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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI

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

Virginia bill may redefine hazing for universities, establish more penalties

BY WILLIAM COPSEY

THE COLLEGIATE TIMES (VIRGINIA TECH)

(U-WIRE) BLACKSBURG, Va. - A bill seeking to give universities more leeway in their prosecution of those convicted of hazing passed through a Virginia House of Delegates subcommittee by a unanimous vote Wednesday.

The bill also expands the definition of hazing, allowing Virginia to prosecute a wider range of offenses.

Members of university student affairs offices across the state assisted in the construction of the bill, which was then presented to state delegate David Albo, R-Springfield, said Ed Spencer, assistant vice president of student affairs and director of Residential and Dining Programs at Virginia Tech.

The existing Virginia hazing law is very brief and specific compared to other states, Spencer said. As it stands, Virginia law also states that

bodily injury must result from hazing in order for a person to press charges or sue, he said.

The new bill's redefinition of hazing widens it to allow the state to prosecute not only for actual bodily harm caused by such activity, but also on the basis of recklessly or intentionally endangering someone's health or safety.

"We thought that there ought to be a definition of hazing (included in the bill)," Spencer said.

This should assist campuses in

preventing and reducing the number of hazing incidents, said Will Wright, president of Tech's Interfraternity Council.

Part of the problem with Virginia's present hazing law is that it compels universities to expel any student convicted of hazing, Spencer said.

Because the severity of hazing can range widely, from rug burns to paralysis, people should not face the same penalty of expulsion for both, he said.

The new bill will correct this prob-

lem, he said, allowing universities to exercise more discretion in the prosecution of hazing.

"It is my belief that further defining the term 'hazing' will ensure that it is eliminated in all shapes and forms on (Tech's) campus," Wright said.

Although the bill before the General Assembly widens the definition of hazing, Spencer said members of the group that worked on the bill wanted the definition to be even longer and more inclusive.

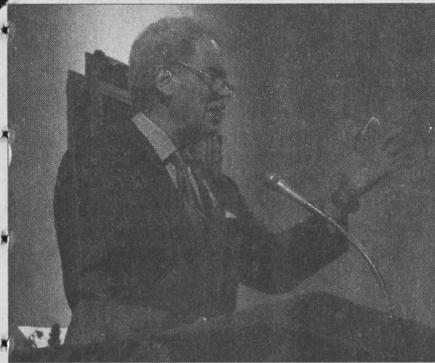
Spencer said he didn't think hazing is prevalent at Tech, but because it usually takes place behind closed doors, rumors of hazing are taken seriously and investigated. It is now up to the Virginia House's Courts of Justice Committee to review and vote on the bill, said Bobby Rust, Albo's legislative aide.

Committees typically mirror the decisions of subcommittees, Rust said, and are expected to pass the bill on to the entire House.

Campus honors MLK

BY KYLE WASS

SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Jeb Brooks / The Ring-tum Phi

MARTIN, THE MAN. Roger Wilkins spoke of non-violence.

Washington and Lee University and the Lexington-Rockbridge County community celebrated the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. last week with film showings, speakers, and free birthday cake in the Co-op.

Numerous events took place Jan. 15-23 and today. Last Wednesday, Jan. 15, was King's actual birthday, and the Minority Student Association sponsored birthday cake in the Snack Bar, while the Dining Hall held a Memorial Dinner, where dining services served a menu of King's favorite dishes, including "Georgia-style sweet potato pie." Later on Monday night, the Minority Student Association also showed the movie *Boycott*, in Northern Auditorium. Later in the week, PRIDE sponsored the movies *The Pinochet Case* (2001), *Justifiable Homicide* (2001), and *Profit and Nothing But!* (2001) during their "Human Rights Film Festival," from Jan. 21-23.

Washington and Lee also joined the Lexington-Rockbridge community to bring several speakers to cel-

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DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND



Jeb Brooks / The Ring-tum Phi

AMERICAN IDOL. A freshmen Chi Omega and member of the winning act looks out into the audience at the Student Activities Pavillion Friday night during the annual Lip Synch

fundraiser. Approximately 1000 people attended the event, which raises money to provide canned foods to the hungry of Rockbridge County.

Site gains nat'l attention

BY CALEY ANDERSON

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Washington and Lee's Alsos Digital Library for nuclear issues is now a National Science Teachers' Association recommended Web site. It will be featured in the NSTA's SciLinks database, a listing of sites which the NSTA consider helpful. The Alsos site, whose URL is <http://alsos.wlu.edu>, is a library of annotated documents and resources related to nuclear issues. It contains information on books, films, images, other websites, CD-ROMs and periodicals.

The site's content is created by a wide range of faculty and students whose interests relate to the documents available on the site. Dr. Frank Settle of the Chemistry department leads the site. Another contributor and annotator is Dr. Elizabeth Blackmer, a staff member at

the Virginia Military Institute. The actual Web maintenance of the site is conducted primarily by Computer Science department faculty, led by Dr. Tom Whaley. On site, a large listing of nuclear issue-related information, complete with references and annotation from Washington and Lee staff, is provided. The site's name is derived from a U.S. Army project that attempted to discover the extent of the German nuclear weapons research program during Allied offensives in World War II.

The listing of any Web site as a recommended web resource by the NSTA comes only when the website is "authoritative, interactive, and unique," according to NSTA guidelines. Alsos, which has earned these designations, has largely been able to maintain its high qual-

SEE **ALSOS**, PAGE 2

Penn sees more diverse campus in future

BY IMRAN NAEEMULLAH

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Courtney Penn is always dressed sharply, and with his imposingly tall frame, Penn could pass for a football coach dressed as he would be for the big game. Yet Penn is a basketball man, not a football man, and he is the Associate Dean of Students, specializing in upperclassman housing and multicultural affairs. A graduate of Washington & Lee from the Class of 1992, Penn's involvement with Washington and Lee dates back well over a decade. Of course, growing up in Virginia and having his father as an



PENN

alumnus of the Class of 1974, Penn has known about Washington and Lee his entire life. Yet, his path to W&L has not been a direct one.

Back in the late 1980's, when Penn was applying to colleges, he wanted to play Division I basketball, and the top schools that he was looking at were the Naval Academy, VMI, and a couple of other schools in the South. As it turned out, he ended up not wanting to attend the Naval Academy, but instead, he focused his efforts on VMI. While at the school one day, he talked to Verne Canfield, a coach over there who happened to be an admissions officer at Washington and Lee as well. Canfield spent some time talking with Penn, and a lot of time talking with Penn's father, and Penn recalls that he thought Washington and Lee sounded like a nice place to

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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION



Jeb Brooks / The Ring-tum Phi

CHOPPER. The History Channel flew into town this past weekend to film shots for an upcoming episode of *History's Hollywood*, the show that challenges historical accuracy in movies. The episode filmed at W&L this weekend will explore how historically correct *Gods and Generals* filmed in Lexington in 2001, was at portraying VMI life. The production crew was in town for weekend to capture the essence of being a cadet at VMI. Helicopters could be heard all over town Saturday and Sunday. The History channel was the second major network to film in Lexington over the past three months. ABC's *Good Morning America* broadcast live from Lexington on Veteran's Day.

Blacks rush, pledge

NEWS ANALYSIS BY SHARYN REGAN

STAFF WRITER

One hundred percent of African-American students that undertook the rush process this year received and accepted bids to fraternities and sororities, thereby discounting the common attitude that the school's Greek system is racist. This statistic verifies that racial minorities who make the effort to rush can find a place within the much vaunted W&L Greek system.

When examining the problem of racial diversity at W&L, one may now note that much progress has been made to integrate the school. Statistics concerning minorities accepted to the school demonstrate that the number of such students admitted has skyrocketed in comparison to past years. Unfortunately, the extremely high rate of Greek-life participation at W&L has not translated into more minorities joining fraternities and sororities.

Obviously, not every student, minority or otherwise, desires to join a fraternity or sorority. Nonetheless, the fact that the proportion of minority students that even attempt to rush is way below the total number of minorities at W&L suggests that some sort of obstacle exists.

The school has presented Greek organizations as inhospitable toward minorities. The problem may not, however, be the fraternity system. The school may actually be at fault. For example, the Minority Student Association was created to provide group encouragement as well as a social organization for minority students. These assets have been successful in fostering a supportive environment at a cost. As a result of MSA, students are essentially segregated from the predominant social scene at W&L: the Greek system. Washington and Lee is number three, according to the Princeton Review, on a list of schools with "Major Frat and Sorority Scene[s]."

Many fraternities possess progressive attitudes when rushing students and look past a rushee's skin color. For the most part, personal qualities are assessed and fraternity-student compatibility evaluated. Of course, there are exceptions to this. As Michael Denbow pointed out in

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 PENN, FROM PAGE 1

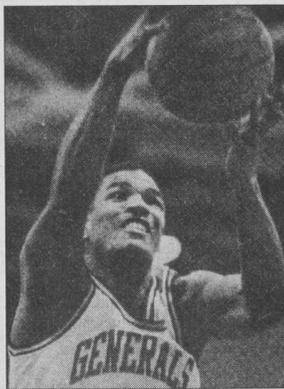


PHOTO COURTESY The Calyx

SHOOTING STAR. Penn played basketball for the Generals as a student in the early 90s.

go to school and applied that evening.

While at W&L, Penn majored in psychology but knew from early on that he was interested in entering the field of education in some way or another. After graduation, he worked for Lynchburg College in their Office of Admissions. While at Lynchburg, he befriended the Dean of Students, who convinced Penn that being a dean was in his future, and helped him line up graduate schools. Penn attended the University of Georgia and earning a Master's degree there.

Somewhere along the way, he recalls getting together with some of his friends from W&L days, all African-American males he recalls, and what happened was, as Penn characterized it, a whining and moaning session. He remembers telling them that if they weren't going to do anything about the problems they remembered from W&L, then they should keep quiet. He thought nothing more of it for a while, but then heard about a job vacancy for a dean at W&L, so he applied for the job. To his surprise, he got the job, so he of course accepted and moved into Payne Hall.

Penn says he has four things he'd like to see happen in the next ten years at W&L. Number one, he says, is to ensure that the vast majority of our traditions are retained and cherished, because he thinks that the atmosphere at this school is "unique and something special." With that said, three things Penn would like to see happen are W&L becoming a more diverse community in every respect, not just racially or geographically; students engaging more in issues that will be of importance in the 21st century; and minority students who attend or have attended Washington and Lee becoming passionate about the school and caring just as much about it as other W&L students and alumni. He stresses that he does not seek drastic change, just small evolutions to make this a more respected, more inclusive and all-around better school.

While he's not busy being dean, Penn spends his time at home in Roanoke with his wife, Angela, and his three-and-a-half-year old son, Thomas. There's also another child on the way; although Penn does not yet know whether it's a boy or a girl, he confessed that Angela really wants a girl. When asked how he feels about the relatively long commute everyday, Penn has no complaints. He says he finds the drive relaxing, and it gives him time to decompress and spend some time with himself, away from it all. Who knows, perhaps one of these days as he's heading down I-81, cruising into the sunset, he'll hit upon the next big idea for Washington and Lee.

This is the first article in a series which will feature in-depth interviews with administrators at Washington & Lee University.

East Asian studies prepares for China-Japan Day

BY MEGAN MORGAN
 SENIOR STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Feb. 1, Washington and Lee University's Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures will sponsor the third annual China-Japan Day. The program will be held from 10 till three in the afternoon at the Red House, located between Lee Chapel and the Robert E. Lee Episcopal Church, and it will have a variety of events that includes presentations, demonstrations and hands-on crafts. Sponsors hope that by hosting this program, they will have an opportunity to reach out both to the W&L and Lexington communities, exposing and educating them on the customs and culture of these two East Asian nations.

Since China/Japan Day will take place on the same day as the Chinese New Years, the day will begin with a presentation on Chinese New Years customs. Other events will include demonstrations on calligraphy, origami and a presentation by Joyce Overhouser on a type of Japanese flower arrangement called "ikebana." Each event will last approximately half an hour. At noon, there will be a cooking demonstration and sampling in which the chef will show the audience how to prepare Japanese sushi as well as two Chinese dishes, dumplings and a dessert called eight treasure pudding.

In addition to providing an opportunity to educate students about Chi-

nese and Japanese culture, this day-long program will also allow the W&L community an opportunity to learn more about the facilities of the Department of East Asian Studies. Because the Red House is in a secluded part of campus, few students know about it. As a result, the administration has been trying to tear it down. However, for students such as Andrew Heath, a W&L sophomore who is giving a presentation on Japanese video games, the house "has a lot of atmosphere and epitomizes the Department of East Asian Studies." He hopes that by hosting this event there, "students will have a chance to experience the Red House" and realize how special it is.

Greeks become more diverse

TOLERANCE, FROM PAGE 1

his infamous article, some fraternities are unwilling to admit African-American students into their organizations. This is a problem, but is it a problem with the entire system or certain fraternities?

There is still the problem of the miniscule number of racial minorities who choose to rush. Thus, W&L should encourage these students to have an open mind, and let them know that their race is not a barrier when joining if they are interested.

It was only two years ago that an African-American student, Quincy Springs, was the president of the Interfraternity Council, which is an elected position. If a minority can obtain such a position, there should be little doubt that similar students could enter a Greek organization if so inclined.

Week honors MLK's life

MLK, FROM PAGE 1

celebrate the events. On Sunday, January 19, the First Baptist Church of Lexington hosted Reverend Dr. P. Vincent Buyck, Sr, in a speech titled "A Celebration of the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." Buyck is the governor and founder of the National College of Complimentary Medicine and Sciences, Inc. (NCCMS) in Washington, D.C.

Monday, the following day, was the day King's birthday is nationally observed, for which Professor Roger Wilkins spoke at the Memorial Address. Wilkins won a Pulitzer Prize in 1972 for his Watergate coverage, and is currently the Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History and American Culture at George Mason University. He has written for both *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, and in addition has served as Assistant Attorney General, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Africa America Institute, and is a member of the Board of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. The

Memorial Address was held at Lee Chapel and followed by a candlelight march and reception.

The week ended today with a panel discussion in the Northern Auditorium, titled "The Notion of Fraternity in King's letter from the Birmingham Jail." Dr. Harlan Beckley, Rev. Andrea Cornett-Scott and Pastor LaVert H. Taylor led the discussion. Beckley is a professor at Washington and Lee. Cornett-Scott is the Director of African American Affairs and Pastor of Christ Our Redeemer Church in Staunton, and Taylor is Pastor at the First Baptist Church of Lexington. The discussion of King's letter from the Birmingham Jail is sponsored by the Minority Student Association and the Associate Dean of Students.

Associate Dean Courtney Penn said about planning the week, "our goal was to provide people with three different perspectives - academic, religious, and spiritual - from which to examine and celebrate King's legacy."

ALSOS, FROM PAGE 1

ity due to support from the National Science Foundation. The NSF provided the original startup grant of \$224,000 in 2000, enabling the site to go online in 2002. An additional grant of \$300,000 was made last September.

Due to its extensive funding from the NSF, the Alsos website has become an integral part of the NSF's \$40 million National Science Digital Library, a collection of Web sites similar to Alsos covering a vast range of scientific topics designed to cater to the needs of students and teachers from elementary school to graduate studies.

Alsos maintains a high standard of quality, stating on-site, that "The library integrates indexed references into a structured collection that allows users to examine nuclear issues

from many perspectives. Its goal is to provide references for the study of the Manhattan Project and its consequences to a broad audience. The materials referenced include books, articles, videos, and Web sites. The library strengthens the quality of education by connecting different disciplines, issues, and ideas involving nuclear issues as well as providing resources for specific disciplines. The indexing system and searching tools facilitate the exploration of these materials for general readers and specialists alike. A clear, intuitive user interface allows the user to navigate the library."

In the future, the Alsos site hopes to intergrate an auxiliary Web site, "Nuclear Connections," which will be a faculty resource for teachers and professors who are addressing nuclear issues in all educational levels.

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ASSISTANT ALUMNI DIRECTOR FOR ON-LINE COMMUNICATIONS

The Washington and Lee Alumni Office announces the opening for the position of Assistant Alumni Director for On-Line Communications. Responsibilities include: oversight of "Colonnade Connections," W&L's Alumni On-Line Community, maintaining and updating that service's design, and utilizing its "blast" email capabilities in communicating with the entire alumni population (or segments thereof); serve as liaison to the on-line community provider (including participating in conferences) and other campus web users; design and maintain Alumni Office homepages and websites working closely with the Communications department; assist with creating content for Alumni homepage; assist Career Services with their homepage and website design; serve as advisor and secretary to Kathekon, W&L's Student Alumni Association; answer requests for alumni lists and research projects; compose obituaries for the alumni magazine; create the 25th reunion Calyx; aid in general alumni office planning for homecoming, reunion and alumni chapter events. Travel involved.

The position will become available June 15, 2003, and preference will be given to W&L alumni and 2003 degree candidates. All candidates for this position should submit a cover letter and resume no later than Friday, February 7, 2003. All materials should be sent to:

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MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2003

THE RING-TUM PHI
OPINIONS

THE RING-TUM PHI
STAFF EDITORIAL

Lip Synch has limits

Nearly fifty years ago, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan famously wrote that sex and obscenity are not synonymous.

Nonetheless, the acts by Kappa Sigma and Phi Delta Theta at Friday's Lip Synch competition would have left no doubt even with prickly Justice Brennan due to their sheer lewdness, suggestive nature and downright vulgarity.

According to Brennan's opinion in *Roth v. United States*, obscenity has a tendency to excite lustful thoughts. Kappa Sigma, exceeding even the pornography salesman charged in that case, began the evening with an interpretation of Meatloaf that degenerated into bestiality and graphic representations of sex acts involving fruit.

Phi Delta Theta, unbelievably, was able to outdo its predecessors by demonstrating homosexual sex, oral sex, group sex and masochism. One wonders how proud the pledges will be thirty years from now when their gross display is still captured on videotape.

The rules of the Lip Synch competition specifically forbade obscene and vulgar acts. Although the organizers failed to outline exactly what was and was not acceptable, students bright enough to attend Washington and Lee are certainly intelligent enough to demarcate limits for themselves. Every other act abided by this distinction.

We wish the organizers of the contest had had the courage to defend what standards Lip Synch has and had pulled these two offending acts off the stage. These two juvenile expressions of vulgarity should have been stopped immediately because when they were allowed to proceed, they disgraced the charitable purpose of Lip Synch and insulted all the groups that had planned and practiced creative, appealing, appropriate acts.

Again this year, Lip Synch was a fun event that brought together the student body in support of a worthy cause. We herald the organizers and volunteers whose effort and dedication made the competition a success. Shame on Kappa Sigma and Phi Delta Theta for so tarnishing an otherwise excellent evening. Their behavior only gives credence to those voices that criticize fraternities for degrading our fair University.

Quote of the Week

"As far as we are concerned, war always means failure and therefore everything must be done to avoid war."

~French President Jacques Chirac

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The Ring-tum Phi
Mailing Address: University Center
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia 24450
Street Address: 31 Washington Street
Lexington, Virginia 24450
Telephone: (540) 462-4060
Fax: (540) 462-4059
Email: phi@wlu.edu
http://phi.wlu.edu

Abortion kills children

Last Wednesday was the 30th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, that, in an astonishing power grab by the Supreme Court, overthrew the abortion laws of our nation. Ignoring its lack jurisdiction and discovering a previously unknown "right to privacy" the court fulfilled liberals' dreams by making infanticide legal.

Abortion's politics are discussed elsewhere on this page, but this day of death truly calls us not to remember battles won and lost in the courts, but to memorialize the millions of children that have been murdered since this horrific practice was legalized nationwide and decry the barbaric practices used to snuff these lights of humanity before they ever had a chance to shine.

Most estimates place the number of deaths by abortion around 42 million. Even today, although the number of abortions has been declining for 10 years, nearly one out of every four babies is murdered in the womb. Terribly, this scourge hits minority populations especially hard. Almost 13 million of the murdered children were black.

Somewhat unsurprisingly, a description of common abortion techniques brings into macabre color the murderous aspect of the practice and shockingly dissuades doubters that fetuses are indeed living humans no less deserving of life than we are.

Suction and Aspiration: A vacuum is inserted in the uterus and the fetus is sucked out. Since the child must be detached from the wall of the womb the suction tube has a sharp end used to cut and tear the baby.

Dilation and Curettage: A loop-shaped knife is used to chop the child still in the womb before the pieces are removed.

Dilation and Evacuation: Saline solution is injected into the womb to kill the child. Labor, which is unusually painful, is induced using Prostaglandin so the mother gives birth to a dead baby.

Partial-birth Abortion: After using ultrasound to locate the child's legs, calipers are used to deliver the child up to the head. Then, scissors are inserted into the skull and the child's brain is torn out. The head collapses and the now dead child is delivered completely. This procedure is usually performed on fully-developed children and is legal throughout all three trimesters.



Survivors. On Wednesday, adopted children rallied for life at the County Courthouse.

What is purpose of these cruel, grisly practices that leave babies shredded? Is it convenience, freedom, an escape from irresponsibility? As National Public Radio contributor Frederica Mathews-Green noted, abortion was heralded as bringing freedom to women and praised as a recognition that women would no longer be forced to shoulder unwanted pregnancy. But before abortion was commonplace, a woman who became pregnant accidentally had a support network including parents, friends, the father, the church and her neighborhood. Now, a woman is expected to go and take care of the "problem" herself. Abortion has not liberated women, but made them suffer difficult pregnancies alone.

Moreover, abortion transmogrifies what should be the truest expression of love—that between a woman and her child. Abortion has transformed them into enemies, each fighting for his rights. Children are not a disease that can be cut from the body like a cancer, but the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League

(NARAL) and the National Organization for Women have taught women to hate themselves and their offspring with their message of abortion-on-demand.

In addition, today, supposedly all the children born are "wanted" children. If this is so, why has the rate of child abuse catapulted in the last 30 years? Is it perhaps because children are no longer gifts from God to be cherished and protected, but are mere "choices" delivered at the whim of mothers. How does one explain to a four or five-year-old who looks almost identical to an aborted fetus that they are human but the dead baby is a lifeless lump of cells that can be killed?

This is not to mention the health risks to women who undergo abortions. Complicated future pregnancies and an increased risk of breast cancer are just the start.

Congratulations go to Patricia Heaton of *Everybody Loves Raymond* who spoke on Wednesday saying that abortion means we have failed women. When 1.5 million abortions occur each year, we truly have failed and not only women, but children, fathers and life itself.

Pro-lifers look to save Constitution

It's not on any calendar I've ever seen, but January 22 marks a truly macabre holiday for some political activists. *Roe v. Wade*, the holiest of grails for liberals and their ilk, became the law of the land on that day in 1973. What has devolved from the pro-abortion forces' initial glee is an annual "celebration" of women's "right to privacy."

Whether or not abortion should be legal or illegal is one question. Whether or not the Supreme Court should be making that decision is another. The court, governing by judicial fiat in 1973, substituted its opinion of what public policy should be for what the legislative branch of government said public policy will be.

The court added insult to injury years later by refusing to reverse itself. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the justices as much as admitted that *Roe* was, at best, questionable, but they declined to overturn it, citing "stare decisis," a legal term which calls on courts to stand by precedent, even if they disagree with it. If the court had applied the same logic to *Brown vs. Board of Education* in the 1950s, *Plessy v. Ferguson* would never have been overturned and the schools would still be segregated. The court can't

even decide if it's precedent to follow precedent.

But the court of public opinion is beginning to diverge from the highest court in the land. A recent survey by ABC News and *The Washington Post* showed that just 54 percent of people surveyed agreed in whole or in part with the Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe*. That's down from 65 percent just 10 years ago. You don't have to be a math major to see which way that statistic is trending. Additionally, most of the people surveyed displayed a desire for the government to make it harder for women to get an abortion—regardless of whether they thought it should be legal or not.

With the current trend of protect-abortion-at-all costs, the support for abortion will probably erode even further. In many states, frenzied lobbying on behalf of the liberal left has limited—or outright restricted—parental-notification laws. In these instances, the strange reality exists that a minor has to get permission from her parents if she wants to get an aspirin at school, but not if she wants to end her pregnancy. How many parents will be able to stom-

ach this reality, even if they support abortion rights generally?

The ironic part of the abortion debate is that the same people, liberals, who so vehemently defend the right to abort as implicit in the "penumbra" of the Constitution (penumbra, the aura around an eclipse, that is) rage against other constitutionally protected actions. These same people

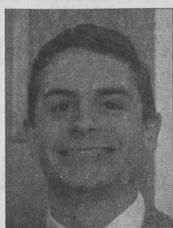
who defend abortion oppose the right to own firearms, a right which doesn't require "penumbras" to be clearly expressed in the Bill of Rights. The gospel according to the liberals seems that implicit Constitutional rights are defensible, but explicit Constitutional rights are not worth defending.

Are there times, such as when the mother's life is at stake, when abortion should be allowed? Perhaps. That would be a great debate for our legislative bodies, and a policy area in which our elected officials could really show their mettle and make a difference. Unfortunately, it's a debate that our elected representatives won't have, because on January 22, 1973, nine old men in Washington, DC had it for us.

RIGHT OF THE AISLE
BRETT T. KIRWAN '04

RIGHT ON!
JOHN H. HEATH '04

TALKBACK: What was your favorite Lip Synch act?



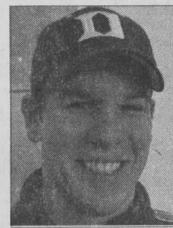
"Pi Beta Phi."
-Drew Davenport '06



"Theta Ghetto Girls and SPE's act. It was adorable."
-Jessica Lloyd '06



"The Ace of Base medley rocked the house."
-Nazo Burgy '06



"KD's Michael Jackson."
-Shane Newhouser '06



"It was an amazing first W&L experience."
-Vicky Sproh '06 Harvard

Safe Place follows tradition of W&L

This past week's *Trident* had two very noteworthy pieces, neither of which were actually written by a member of the staff itself. The first of these two items was the reprint of the *Phi*'s editorial from April of 1968. The second was another letter from alumnus David Keeling '73.

I have strayed from this editorial chess match, until now. Mr. Keeling, your king will fall.

I am eager to know if Keeling read the aforementioned staff editorial from the week of Martin Luther King's assassination. The piece points out that just seven years before King's death, the University's Board of Trustees refused to allow Dr. King to speak on the Washington and Lee campus. The point made by the *Phi* staff was that, following this decision, the memorial held for King, just above the remains of the deceased Confederate general, was greatly significant.

This was a moment of change in the university's history. In fact, the situation of today is quite similar. Here, we have an alumnus upset because Safe Place is on campus and he was not informed.

But, what is so horrible about an organization that provides counseling to teens and young adults dealing with issues ranging from suicide, eating disorders, sexual identity, etc.? This is an organization that helps protect people... to keep them safe. I believe that message is in the title of the organization.

Yes, Safe Place helps youth dealing with homosexuality. Such a thing does have a place on General Lee's campus. Just as the elders of the Washington and Lee society were wrong in keeping Dr. King from speaking on campus in 1961, they are wrong now in 2003 by trying to keep Safe Place off this campus.

Statistically speaking, it is damn near impossible that there would be no homosexual students on this campus. Just as it is also preposterous to think that there were no homosexual students on campus during Keeling's years at Washington and Lee.

What is Keeling's counter to this argument? "And yes, American society has changed since the days of Washington and Lee, but the Christian faith has not."

However, in the Old Testament, the recognized point would be the tale of Sodom and Gomorrah. The language used in the Bible is that the inhabitants of the town wanted the strangers brought out so they may "know" them. Tracing the language back to its original translation, there is no conclusive evidence to say that these people were anything more than curious as to whom these people were.

Furthermore, according to the Bible, the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah were wicked. This could mean almost anything. There are many religious scholars, members of the clergy and rabbis who believe the sin of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah was being inhospitable.

As for the New Testament; what did Jesus have to say about homosexuality? Check the red print in your leather-bound book. Jesus said nothing about homosexuality. *Nothing*. He only taught love and acceptance. That seems to have a place in this discussion.

Another argument made by Keeling is that sodomy is a crime in Virginia. On this campus, heterosexuals engage in "sodomy" much more than same-sex couples do.

So, Mr. Keeling, if you have grievances with how Washington Hall communicates with the alumni of the school, take it to them. Do not come after students such as Kelly Jo Larsen, the members of GSA (which includes myself) or those responsible for Safe Place. These students are only trying to promote an environment of tolerance and mutual respect among different students.

This is not Bob Jones University. Lee and Washington were wonderful Christian men. However, this is not a Christian university. Also, using religion for this argument is a shaky foundation in itself.

As for Keeling's claim that Safe Place "show(s) how the liberal agenda has brought shame to W&L, a smear on its good character," is it not the idea of a liberal arts education to bring together people of all different sorts to expand their minds in many disciplines? Organizations like Safe Place only try to ensure that all students can walk this campus with their heads held high, being honorable and honest about the people they really are.

Apparently, the administration was correct to fear the reactions of certain alumni. Keeling illustrates that there exists among them, those whose narrow-minded view see Safe Place as something smearing this great school's character. How sad for you, Mr. Keeling.

Bush not consistent on affirmative action

President Bush's stance on affirmative action at the University of Michigan represents a very narrow-minded opinion that ignores potential consequences. By labeling Michigan's policies as simply "unconstitutional," Bush has proscribed a simple solution to an issue that is not so simple. Although no bastion of support for affirmative action and diversity-enhancing initiatives, I question some of the implications of policy that could potentially stem from the Bush Administration's brief.

At the University of Michigan, a 150 point "selection index" determines whether students will get an offer of admission. One hundred points usually is sufficient to gain admission. In order to increase ethnic diversity, Michigan gives a 20 point bonus to blacks, Hispanics and American Indians.

Conservatives like President Bush hold that equality for all Americans means selection based on qualifications. But, people like Bush, Al Gore and many others benefited from affirmative action themselves. Because this type of affirmative action is called the "legacy preference," however, it seems to be more acceptable to the President. In the University of Michigan selection index, four points are given to those who have had a family member attend the school. Most likely, legacies with qualifications (and educational opportunities) similar to these applicants who now argue before the Supreme Court took the slots to which these applicants lay claim. For example, the University of Virginia (another state institution), accepts 52 percent of legacies, but only 36 percent of other applicants. Why doesn't the Bush Administration denounce this practice in the interest of consistency? Based

COMMON SENSE
Φ JONATHAN WORTHAM '04

upon Bush's doctrine of judging everything based on qualifications, he should also be opposed to the legacy preference, which would have left him and his relatively mediocre SAT scores out of Yale. Sen. John Edwards correctly denounced the "legacy preference" as "a birthright out of 18th century aristocracy, not 21st century American democracy."

Other kinds of diversity would also be impacted if the Bush principle were upheld. Any school would be a very boring place if everyone there were from the same city. Thus, qualifications must be taken into account with other factors to arrive at a class that will spread the University's teaching across the country and the world after graduation. Universities benefit when graduates take leadership positions in their respective countries. Thus, geographic diversity is vital to making a university an interesting, diverse place that produces leaders in the various disciplines and locations.

The Bush Administration's comments, unfortunately, could have significant ramifications. The legacy preference is a perfectly acceptable practice that allows universities to maintain alumni donations and build upon tradition. Likewise, carefully planned affirmative action plans (like Michigan's) are perfectly acceptable plans to increase diversity and extend opportunities to those who have not been so fortunate. Both practices help make American colleges and universities the envy of the world, and I think both should continue. But, if the Bush Administration wrongly sees the University of Michigan system as unconstitutional, then it should be consistent in advocating solely qualifications-based admissions practices.

Bush: Resolve North Korea first

Our foreign policy at the current moment seems, to me, a bit confused. As the tone of the United States-Iraq conflict becomes more and more tense, one cannot help but think of the more severe problems that await American attention on the Korean peninsula.

Think of the amazing polarity of the differences between the two rogue states. We suspect Iraq of possession of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, yet have nothing but circumstantial evidence to hand to the rest of the world as yet. North Korea, on the other hand, admits that it has several working nuclear weapons, and in truth flaunts this fact in open defiance of United Nations resolutions, international treaties and repeated warnings from the Western countries.

Iraq poses no serious threat to its neighbors at the moment; United States conventional forces in the area (even prior to the large military buildup) would have been sufficient to prevent a repetition of Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, or any other Middle Eastern neighbor. Additionally, Hussein knows the severe consequences he would suffer if he began more open hostilities—a definite removal from power, and a most-likely permanent regime change in the Iraqi government.

North Korea, though it shares one of the smallest borders on the planet with its southern, democratic neighbor, keeps that border the most heavily guarded one in existence (and vice versa). North Korea has a significant, though slightly antiquated military force that could most likely overpower South Korea's conventional forces and present a situation very similar to that of the late 1940s and early 1950s at the start of the Korean War. Additionally, North Korea poses a confirmed nuclear threat to South Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Japan, Thailand, and Suriname. It is overwhelmingly unlikely that Iraq has such potential.

Thus, I find it mind-boggling that the current Presidential administration is choosing to deal with the Iraq problem first. I can think of no logical motivation for doing so. The official explanation from President Bush is that "diplomacy" is still a viable option in North Korea, whereas "all diplomatic resources have been exhausted" in Iraq.

Frankly, I don't recall any official visit by any important U.S. State Department figure to Iraq to see if a mutually-acceptable compromise could be reached. All I remember is the United States collaborating with



Photo Courtesy: www.usda.com
DANGEROUS. Kim Jong Il is a greater threat than Hussein.

its allies within the United Nations to buildup support for a United Nations declaration that was effectively an ultimatum to Iraq, which, thankfully, they have complied with to a sufficient degree.

Yet we keep on sending diplomat after diplomat to Pyongyang and to Kim Jong Il, whose propagandist epithets against the U.S. ("die in a rain of fire") sound not at all different from Saddam Hussein's. The only real justifiable explanation I can think of is that Hussein is by far the more deplorable leader in terms of human rights. This is a man who has strapped babies to tanks in order to cause opposing soldiers to think twice about firing on them, after all.

Kim has done nothing of quite that degree, though his human rights slate is clear by no means. Yet the Bush administration has not presented this reasoning as an explanation. I certainly hope that there is a justifiable explanation that I don't know about, and not just the one proposed by some who are slightly more liberal than I: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not export anything terribly rare or valuable, whereas Iraq has a significant amount of oil, oil that is controlled by an unfriendly source at the moment. Some would argue that President Bush is willing to sacrifice American lives for a more favorable oil and economic position, but I'm not willing to be so cynical....yet.

It is my hope that President Bush and his staff realize the futility of attacking Iraq before silencing the belligerency of North Korea, or at least provide a more tangible reason for proceeding with the current order of things. Lives depend upon it.

MODERATE'S MUSINGS
Φ CALEY ANDERSON '06

An Open Letter to the Washington and Lee Community

The S.A.R.A.H. Committee would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Students, Faculty, Staff and Administration who participated in one way or another with the 2003 Lip Synch competition. We start with all of the wonderful attendees of the event, the spectacular participants, and of course our great judges: Liz Brown, Professor Ted DeLaney, Dan Grattan, Curtis Matthews, Trey Packard, and Dean Dawn Watkins.

Our long list continues. We also extend our many thanks to the Physical Plant Teams, Publications, Dining Services, The President's Office, The Dean of Students Office, Security, the Journalism and Mass Communications Department, Professor Bob De Maria, Laurie Lipscomb, The Morris House, The Lee House, and the Washington and Lee Alumni Association. As any outsider would observe, it is amazing how the entire W&L Community jointly reaches out to help with this worthy cause—"Students Against Rockbridge Area Hunger."

Without the aforementioned groups and individuals plus the unbelievable assistance and support from the IFC, Panhellenic, and all of the W&L fraternities and sororities this would not be the success that it is.

When the dust settles, and all of our bills are paid, we will quickly inform you of the exact number of tons of food we were able to purchase for Rockbridge area residents, due to your support and generosity.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we would also like to thank *The Trident* and *The Ring-tum Phi* for the pre-event publicity. This greatly helps with the student turnout at Lip Synch. Again, we thank all of you, and we look forward to a successful Lip Synch 2004.

Sincerely Yours,
Wes McRae '03--S.A.R.A.H. President
Ansel Sanders '04--S.A.R.A.H. Vice President
Thomas Worthy '05--S.A.R.A.H. Secretary
John T. Taffe--S.A.R.A.H. Advisor



Body image support group begins

A support group sponsored by the University Counseling Service will be meeting weekly for women who are dealing with body image/disordered eating, and/or compulsive exercise. If you are facing any of these problems in your daily life, you are invited to join this confidential group which meets weekly. Each member will sign an agreement of confidentiality at the first meeting. Please call Carol Calkins at x8590 or e-mail calkins@wlu.edu to learn the startup date, time, and location.

W&L to host desegregation conference

In 1953, the U.S. Supreme Court announced it would take on the legality of segregated public schools—shocking blacks and whites alike as they wrestled their emotions and fears for their children with the ideal and the realities of equality.

The court's landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling was a Civil Rights milestone—and the launch pad of a legacy so troubled and contentious that *The New York Times* recently headlined a piece examining it "American Apartheid."

That 2001 headline prefaced the *Times*' review of renowned historian James T. Patterson's acclaimed book examining the hopes - and failures - that the *Brown* decision wrought and continues to bring, with the Supreme Court deciding this spring whether race is an acceptable consideration in college admissions.

This winter, joined by Patterson, Washington and Lee University will open the nation's 50th anniversary debate on the impact—and continuing controversy—surrounding the court's landmark desegregation ruling on American society.

Washington and Lee uniquely lays claim to enrolling in 1795 the first black American college student, John Chavis, as well as graduating the attorney, John W. Davis, who argued against desegregation on South Carolina's behalf in *Brown*.

The March 20-21 conference, named in honor of Chavis, the W&L alumnus and first college educated African-American in U.S. history, features speakers including Patterson, William A. Darity Jr., Michael Klarman, Daryl Scott, Constance Curry and Kara Miles-Turner.

"Brown v. Board of Education: A Fifty Year Retrospective," will include faculty participants and significant participation from W&L's 2,160 students.

TOTALLY NAKED PHILOSOPHY

(Philosophy stripped of all its encumbrances, ephemera and esoterica)

Philosophy—n. 1. Love and pursuit of wisdom by intellectual means and moral self-discipline. 2. Investigations of the nature, causes, or principles of reality, knowledge or values, based on logical reasoning rather than empirical methods. 3. A system of values by which one lives.

Welcome to:
"SOCRATES CAFE"

- A moderated, open forum for the discussion of ideas
- A place where the only answer is the right question
- For people who want to bring questions of their own—and leave with more questions than they brought.

7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 6th.

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Now's the time to join the fun at

Francis Beaumont's

The Knight of the Burning Pestle

Imagine Homer and Marge Simpson buying tickets to a Chekov play, climbing on stage with Bart, and trying to turn it into "Indiana Jones." *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* is a rollicking comedy.

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kjh, btk, eej & jgb

Scrutiny melts wax museum

BY HAYNES KING
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

This week's trip destination: the Natural Bridge Wax Museum. I am not sure where I should even start with this overdone tourist trap. I have to say that I am glad that I can now tell people that I've actually been there, but I'm even prouder to say that I did not have to waste my money on the visit. Thanks Ring-tum Phi.

If you are looking for a history lesson somewhere other than in a book, then the Wax Museum will cover just about every period of history you can possibly imagine. Beginning with the "Garden of Eden" and going up to the "War Between the States," the Natural Bridge Wax Museum provides life-like figures of those who lived through and participated in all these situations and more.

The only problem with this scenario is just how life-like they actually are. I'm trying to find a more literary word, but the only thing I can come up with is "creepy." That's right; I was thoroughly creeped out throughout the entire tour. While turning a corner to move on to the next educational scene, I was quite shocked to see two other fellow tourists standing at the railing, apparently enjoying the wax creations. However, to my surprise, upon closer inspection I discovered that these two tourists were simply another part of the exhibit. I wasn't sure whether I wanted to keep on with the tour or turn around and sprint out of the building. I waited nearly five minutes before deciding the two men were definitely harmless wax figures themselves. While this reaction is clearly what the creators wanted, I do not think they had intended to impart the uncomfortable and uneasy feeling I experienced during the tour. Of course, they wanted people to think that their creations were living, breathing humans, just like the numerous tourists that they lure in.

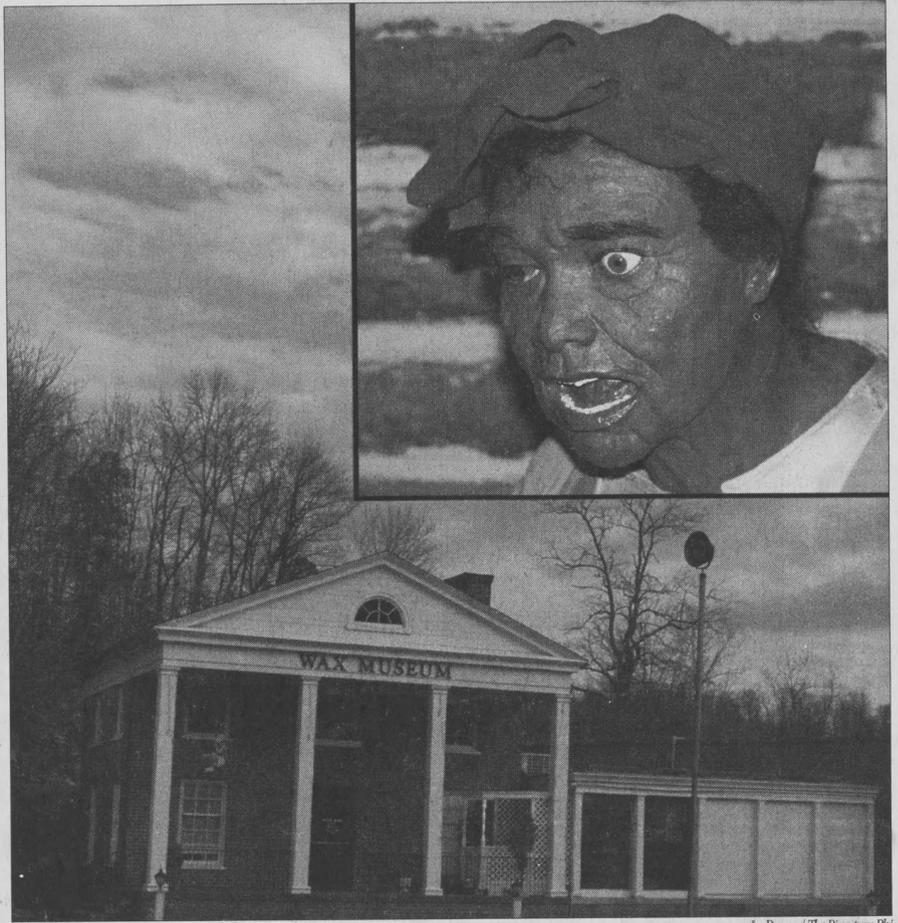
The climax of the tour comes at the end with a sit down viewing of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last

Supper". Interesting to me is the fact that the first scene is the "Garden of Eden" at the start of the tour. The last scene is a life-size recreation of one of the most famous and beautiful paintings of history. The religious undertones of this exhibit are in no way subtle. At nearly all of the scenes, a recorded voice describes the setting and explains in more detail the history and background behind each of the eerily life-like creations.

I imagine that the creators hope that people will appreciate all of the time and effort that goes in to the production of these settings. In fact, it is possible for visitors who are so inclined to tour the factory floor to see the wax artisans at work. Needless to say, we declined that opportunity. I definitely understand the skill and dedication required for the artisan craft of wax figure making, but my memories of a terrifying movie from my youth kept me from enjoying the museum as thoroughly as one would hope. Perhaps you remember the film "Wax Works". I think I must have seen this movie at too young an age, because I never got that uncomfortable feeling out of my stomach. The museum was not scary, nor did it intend to be. Like I said earlier, it was just plain creepy.

I don't think this is really a good place to take a date, unless you or your potential date happen to be weird. Sorry to be blunt. All in all, Jeb and I decided that the Wax Museum deserved 2 tridents, the half is for the the bragging rights of actually having been to the wax museum We're glad we experienced it, but it lost a good review when we were crept out by it.

Haynes and Jeb give the Wax Museum 2 1/2 out of 5 Tridents.



Jeb Brooks/The Ring-tum Phi

CREEPY: This waxen maiden (insert) enjoys being a captive in the wax museum (background) about as much as we did.



THE GUY NEXT DOOR

BY SAM LAGRONE
VMI DESK

Sports fans, welcome to the end of an era.

The buzz in Barracks is not about the war in Iraq, our new Airborne superintendent (that enough stars to form the constellation 'tough guy') and the oral arguments in Richmond for VMI's prayer at dinner policy.

They have all been eclipsed by the departure of our b-ball wunderkind, Jason Conley.

Just as Pat Conroy's brilliant retrospective look at his career as a team player at The Citadel in, 'My Losing Season,' was picking up steam, Conley decided to pull stakes for the University of Missouri, smack-dab in the middle of the season.

Most of the corps is crying fink at his move to Missouri, especially after his bold, declarative, nationally published statements that he would remain at VMI to finish out school.

There were no hints to his sudden departure. It was like he was jumping the Berlin wall to escape the Soviets. VMI has to be embarrassed. Conley's face is plastered on every calendar, basketball poster and a series of billboards. For a brief but shining season VMI was the gee-whiz story on the national sports scene. He led the NCAA in points per game and started drawing the attention of

the country to a school best known for teaching young men and women to blow things up. We had hope for a revival of the VMI basketball that existed 25 years ago when former Keydet and L.A. Laker, Ron Carter owned all the paint in the Southern Conference. *The Roanoke Times* reported that Carter, who had talked to Conley often in the past, wasn't consulted about the transfer.

"I was very disappointed. I thought it was an unfortunate decision" to leave, Carter said to *The Roanoke Times*.

"He could've made the transition to the NBA right from VMI. He was already on the radar screens of many of the teams. He was not going to be overlooked."

Carter stuck it out for the Corps, the team and the school. We thought Conley would do the same before he up and played free agent.

To give him credit, Jason had a remarkably and graceful style when he hit the court. Handling the ball for him was natural as walking is for the rest of us. Imagine watching a swan move across the surface of a crystal pond gliding effortlessly, beautifully and then jumping four feet in the air for a gorilla dunk and squawking, "Whose the ugly duckling now, fool!" People who knew him said he was a nice guy.

He made basketball at VMI fun to watch. The most entertainment

Pre-Conley came from Mark Grigsby. His defensive style could be best described as the spastic squirrel. Watching him dart around, frantically waving his arms in front of the full court press was immensely entertaining. He looked like Prince Nutsy of the Knotty Pine Forest trying to snag falling acorns. He was a very nice guy too.

Back to square one.

We're left with a team that was built around a talented young man who is absent. Clutch fast breaks that ended in who's-your-daddy-dunks now end in turnovers. The team still has a lot of heart. Players like Zach Batte, Ben Rand and Radee Skipworth work as hard as they can with a great drive-on attitude. Sure we're going to lose a whole bunch more games this year. But winning was never a big part of Keydet sports. It's all about sharing dashed hopes, pain and hardships together as we rally around the most self-deprecating fight song in history that states, "to win seems in vain."

In the end, there is no "I" in team, or the Corps.

There sure are a lot of "I's" in, "University of Missouri is a winning program."

Contact Sam LaGrone: lagronesr@vmi.edu

Four Seasons showcases grace, poise of W&L ballerinas

Before reading this column, I'd like to note two things: first of all, I am speaking on behalf of my own experiences as a ballerina in combination with myself as an observer in the audience of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. I also use Victoria Guroian's reflections as a ballerina for another source. Second of all, I use the female pronoun throughout the article. This is not a form of discrimination against male ballerinas. After all, if there were no male ballerinas, where would the romantic aspect of the ballet exist? Rather, I use the pronoun "she" because in W&L's performance of *Four Seasons*, all the ballerinas are female.

I don't think anyone realizes the strength, skill, and talent of a ballerina (that is, unless one has been there herself). Ballet dancing

is not simply waving one's arms around to the sound of music. It is not interpretive-dancing nor is it merely jumping around in a tutu. Ballet dancing involves perfection and elegance of the highest degree. To perform the dance is not enough. Rather, she must perform with pointed feet, straightened legs, arched back, uplifted chest, a "tucked-in" tummy, and softly moving arms, all maintained under the poise of a swan, graceful and beautiful to the eyes of the audience. It is a talent that takes years to perfect and a skill that once maintained, is loved by all who perform.

But the realities of dancing are not easily disregarded. Endless

hours of practicing the same moves over and over again until memorized and immaculate constitute the ballerina's schedule. Shaking and tired muscles, sore buttocks, bleeding toes and blistered feet make walking quite difficult and awkward when she leaves the studio. Yet no one would ever know, except the ballerina herself and perhaps those who see her afterwards. The audience does not know the practice nor do they see the physical pain - after all, neither of these are part of the dance.

So why - why does she subject herself to these physical pains and the mental stresses of perfection? For one reason and one reason only: a

passion for the art of ballet. And so, on performance day, whatever skin remains on her bloody toes is bandaged, the sore muscles are creamed, and tired eyes are concealed with the stroke of a make-up brush, all in preparation for her performance on stage.

The moment the music commences, it's as though a certain mood, a certain persona, arises within the ballerina. She submits herself to the power of the music. The pain, the worries, and the stress are left somewhere behind the set, in the dressing room. The reality of the stage transforms itself. This is

the moment - this is the reason why she dances - it is her chance to express her innermost emotions and escape into a dream world where love conquers all and evil, pain, and worry cease to exist.

Though she may not realize it, she constitutes the beauty of the piece - elegance shining through the movement of her body to the harmony of the music.

The melody is inside her. She is an instrument for the composer, portraying the emotions he sought to convey. She does it beautifully, but at the same time, she uses the composer, the piece, and the music as an instrument for her own self-expression.

As for the audience, the ballerinas seem like angels floating in the sky, untouched by the realities of everyday life. While performing and dancing in their own whimsical worlds, they possess the power to bring the audience with them - on a journey to these Shakespearean-like fantasy lands of unreality, transforming the entire world and its realities into a sublime and beautiful dream.

For all of the ballerinas who performed in Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, I'd like to say thank you. Thank you for showing us life from a truly graceful perspective, and though it was just a moment, thank you for taking us into a world away from the everyday stresses of reality - a world where the beautiful prevails.

Independents defy Greek expectations

Well it finally happened. Naively, I had hoped that I could get through this school year without catalyzing the controversy that my ex-roommate Mr. Denbow so loves to kick up. But I suppose there is always that risk when you present your thoughts for public consumption.

But in this case, I promise my intentions were a little more benevolent. After a certain freshman girl proofread my article two weeks ago, she suggested that I mention that Rush Week reveals no real truths about the personalities and lives of independents. Of course, I agreed with her, but I told her that I was already planning on writing an article to that effect. Here is that article, a week late (I found it rather difficult to write while I was in an Ultimate Frisbee tournament last weekend).

Andrew Stein was one of the first people I met at W&L. He loved to play Ultimate and also played in the jazz band. He is probably one of the most genuine people I've ever met. Rian Lewis has certainly one of the funniest personalities I've ever experienced. I considered Andrew Fotinos one of my closest friends freshman year. The soccer team would clearly suffer without the contributions of Garreth Westead. Dustin Albright virtually runs Leyburn Library by himself. Sarah Grigg still says hi, even though we virtually see each other once every six months or so. And if you met Lucy Frick and didn't think she was the greatest person of all time, then you would be on crack. Finally, the one person I've been closer to out of anyone EVER was a certain independent girl.

Since so many tend to view W&L in terms of its dominance by Greeks, it becomes tragically easy to miss the contributions of independents. Some frat boys and srat girls probably couldn't give the name of 10 indies they know in Lexington. I am not going to hide the truth, that some members of the Greek system prefer to ignore the existence of independents all together. But there is a more practical difficulty. Often Greek members become so submerged in their houses that they simply don't have much contact with independents. I've been fortunate enough to avoid this situation; my involvement with Ultimate Frisbee and musical ensembles keeps me in a contact with at least a few independents that I'm happy to have met.

The Greek mindset also would have us believe that many independents were simply Rush Week casualties. If you believe this, come back to reality - there are millions of other reasons why people CHOOSE (what a shocking concept) to go independent:

For one, fraternities at this place are ridiculously expensive. I'm on a full scholarship, and the only reason I was able to join my house was through the generosity of my parents. In Lexington, people with financial concerns are in the clear minority - not all of us drive SUVs and live off of daddy's millions. Then there is the grades issue - some are unable to join "legally" because of grade concerns. In addition, some prefer not to join because they fear their grades will suffer. After all, we are here to learn, first and foremost. Some people get accepted initially, but then refuse to endure the demeaning aspects of pledgship. Some folks don't rush because of a simple lifestyle choice - they simply choose to avoid the more negative aspects of fraternity life. All of these choices and situations are undeniably valid, and if W&L wasn't the unique place it is, I'd be

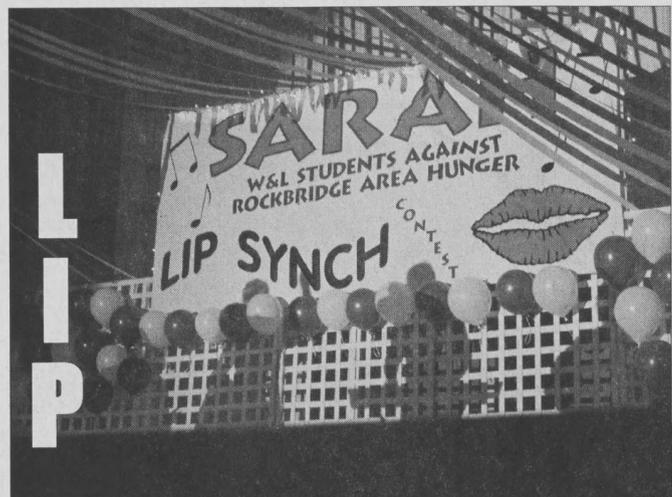
willing to bet that more of us frat boys and srat girls would be making the same choices.

Unfortunately, there are some who have no choice but to go independent as a result of Rush Week bid sessions. And as I said previously, these decisions have no bearing on whether the individual in question is "good enough." Indeed, I argued that some don't get in simply because one jerk decides to keep him or her out. To imply that everyone should change his or her personality was admittedly a mistake. But I stand by this message - we could all use improving, and perhaps Rush Week could be an indicator (albeit an unreliable one) to some that they could improve something within themselves.

I claim no superiority from being in a fraternity. In fact, I'm a member of a fraternity that has long suffered because others have claimed superiority over us. If I chose to think I was better than independents because of my Greek status, then I would be no better than these morons are. To Mr. Bice, and all other independents who may know me, I hope that I have sufficiently corrected myself - your opinion is valued here as much as the thoughts of any Greek member in all of Lex Vegas.

ABSOLUTE FRATLORD
TIM SMITH '04

SETTING THE STAGE: The Pavillion stage is set up in preparation for the evening's entertainment.



ANGEL IN THE CENTERFOLD: Kappa freshman Rachel Williams shines.

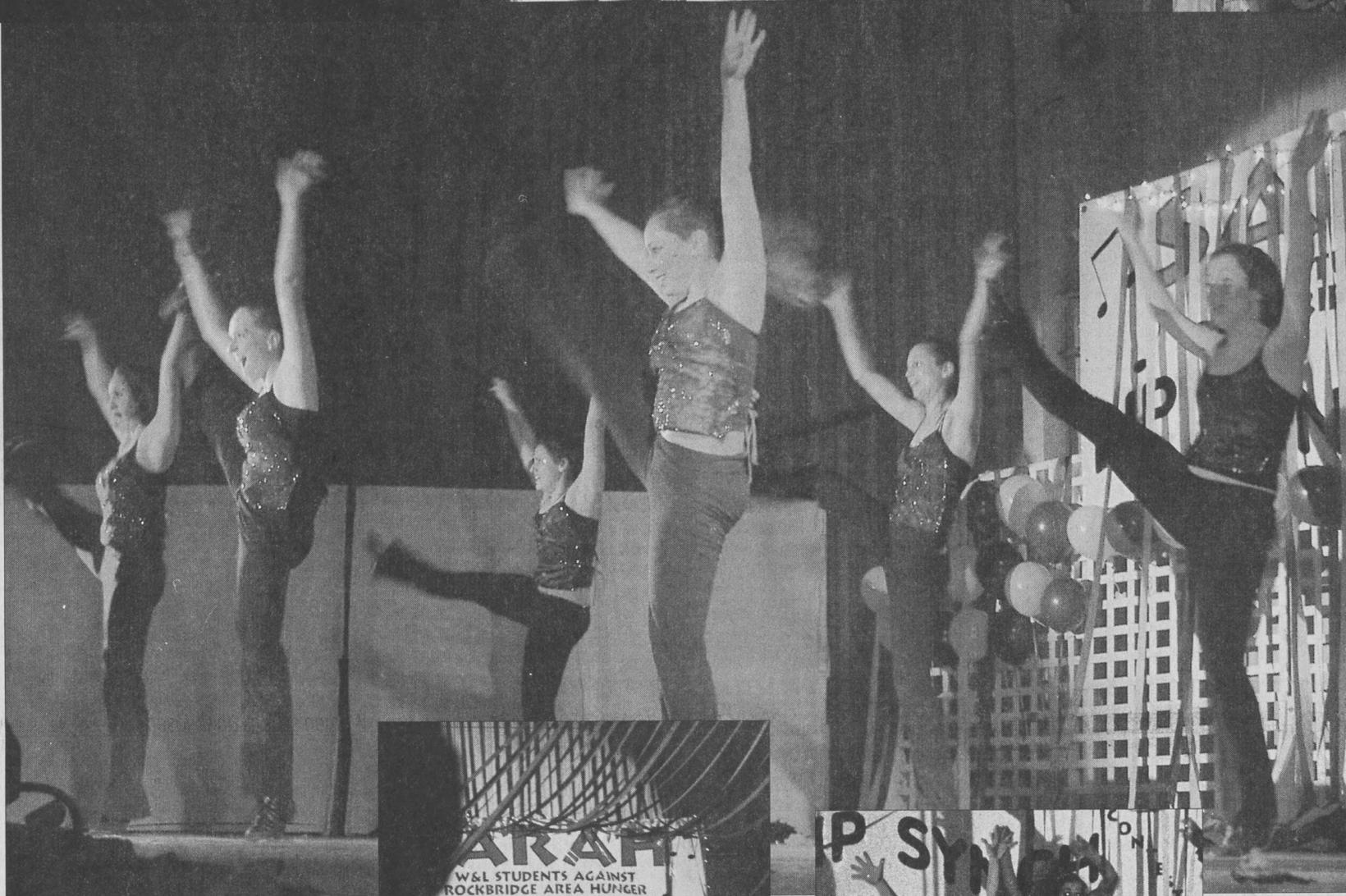


SEX MACHINE! The Sigma Chi's entertain the ladies in the crowd (left).



CHEERING: Spectators enjoy the Lip Synch acts (right).

LIP SYNCH 2003



SPARKLING: This year's Lip Synch winner, Chi Omega freshmen performed "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend".



BLING BLING! Lambda Chi pledge Jon Cochran entertains the crowd with "Rappers Delight".



YOU CAN DANCE IF YOU WANT TO: Fiji Pledges do the "Safety Dance".



One! Sig Ep freshmen perform "My Little Buttercup" as the "Three Amigos".



GET DOWN TONIGHT: Kappa Alpha Theta freshmen impress the crowd with their agility.



HARD AT WORK: A Theta concentrates on her moves in the "ghetto mix".

All photos by JEB BROOKS AND KATIE HOWELL / THE RING-TUM PHI

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SENIORS:
 CHECK OUT A GREAT SUMMER JOB IN THE MEDICINE BOW MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN WYOMING. WWW.COOLWORKS.COM/ABARA HAS FULL INFORMATION ABOUT THE A BAR A GUEST RANCH. THE MANAGER WILL BE ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWING ON FEBRUARY 5. EMAIL BOB HOWE AT ABARARANCH@AOL.COM TO SET UP AN INTERVIEW OR ASK QUESTIONS.

Track teams get a speedy start to season

BY MARY CHRISTOPHER
SPORTS WRITER

Having started training well before Christmas break, the men and women of the Washington and Lee track team finally had their opportunity to shine. The team arrived at Christopher Newport University, in New Port News, late Friday afternoon and left early Saturday evening.

The distance squad returns only 5 runners from last year's team: Steven Chambers, '05; Rusty Meyer, '04; co-captain Erin Johnson, '04; Jessica Remmert, '05; and Samantha Snabes, '04.

Several cross country competitors from the fall season are running

this season. Andrew Johnson, '06; David Hicks, '03; Norman Senior, '05; Betsy Frayer, '06; and Liz Twentyman, '06; Matthew Reilly, '06. Mary Christopher, '06 also join the roster.

Coach Amy Shuckert, the distance coach, believes "our distance/middle-distance crew is a great group. We have a few seasoned veterans who will, most certainly, be strong leaders for the young group. I'm looking forward to seeing the debut performances of Reilly and Christopher. I believe those two have a lot of raw talent and think they will prove to be strong competitors this season."

As for those who have run with the team before, "Steve Chambers

and Andrew Johnson were proven performance leaders in the fall and I believe their efforts will only continue to pay off during track season. Meyer, David Hicks, Snabes and Remmert are all coming off of a solid cross country season. Their hard work will continue to pay dividends towards the success of the team," said Shuckert.

One problem the team had during the fall season was injuries.

"We have suffered an unusual amount of injuries coming back from break, so right now we are in a bit of a transition period with many of the runners. The good news, however, is that Erin Johnson and Liz Twentyman—who were injured during the cross country season, are now

healthy and ready to go," said Shuckert.

The results of the meet are as follows: In the distance events AJ ran the 3k in 9:31:07 and Christopher ran the 1500 in 5:38:31. Samantha and Jessica also showed a strong performance in the 5K. In the mid distance races Christopher, Johnson, and Twentyman all ran the 800 at 2:37:56, 2:40:98, and 2:43:11 respectively. The sprint team also ran well. Jonathan Brimer, Brian Krupczack, Joe Vitta, and Hugo Diaz ran the 60 meter dash at 7:39, 7:47, 7:79, and 7:87; Brimer went on to qualify for the Division 3 finals.

For the girls, Meredith Walker, Kim Gunst, and Amy Bacastow ran at times of 8:96, 9:53, and 9:92. Meredith

went on to the finals for the girls. In the 200 m run, Brimer ran a 24:22, Joe a 25:78, and Hugo a 25:90. Walker ran the 200 in 29:58, Gunst in 30:67, and Bacastow in 33:09.

The field team also performed well. Audrey Walker threw shot at 31-4 for the women and Krupczack threw 35-10 for the men.

The coaches plan to "gear towards the outdoor season, using indoors as a preparation for our best performances to come in the spring," and the team knows that "success will be measured by individual improvement which will build a strong foundation for future success."

Everyone is aware that instant

results are not what track and field is about and that everyone must have determination and perseverance at all times to meet the challenge of the season. Snabes feels that despite the small size, "we have a bunch of enthusiastic and committed individuals so I expect a good season." The team will focus on character and the big picture to reach their long-term goals. It requires a special person to take on such a challenge, and Shuckert knows "our group is willing and able to accept such a challenge!"

The teams' next meet is Saturday, February 1 at neighbor Virginia Military Institute, at what is known as the VMI Relays.

Swim teams fall in last home meet of season

BY JOHN HYLAND
SPORTS WRITER

Both the Washington and Lee men's and women's swimming teams lost tough meets to two strong Gettysburg squads Saturday at the Cy Twombly Pool in what was the final home meet of the season for both teams.

The women fell 162.5 to 79.5 to an undefeated Gettysburg team to drop their overall record to 7-3. The men were defeated 134 to 106 to a Gettysburg squad that has only one loss, which dropped their record to 4-5.

Despite the losses, the Generals had some outstanding individual performances.

For the women, Beth Sauer '06 won the 100 and 200 breast stroke events. She won the 200 in a time 2:35.85, breaking her own top time for W&L in this event.

Sauer's classmate, Kristine Holda won the 100 freestyle event in a time of 55.73 also establishing her own team best for the season.

As for the men's team, the Generals won the 200 medley relay and, in the most exciting race of the afternoon,

W&L won the 200 freestyle relay to end the meet on a positive note.

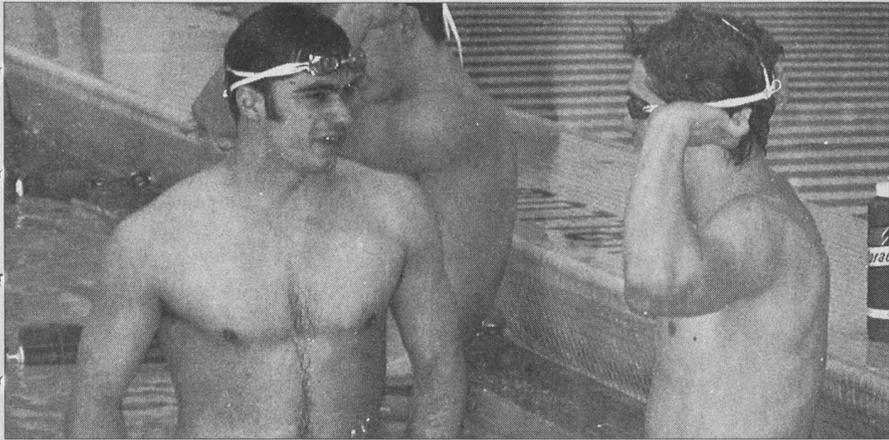
Individually, Eric Ritter, '04, won the 100 and 200 backstroke events. Ritter won the 100 back in 53.80 to set the top time of the season in this event. The two-time All-American honoree is poised for a return trip to the NCAAs.

In addition, Chris Colby '05 won the 200 butterfly, Zach Fake '03 won the 50 freestyle and Drew Catanese '04 won the 100 butterfly.

Prior to the meet the five seniors on the women's team, including co-captains Kelli Austin and Blair Hoffman and the three seniors on the men's team, including co-captains Fake and Patrick Frankfort, were introduced and honored for their commitment to the W&L swimming program in what was the final home meet of their careers.

The women's team closes out their regular season with three meets on the road, beginning with Division I foe, Radford, on January 26.

The men finish their regular season on February 1 against both Johns Hopkins and Marymount.



POOL CHAT. W&L swimmer Drew Catanese speaks to team mates in the pool before Saturday's meet.

Ultimate hits Fla. for tournament



TWO DEAD GUYS. The frisbee team traveled to Florida last weekend for a tournament against dozens of other schools.

BY ERIN JULIUS
SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time ever this year, Washington and Lee can claim that it has a legitimately organized Ultimate Frisbee team.

"We've been playing pick up games forever, but this year Chris Jordan and myself took the initiative to recruit freshmen, and we also got money from the EC and from the service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega... that got Two Dead Guys off the ground," said Timothy Smith, '04.

The money from the EC enabled the team to become members in the Ultimate Frisbee Association (the NFL of frisbee) and to buy uniforms. Membership in the Ultimate Frisbee Association allows the team to play in all college tournaments and in the regional tournament—it is a part of the Blue Ridge Region.

This year, the team has instituted regular Monday, Wednesday and Friday practices.

W&L held its first Ultimate tournament the first weekend of November, out at the law fields. Radford, James Madison University, Eastern Mennonite University and Liberty showed up for this first-ever Mountain Cup. At that tournament, W&L beat Liberty and JMU but lost to Radford in the Semis. Overall, the team placed 3rd.

Chris Jordan, '03 who has been playing in Ultimate pick-up games since his freshman year, then found out about the Florida Winter Classic at UF. The team decided to go, "to gain experience, to see how we stacked up against good teams from the South, and also it was intended to be sort of a treat to the seniors who have played Frisbee their whole 4 years here but haven't been able to go to tournaments due to the lack of organization," said Smith.

Washington and Lee was one of the smaller schools at the Florida Winter Classic tournament. Of the sixteen teams in attendance, only two

were Division III schools—W&L and Emory.

"We played 7 games over all, and only won one of them, but we had a great time. It was definitely challenging...it was tough to play against bigger schools like Florida and Georgia and Vanderbilt," said Smith.

Eleven team members traveled to Florida with Smith and Jordan: Trey Fogg, Justin Allegro, Matt Kimbrough, Farhan Mustafa, John Wright (all '03), Tom Hunt, Matt Kilanski, Seth Jones, Peter Jones (all '06), Dan Simmons and Eliot Hibbler (both law students).

Ultimate Frisbee attracts different people for different reasons.

"The sport requires a lot of running, it's a very laid back relaxed atmosphere," said Jordan, "I've stuck with it because I wanted to compete and stay athletic, but, at the same time, I didn't want to put in the time required to participate in a varsity sport."

Senior Trey Fogg says he likes that Ultimate is a pick-up sport be-

cause he is never forced to show up for practice but, "I can always rely on the same core group of guys to be there, along with a few new people. It is also a fun and social sport and is a great way to exercise," he said.

"I think it was impressive that we were able to go to the tournament of this size in what is really our first year of existence," said Smith, "hopefully next year we can get recognition as an official club sport, which should make the team a permanent part of W&L athletics."

"The tournament in Florida was a great experience because we are starting to set a standard for the underclassmen, especially the freshmen," said Fogg.

Echoing Smith's sentiments for wanting Ultimate to remain a sport at W&L, Jordan said, "A lot of people don't realize that Ultimate is a very easy game to pick up and that it is also co-ed... This year we will enter a couple of more college tournaments and maybe even host another bigger tournament here at W&L."

Away, losses abound

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Women's Basketball loses

Emory, Va.- Washington and Lee's women's basketball team lost to Emory and Henry on Saturday afternoon; the final score was 67-53.

Turnovers were detrimental to W&L, as the Wasps converted the General's 15 turnovers into 19 points. The Wasps had only two turnovers.

The Generals trailed by a small margin, 27-26, going into the half, but were outscored 40-27 by the Wasps during the second half.

Individually, the Generals turned in some strong performances. Forward Sarah Michaels, '04, had a game-high of 22 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Guard Louisa Feve, '06, added 13 points while forward Emily Barker, '05, posted 11.

Center Austin Calhoun, '03, grabbed a game-high of 10 boards.

W&L faces EMU at home on Tuesday evening. The game begins at 7.

Men's hoops loses

Norfolk, Va.- Washington and Lee's men's basketball team lost to Virginia Wesleyan Saturday afternoon 71-49. Virginia Wesleyan had a distinct advantage at the half, leading 31-19.

W&L launched a second-half comeback, closing the gap until they

were only down by five, 37-32. The Generals never managed to follow through with a comeback, however, and were outscored 43-17 by the Marlins during the remaining 14:49.

Forward David Will, '06, had a team-high of 16 points. Guard Mike Stuart, '05, posted nine points while forward Scott Hettermann, '03, chipped in eight points and five boards.

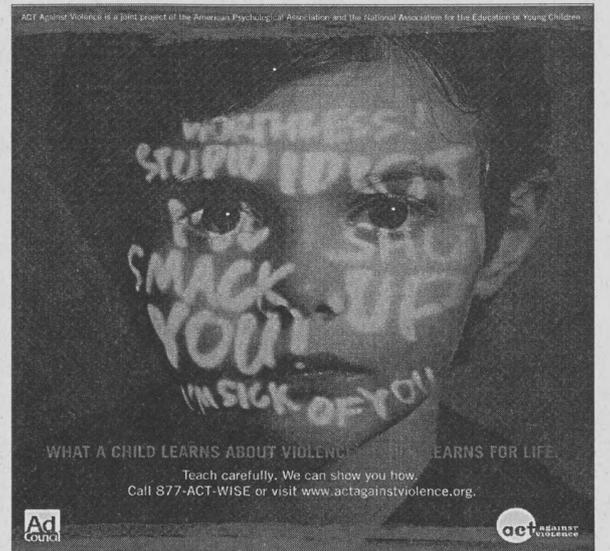
Wrestlers take one win, two losses at McDaniel

Westminster, Md.- Washington and Lee's wrestling team competed in the McDaniel Quadrangular Saturday afternoon. W&L defeated Galludet (40-12) before losing to Ursinus (48-3) and McDaniel (35-12).

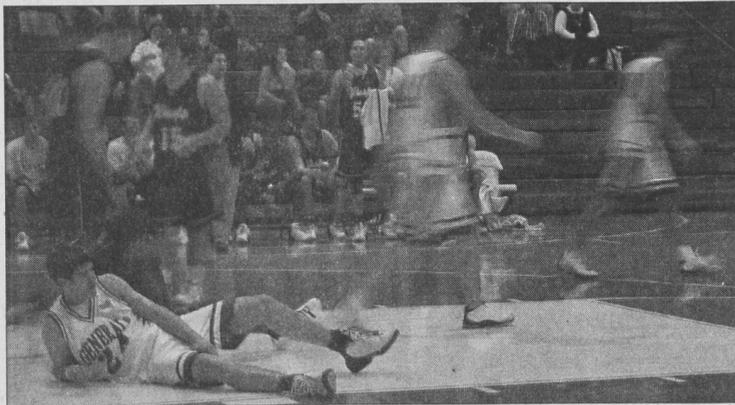
Michael Bennett, '04, won all three of his matches at 197. He first pinned Magguldet's Dennis Cruz in 2:06, took a 9-5 decision against Ursinus's Sebastian Voltarelli and handled McDaniel's Adam Dayton, 14-6.

Brian Avello, '05, went 2-1 at 174. He won by forfeit against Galludet, but was then pinned by Ursinus's Mike Troutman. Avello came back to pin McDaniel's Caleb Moore in 2:14.

W&L will next take the mat on Saturday, when they compete in the Muhlenberg Triangular. Matches will start at 12.



Men's basketball falls to E&H



KATIE HOWELL/The Ring-Tum Phi

DEFEAT. Senior captain Scott Hetterman takes a fall during Wednesday's game.

BY ALLISON PERRY
SPORTS WRITER

The Emory and Henry men's basketball team slipped by the Generals Wednesday night with a 75-73 win in Warner Center. Junior guard Justin Call carried the Wasps with a career-high 46 points and seven three-pointers. The General, however, stayed close, never letting E&H take more than a five point lead.

W&L sophomore guard Mike Stuart scored 15 of his total 23 points in the first half, fifteen of which were from three-point range.

Freshman forward Phil Landes added 11 points.

Senior captain Scott Hetterman also added two dunks to contribute to his seven points in the first half.

The Generals took the lead six times before half-time, but a three-pointer by E&H sophomore guard Ben Fisher with six seconds left in the half let the Wasps take a lead of 46-45.

At the beginning of the second half, the Generals took their highest lead, leading by six points.

The game went back and forth until E&H took the lead for good with a layup by Call with a little over two minutes left.

Stuart brought the game within two after making a shot and then a free throw at three seconds. Fisher was then fouled but missed both of his shots before the Wasps took the win.

W&L held E&H to 30.4 percent shooting, down from 60 percent in the first half.

Sophomore guard Ian McClure, who leads the team in three-point percentage with 34.7 percent, posted ten of his thirteen points in the second half.

McClure said the Generals needed to do a better job of getting on defense. "Emory and Henry loves to push the ball up the court," he said. "They were just faster."

Junior Captain Michael Denbow averages 3.1 assists per game and agreed that transition defense and turnovers needed to be worked on. The Generals had a season-high of 26 turnovers for the game. On a positive note, Denbow said, "Our shooting is back, and we had better team defense."

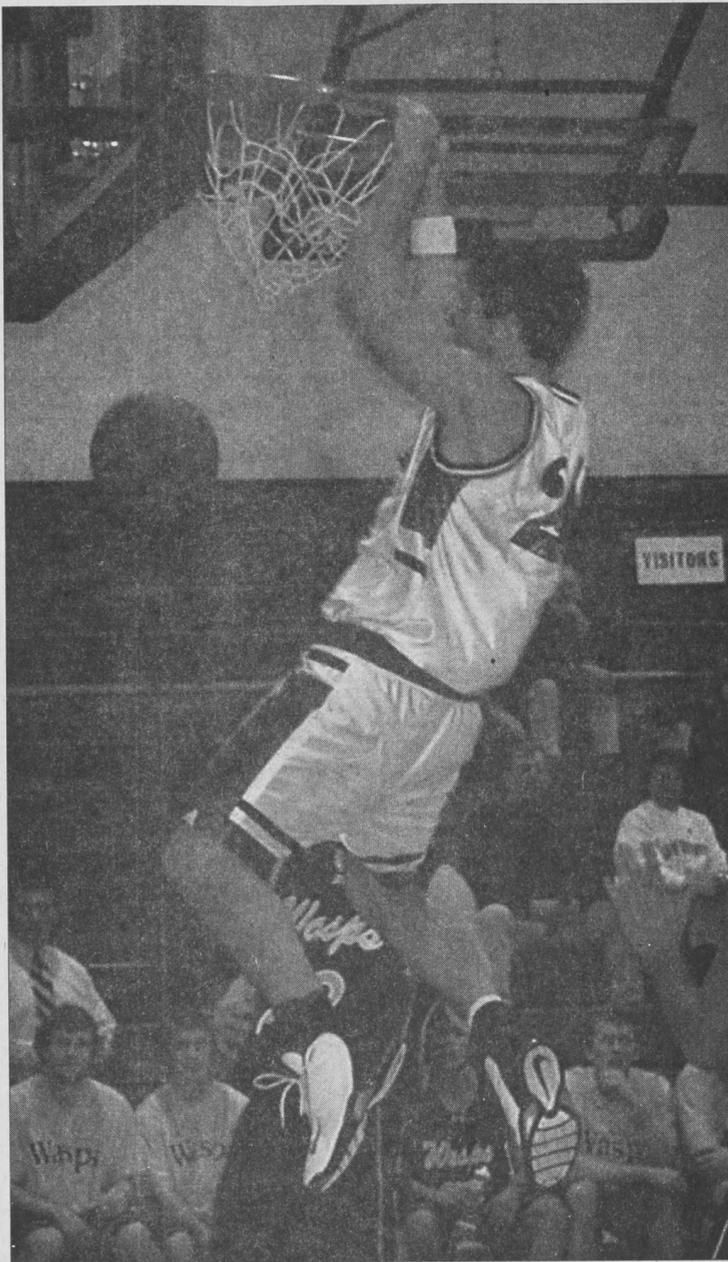
Wednesday night's game was E&H's first win in Warner Center since the 1996-1997 season. The win put them at 8-7 overall and 4-5 in the ODAC.

The Generals will have until February 5th to prepare for the Wasps again when they play them in Emory.

McClure suggested possibly going to a zone defense to help shut down Justin Call. Denbow thinks the team should continue to build team defense and limit the turnovers next time.

The Generals played at Virginia Wesleyan on Saturday and came home with a loss of 71-49. W&L lost to the Marlins 54-70 at the beginning of January. VWC is ranked 4th in the South Region poll and 26th in the January 21st D3Hoops poll of Division III national leaders.

The Generals also had a game Sunday at Randolph-Macon. The Yellow Jackets are ranked 4th in the D3Hoops poll and 2nd in the South Region coaches' poll. Results were not available at press time. They play next on Tuesday for a non-conference match-up at McDaniel at 7:00 p.m.



Katie Howell/The Ring-Tum Phi

DUNK. Senior captain Scott Hetterman hangs from the basket after scoring in Wednesday's narrow loss.

Sports Events January 27- February 2

Men's Basketball

Tuesday, Jan. 28 the Generals will take on McDaniel away at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 29, the team takes Bridgewater at home at 7 pm.

Saturday, Feb. 1, the team will take Roanoke away at 7 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Tuesday, Jan. 28 at home, the Lady General's will take EMU at 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 31 the team goes on the road to Roanoke to play at 7 p.m.

Swimming

Saturday, Feb. 1 the swimmers fo to Johns Hopkins at 10 a.m.

Saturday, February 1, the General's travel to Marymount for a 5 p.m. match.

Track

Saturday, Feb. 1 track goes next door to VMI. Time TBA.

Wrestling

Saturday, Feb. 1 General's go to Muhlenburg at 12 p.m.

Write for the *Phi* sports section. Contact Erin Julius at x4060 for more information.

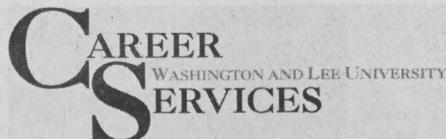
Don't Let This Happen to You at Your Interview!



Etiquette Dinner

Monday, February 10th
University Center, 6:00 PM
Cost is \$10 - Charge it home!
Open to Juniors & Seniors

Come to Career Services by Feb. 5th to Sign Up
Space is Limited, so Don't Delay!



Undergraduate Admissions Counselor

The Washington and Lee Undergraduate Office of Admissions wishes to announce possible openings for Admissions Counselors. Responsibilities include: student interviews, application evaluation, and recruitment travel. Strong communication skills and demonstrated organizational abilities are expected. The successful candidate will be both willing and able to work as part of a highly successful admissions team, yet capable of creative self-direction. Some evening and weekend work is necessary.

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 Friday, February 14. All materials should be sent to:

Julia M. Kozak
Associate Dean of Admissions
Office of Admissions
Lexington, VA 24450

WANTED: Summer Scholars Counselors June 25 - July 26, 2003

Are you looking for a great chance to be a mentor and to experience working with high school students while staying at W&L for the month of July? The Washington and Lee Summer Scholars Program is an exciting four week academic program for approximately 150 rising high school seniors. We are looking for responsible students to help guide participants and to plan extracurricular activities such as talent shows, lip synchs, weekend hikes, trips to Goshen and more.

For information about the position please contact Dr. Mimi Milner Elrod at 458-8727. You may pick up an application from Jennifer Lotts (458-8722) in the Summer Scholars Office located in the Hill House.

The deadline for turning in applications is February 28, 2003.