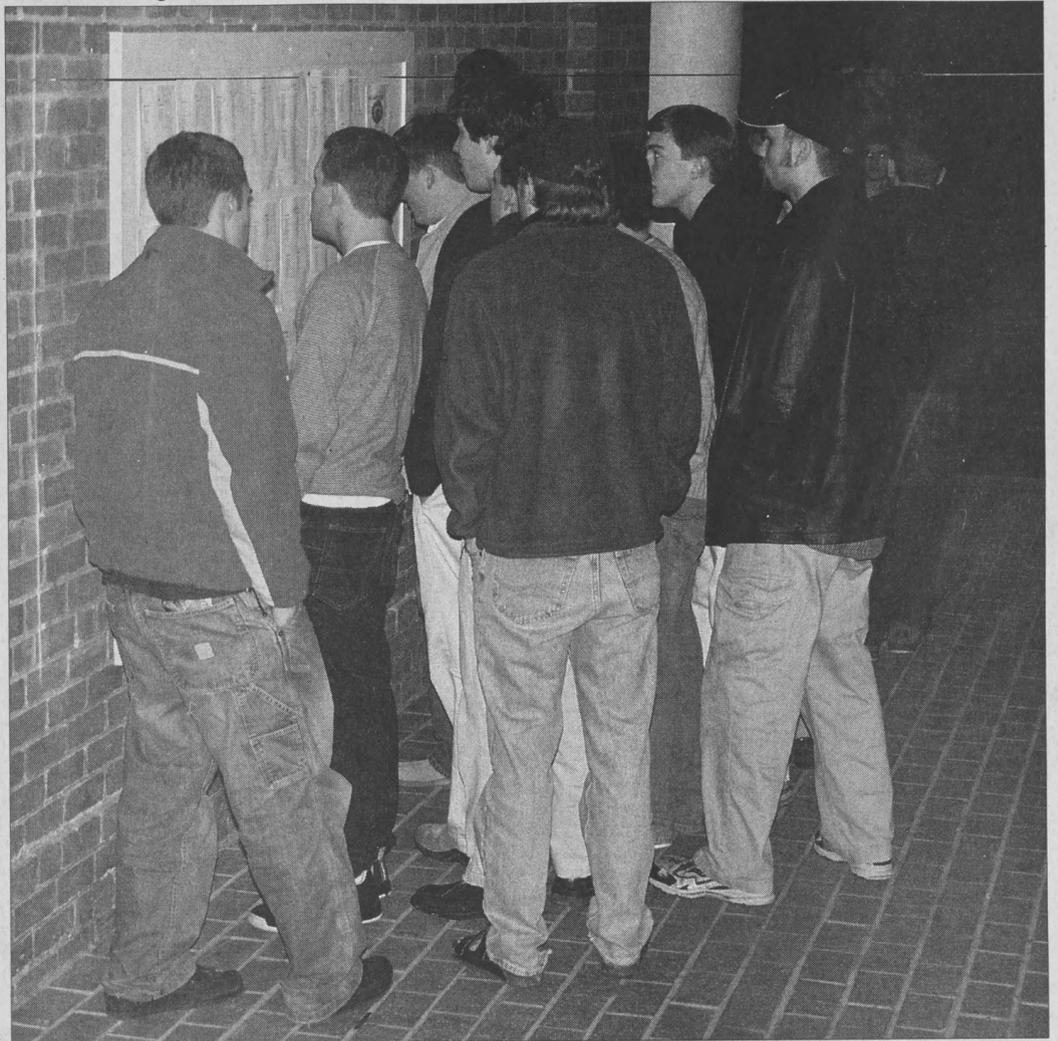
Fraternities-

Phi Gamma Delta 25+12
Sigma Alpha Epsilon 18+11
Chi Psi 14+10
Pi Kappa Phi 17+4
Beta Theta Pi 17+1
Sigma Phi Epsilon 14+1
Kappa Sigma 15 0
Lambda Chi Alpha 14 0
Phi Delta Theta 18-1
Sigma Chi 11-2
Phi Kappa Psi 4-4
Sigma Nu 4-5
Phi Kappa Sigma 10-6
Pi Kappa Alpha 10-7
Kappa Alpha 10-10

Sororities-

Pi Beta Phi 27 (0 soph) +6
Kappa Kappa Gamma 38 (2 soph) +1
Kappa Alpha Theta 38 (3 soph) +1
Kappa Delta 37 (1 soph) 0
Chi Omega 36 (0 soph) -1

(The first number after each Greek organization reflects the number of students joining. The second number indicates the change in number pledging from last year.)



JEB BROOKS / The Ring-tum Phi

ELIMDATE - Freshmen men look at the first four rush date lists in the Graham-Lees breezeway Monday night. Pledge numbers vary from 25 to four for the men and 38 to 27 for the women. Womens' recruitment quota was 36 this year.

Winter welcome week provides Greek alternative

BY KYLE WASS
STAFF WRITER

As an alternative to fraternity and sorority recruitment, Each day of the last week, students had a chance to participate in Winter Welcome Week. The event included activities ranging from a comedian to free dessert and coffee to laser tag.

This is the first year that Washington and Lee has had an official Winter Welcome Week, although last year Susan Slopek also organized activities through the Games Club during rush week for those not participating in recruitment. However, the series of events were "nothing of this magnitude," said Jeffrey Meriggi, one of the organizers of Winter Welcome Week. The events were also organized by Slopek, Outing Club coordinator James Dick and Director of University Activities Teresa Glassman. The events took place during the week of January 6-11.

The activities, which were open to the entire student body, included comedian Rich Ragains performing on Monday night, with free dessert and coffee at the GHQ, then movie night at the State Theater on Tuesday. Any W&L student received free admission to a movie that night by showing his ID card. The International House hosted a band party on Wednesday night with Right On. Freshman Halin Bareke said it was, "a cover band with a Motown theme." Thursday the Outing Club helped open a

high elements rope course in the pavilion followed by s'mores and hot chocolate at their house in Davidson Park. One of the highlights of the week was laser tag on Friday night in Salem. Dean Courtney Penn played with his son and a upperclass students. Bareke said there was also a game room where students could play mini-golf and Wheel-of-Fortune. He said the night was, "pretty fun." On Saturday night, the Winter Welcome Week organizing committee sponsored "Neon Nights" bowling at Lexington Lanes, followed by late night pizza and a movie.

Bareke also noted that it was mostly upperclassman who participated, since the majority of freshman spent a very busy last week at the sorority and fraternity houses during formal recruitment.

Additionally, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights, dinner was moved to the GHQ from the D-hall, which closed for the Winter Welcome Week events. Meriggi said that "for the whole week the meals are sort of stepped up or made more interesting where possible." The monotony-breaking meals included themes like Mexican night and Wok night.

The events provided an excellent opportunity for students who were not participating in rush week to have fun by providing them with alternate social opportunities, Bareke said.

W&L alum collapses, dies

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Charles P. Monroe, Arlington's first black circuit court judge died Saturday after suffering from a brain aneurysm during his first meeting as chairman of the Arlington County Board.

Monroe, a native of northern Virginia, graduated from Washington and Lee University law school and was a lawyer with Alexandria-based Duncan and Hopkins.

"He was one of the kindest, fairest people I think any of us ever met," said Vice Chairman Paul Ferguson. "He loved Arlington County, his job and his family...He approached every issue with an open mind."

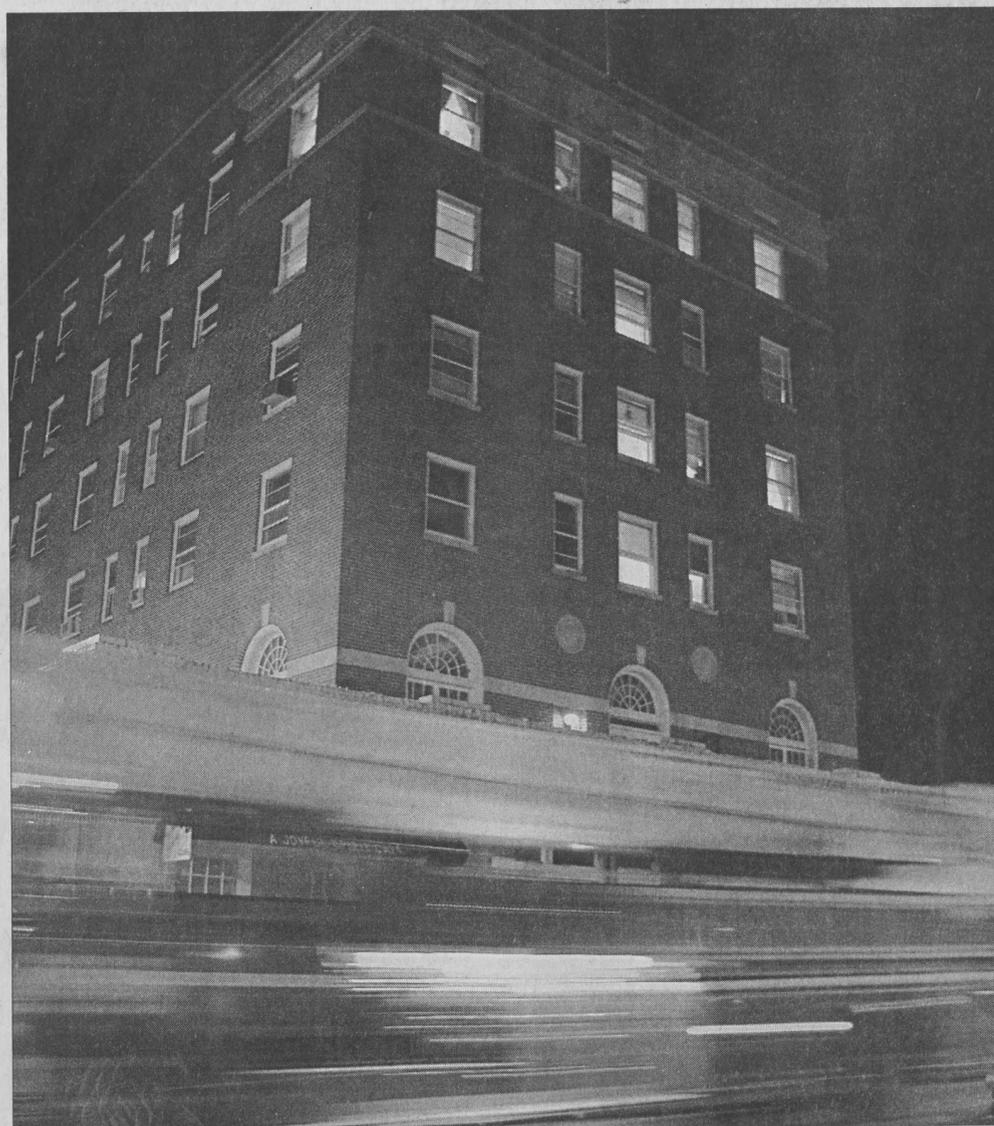
Monroe was responding to a resident's concern at the Board meeting when he repeated

a sentence, fell silent and then slumped to one side in his chair. Paramedics took him to Virginia Hospital Center-Arlington, where he was pronounced dead at 12:07 p.m. Saturday.

"Serving on the County Board for Charles was about service to the county, not for any personal political ambition," said Dan Steen, chairman of the Arlington Democratic Committee. "This is a shock to all of us. . . He had plans to serve the county in so many ways."

Monroe was 46 and a human rights activist. He planned to get rid of Arlington's 50 most dilapidated properties. He was also a member of the Arlington Human Rights Commission and the Arlington Housing Corp. board.

The Washington Post contributed to this report.



LEX ABLAZE - Firetrucks rush down Main Street in response to a three-alarm fire at the Robert E. Lee Building in downtown Lexington. The fire broke out in a tenant's apartment at 10:45 p.m. on Friday. No injuries were reported and the tenant was not in his room when the blaze occurred, but Lexington Fire Chief Robert Foresman reported that there was smoke damage to the second floor and nearly all the occupant's personal belongings were destroyed at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

Preliminary inspection indicated that the room's smoke alarm was not activated. According to Foresman, the building is not required to have an active sprinkler system under city fire code. Officer Mark Reilly, who was first on the scene, reported that all the residents were evacuated to the first floor and all traffic on Main Street was blocked until after 12:30 a.m. The cause of the fire is unknown, yet both Reilly and Foresman have reason to believe no foul play was involved.—Andrew Latimer / staff writer

THE RING-TUM PHI
STAFF EDITORIAL

Whence the Mollenhoff tree?

The *Phi*, more than any other organization on campus, welcomes the new Reid Hall. Future *Phi* staffers, journalists and writers of every type will be well-served by its ceramic tile lobby, space-age desks and giant flat screen television.

We're also very excited that with the completion of the John W. Elrod University Commons, the 99 year-old plan to create a second colonnade will become a reality. However, all is not rosey as W&L nears the end of its "For the Rising Generation" construction binge.

In 1993, *The Ring-tum Phi* planted a tree on Stemmons Plaza behind Reid Hall to memorialize journalism Professor Clark R. Mollenhoff. In the days before we had our esteemed competition, he lead our inexperienced team of writers to (then twice weekly) turn out a paper of record of which W&L could be proud.

Sadly, there is no longer a Mollenhoff Memorial tree behind Reid Hall to lend shade to passing students; only a flat, featureless lawn remains. Where has the Mollenhoff tree been taken? And what symbols of our treasured past will next fall to the cold steel of progress in a bulldozer's blade?

Will the Cy Twombly Pool be paved over and those memories fade, too, like so many escaping ripples? Will Wilson Field be replaced with nameless AstroTurf and the recollections of games won and lost sodded over like damaged turf?

We are the first ones to welcome the modernization and improvement brought by the new construction. But let's not forget our past in our zeal to embrace the future. They may take our tree, but they'll never take our memories.



GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN. Prof. Mollenhoff from the 1981 *Calyx*.

Quote of the Week

"...we'll turn the citadel of imperialists into a sea of fire."

~Rodong Sinmun, North Korea's official newspaper, referring to the U.S.

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The *Ring-tum Phi* is published Mondays during the undergraduate school year at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. The Washington and Lee Publications Board elects the Editors in chief, but *The Ring-tum Phi* is otherwise independent.

The *Ring-tum Phi* welcomes all responsible submissions and letters. All submissions must be e-mailed to phi@wlu.edu or in the University Center mailbox by 5 p.m. Friday to appear in the following week's edition. *The Ring-tum Phi* reserves the right to edit submissions for content and length. Letters and columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of *The Ring-tum Phi* Editorial Board. Advertising does not reflect the opinions of *The Ring-tum Phi* or its staff. This newspaper observes current court definitions of libel and obscenity.

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Trent Lott is a moron, not a racist

As a conservative, I sometimes wonder about the Republicans' proclivity for fratricide (no, fratricide does not mean "murdering fraternity members"). The latest example has come in the form of the Incredible Shrinking Senator, Trent Lott.

Of course, Sen. Lott's wounds were largely self-inflicted: he waxed nostalgic and publicly wished that then-segregationist Strom Thurmond had become President in 1948, so "we wouldn't have all these problems today."

Since the Dixiecrat platform was a little light on issues such as national defense and economic stimulus (unless you count

Φ RIGHT ON!
JOHN HEATH '04

investment on the construction of separate schools and water fountains as economic stimulus), it might be logical to assume that Sen. Lott wished to return to the Jim Crow days.

Lott's mortal sin, as the media so fondly repeats ad nauseum was blatant, unapologetic racism. Or was it? The now-infamous remarks were delivered on the occasion of Sen. Thurmond's 100th birthday; Sen. Lott was merely attempting to pay tribute to an institutional icon. After the usual hyperventilations of the mainstream (read: liberal) media and Jessie Jackson-types, this mini-scandal might have withdrawn quietly into the night. The force keeping this story alive, however, was the conservative media.

If the liberal chattering class was willing to let go, why did the likes of the *National Review* and *The Weekly Standard* persist? The answer is bigger than a birthday party faux pas: Trent Lott has always had an uneasy relationship with the Republican Party. His unwittingly pro-segre-



DON'T BET ON TRENT. Ex-Majority Leader Trent Lott sold out GOP principles and lost his job.

gationist comments were merely the straw that broke the camel's back. Sen. Lott's support in the party was wide, but shallow; as others have said, there are no "Trent Lott Republicans."

As a Republican leader, Trent Lott never struck the right balance. He achieved the double feat of angering conservatives

by appearing too eager to strike deals with the big-government Democrats, while at the same time projecting a scary, neo-conservative image to the suburban Republican moderates. And when the opportunistic Senator Jim Jeffords announced that he was going to side with the Dems and rob the Republicans of the control of the

Senate, Sen. Lott appeared flummoxed and flabbergasted. And while it is unfair to lay the blame for Sen. Jeffords' party-switch at Trent Lott's feet, his babe-in-the-woods act didn't sit well with many conservatives, who wondered how the leader of the Senate could be so soundly asleep at the wheel.

For the majority of Republicans and conservatives who had tentatively forgiven, but not forgotten, the Jeffords fiasco, Sen. Lott's preening after his Thurmond comments was too much to bear.

When the media began piling on, Sen. Lott caved, and effectively dug his own grave. In an interview on BET, he had an opportunity to provide a legitimate, non-racist defense for opposing affirmative action programs (there is definitely such a defense). Instead, Sen. Lott continued his pander-thon by pronouncing his desire to strongly promote the program. As Jon Stewart jokingly said, "It's bad enough Sen. Lott's a racist, now we find out he's a liberal!"

With the opportunity to choose a new leader for the first time in six years, the GOP Senators faced a historic opportunity to choose a more effective Senate leader. The economic conservatives desperately wanted Lott to be replaced with supply-side aficionado Don Nickles, but his role as Brutus in the palace coup prevented any ascension to Majority Leader. Instead, the Republicans have settled on Bill Frist of Tennessee, the Dudley Doright *du jour* of the GOP, to pull the Senate majority out of the Lott quagmire. Sen. Frist proved his ability to stumble into good headlines as the physician provided medical attention to victims of a car crash just days before his ascension to Majority Leader. If Sen. Frist can stand fast by the bedrock principles of the Republican party, the Senate should recover quickly from this unusual institutional skirmish.

Lee's dream lives on Letter to the Editor

Honor system applies to 21st century questions, but needs tweaking

Finally, I have returned to MetroLex where honor matters and our honor system, albeit an imperfect one, continues to guide the lifestyles and inform the decisions of the student body. This differs from China where the most honorable thing an official can do is mercilessly oppress dissidents.

Alas, in our University's never-ending discussion and reinterpretation of what "honor" is, there seems to have arisen some disagreement. Chiefly, students seem to be unhappy with the honor system when it inconveniences them.

Michael Denbow wrote in *The Trident* that using a fake ID shouldn't be grounds for expulsion. Nor does the prevailing opinion seem to be that sexual crimes should fall under the purview of the EC. Students are eager to enjoy the benefits of the system, such as unproctored exams and the freedom to leave one's door unlocked, but no one is willing to step up and accept even the minor demands honor makes on our daily lives. One would hope, in fact, that the call to live an honorable life would be met and recognized as its own reward, not criticized as an overly broad stricture on a 21st century student's hedonism.

As such, the EC was absolutely correct to expel for use of a fake ID—it's simply lying. There is no room for interpretation. The student was willfully attempting to deceive a law-abid-

ing merchant who would rather not break the law, no matter how out-dated and silly the statute may be. His dishonor put both him and the merchant at risk and is inexcusable, as well as unnecessary. If this student really needed a beer, couldn't he have found one at his favorite fraternity house?

This, of course, leads to a discussion of the regular underage drinking that occurs with, from Dean Watkins' point of view, distressing frequency. But, such consumption is not an honor violation because all parties involved are fully aware of what is taking place. The underage student knows he is underage and the bartender knows that the student is underage. There is no lying involved. The disrespect done by both parties to a silly and paternalistic state authority is certainly not dishonorable.

Another major area of concern is the downloading of music from the internet. Using Kazaa or similar programs is also not an honor violation. Similarly, neither is taping music from the radio, borrowing music from friends, or checking out CD's from the library. Only if one profits from others' works by selling compilations of downloaded music would this behavior be dishonorable, much as plagiarism is.

Perhaps most importantly, the SFHB should pass on convicts to the EC. Few acts are more dishon-

orable or display a grosser lack of character than the abuse of a lady. Frankly, the fact that there isn't a general outcry from the student body for these lowlifes to be cast from our midst is both surprising and disappointing.

Another question that had been raised is the fitness of EC members who may have committed honor violations in the past. Naturally, they are under no compunction to acquit those who may come before them. We, students, elected them to administer the honor code regardless of past mistakes.

Finally, the above is not to demonstrate that the honor system is perfect. Brett Burns raises an excellent point when he calls for more transparency in EC proceedings. The EC should publish more complete reports of its decisions, listing the votes of each member and his reason for deciding the way he did. All of the Supreme Court's deliberations and questions are also private, but afterwards, the public knows why the justices arrived at their decision. This is especially important when elections occur. Students deserve a record of how their representatives discharged their most important duty.

I would venture to say that the honor system, unique for its history, efficacy and pervasiveness, attracts and retains many students. Let us not be made lazy by the common permissiveness and nonjudgmentalism of our time. General Lee would require nothing less.

KEWL calls for women in administration

To the administration of Washington and Lee University:

Washington and Lee University has an incomparable history. The members of KEWL (Knowledge Empowering Women Leaders) think the University can be unparalleled, pending some major changes. The University has made great strides in overcoming some of the negative aspects of its history. Yet while W&L has improved, it remains a work in progress.

Ethnic, socioeconomic, racial and gender diversity increased steadily over the past eighteen years, along with the recruitment of students from all across the United States and the world. Unfortunately, our administration, faculty and staff do not reflect a similar pattern of diversity.

As representatives of a significant portion of the student body, the KEWL organization asks that you help make the University a more diverse community by seriously considering qualified women and other minorities while filling the five vacant positions in the upper administration and staff. We recognize that women are underrepresented in a number of departments within the University, on the Board of Trustees, in higher level staff positions and at the top level of the administration. This problem is detrimental to the University in several ways: our female students lack adequate role models within the administration; our male students do not have the opportunity to observe women and other minorities in executive positions; and every student suffers from an unintentional male bias within the administration. We wonder if this situation also affects our overall appeal to potential faculty and students. Many of our stu-

dents receive an erroneous message that the predominantly white male administration reflects the make-up of society. Therefore, as the world beyond Washington and Lee University is diversifies in gender and ethnicity, Washington and Lee cannot afford to be left behind.

The officers, members and advisors of KEWL strongly urge the placement of one or several qualified applicants who embody gender and racial diversity for the following positions: Dean of the College, Vice President of Administration, Dean of Students, Director of the New University Commons and Head Librarian. If our University is determined to commit to its agenda of coeducation and diversification, then this goal must be reflected in the administration.

Sincerely,
The Officers of KEWL
Natalie Diebel '04, Pres.
Devin L. Dickson '04, VP
Susan Somers '05, Sec.
Jennifer Miller '04, Treas.

Java @ the GHQ

Every Monday 8:30 - Midnight



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January 20: Southern Comfort & General Admission
January 27: Catch a Fire

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Come celebrate the beginning of 2003 with us in January. A 3-course "comfort food" meal will be offered 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday only.

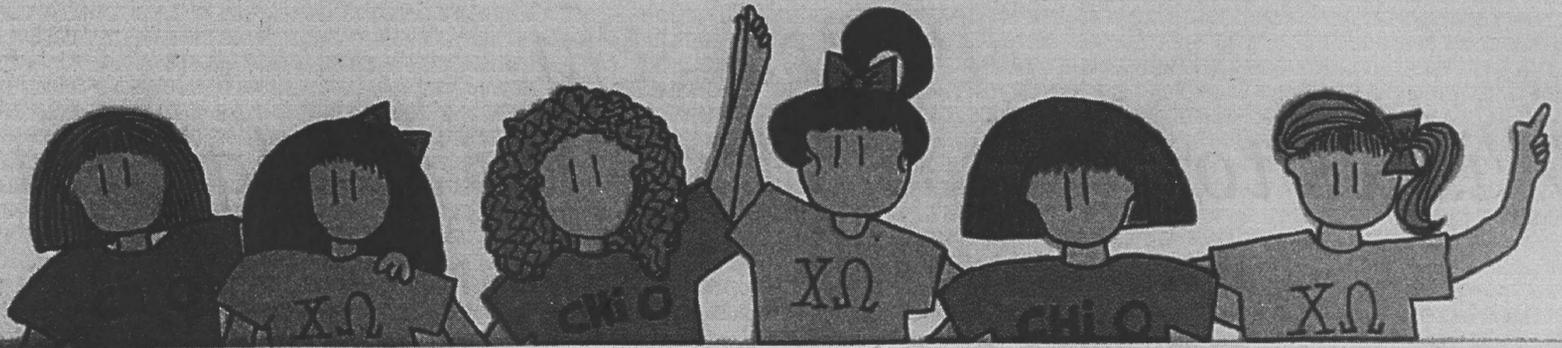
~First Course~
House salad with homemade dressings...
Homemade muffins and wheat rolls

~Second Course~
Our Chef's selections of winter "comfort style" entrees

~Third Course~
A special homemade dessert
(Does not include beverage, tax, or tip)

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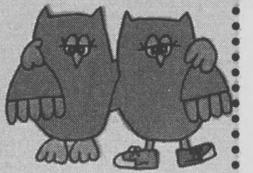
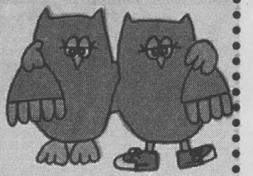
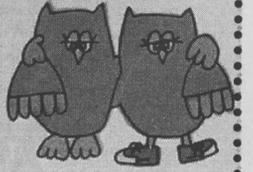


Chi Omega Loves Our New Sisters!

Ligia Abreu
 Theresa Anderson
 Vanessa Arness
 Mina Azodi
 Katie Babcock
 Lisa Baratta
 Stephanie Beck
 Ashley Brown
 Melissa Clarke
 Lindsey Dent
 Meredith Elkins
 Erin Falzareno

Ali Foley
 Betsy Frayer
 Katelyn Giarratana
 Karlyn Gold
 Christine Gray
 Becky Grant
 Gwen Greiner
 Kendra Haney
 Clare Hoover
 Lis Juterbock
 Katherine Kilpatrick
 Caitlin Lane

Amy McCamphill
 Megan Morgan
 Kate Norby
 Lyndsay Polloway
 Sarah Ritterhoff
 Lauren Schmidt
 Hayley Skinner
 Allison Spain
 Megan Stark
 Carla Taylor
 Tiffany Todd
 Sarah Williamson

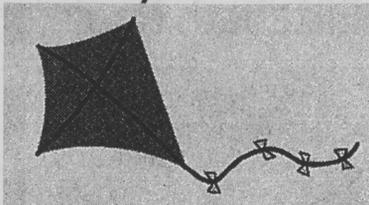


Kappa Alpha Theta proudly presents and welcomes our new members for 2003!

Virginia Baird
 Margaret Batten
 Jane Beall
 Nazo Burgy
 Mary Flynn Detlefs
 Elizabeth Eisenbrandt
 Alexis Fernandez
 Louisa Feve
 Susan Gaillard
 Karry Giblin
 Taylor Gibson
 Christine Gladysz
 Jess Good

Katie Goodrich
 Christina Griesemer
 Stephanie Hannon
 Courtney Harrison
 Meredith Hibbard
 Mary Holloway
 Emilee Hopkins
 Kynai Johnson
 Kate Lester
 Jessica Lloyd
 Lisa Mabry
 Ashley Metzloff

Amaya Moure
 Caroline O'Keefe
 Ashleigh Overly
 Lauren Peters
 Patty Roberts
 Amanda Robinette
 Julianne Shelley
 Amanda Strickler
 Leigh Anna Thomure
 Rachel Wallick
 Kyle Wass
 Emily White
 Christina Zanotti



Pi Beta Phi

Wishes to Welcome its 2003 Pledge Class

Christine Cameron

Elizabeth Little

Catherine Camiletti

Liz Lyman

Jenn Carlos

Aubrey Miner

Rachel Corritone

Kendall Murphy

Sara Duckworth

Christie Palazzolo

Lara Gibson

Laura Pontier

Allison Hamil

Lauren Rowe

Katie Heflin

Brooke Sanden

Amanda Hughes

Kasee Sparks

Anne Iadarola

Christine Sprow

Katie Jenkins

Taylor Thomas

Emilee Johnson

Liz Twentyman

Helen Kim

Katie Van Veen

Katelyn Zawyrucha



Congratulations to the 2003 Pledge Class of Kappa Kappa Gamma!!!!



Catherine Alexander

Emily Haight

Heather Rogers

Alex Battey

Ryan Hale

Emily Sanders

Emily Bisso

Paige Halter

Rachael Seidenschur

Cole Boyle

Susanna Johnson

Justine Small

Blair Brading

Leah Kershaw

Paige Smith

Sarah Beth Campbell

Mary Hammon Lee

Kirby Thornton

Mary Christopher

Rebecca McRae

Lauren Toole

Taylor Cooper

Meg O'Brien

Rachel Turner

Laurie Costello

Caroline Osborne

Gina Von Sternberg

Erin Coughlin

Lauren Painter

Caitlin Williams

Brianna Derr

Elisabeth Putney

Rachel Williams

Jessica Druce

Elizabeth Raulston

Julia Woodward

Kathleen Glaser

Charlottesville provides change of pace

BY HAYNES KING
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

During Winter Term at W&L, many students need a break from the pressure of the semester and the monotony of campus life. If you are looking for something new, you might want to take a look to our northern neighbor, Charlottesville. Here one can find many opportunities to keep busy.

The trip includes a breathtaking drive through the Blue Ridge over Afton Mountain. If you are lucky enough to be traveling on a clear day, I would suggest stopping at an overlook. If you are a photographer, stop to take photos of this view. Better yet, if you're looking to impress someone, this atmosphere will make you appear sensitive and romantic.

My trip included a tour of Thomas Jefferson's own Monticello and James Monroe's Ashlawn-Highland. If you want to waste your time and money, go ahead; take a look at Monroe's house. I did not find the tour or the house impressive; however, if you do have the time to kill, I guess there is no reason not to see it. The highlight is the picturesque front drive lined with oak trees. I do recommend a trip to Monticello. Jefferson designed the house himself, and it is listed on the United Nation's World Heritage List, as the only personal residence on the renowned list. You can take a tour of



PRESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS: Monticello and Ashlawn-Highland (inset) are just two of the many attractions to be found in charming, historic Charlottesville, Virginia

the house, along with its plantations and gardens. After you have finished your tour, there is a nice walk from the house back to the parking area. On this trail, you can see the graveyard of Jefferson and his family.

Also in the area is Jefferson's University of Virginia. Although an inferior institution of higher learning when compared to W&L, Jefferson's design of the Rotunda proves a statuesque building.

The downtown area provides quaint shops and eateries. I would suggest the Irish Pub. I enjoyed classic fish and chips. But if someone else is paying for your meal, the Michie Tavern is delectable. This restaurant

serves a traditional 18th century buffet including fried chicken, black-eyed peas, stewed tomatoes, and apple pie for dessert. The tavern has a general store and gift shop to purchase many souvenirs for adults and children. Tours of the 1784 tavern are available.

Although Charlottesville is similar to historic Lexington, the size offers a great escape on a Saturday.

Bottom line, Charlottesville gets 4 out of 5 stars for a day trip with friends. But as a date with someone you want to impress, it gets 5. The scenic drive and charm of quaint Charlottesville makes it a wonderful out of town date.

Helen Cullum Owings. It opened "A Celebration of the life of S. Cullum Owings" held at the Cathedral of Christ the King Church in Atlanta on December 5.

For those of us who were privileged to attend this memorable, heartbreaking event, Mrs. Owings' eloquent words captured the spirit of Cullum, his wonderful family, and his many friends from Westminster and Washington and Lee.

And no regrets.
No aches or doubt
No symphony unfinished.
Race the shadow.
He will not stay
Nor time forgive
Those who hesitate to live.

This powerful poem was written by Cullum Owings' paternal grandmother

Reflections

by Dean David Howison

A journey anticipated
In childhood dreams
So gladly, eagerly, impatiently,
Should cover all there is.
Omitting nothing created or dreamed of.
There should be time for all of life.
Before its end.

Rush Week exemplifies best, worst of W&L

There's no question about it. Out of the 30 weeks we spend in Lexington each school year, the most important is Rush Week. For fraternities and sororities, it represents the climax of an entire term of behind-the-scenes work and endless discussions. For freshmen, it represents the beginning of their second life at W&L, as they officially enter the fabled Greek System that makes this school what it is. But what on the surface seems so simple is, in reality, the most dramatic series of days of the school year. The routine of Rush Week tests every personality and evokes every emotion imaginable. For one stressful week, the Greek System takes control of the entire university and shows us all the best aspects and worst features of life in Lexington.

The horrors of Rush Week are certainly not pretty...

Consider the potential for psychological damage inherent in the Rush Week process. Essentially, each fraternity and sorority takes a vote on whether or not a candidate is acceptable enough to share their company. This, in itself, is nauseating. But when this is considered with the

knowledge that the Greek System is about all we have in Lexington, we realize that the outcome of our votes reflects more or less our decision on the course of a candidate's entire life at W&L. Disgustingly, we decide for them how their college experience will turn out. In some cases, students have transferred after not getting accepted into any houses - tragically, fraternity or sorority members basically decided that such a person was not fit for W&L.

The outcomes of Rush Week should not be underestimated; for some people, it represents a quite crucial turning point in the entirety of their lives. But this fact becomes even more ridiculous in the face of the thought processes that are prevalent in bid sessions. Thousands of factors determine your acceptability to Greek members - the way you look, the way you dress, the car you drive, the amount of money your parents have, the friends you keep, or even the state (or country) you come from. Its not tough to see that the voting process boils down to one simple truth: your entire experience at W&L can be subject to the decision of one superficial jerk.

It doesn't get any easier on the Greek side of things. There are rivalries between houses. There are rivalries within houses. Bid sessions can resemble the atmosphere of the stock exchange floor - all sorts of

deals are made concerning the possible "investments." Tears are shed. Punches are thrown. Houses can split apart and come together several times in one simple four-hour period. Through it all, the IFC works behind the scenes to make sure that rules are kept and to attempt to find a home for every person (big props to Matt Jacobs and the IFC for your time and effort). Fraternities and sororities certainly aren't immune to the superficiality and self-consciousness either, as each house asks if it is good enough to attract an impressive group of new guys or girls. Sometimes these feelings reflect temporary fears, but often Greek members are left considering their own personal failures.

With the right attitude, however, there can be a light at the end of the tunnel. First of all, it should be said that despite all the criticism it receives, the Greek System of W&L is possibly the most inclusive on the planet. Each house is so different that there is virtually a place for anyone. The bid process in itself could easily be considered elitist, but there are certainly houses that are willing to extend many opportunities.

For the houses, the result of all the debates is a new class of recruits that every member agrees are worthy of their house. There might be lingering doubts, but the period of bonding that follows Rush Week reminds us all of what being in a Greek organization is all about.

In cases when a person does not get accepted anywhere, there is some clear good to be extracted from the rejection: its not that you aren't good enough - it means simply that there are aspects of your behavior or personality that seriously need reflecting upon. Every person has their own faults, and though we'd prefer to not have them pointed out so dramatically, the key is to make an honest effort to correct them.

Maybe our lives would be easier if Rush Week didn't exist. Maybe if we could just pick names out of a hat, we could bypass all the stress and emotion that can take us to the edge. But then there would be no feeling of accomplishment, and Greek life would be meaningless. Indeed, with all its positives and negatives, Rush Week shows us many of the important things about being a student of W&L. Yet, even more importantly, Rush Week reveals features of our own personalities and motivates us to improve ourselves.

Φ ABSOLUTE FRATLORD
TIM SMITH '04

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Diag	MCAT Strat	Phys 1	Chem 1	Verbal 1	Org 1	Bio 1	Phys 2	Chem 2	Verbal 2	Org 2	Bio 2	Test 1	Phys 3	Chem 3	Org 3	Bio 3	Phys PS	Verbal PS	Bio PS	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4	Test 5
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James Madison University Harrisonburg, VA																								
MCCV 3201	Wed 1/15 6pm	Wed 1/22 6pm	Mon 1/27 6pm	Wed 1/29 6pm	Mon 2/3 6pm	Wed 2/5 6pm	Mon 2/10 6pm	Wed 2/12 6pm	Mon 2/17 6pm	Wed 2/19 6pm	Mon 2/24 6pm	Wed 2/26 6pm	Sat 3/1 8am	Mon 3/3 6pm	Wed 3/5 6pm	Mon 3/17 6pm	Wed 3/19 6pm	Mon 3/24 6pm	Wed 3/26 6pm	Mon 3/31 6pm	Sat 3/29 8am	Sat 4/5 8am	Sat 4/12 8am	Sat 4/19 8am

Washington & Lee University Lexington, VA																								
MCCV 3301	Thur 1/16 6pm	Tues 1/21 6pm	Thur 1/23 6pm	Tues 1/28 6pm	Thur 1/30 6pm	Tues 2/4 6pm	Thur 2/6 6pm	Tues 2/11 6pm	Thur 2/13 6pm	Tues 2/25 6pm	Thur 2/27 6pm	Tues 3/4 6pm	Sat 3/8 8am	Thur 3/6 6pm	Tues 3/11 6pm	Thur 3/13 6pm	Tues 3/18 6pm	Thur 3/20 6pm	Tues 3/25 6pm	Thurs 3/27 6pm	Sat 3/29 8am	Sat 4/5 8am	Sat 4/12 8am	Sat 4/19 8am

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W&L defeats CUA, sweeps relays

BY ERIN JULIUS
SPORTS EDITOR

In a home meet on Saturday, Washington and Lee's Women's swim team beat Catholic University of America 135-70 while the men's team beat CUA 145-50.

Both the women's team and men's team won the 400-yard medley relay, with times of 4:28.70 for the women's A team and 3:42.42 for the men. Both the women's and men's team also won the 400-yard Free relay, with times of 3:54.74 and 4:01.65, respectively.

W&L won 16 of 18 individual events. For the women's team, senior and Captain Blair Huffman won the 1000-yard Free event with a time of 11:31.36, the 200-yard Individual Medley with a time of 2:19.10 and the 200-yard Fly event with 2:18.00.

Senior and Captain Kelli Austin won the 200-yard Free event with 2:02.99.

Freshman Kristine Holda won the 50-yard Free event with a time of 25.92 and the 100-yard Free event with 55.74.

Sophomore Eleanor Williams won the 200-yard Back Stroke event with a time of 2:23.37. Junior Mandi Kimble placed second in that event with a time of 2:24.60.

Freshman Beth Sauer won the 200-yard Breast Stroke event with a time of 2:39.18.

For the men's team, Freshmen Clark Barrineau and Andrew Lloyd took first and second in the 1000-yard Free event with times of 10:48.22 and 10:56.77, respectively. Barrineau also won the 500-yard Free event with a time of 5:12.90.

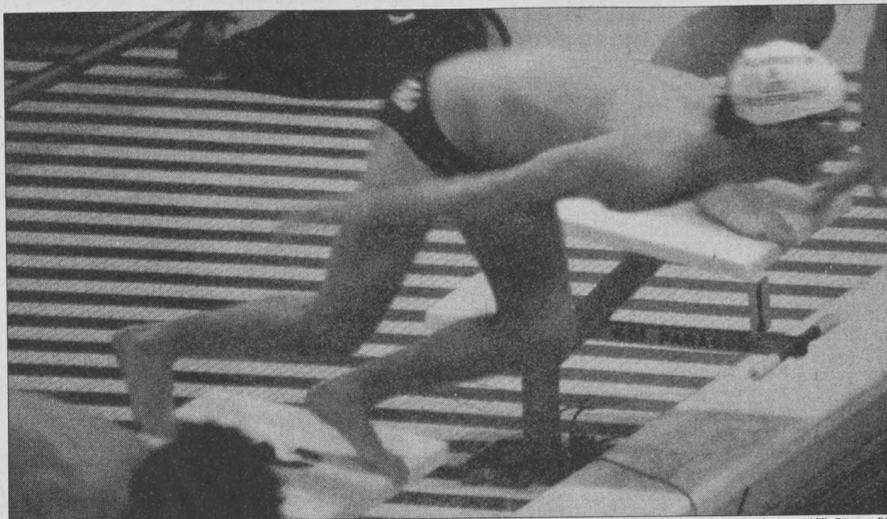
Senior and Captain Patrick Frankfort won the 200-yard Free event with a time of 1:53.08, while Freshman Reed Evans took second in the event. Frankfort also took second in both the 200-yard Back Stroke event and the 500-yard Free event.

Senior and Captain Zach Fake took first in the 50-yard Free with a time of 22.25 while Junior Jonathan James took second. Fake also placed first in the 100-yard Free with a time of 50.17. James also placed second in the 100-yard Free.

Junior Eric Ritter won the 200-yard Individual Medley with a time of 2:10.63, while Sophomore Chris Colby took second in the event. Ritter also won the 200-yard Back Stroke event with a time of 2:09.63. Colby also won the 200-yard Fly event. Junior Drew Catanese took second in the 200-yard Fly.

Sophomore Michael Lee placed second in the 200-yard Breast Stroke event.

The Generals' next meet will be Sunday, January 19 at home against the University of the South.



CODY GABBARD / The Ring-Tum Phi

ΣPE DO. Eric Ritter dives into the pool during the W&L's latest swim meet, against the Catholic University of America.

Womens' hoops suffer defeat

BY ERIN JULIUS
SPORTS EDITOR

Washington and Lee's Women's Basketball team lost to Lynchburg 62-49 in a game played at home on Saturday. Lynchburg dominated the game, winning 25-20 at the first quarter and 37-29 at the half. The loss brought the Generals' record to 1-8, 1-6 in their District.

Lynchburg's overall record is 9-3, with a 7-1 ODAC record.

Junior Sarah Michaels was the Generals' top scorer, with 19 points. Freshman Louisa Feve was right behind Michaels, with a total of 13 points. Feve also logged the most time on the court, with 38 minutes and was responsible for a three-point shot, a steal and an assist.

Senior Captain Elizabeth Igo was also responsible for an assist and two steals.

Sophomore Emily Barker recorded a layup, as did Michaels. Michaels was also responsible for a steal.

The Generals out-rebounded the Hornets; this effort was led by Igo with a team-high of 11 rebounds and Senior Austin Calhoun, who collected ten.

The Generals had a strong opponent in Lynchburg's Erika



CODY GABBARD / The Ring-Tum Phi

CALHOUN. "We need to play a full game of basketball...we do play with a lot of intensity and heart," said Calhoun.

Whitten, who had a team-high of 17 points and a game-high of five steals. Seven other Hornets contributed to the scoring effort.

The Generals travel to Hollins for a game Tuesday night. Their next home game will be Friday, January 24 against Hollins.

Wrestling takes third at SVU tourney

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Washington and Lee wrestling traveled to the Knight Tournament at Southern Virginia University in Buena Vista last Saturday. W&L placed third at the match with 47 points, behind Carson Newman (89.50) and Belmont-Abbey (76.50). Virginia Tech (28.50), Richmond University (21.50), Southern Virginia (15.50) and Radford (11.50) finished behind W&L.

Senior John Polena, Sophomore Brian Avello and Freshman Ben Everett each finished second in their weight classes.

Polena won 7-5 in overtime against Virginia Tech's Russel Tebelef and reached the finals after defeating Belmont-Abbey's Josh Kline 7-6. Polena was defeated in the Championship 11-5 by Carson Newman's Cody Humphrey.

Avello reached the finals but was pinned in 4:41 by Belmont-Abbey's Daniel Black. Everett was pinned in the finals by Belmont-

Abbey's J.P. McDonald (2:52).

The Generals' next match will be Saturday, January 18, at 10 am, when they host the W&L Invitational

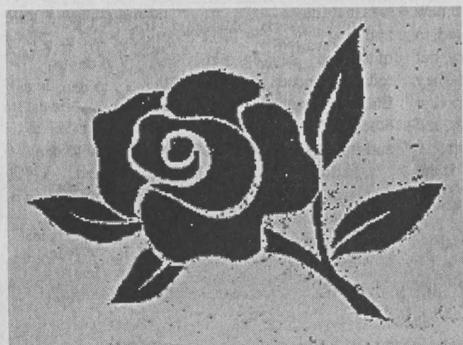
Basketball loses to Roanoke

Roanoke College defeated Washington and Lee 65-53 on Saturday in a game played at home. The loss dropped the Generals' record to 3-5 (0-4 in the District).

The Generals were losing 30-22 at the half, then assumed a 45-44 lead before Roanoke made a 21-8 run in the last nine minutes of the game.

W&L's center Mark Franceski led the team and tied a career-high with 13 points. Sophomore guard Mike Stuart was right behind Franceski with a total of 12 points. Senior forward Scott Hettermann totaled 10 points and 10 rebounds.

W&L's next game will be played at 24th-ranked Mary Washington on Monday.



Congratulations to the new pledge class of Kappa Delta!!



Julie Anderson
Sarah Arison
Liz Bidinger
Karen Blackburn
Lanier Brooks
Laura Byrne
Whitney Doss
Melissa Draggett
Molly Drake
Charlotte Marie DuPre
Ingrid Easton
Connor Esworthy

Katherine Fischer
Courtney Fitzgerald
Meg Garner
Bailey Hardin
Stacey Henderson
Christina Innamorato
Carrie Lee
Olivia Mansfield
Natalia Maxwell
Lisa Miller
Laura Neller
Emily Nethero
Lizzie Newland

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