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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003

K Δ earns strike one

BY KATIE HOWELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Kappa Delta received the first sorority strike last week for alcohol violations on "Tear Night" activities Jan. 11. Washington and Lee's Panhellenic Council investigated allegations of the violation after faculty, staff, deans and male students approached members of the Council with concerns.

Panhellenic found Kappa Delta guilty of alcohol offenses after conducting a thorough investigation with the help of University Security Director Mike Young.

"The violations are in regards to alcohol being provided to the freshmen on Tear Night and the morning of Tear Night," said Kappa Delta President Amanda Basham.

According to the Student Judiciary Council Web site a strike can be awarded to a Greek organization in situations of coercive or pressured drinking related to group activities, violations of Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic rules governing events where alcohol is served, violations of dry rush policies, excess damage to house property or coordinating the use of, or using, fraternity/sorority funds, group funds or slush funds, to purchase alcohol.

"(Kappa Delta) will have two weeks social probation after February break, letters sent home to all the parents of members under 21 and to their housing corporation, community service and an alcohol workshop," said Reanna Stahl, Panhellenic vice president.

Under the Student Judiciary Committee's guidelines for the three-strike substance-abuse policy, organizations are usually fined as a first strike violation. Kappa Delta will not receive the fine, however.

"We decided not to fine them because fines are not considered constructive punishment by the National Panhellenic Council," Stahl said.

Basham said the Kappa Delta National organization is conducting a separate investigation into the charges of alcohol violation.

Kappa Delta is the first sorority to receive a University sanction under the three-strike system initiated at the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year. Five fraternities, however, have gained strikes.

The Panhellenic Council encourages students to care for their peers if they are intoxicated.

"...taking an intoxicated student to the Student Health Center or Emergency Room will NEVER constitute a strike. They are both safe havens from judicial sanctions," the Panhellenic statement of the strike said.

Basham said all members of the sorority—both actives and new members—are handling the sanctions responsibly.

"(The new members) have all been really supportive," Basham said. "We've explained that we don't blame them in any way and we're all trying to work through this together to make sure it doesn't happen again."

WAR OR PEACE?



D-DAY APPROACHING. Lexington, VMI and Washington and Lee held a town meeting in Lee Chapel Sunday to discuss moral issues involved with going to war. James F. Childress spoke for the first hour about Just War Theory and the ethical issues involved in going to war with Iraq. The second hour of the event was an opportunity for members of the panel to entertain questions from citizens and students of the community. The panel included politics professor Robert Strong, law professor Mark Drumbal and Brigadier General Charles Brower of VMI.

Orgs. want women in leadership

BY KYLE WASS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, men and women from the Washington and Lee community met at the Women's Forum meeting, primarily to discuss why W&L does not have more women in administrative positions.

About 20 people attended this meeting, which was held in the Fairfax Lounge. Roughly half of the participants were students. The faculty present included Dean of Students David Howison, Dean of Freshmen Dawn Watkins, and Associate Dean of Students Anne Schroer-Lamont, among others. The meeting started off with a discussion of the issue that the University has only one woman in the highest level of administration, and the concern about the message this is sending out about Washington and Lee.

There was also concern that some of the posters put up by KEWL around campus—commenting on the need for more women in upper-level administrative positions—have been taken down or defaced, to which one of the males responded with the worry that KEWL is "not asking for the best administrator possible, but asking for the best [administrator who] is a woman," and that they are merely looking for "the most qualified person who appeals to certain sectors of the community."

Watkins, who prefaced by saying that Washington and Lee is an "extremely friendly place for women to work," agreed that we need more women in administrative positions, but said that there is a "larger social context we need to be aware of." She noted that "people stay in positions here for a long time," and that while there has been an effort to recruit strong women candidates, that many women do not work full-time as they develop families, and Lexington is far

SEE **WOMEN**, PAGE 2

Court ruling may force universities to turn in file sharers

BY MEGAN MORGAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A recent legal victory for the recording industry gives them expanded powers in their battle against the illegal downloading of songs and other copyrighted material off the Internet. In the United States District Court of Columbia, Judge John D. Bates ruled that the Verizon Communications must under the Digital Communications Act provide to the Recording Industry Association of America the name of a customer who had used KaZaa to download 600 songs. Currently, a copyright owner must get a subpoena signed by a judge in order to force a service provider to disclose information about one of its subscribers. However, this new ruling means that a copyright owner will be able to obtain this information without having to appear in front of a judge.

Universities all over the country have been watching this case carefully. Washington and Lee, like most

universities, does not actively search for students who illegally download songs and movies. Indeed, if a student simply downloads a copyrighted song or movie onto his computer, he will probably go unnoticed. However, whenever a student has KaZaa open on his computer, the program automatically advertises all materials downloaded on it to the KaZaa community. The Recording Industry Association of America and the Motion Picture Association of America can detect these advertisements, and if the advertiser is a W&L student, they send a letter to John Stuckey, the Director of University Computing explaining their complaint along with the student's numerical Internet address. The University is then usually able to determine the name of the student referred to and sends a letter to that student asking them to remove all illegally downloaded material from their computer. A letter is then sent back to either the Recording Industry Association of America or the Motion Picture Association of America stating that the problem has been taken care of without disclosing the name of the student responsible.

If this new ruling holds up on appeal, the Recording Industry Association of America and the Motion Picture Association of America may have the power to force universities to provide them with the names of students who are illegally downloading copyrighted material and hold them personally responsible. Both John Stuckey and John White, the manager of the University Computing Help Desk, doubt that the RIAA and the MPAA will subpoena universities, at least for a few years. However, in order to look at this as well as other Internet related problems such as electronic plagiarism, Washington and Lee University has formed a committee consisting of John Stuckey, one Executive Committee member, a copyright specialist from the law school and one faculty member. They will be reporting their suggestions on how to deal with these types of problem to the Provost within the next two weeks.

Alum mourns son, astronaut

BY CALEY ANDERSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Hon. Paul D. Brown, a retired Virginia judge and Washington and Lee alumnus who spent 35 years on the bench, and his wife, Dorothy, were affected by the recent Columbia tragedy on a much deeper level than most.

Their son, Captain David Brown, was serving as Mission Specialist #1 for STS-107, designated Space Shuttle Columbia at the time of its destruction.

The death of Cpt. Brown was made all the more sadening by the fact that it was his first space flight. Though he had initially been selected for participation in the Manned Space Flight program in 1996, he had waited for seven years to reach his goal. He, along with his six crewmates, perished when Columbia exploded while re-entering the Earth's atmosphere. NASA officials are listing "heat shield failure" as the current most-likely cause of the accident, but will not make any pronouncements of certainty.

The late Cpt. Brown's father, the Honorable Paul D. Brown, graduated from Washington and Lee as an undergraduate in 1941. He subsequently received his law degree from the W&L Law School in 1943. He worked with several law practices, received his first bench appointment, and experienced the birth of his son David through the 1950s. In 1966, he was appointed to the Circuit Court of Arlington County, over which he presided at the time of his retirement in 1985.

The late Cpt. David Brown received a biology degree as an undergraduate at William and Mary in 1978, and received a medical doctorate from Eastern Virginia Medical School in 1982. He was 46 at the time of the Columbia accident.

Watkins provides female leadership to W&L

BY IMRAN NAEEMULLAH
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Dawn Watkins may only be in her second year at Washington and Lee, but she has already made herself a familiar sight on campus as the Dean of Freshmen. Watkins came to W&L from Guilford College, where she spent seven years as Associate Dean of Students, among other positions. She and her husband, John, who works in University Computing, were wanting to move, and Watkins was applying for jobs at several universities, including Wake Forest and Duke. She also was keeping an eye open for W&L, because she had heard of its prestigious reputation when she attended high school in the area and Virginia Tech for both her bachelor's and master's degrees.

SEE **WATKINS**, PAGE 2

DON'T USE SEMICOLONS



SLAUGHTERHOUSE. Kurt Vonnegut relaxed at the Southern Inn between dinner and his speech in Lee Chapel last Tuesday night. Over 600 people attended his speech, many of whom had to stand in the back rows of the balcony.

EC will continue to debate investigative committee

BY CALEY ANDERSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

EC Meeting Report- February 3rd, 2003

The EC met in Classroom B of the Law School. The EC discussed the ongoing process of Greek Honor Orientation. The purpose is to prevent Greek organizations, their leaders, members, and pledges, from committing or forcing someone else to commit any sort of honor violation, especially during the pledgship process.

The EC noted that the Board of Trustees would be meeting in the EC Offices during the week.

The EC noted that the "Town Meeting" to discuss the possibility of a United States war with Iraq would be held this Sunday in Lee Chapel. President Titus is scheduled to open the meeting.

The EC discussed the current policy regarding the University Board of Appeals. Some members expressed concern that recent overhauls to policy include the fact that a designated university official can now appeal any verdict made by the Student-Faculty Hearing Board. The EC expressed concern for this policy extending to the Student Judicial Council, and will examine the issue further.

The EC heard reports from representatives of Traveller regarding the inappropriate treatment of a law student who requested transportation. A Traveller dispatcher allegedly used profanity and refused a ride to a law student. The Traveller representatives stated that changes were being made to prevent a similar occurrence, and that disciplinary action against the dispatcher in question was pending and would most likely consist of dismissal if the dispatcher was found to be responsible.

The EC discussed at great length proposals for the creation of an investigative committee to study the current process of W&L student government and to recommend changes to the EC, and the possible creation of a committee that would hear student opinions on topical issues, e.g., cigarettes in the co-op, D-Hall issues, and similar concerns. The EC decided not to take any immediate action on the latter issues. However, a motion was made and seconded to entirely reject the idea of an investigative committee. The motion was defeated by a vote of 7-5, and the EC will hear further debate on the investigative committee issue at the next meeting.

Watkins guides freshmen

WATKINS, FROM PAGE 1

When she saw the opening for Dean of Freshmen on the W&L Web site, she said she jumped at the opportunity to apply.

When she was offered the job, it was a hard decision for her and John to make, because he had not yet found a job in Lexington and was faced with the prospect of a potential commute into Roanoke everyday. Fortunately, says Watkins, John was offered a job with University Computing which was a perfect match for him, and which he continues to enjoy to this day. So she, John, and Jill, their young daughter, packed up their things and moved to Virginia. Watkins said that one of the things which attracted her most about the area was her family ties to it; she says she feels at home here living among the Blue Ridge Mountains and is happy to be back in Virginia.

Her daily routine includes many things, but Watkins' first and foremost responsibility is towards the freshman class. One of the things she likes the most about her job, she says, is her ability to set her own agenda. Although there are some things she must obviously do, like make sure all freshmen are performing at their potential, she enjoys the flexibility of being able to decide what she does. One of the key differences between Watkins and her predecessors, the immediate of whom was Mark Dalhouse, is that her job is exclusively administrative, whereas the previous deans of freshmen also had to teach classes. She says this leaves her with more time to concentrate exclusively on making sure the freshman experience is as positive and rewarding as possible.

One of the biggest transitions from home life to living at college is the sudden absence of parents. For many students, this is not such a problem, but a lot of parents suddenly feel like they are losing control over their child's life, so they call Watkins to see how their child is doing. Watkins says she enjoys getting the phone calls from concerned parents, as well as meeting them during Orientation and Parents' Weekend, among other times that parents come to visit. Watkins also works closely with professors to make sure that students are performing well academically, especially given



Job Brooks / The Ring-tum Phi

FRESH. Watkins talks with head dorm counselor Raphael Pentecado. The pressures of the first semester of freshman year.

Indeed, that is one of the challenges of her job, making sure that all students perform to the best of their abilities. However, she notes that she finds all of the challenges she faces positive ones and learns from them on a daily basis. She says that it is especially hard when a student is faced with some tough decisions to make, and she needs to help guide them through the process, especially when it involves something as drastic as taking a year off, for example. Other especially challenging aspects of her job are helping students to cope with tragedy, for example, the death of a family member or a close friend. She says, "I really feel for those folks. I've been in tears myself at times."

Watkins notes, however, that "there's so much variety in the job that there are always different issues to work on," so she always has new challenges to face. One of the ways she does this is in working with the Freshman Leadership Council and other student government bodies. For example, one project Watkins is currently working on involves the Executive Committee, and it is to create a freshman seminar. She says, "So many other colleges have a class during first semester that all freshmen can experience, and that is something that we lack." As far as what the seminar

would concentrate on, Watkins replies, "At a school like Washington and Lee, what better topic to focus on than honor?" Indeed, current EC President Gerald Titus agrees, and has been working with Watkins to develop such a class, which would be offered in a variety of departments, such as history, philosophy and politics and would approach the subject from a number of perspectives. This is a great way to help foster the sense of trust and community that is the hallmark of the W&L experience.

When she is not working, Watkins enjoys spending time with her family. Indeed, she eats lunch at home whenever she can, since she lives so close to campus, at 19 University Place. She loves the house and its great location, looking up towards the Colonnade, and notes that it is very pretty inside, as well. An avid reader, Watkins is an admirer of Southern literature, and enjoys reading several books concurrently. She is also into personal fitness, enjoys reading books about athletics, as well as taking hikes in the area with her family, and going for a jog as often as she can.

This is the third article in a series which feature in-depth interviews with administrators at Washington and Lee University.

WOMEN, FROM PAGE 1

away from any cities where the other spouse in a dual-career couple could get a job.

Rebecca Skaggs, one of the co-leaders of the Women's Forum, moved the discussion toward how W&L's policies would be different if there were more women leaders. A female student in attendance said that policies toward sexual assault would be different and asked "shouldn't [sexual assault and rape] be a violation of the Honor Code?" The concern over this issue "speaks to the need of women students to get into leadership positions," Watkins said.

Professor Lesley Wheeler, the faculty advisor for the Women's Forum, said that it is simply "an

issue of trust," and that women are "distrustful that women's faces aren't there (in leadership positions)."

Skaggs also brought up for discussion the issue that women "back off" from voicing opinions, and do not take enough stands on topics that are important to them. Thus, according to Skaggs, W&L hasn't "fully become co-ed." The group then also examined the differences teaching men versus teaching women, with input from both male and female professors.

The group was assured that W&L is actively looking for women to fill leadership and administrative positions, but that the applicant pool is small and the most qualified candidates will receive positions, regardless of gender.

Φ CORRECTIONS

In the article in the February 3, 2003 edition, "Publications win big in EC funding game" it incorrectly stated "In Athletics, the new club sport of boxing received \$500 in startup funds." The boxing group is not new. It began fall of 2001, and it is not a club sport. A club sport must travel to other schools and compete against them, which boxing does not do or plan to do in the near future. The official wording the group has decided upon is the "Boxing Recreation Group."

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.



Injured Student's Medications Stolen

Washington and Lee's Security Department is investigating an unusual and inhumane case of theft that was committed last Tuesday evening.

A male senior Washington and Lee student who suffered critical and "life-altering" injuries during the summer of 2002 discovered last week that the supply of medications on which he relies to continue his recovery had been stolen.

In a time when the student continues to suffer through the process of physical recovery from his injuries, the theft of his important medicines, including a store of prescription narcotic painkillers, only makes it worse.

Possessing the particular painkiller involved without a prescription is illegal in any case, but stealing it from one who needs it is "despicable," according to Mike Young, Director of W&L Security.

The thief is considered likely to be someone familiar with the victimized student and his altered situation.

The Security department has stated that they wish to resolve this case in a "fair and quick" manner. If the guilty party is found to be a member of the Washington and Lee community, then Honor System consequences are implied.

Anyone with relevant information is asked to contact the Security department at 458-8427, or to e-mail Young at mlyoung@wlu.edu.

Concert Guild Present King's Singers

Washington and Lee University Concert Guild will present an evening with the King's Singers on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. in the Lenfest Center's Keller Theater.

This male, British vocal sextet is known for its unique and entertaining style of performance. They appeared at the February 2002 Olympic Arts Festival at the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

"The King's Singers present a very eclectic program," said Tim Gaylard, W&L music professor. "From Bach to the Beatles, their music will appeal to people of all musical tastes. They will provide a great ending to the series."

Since the group's inception at King's College, Cambridge, in 1968, the King's Singers have developed a diverse repertoire, including a library of international music from the 1500s to the 1900s, as well as works commissioned from contemporary composers.

For ticket information, call the Lenfest Center box office at 540-458-8000.

W&L Ranked 18 of 24 in Diversity

Based on data researchers compiled over the past 10 years, The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education produced a comprehensive ranking of the nation's 24 top academically rated liberal arts colleges as to their comparative success in integrating African Americans into their faculties and student bodies.

Amherst College in western Massachusetts finished at the top of our ranking followed by Williams, Colgate, Wellesley, and Haverford. The lowest-rated selective liberal arts institution was Grinnell College in Iowa. Washington and Lee was 18th.

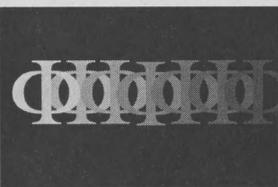
Using government sources and original research, JBHE ranked the 24 liberal arts colleges in 13 different categories including such measures as black enrollments, black student yield, and the black percentage of the total faculty.

Unlike other rankings such as those used by U.S. News & World Report which contain subjective assessments of an institution's quality, JBHE's rankings are based solely on quantitative data.

Lexington Weekly Forecast

Monday- Moderate Snow, 41/19
Tuesday- Mostly Sunny, 37/22
Wednesday- Partly Cloudy, 38/21
Thursday- Partly Cloudy & Wind, 39/27
Friday- Mostly Cloudy, 50/36
Saturday- Moderate Rain & Snow, 45/24
Sunday- Mostly Cloudy, 42/23

SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HONOR ACTIVITY FOR THE 2002-2003 ACADEMIC YEAR
Investigations: 5
Withdrawals in face of a Closed Hearing: 1
Guilty Verdicts in Closed Hearings: 3
Not Guilty Verdicts in Closed Hearings: 3
Student Body Hearings: 0



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Two new computing services in the Library:

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Questions about the Labs?
Questions about Wireless?

Stop by the new Help Desk station in Leyburn Library

The desk is located in the reference circle and is open

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Need a quiet place to do some computing?

Stop by the new computing lab in Leyburn Library

The lab is located on the third level of Leyburn 301 and is open

from 8:00 a.m. to Midnight a.m. every day.

(This lab may be unavailable if scheduled for training)

THE RING-TUM PHI
STAFF EDITORIAL

Traveller needs serious reworking

Washington and Lee's sober ride system, Traveller, is in dire need of a fix-up. The scheme, in its current form, has many shortcomings, but with a few more dollars and a little elbow grease, the program could be made right. Due to unreliable dispatchers and poorly compensated drivers, many miles of country roads still separate us from success.

The Phi had the privilege of providing drivers for the program because we receive funding from the EC, but we were not made aware of the date of our sentence until the last possible minute. Three problems are outstanding and, below, we outline solutions.

First is the inevitable people problem. People are unreliable. While there is no way to avoid this omnipresent dilemma, it can be mitigated. The University could, for example, create a position or appoint an existing administrator to ensure the smooth operation of the system. Currently, there is no central authority figure to monitor Traveller. Student leadership goes only so far.

Second, the use of student vehicles is wholly unacceptable. To "volunteer" the vehicle of a student is wrong. Student vehicles are not, as Traveller commands, additional University cars, to be used as the school deems appropriate. Does W&L pay for the gas of "volunteer" drivers? Does W&L pay for the mileage of "volunteer" drivers? No, and no. A fleet of automobiles designated specifically for the use of Traveller would solve the problem.

Thirdly, Traveller must gain the respect of the University community. As drivers, we were not valued but were, instead, viewed as merely cab drivers at the beck and call of inebriated students. Many of us at the Phi consume our fair share of the sweet nectar, but it is important to show gratitude for those providing this important service. Users of the system must avoid becoming abusers of the system: Do not bring open (or closed) containers of alcohol into a Traveller vehicle. Do not attempt to cram ten people into a Volkswagen Beetle. Be sure to say thank you. The drivers and dispatchers are working hard to make sure that your good time begins and ends as a good time. Help them to help you.

In short, the solution is not, as some have argued, a dry campus. The solution is not the destruction of Traveller, either. The solution is to rework and reinvest in the current system.

Quote of the Week

"Housing in this area has doubled 10 to 12 percent in the last five years..."

-Joe Hancock, Lowe's Manager in *The Trident*, our esteemed competition

Powell makes case for war

Last Wednesday, Secretary of State Colin Powell appeared before a special session of the United Nations Security Council to share with the disbelieving diplomats some of the damning information the United States has collected. His tone was measured and his presentation simple and effective. He irrefutably demonstrated that Iraq continues to lie to the UN and hide its banned weapons from inspectors. As Sen. Joe Biden (D-Dela.) pointed out, with an impartial jury, he "could get a conviction."

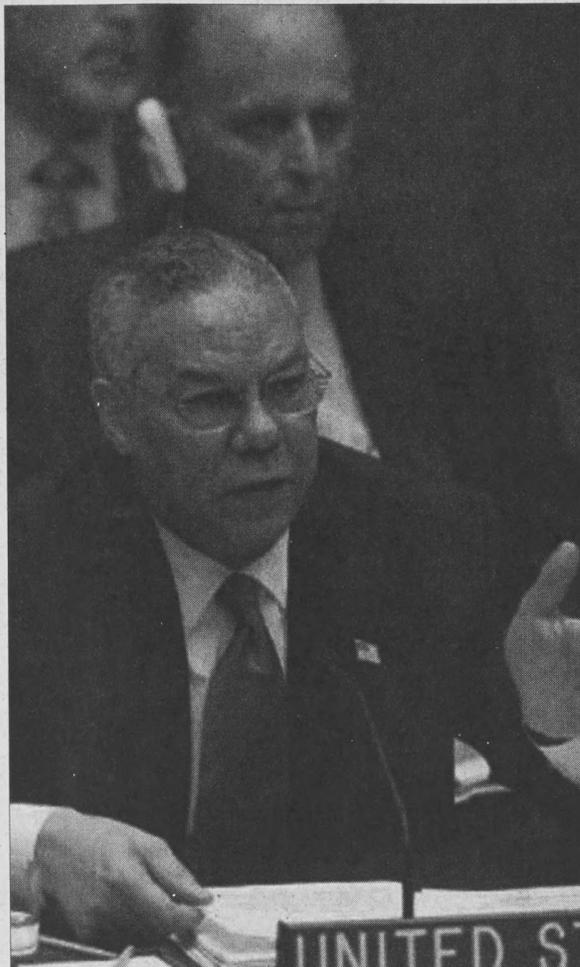
To review, Secretary Powell used photographs, video and audio tape to illustrate that Iraq continues to evade and obfuscate, has no intention of revealing banned weapons to the inspectors and is pursuing dangerous biological, chemical and nuclear weapons with which to harm its neighbors, the United States and the world. Revealing this highly sensitive intelligence was certainly very damaging to our future efforts to investigate President-for-life Hussein because it exposed our espionage methods and, potentially, human agents in Iraq.

For example, Powell played two audio tapes of telephone conversations between members of the Iraqi military, which is supposed to be assisting the inspectors in their investigations. Instead, the first tape recorded an Iraqi colonel acknowledging that inspectors were about to arrive and reassuring his superior that he had evacuated a prohibited "modified vehicle." A second tape is of a Republican Guard officer ordering a subordinate in the field to "clean out" the areas with "forbidden ammo" and to "destroy this message" when the work has been completed.

More damning evidence came in the form of pictures showing cargo trucks surrounding chemical weapons facilities days or even hours before inspectors were to arrive. When the UN did show up, these facilities were magically free of any banned weapons.

Based on the testimony of Iraqi defectors, Powell also displayed illustrations of mobile "germ factories." The deadly semi-trailers and boxcars can be constantly and easily moved around the country all the while producing anthrax and botulinum toxin. Saddam has stockpiled thousands of gallons and, as Powell showed with a photograph of a Mirage fighter jet, has experimented spraying these deaths from the air.

Saddam's nuclear weapons program, too, was exposed. Powell showed both that Iraq has sought illegal aluminum tubes crucial in the manufacture of nuclear weapons and attempted to purchase prohibited magnets and equipment used to en-



JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM. Last Wednesday, Secretary of State Colin Powell, before a special session of the UN Security Council, made the case for war on Iraq.

rich uranium. Contrary to what he claims, and despite the best efforts of IAEA inspectors, Iraq's nuclear research continues at full speed.

Finally, to silence critics who claim that any attack on Iraq would be a dangerous distraction from the war on terror and al-Qaeda, Powell detailed the links between Saddam and the terrorist organization. The dictator has harbored terrorists, provided training camps for them in northern Iraq and coordinated efforts through his intelligence services. Until Saddam is taken out, terrorists worldwide will have a powerful and dangerous ally.

So, what to do now that the case has been made so clearly and irrefutably? France and China have asked that the inspections regime be strengthened and lengthened. This suggestion, and any other in favor of further delay, is simply ridiculous and downright dangerous. Providing Saddam with more inspectors to deceive will not change the situation. The UN must now prove that it will

back up its words with might when it has been baldly lied to for twelve years.

Powell's speech may not have been about changing minds. Those opposed to the war, due to naiveté, fear or economic interest, will refuse to be persuaded. His speech laid out all the reasons why the United States will meet history's calling, though. Thankfully, and contrary to the complaints of, many ill-informed peaceniks, we are not alone. Australia and Britain have been allies since day one. Last week, Denmark, Italy, the Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, Poland and Hungary all pledged support for a war to disarm Iraq. Following the speech, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia agreed that the evidence is "incontrovertible" and a war necessary. How many more nations must support our action before we're no longer acting unilaterally?

The evidence is in and the case is clear. To echo President Bush, "Let's roll."

RIGHT OF THE AISLE
BRETT T. KIRWAN '04

Letters to the Editor

White Book review underway, input sought

Dear Editor,
Since its first meeting in September, the White Book Review Committee has solicited the opinions of alumni, students, and faculty regarding the state of the Honor System and has considered various proposals for the modification thereof.

On the most abstract level, we have considered how well and on what principles the Honor System functions. Does the Honor System effectively foster a "community of trust?" Or does it operate as a prosecutorial system based mostly on fear?

W&L's Honor System prides itself on being a system that can adapt with each new generation of students rather than a codified set of proscribed actions. But does the "lying, cheating, stealing" clause on the first page of the White Book contradict the Honor System's claim to be non-codified, and in the process perhaps limit what the EC is likely to consider as a breach of Honor? Does the non-codified nature of the Honor System leave students in the dark, such

that a well-intentioned student might be convicted of an act that he could not have known was an Honor Violation? As such, is the single-sanction the only appropriate punishment for an HV, or does it perhaps require administrators and students to overlook small Honor infractions simply because the punishment seems incommensurate with the crime?

One of the issues the WBRC has debated most heatedly is the matter of confidentiality surrounding EC trials. Does the strict confidentiality leave EC members unaccountable as elected representatives? The difficulty is balancing the desire to see EC members held responsible for their decisions and the desire to protect the rights of the accused. Requiring the EC, collectively or individually, to write opinions substantiating their rulings might not only leave them open to harassment, but, in detailing the specifics of an alleged honor offense, it would likely reveal the identity of the accused. At the same time, current procedure prevents students from knowing if their EC representatives are indeed representing their opinions and views on Honor.

As for specifics, should any or all of the following be considered HV's: Fake ID usage? Sexual misconduct? Van-

Campus grows more shrill, less civil

I like to think of myself as a moderate. I vote for the best candidate, not a straight party ticket. Both Republicans and Democrats can be intelligent, insightful, and practice good politics. I don't think that "liberal" is a dirty word, nor do I think "conservative" is. The only politically dirty word to me is "extremist."

Sadly, I am a part of the minority here at W&L. One needs only to read the national opinion pieces in either the Phi or the Trident to see that

MODERATE'S MUSINGS
CALEY ANDERSON '06

one-sided partisanship has taken over any remnant of thoughtful and civil debate. On the left side, you have *ad hominem* attacks on the President used as a justification for criticism of the entire Republican party. There are vague references to "warmongering" and "oil greed" without any real proof. Insinuating corruption in the White House through mere speculation has become popular these days. I am disappointed with Democrats who are willing to be so completely disrespectful and critical without serious thought.

Not to say that conservatives on this campus are just as guilty, if not more so. I had to be amused at an editorial that emphasized how "statesman"-like, "clear," and "determined" President Bush looked giving the State of the Union. I respect George W. Bush for being the President of the United States, but we all know that he's not the brightest President we've ever had. The very fact that we have to marvel over how "clear" he sounded is proof of that.

There are more vicious attacks, too, such as the implication in one editorial that Democrats effectively prostitute themselves into power by bribing poor people with federal welfare. I'll admit the welfare system needs some reform, but is this the attitude that Republicans on this campus take, that all liberals and Democrats are so blatantly and obviously wrong that they should be laughed at and scorned as inferior thinkers? It's this sort of attitude that contributes to the laughably low levels of voter participation in the modern era. I'm fine with disagreeing with someone's policy, but when you get to implying things like the "fact" that one party or the other only exists to "spend the people's money," that's toeing the border of actually hating people personally because of their political party.

There are plenty of valid points against President Bush's new tax cut, and there are plenty for it. Rather than condemn the other side as being totally mistaken and idiotic, let's discuss the pros and cons. Obviously, for instance, FICA policy is flawed. But is Bush's current proposal correct? Democrats do have a valid point that the wealthiest 5% get 95% of the tax cut breaks. Is this the best way to accomplish economic reform? It depends on your economic point of view. But, one should speak of it civilly.

Has intelligent debate left this campus, or even worse, this nation? Issues like taxation for government programs, abortion, and the death penalty have all been beaten to death; the people who argue over these issues, especially the latter two, have been reduced to effectively screaming at the other side about how wrong they are.

This is not the America that Jefferson had in mind when he drafted the Declaration of Independence. We are no longer an "educated citizenry," we are a "party and issue loyalty above all" citizenry too weak-minded to really think about issues. It is my hope that the many remaining thoughtful conservatives and liberals alike will be able to come to some consensus on government policy when our generation becomes the leading one. Otherwise, Congress will resemble nothing more than our editorial sections do now.

THE RING-TUM PHI

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TALKBACK: What is the strangest thing you've seen recently?



"Robert E. Lee... alive."
-Jacob Spencer '06



"A couple holding hands."
-Matthias Dachtler '03



"Wax jackets."
-Joanna Slack -Exchange



"Social conformity."
-Dave Newheiser '03



"Conservatives fawning over Vonnegut."
-Sam Russell '05

Hollywood beholden to "Penn-head" diplomacy

With the exception of former U.S. Senator-turned-"Law & Order"-star Fred Thompson, policy-makers largely stay out of the acting world. Why can't it be the other way around?

Granted, Ronald Reagan did successfully make the jump from acting to leadership, but he was always a much better leader than he was an actor. Of late, a group of Hollywood stars so anti-Republican they put Barbra Streisand to shame have made a sport of slamming the Bush administration's Iraq policy. Apparently, they won't be happy until Matt Damon is installed as Secretary of Defense.

Of course, in times of national crisis and on issues of national importance, it is imperative to include a mix of intelligent, insightful voices from a variety of perspectives. This current movement, however, cannot be seen as anything but stubborn attention-grabbing by a Left Coast coterie. The baffling and obstinate "Hollywood loves Iraq" mentality can best be summed up by this recent dialogue between a CNN interviewer and Martin Sheen, who's not a president but plays one on TV.

CNN: "Suppose you are wrong (about a pre-emptive strike against Iraq). Suppose that's what is needed."

Sheen: "I don't understand how I would be wrong."

These actors actually believe statements like that are effective refutations against hard evidence of Saddam Hussein's reign of terror.

Not to be outdone by the likes of Hanoi Jane-wannabe Sheen, a.k.a. "Baghdad Bartlett," Sean Penn has added his voice to the mix. In October, the actor-turned-activist of *Dead Man Walking* fame dropped \$50,000 to print a full-page ad opposing a possible war.

Then, Penn spent three days in December making front-page news touring Iraq (escorted by Saddam's lackeys) and slamming the Bush administration for its "crimes" against the Iraqi people (ostensibly, no one told him of



WANNABE. Martin Sheen, above as Josiah Bartlett of "The West Wing," wishes he could play president on more than just TV.

Hussein's numerous human rights violations and his dictatorial brutality). After returning home, he quietly admitted that the Butcher of Baghdad had used him as a propagandistic tool for the brutal regime.

Not to question the actor's motives for visiting Iraq, but before his three-day stint as a Saddam's personal propaganda puppet, Penn was perhaps best known as being the ex-Mr. Madonna. Could it be that, in his mind, being a washed-up political activist is better than being a washed-up actor?

Thankfully, the American people have enough sense to pay attention to actors on the screen and ignore them in real life. One can only hope that the United Nations and our European fair-weather friends can steel their nerves.

After Colin Powell's dramatic performance at the Security Council last Wednesday, only the most remote bastions of American liberals refused to see Saddam for the threat he is. Remarkably, our "friends" on the other side of the Atlantic did not seem moved.

The U.N.'s Resolution 1441 clearly stipulates that any false statement, omission, or other form of non-cooperation with the inspection process would be considered a "material breach." Now is a do-or-die moment for the United Nations; if they do not enforce their own mandates, they risk more than creating enmity among Americans—they risk irrelevance.

Let's not let Sean Penn and his ilk command the spotlight on this issue. It's time for the diplomats to prove that they know how to do more than double-park.

Plagiarism and deception plague efforts on Iraq

Blair published dossier largely stolen from dated academic papers; is deception leading us to war?

Things are getting a bit murky in the world of international politics. In a time when world leaders are trying to make cases against Iraq and convince those skeptical that war is the only option, the truth is not always what is to be found.

"Blair acknowledges flaws in Iraq dossier," from Friday's *Washington Post*, sheds light on the issue by pointing out some major flaws in the documents that the British Prime Minister used to convince British citizens of the severity needed in dealing with the Iraqi nation.

The nineteen-page dossier, entitled "Iraq — Its Infrastructure of Concealment, Deception and Intimidation," states in its introduction that it was written using several accountable sources, including intelligence material. However, when the British intelligence service was asked about the document their spokesman stated that they were in no way involved in the creation of the document. Their only explanation was that the document was solely a creation of 10 Downing Street.

What is more, the document is not even as genuine as that. Upon further inspection, the document is found to be mostly carbon copies of academic papers. Blair's dossier used excerpts from a twelve year old paper written by a California graduate student that referred to intelligence reports leading up to the Gulf War. This portion of the document cites no current intelligence whatsoever. Moreover this piece of propaganda does not even credit the paper it copied from. According to the



FAKE. Like Tom Skeham, a Tony Blair look-alike, the Prime Minister's dossier wasn't all it seemed.

Post, "The dossier even repeated the paper's typographical errors."

Saturday, the embarrassment deepened for the Prime Minister when a Brit-

ish newspaper, *The Times*, reported that the California student that authored the paper actually gathered his information from a 1999 book by the former weap-

ons inspector Scott Ritter, who opposes President Bush's Iraq policy.

The Prime Minister's press secretaries also were forced to admit that the office's junior communications staff, not British intelligence, assembled much of the dossier.

But deception does not stop here. No other academic papers were used in this falsified report, including a paper from last year published in the *Middle East Review of International Affairs*.

That article's author, Cambridge University lecturer Glen Rangwala stated that by his calculations eleven of the nineteen pages of Blair's dossier "were taken wholesale from academic papers," reported the *Post*.

Here in the U.S., the problem is that this dossier was cited by Colin Powell in his address to the United Nations Security Council last Wednesday. Powell praised the document for its "exquisite detail." How can a plagiarized document relying on reports that are more than a decade old give any relevant information to current situations in Iraq?

I am still not saying that there is no problem with Saddam Hussein's actions. However I think a statement made by Britain's former Defense Minister Peter Kilfoyle says it best: "It just adds to the general impression that what we have been treated to is a farago of half-truths, assertions and over-the-top spin. I am afraid this is typical of the way in which the whole question of a potential war on Iraq is being treated."

Why are our world leaders trying to sell the public a war against a deceptive tyrant with deception?

LETTERS, FROM PAGE 3

Blacks not underrepresented in Greeks

Dear Editor,

I am writing to respond to last week's article "Blacks rush, pledge" and I'd like to title this response "Whites choose to ignore big picture." The fact of the matter is that the school does not really present Greek organizations as racist and a number of minority students do not have the belief that they are.

Since we want to talk statistics, I'd like to point out that among the population of black students there are about 21 males. Of that 21 there are currently about six participating in the Greek system. That is over 25%. In other words, over a quarter of the minorities eligible to be part of a fraternity do so. I think that statistically that is a pretty big chunk.

For some reason, it is difficult for people to accept that most black students do not want to spend thousands of dollars to listen to bands we don't like, drink beer we don't want and participate in a host of other events that don't appeal to us. Those who are interested in such things go for it and are supported by the black community. In fact there have some cases in which a black student has been both Greek and a member of MSA at the same time. So you cannot accuse MSA of encouraging segregation in that manner.

We are on a small campus full of individuals and we should respect and appreciate each other as individuals and stop trying to make everyone be the same. Sincerely, Kaela Harmon '05

"Know" was a no-no

Dear Editor,

On the point that the original Hebrew word translated "know" in Genesis 19:5 does not have sexual implications, look at these verses in Genesis which use the same Hebrew root, *yadha*: 4:17, 4:25, 19:8, 24:16, and 38:26. It is true that the same root is used in an innocent sense in other verses, but the context of "know" in these verses makes it clear that it is not quite so innocent.

Indeed, Lot characterizes the Sodomites' request to "know" as wicked. How would a desire to meet someone be a breach of hospitality and wicked, deserving of the total destruction of two cities? Additionally, why would Lot offer his virgin daughters in place of his visitors? The theory that "the sin" of Sodom and Gomorrah was inhospitality simply does not hold up under scrutiny. Sodom and Gomorrah were wicked in all their ways.

It is true that the Bible has been used to justify evils in the past. But Christ's message was about more than love and acceptance—it was also about truth, faith, repentance, and salvation. "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). "He that believeth in him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already" (John 3:18).

In the future, Mr. Ramsey, you might do more thorough research. Sincerely, Kyle Sulli, '06

Lewis wrong on abortion; God does care

Dear Editor,

Rian Lewis' ("Abortion better off Legal," February 3) argument is shaky at best, and downright unintellectual at worst. In fact, I was frightened when I read it. She seems to argue that because in "medieval times" poor, victimized would-be mothers induced miscarriages and carried out abortions, we should be thankful of the "safe, sterile" abortions that modern medicine provides. There is no such thing as a "safe" abortion—successful abortions have a 100% fatality rate, guaranteed.

Once again, the disarming rhetoric of "rights concerning a woman's body" is laid on thick. Hiding behind the term "pro-choice," she believes that a woman has the right to choose whether or not to abort the baby. So, if you support her choice . . . and her choice is to abort . . . then you are *for abortion* in these cases.

As misguided as Lewis is, she is a gift from God. In fact, the acts of love and sexual union are also gifts from God. So don't kid yourself; God has everything to do with every action and every sexual union. The misuse and abuse of one of God's greatest gifts is not something to be taken lightly, horny or not.

If I were Ms. Lewis, I wouldn't be as concerned with the Supreme Court as I would be with my court date in front of The Most Supreme. Doing 25 to life is easy compared to eternity. Deal with *that*.

Sincerely, Joseph M. Harouni '05

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(every girl likes a guy with a sense of humor)

Marshall Museum misses mission

BY HAYNES KING
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

At the other esteemed institute of higher learning right here in our fine town of Lexington, and no, I am not referring to Rockbridge County High, I visited the Marshall Museum this week. After finally mustering up the courage to cross over and make the dangerous voyage over to VMI, I felt better because I know that I don't have to attend school in that prison. Well enough of this digression, lets get back to the destination at hand...

The Marshall Museum is dedicated to one of VMI's most beloved and well-known alumni, George C. Marshall. In 1901, Marshall graduated from the Virginia Military Institute as the highest ranking cadet. Upon graduation, he then joined the military and was trained as an officer prior to the outbreak of World War I. In 1939, Franklin D. Roosevelt chose Marshall to be the Army Chief of Staff. Most of you probably know Marshall best for his famous "Marshall Plan", which he formulated as Secretary of State after the second World War. He was given the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953 for his work in this office.

If you are a big WWII buff, or even if you just like the military a lot, then I would recommend that you go and visit this historical museum. I personally thought that the museum had way too much information that you had to read. To fully take in all that this museum has to offer, one would spend a large amount of time doing nothing but reading. There are some audio and visual aids to enhance your tour of the museum;

however, most of the information is displayed on big boards typed out. Overall, this is nothing particularly impressive.

The highlight of the Marshall museum experience would certainly have to be the replica army jeep located in the front hall. The best part of it is that they will even let you climb up in it and play around.

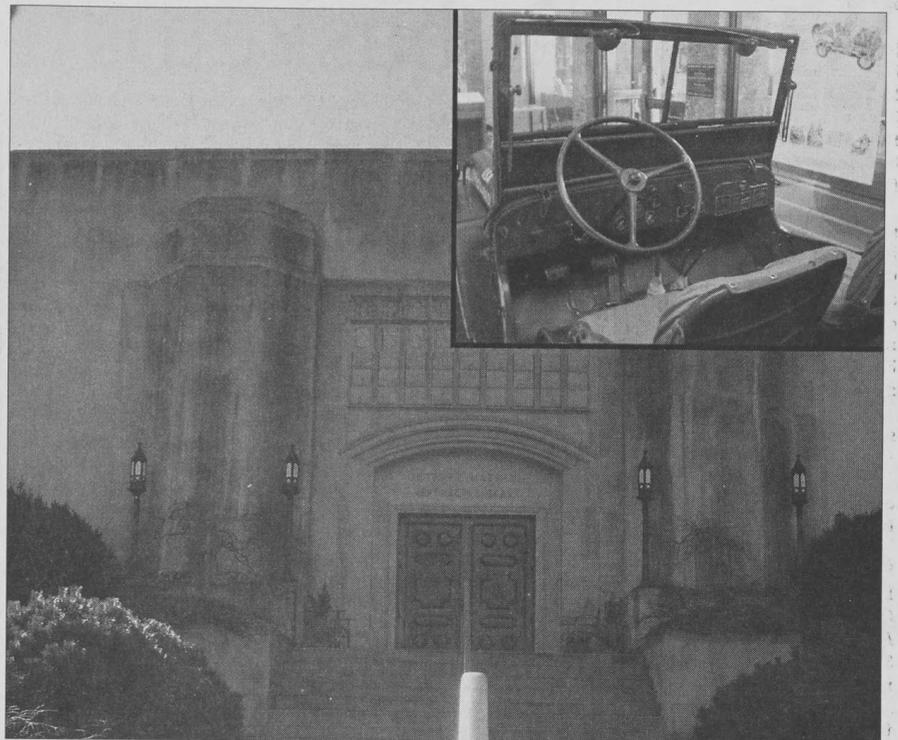
Luckily, this museum tour is free to all visiting students from Washington and Lee. Otherwise, I would have been extremely disappointed that I had spent my good money to visit this place. And I definitely wouldn't ever even think of taking a date here.

I would feel really bad giving this historical museum zero tridents, so I decided that I would give it one. But after walking out of the museum, looking across the parade grounds, and being overwhelmed with the feeling of "Damn I'm so glad that I don't go to school here," I had to give it an extra half trident just for that.

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



Haynes and Jeb will be back in March to give more travel advice



THE PRIDE OF VMI: The Virginia Military Institute's Marshall Museum and its Jeep (insert) are free to all W&L students.

'Playin' in basement

"Art enhances the soul."
"Music gives hope in the existence of a God."
—Kurt Vonnegut

Java Night at the GHQ: what's expected is never there, while the unexpected is always sitting at the table next to you, waiting for that ideal time when you think everything is fine and ordinary to surprise you once more. (Hence, all attempts at studying during Java will prove to be a futile effort.)

Upon hearing about "Alex Wilkins and Friends" playing at Java, I decided to waltz on over to the GHQ. With a test the next morning, I planned to settle comfortably in a booth, have a nice latte and listen to the music while diligently reviewing my notes on plate tectonics (oceanography class). As it turned out, "Alex Wilkins and Friends" surprised me with the unexpected.

Walking into the GHQ's "basement," I discovered that not only was the band interacting with the audience, but also one of the band members was actually verbally assaulting a front-row audience member! What the heck? I thought myself with a smile.

The band member continued his banter, continually directed at that poor, distraught soul in the audience, until finally dedicating the next song to him, entitled, "Grieco."

The band members are an eclectic and somewhat random group: Alex Wilkins, the so-called "ringleader" of the group, confident and always in control; Jordan Wolff, the humorous, sarcastic, and light-hearted guitar player (and who writes songs like "Grieco"); Connor Kirsch playing the percussion - a chill, come-what-may type of guy; and Laurence Eaton who sings the laid-back Robert Earl or Willie Nelson songs - a quiet, content dreamer on the mandolin and bass.

So what happens when you throw four distinct and opposing personalities together in a band? It's either a) complete disaster from the start or b) a reflection of diversity in its most flavorful light - a melting pot of gold.

Alright, so that sounds a bit cheesy and the band members themselves are probably leaning more towards answer "a." However, I thought the show was an "extra"ordinary (meaning, much more than ordinary) mix of genres, themes, and tunes. Playing the latest hits from the DJ party Saturday night ("Hey, must be the money!") mixed with some Rolling Stones and Beatles, while occasionally throwing in a few of those down-to-earth cowboy tunes, the band presented the audience with a wonderful blend of feel good music, poetry, and nostalgia. And with several self-written songs, "Alex Wilkins and Friends" definitely created for themselves a profoundly unique persona and a show nothing short of craziness, fun, and good times.

They're the new and upcoming band - so be sure to hear them play: Wednesday of Honor Scholars Week (place TBA). According to Wilkins, "We'll play anytime, anywhere, for any large amount of money!" Oh, and they're in search for a new band name - any ideas?

ON THE ARTS
LAURA LEIGH BIRDWELL '03

W&L needs code of behavior for laundry room

BY ASHLEY METZLOFF
STAFF WRITER

We've all done it. And at some point in our lives, we've all had it done for us. No, I'm not talking about *that* (whatever your *that* may be, it definitely isn't what I'm talking about); I'm talking about laundry!

Laundry is the bane of every working person's existence, a constant but necessary evil that has plagued mankind since the exeunt from the Garden of Eden. We all need to wear clothes unless we are the young gentleman from 311, and we all have to wash those clothes in order to exist and function in modern-day society. After all, no one wants to be the stinky kid. So what we're going to talk about today, boys and girls, is the culture of what I like to call laundry etiquette.

I first noticed that laundry had an overt culture when I came to W&L this past fall. Until then I had always done laundry in the privacy of my own home (I still do my *own* laundry when I go home), but with my entry into the brave new world of college also came the entry into the brave new world of... using public laundry machines. There are several problems with public laundry culture; basically, some people have proper laundry etiquette, and some do not.

There are two main types of launderers: those who dump the previous occupant's laundry wherever is convenient so they can do their own wash, and those who show up at the exact minute when their clothes are finished so they may protect their precious clothes from being thrown wherever is convenient for the person who is stalking their machine like an intent bird of prey.

Perhaps the "remove promptly" types are concerned about wrinkles, perhaps they don't like the idea of their newly washed clothes being thrown haphazardly down onto the dusty floor, or perhaps they just don't like the idea of a stranger plunging their dirty hands that have been Lord-knows-where

into an elbow-deep pile of their unmentionables. Whatever the reason, these members of the "remove promptly" class certainly have their act together. Yay for them!

As for those of you who fall into the dumper category, shame! How could you? Why can you not wait? Surely you must have faith in the launderer before you, surely you must believe that any moment they will come to rescue their parent-paid-for clothes, fold them diligently and with the utmost of care, thus freeing up the machine and allowing you to use it to its fullest potential and continue the great laundry circle of life.

But you... You lose hope so quickly. Perhaps you have tried to hold out before and have been bitterly disappointed, waiting on the same washer for three consecutive days, staying up nights watching and waiting, watching and waiting until you became as dejected as Ms. Havisham from *Great Expectations* and lost all hope. I can see you now in that first bitter moment: You step in with your plastic hamper full of crumpled clothing and scan the machines to see if any are unoccupied. Seeing that none are, you look at the machines with wads and wads of finished clothing still inside, and then the idea first leaks into your mind... All you have to do to complete your own wash is... move them.

It all seems so simple, so trivial, but then comes the moral questioning. Is it right to move someone else's clothes without their permission? Your mother always told you not to mess with things that don't belong to you, so you scan the premises to see if the owner is absentmindedly standing by. The only person you see is me sitting on top of a washing machine appearing to do homework while I'm really

watching your every move to see what you'll do next because I'm doing laundry research, and since I clearly do not wear boxers, you decide that the owner is not present. You shift in your steps, befuddled and confused, and finally after a full three seconds, you decide to do what's best for you. You shove and

stuff, thus unconsciously supporting the great laundry law of every man for himself. You exit, satisfied with your assertive nature, just as a young man enters and begins to exclaim through the mediums of profanity that his clothes have all been dumped onto the floor.

Other laundry no-no's: Gentlemen, if you must wash your jock straps in the public laundry room, please, please, please do NOT leave them there when your washer/dryer is the only one available to use. There are some things that we girls just don't want to see.

Also, please remove all band-aids before you place your clothes in the washing machine (yes, this is from an actual experience). I mean... yuck. And although it's not technically a rule, removing the lint from the dryer filter is always a considerate and kind gesture.

Laundry tip: If you're a fraternity pledge, I recommend using Victoria's Secret luxury detergent and lavender water on any laundry you are forced to do that does not belong to you. They told you that you had to wash their clothes- they didn't say with what.

So ends the tragic tale, and so begins a new cycle (forgive the pun) of soiled to clean. Life is beautiful, and don't you forget it. So remember kids: Be on time to pick up your wash, stay off the drugs, tell your momma you love her, and always, always use detergent.

I FIRST NOTICED THAT
LAUNDRY HAD AN OVERT
CULTURE WHEN I CAME TO
W&L THIS PAST
FALL. THERE ARE SEVERAL
PROBLEMS WITH PUBLIC
LAUNDRY CULTURE;
BASICALLY, SOME PEOPLE
HAVE PROPER LAUNDRY
ETIQUETTE, AND SOME DO
NOT.

Tyranny of groundhog Punxsutawney Phil ends now

BY DANIEL PORT
DAILY TROJAN (U. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES - Sunday was just another day in California. The scent of smog and homeless people peppered downtown Los Angeles and there were few clouds in the sky.

For the winter-experiencing or "real" United States, however, Sunday meant another visit from Punxsutawney Phil, a groundhog that foretells whether spring will be early by the appearance of his shadow.

This delightful tradition stretches back more than 100 years. Phil has appeared in films and television and has met celebrities such as Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell and even Oprah Winfrey. Young people love his adorable buck teeth and fuzzy cheeks and old people love him because, well, old people love everything. His charm, however, is a charade to mask the startling truth.

Punxsutawney Phil is pure evil.

Phil seems to think it's cute and funny to curse this country with another six weeks of winter. His "predictions" are startlingly accurate - a bit too accurate. Theorists have proposed that the groundhog does, indeed, control the weather. The facts don't lie.

Of the 107 recorded predictions made by Punxsutawney Phil, 93 predicted winter would continue.

My meteorological research confirms that, indeed, winter tends to last past Feb. 2. Very interesting.

Year in, year out, it's the same thing: our country falls victim to the meteorological omniscience of this deceptive and manipulative ground-dweller. I say no more! My attempts to book an interview with this devious rodent were met by runaround and miscommunications. The Punxsutawney City Hall referred me to a fan club phone number, where his secretary or "lackey" scoffed at my attempts to contact Phil.



PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL

"You want to talk to who?"
"Phil."
"Phil? The groundhog?"
"That's right."
"Are you on any medication right now?"
"Don't change the subject, lady. I want that weather-controlling fur ball on the phone right now!"

Obviously fearing I knew the truth, she hung up. Lacking the funds to travel to Pennsylvania, or even make another long-distance call, I searched the Internet for some insight into the activities and motivations of this shadow-seeker.

I discovered that records of Punxsutawney Phil's "predictions" date as far back as 1887. That means that this groundhog has outlived his life span by at least 90 years. So not only does Mr. Groundhog control the weather and act nauseatingly cute, he is apparently also immortal.

Our country has fallen victim to this beast for the last time.

I have a plan. Just the other day I happened to catch part of a documentary involving both time-travel and groundhogs.

The main character was both amusing and brilliant regarding all things groundhog. Thus, by enlisting the help of this "Bill Murray," I'm sure I can free our country from the claws of our hole-digging demigod.

Only seven of the last nine years have been attached to Phil's reign of continuous winter, so it appears he is not completely without compassion. This, however, will be exploited as weakness and used to overtake him in a horribly bloody offensive. It'll be like that scene in the cave in "XxX," except without all the poor acting and baldness.

Phil will likely utilize his weather-controlling skills to try and strike down myself, Mr. Murray and our some 10,000 armed militia members. As Phil bombards us with hail, sleet and lightning, we will attempt to collapse his underground fortress in the manner employed by Murray, albeit unsuccessfully, in another one of his documentaries. This one involved golf, I believe.

So join me in my crusade to thwart an aggressor that has extended winter in 93 of the last 116 years. Help ensure that Feb. 2 will be marked by wives starting to nag their husbands about Valentine's Day, not burrowing rodents named Phil dictating weather changes. The time is now.

Lock and load, Mr. Murray.

Write for Life!

call x4060 or email guyc@wlu.edu

Women's basketball snaps losing streak

BY JOHN HYLAND
SPORTS WRITER

The Washington and Lee women's basketball team snapped a four game losing streak with a 44-38 victory over Randolph-Macon Women's College on Wednesday night and then lost a tough 55-50 decision to Guilford. Both games were played in the Warner Center.

Their win improved the Generals' record to 3-14, 3-12 ODAC while the loss dropped RMWC's record to 3-14, 1-12 ODAC.

The Generals opened the game on a 10-2 run and took a comfortable 28-15 lead into the half.

The majority of W&L's offense came from forward Sarah Michaels, '04

and guard Louisa Feve, '06, who scored all but 10 of the team's points.

Michaels finished the game with 19 points, 10 rebounds and 3 steals while Feve added 15 points, 10 boards and 4 steals.

The Generals dominated this game defensively with a tough, swarming defense that made 19 steals and forced 30 turnovers and held the

Wildcats to just 29 percent shooting.

Forward Emily Barker, '05 made 6 of those steals. W&L also held RMWC's leading scorer, Meghan Stenrud, who came into the game averaging over 17 points, to just 7.

While the Generals did not trail at any point during the game, they did play a fairly sloppy second half in which they shot just 19 percent and scored only 16 points.

Twice, the Wildcats cut the game to within five points during the second half with just over 8 minutes left and at the 1:20 mark. The Generals, however, would not yield further and were able to preserve the victory.

On Friday night, the Generals hosted a talented Guilford team that entered the game with a 13-5, 10-3 ODAC record, leaving them just a game out of first place in the ODAC to Emory and Henry.

It was clear from early on in the game why Guilford has been so successful this season. They are a very athletic team that plays a disciplined game and has a lot of depth. Nevertheless, this game was very tight from the beginning.

The first half was a defensive

battle, as the Generals had a difficult time penetrating Guilford's full court press and tough, trapping man-to-man defense, shooting just 18 percent from the field in the first half.

On the other end of the court, however, the Quakers also had trouble scoring against the Generals zone defense.

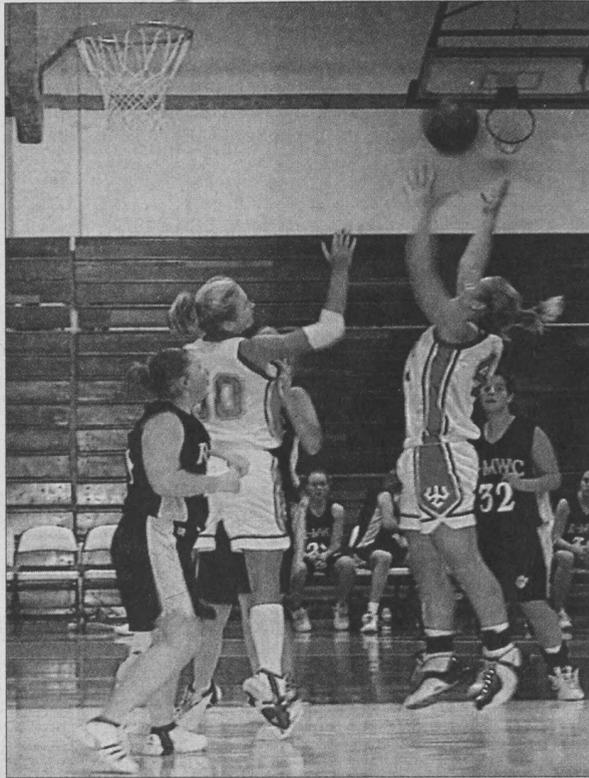
Guilford shot just 29 percent from the field in the first half. For the game, W&L was able to limit leading scorer, sophomore forward Courtney Hill, to just 2 points, well below her season average of 15.6. Guilford took a 19-17 lead into half-time.

The scoring opened up in what was a very exciting second half. Guilford went on a 13-4 run early in the half to give them a 35-24 lead with 13:10 remaining. It seemed that Guilford, the deeper team, would cruise to victory.

Ten players for Guilford saw significant playing time while every W&L starter played at least 33 minutes.

The Generals then went on 12-0 run of their own. A 3-point shot by Michaels with 5:45 left gave W&L a 43-41 advantage. Consecutive baskets by Barker and Dannelly extended the Generals' lead to 47-41 with 4:27 remaining.

Guilford came right back, however, with three 3-point baskets, two consecutive baskets by junior forward A.J. Robertson and a final trey from junior



KATIE HOWELL/The Ring-tum Phi

Shor. Austin Calhoun prepares to go after the rebound as Sarah Michaels takes a shot.

guard Nicole McCrory that gave the Quakers a 50-47 lead with 1:19 left. But the Generals would not be denied.

Michaels hit a 3-pointer with 42 seconds remaining to tie the game at 50. The basket gave her 24 points for

the night, a game high. On the next possession, McCrory found Robertson again and she connected on another 3-pointer, with 19 seconds left, to give Guilford a 53-50 lead that would turn out to be the game winner.

Michaels was unable to connect on the potential game-tying three. Two free throws by sophomore guard Aftan Medlin sealed the Quakers 55-50 victory.

Despite the loss, the Generals played an outstanding game against a team that has the ODAC title in its sights. This game was tight in every way. Both teams grabbed 34 rebounds. The Generals committed 16 turnovers to Guilford's 17 and the Generals shot 35 percent from the floor for the game while Guilford shot 36 percent.

In addition to Michaels exceptional offensive performance, the Generals had some other notable contributors. Feve finished the game with 12 pints and 3 assists. Dannelly added 10 points, 5 rebounds and 4 assists and senior center and Co-captain Austin Calhoun grabbed a game and career-high 12 rebounds.

The Generals are next in action Sunday afternoon at 2 in a non-conference game against Shenandoah. They get a chance to avenge this loss in the final game of the regular season, on February 22 at Guilford.

Men drop two, comeback Sunday afternoon

Generals manage a win against Lynchburg

BY ALLISON PERRY
SPORTS WRITER

The Washington and Lee men's basketball team added two losses to their record this week, but came back on Sunday to win.

The Generals fell to Emory and Henry, 67-80, on Wednesday and to Hampden-Sydney, 60-67, on Saturday. W&L pulled out a close win over Lynchburg on Saturday, 63-62.

The Generals held E&H guard Justin Call to 16 points on Wednesday, down from the 46 points he scored in their last meeting.

W&L was down 44-31 at the half, but cut the Wasps' lead to 50-44 with 14:35 left in the second half.

E&H's 41.3 percent shooting for the game helped them to add another 30 points before the half was over.

The Generals had 23 turnovers and 36.4 percent shooting for the game.

Sophomore guard Ian McClure led the Generals with 13 points, with 4 shots from three-point range.

Freshman forward Phil Landes also added 12 points for the team.

The Hampden-Sydney Tigers handed W&L another loss Saturday in a close game at Warner Center. With 4:40 left to go in the game, McClure sank a free throw to cut the Hampden-Sydney lead to one.

After several missed shots by the Generals, Hampden-Sydney guard Brandon Randall made two free throws with 9 seconds left to end the game.

The Generals had 21 turnovers in contrast to the Tigers' twelve.

McClure posted 22 points, and senior captain Scott Hettermann added 17 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 assists.

Junior captain Hamill Jones also

put in 10 points and 6 rebounds.

The Tigers were led by junior guard Jeff Monroe and junior guard Brandon Randall, who both contributed 15 points each.

The game was broadcast by WDRL-TV in Roanoke with 950 people in attendance.

The Hampden-Sydney Tigers remain undefeated at 21-0 overall and 15-0 in the ODAC. They are ranked first in the ODAC and second in Division III.

The Generals pulled out an ODAC win on Sunday over the Lynchburg Hornets also in Warner Center.

With 11 seconds left to go in the game, sophomore guard Mike Stuart made a layup to secure the win.

The game was tied up at 27-27 at the half. The Generals took their highest lead in the second half with a four-point advantage at 7:50 left to go. The lead went back-and-forth several times after that until the end of the game.

Shooting percentage from the floor was close with Lynchburg shooting 42.6 and W&L shooting 45.5.

Hettermann led the Generals with 16 points and a career-high 12 rebounds.

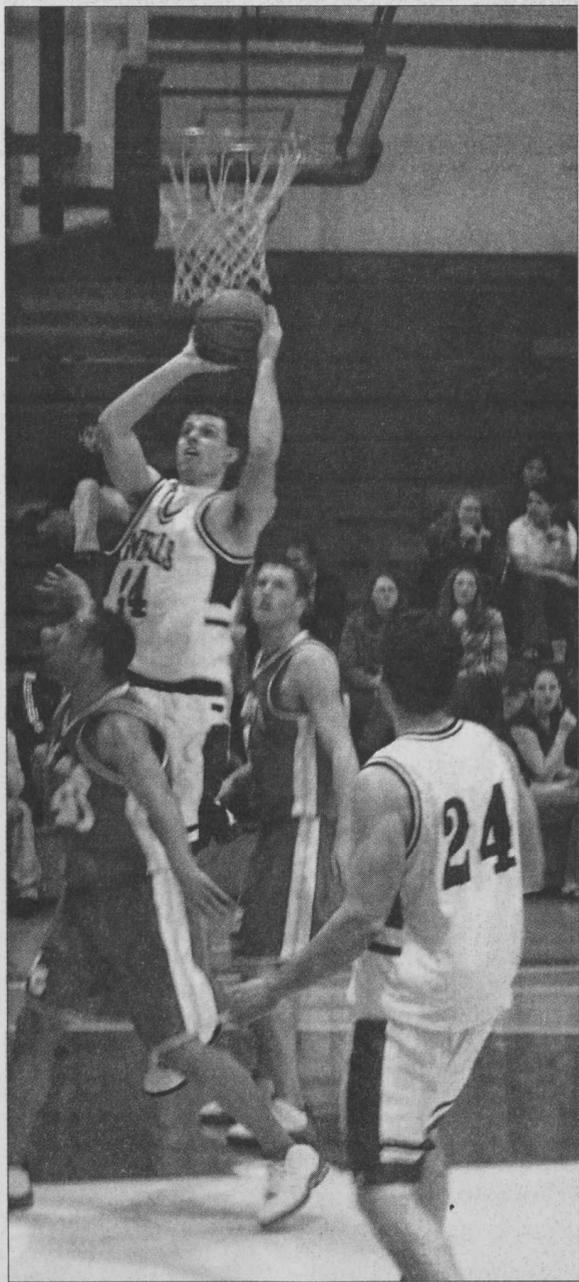
Freshman guard Ryan Flynn also had a career-high with 13 points. Stuart helped out with a career-high seven assists.

The Hornets were led by sophomore center Ryan Pehaniak with 18 points.

The Generals are now 6-15 overall and 3-12 in the ODAC. They play in more ODAC action next against Guilford.

W&L fell to the Quakers in a close game, 55-57, when they met in Warner Center on January 8th.

The conference match-up will be at 7:00 p.m. at Guilford.



JEN BROOKS/The Ring-tum Phi

ATTEMPT. Freshman David Will goes up for a basket in Sunday's game against Lynchburg, which ended with a win for the Eagles.

Track competes at Christopher Newport

BY MARY CHRISTOPHER
SPORTS WRITER

Plagued by injuries and absences, the Generals expected a rough weekend. They knew, however, that if they worked hard individually good things would come.

The throwers got the team off to a great start. Brian Gallagher threw a strong 35-10 and Chris Walker threw a 37-6.5, giving him a 18th place finish. For the women, Audrey Walker threw a 30-10.5, resulting in her 12th place finish. In the long jump, Senior Chris Sullivan represented the Generals with his leap of 22'2".

The sprint team also had many strong performances. For the men Chris Sullivan returned from his jumping with two outstanding performances. His 7.26 time in the 60m-dash gave him a 5th place in the Division 3 finals.

He also scored 13th in the 200m dash with a time of 23.60. Other 60m dash runners, Lee Stinnett, Jonathan Brimer, and Brian Krucpzak finished with times of 7.72, 7.54, and 7.34 respectively. In the men's 200m dash, Joe Greenhill, Hugo Diaz, and Jonathan Brimer ran hard at 25.87, 25.32, and 24.21.

The women sprinters also did excellently in the 200m. Captain Meredith Walker led the way with her time of 29.18, followed closely behind by Kim Gunst with a 30.10 time, Amy Bacastow with a 32.34, and Angel Daniels with a 33.88.

The Lady Generals also competed two runners in the 400m-dash as opposed to the 60m dash which they frequently run. Meredith Walker ran a 66.12 and Kim Gunst ran a 67.75 for her first time ever running the event! Many men also competed in the 400m which was lead by Brian Krucpzak with his time of 54.10 and Jonathan Brimer at 54.29.

The distance team had a very interesting collection of runners and

events. They were looking forward to a strong Distance Medley Relay team but due to the absence of Erin Johnson, illness of Liz Twentyman, and injury of Mary Christopher, they had to withdraw.

Two of the women that were able to perform Friday night did a wonderful job. Samantha Snabes and Jessica Remmert ran the 5000m run with times of 21:35.41 and 21:41.62. After recuperating that evening, the pair went on to compete in the 3000m run Saturday, Jessica leading the way with a 12:41.78 closely followed by her counterpart Samantha, who ran a 12:43.42.

Unfortunately, the distance squad was unable to enter anyone in the 800m dash a very common race for the Generals, but did race two individuals in the 1500m. Andrew Johnson, with his injured ankle, ran an outstanding 4:20.54 giving him a 24th place overall finish at the competitive meet. And, due to the illness of Twentyman, Mary Christopher took her spot in the event, earning a 5:19.26 time and a 16th place overall finish. Although there weren't many competitors for the distance team the few that did perform, performed well!

Although it was hard for the coaches to deal with the great deal of last minute changes, they worked well under the pressure and were extremely supportive. Coach Hoey and Aldridge videotaped from the bleachers while Coach Tucker and Schuckert gave the runners their splits from the sidelines.

The Generals worked hard all weekend, continued making improvements, and gained motivation for their next big event- The Indoor ODAC Championships two weeks away at VMI. Many individuals are placed high among the competitors and they, along with their coaches, look forward to meeting the challenge!

Wrestling Drops Two Matches

Washington and Lee's Wrestling team dropped two matches at the Johns Hopkins Quadrangular on Sunday afternoon. The Generals' record is now 2-11 overall, 0-6 in the Centennial Conference. First, the Generals lost to Hopkins, 44-6, then dropped a much closer decision, 29-24, to Albright. 174-pound Brian Avello, '05, did record a 9-5 decision over Johns Hopkins' Mike Yuhaniak while 197-pound Mike Bennett, '04, recorded a 4-3 win over Johns Hopkins' John Polena. 133-pound Grant Krapf, '06, 141-pound John Polena, '03, 165-pound Alex Poor, '03, and Bennett all won by forfeit against Albright. The Generals' next match is Wednesday when they host Southern Virginia.

Φ Sports.

Come watch the Generals' play and write about them!
Contact Erin at x4060 for details!