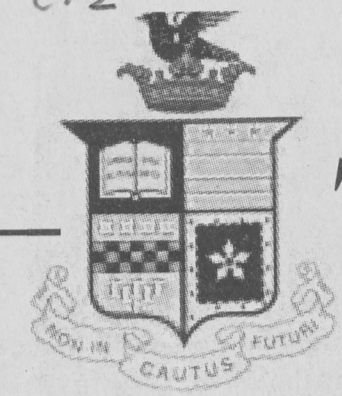


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# WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI

VOLUME CVI, No.  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

The student voice of Washington and Lee University since 1897

## ΣΦΕ revokes W&L charter, new frat may charter in Lex

BY ALLISON PERRY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Washington and Lee may see the arrival this year of a new fraternity on campus in place of an old one. The Sigma Phi Epsilon National Board of Directors decided at their meeting in May to close Washington and Lee's chapter. The former Washington and Lee SigEp members are now working to start an Alpha Delta Phi chapter on campus.

The former SigEp brothers say their chapter was closed because they did not follow the fraternity's Balanced Man Program.

"While the Balanced Man Program (BMP) is a voluntary program, SigEp has slowly been converting all its chapters to the BMP," Washington and Lee SigEp President Chris Colby said.

"SigEp nationals can by no means withdraw a charter strictly based on the fact that that particular chapter is balanced man, but they can create false allegations and seize it based on those allegations."

The SigEp national website says the Balanced Man Program is a four-year membership development program. The organization hopes that through this program they can tackle problems like inadequate community and campus involvement and tear down the "fraternity" stereotype.

This program would also do away with pledgship, giving members full privileges from day one.

SigEp says the BMP has nothing to do with Washington and Lee's chapter losing their charter. SigEp Communications Director Matt Thompson said each chapter decides to implement the BMP through vote. Eighty percent of the chapter must vote in favor of the program for it to pass.

Thompson attributed the revocation of Washington and Lee's chapter to risk management concerns and declining grades, not the lack of the BMP.

SigEp's national minimum required grade point average is 2.5. Dawn Watkins said that Washington and Lee's chapter met the minimum required GPA.

"We were by no means in danger of falling below the minimum," Colby said.

Professor David Peterson became SigEp's academic advisor in 2000. He went to dinner at the house once a semester. Peterson was also unable to give academic advice to any of the brothers who requested it.

"There were a number of bright members and good students in SPE," Peterson said.

Colby said Washington and Lee's chapter participates in many campus activities and is involved in the community.

The brothers held a Toys for Tots drive last year and bowled with the Lexington Special Olympics team. The chapter also has brothers on the swim team, tennis team, cross country and track teams, and baseball team.

They also belong to academic societies, work for student publications, serve as dorm counselors, peer counselors, peer tutors, pre-orientation leaders, and participate in Mock Convention. Allegations of alcohol abuse were also made against the chapter.

"Did we throw parties? Yes. Did we abuse alcohol? No," Colby said. "The fact that Alpha Delta Phi is willing to take our brotherhood as one of its chapters is indicative of the fact that the brothers did nothing to provoke the revocation of its SigEp charter."

Sophomore Adam McAllister is trying to remain positive about his fraternity's situation. "We're still having a good time, but it stinks to not be able to live with everyone in the house. We're working on having a good fall and getting the Alpha Deltas here in the winter," he said.

Despite any questions over accusations against the chapter, the university has no control over the closing of the SigEp chapter. According to the Student Handbook, a fraternity must be in good standing with its nationals in order to remain on campus.

The IFC must now take a vote in order to approve bringing Alpha Delta Phi to campus. If approved, the new members of Alpha Delta Phi will not be able to take the old SigEp house.

SigEp nationals holds the lease to the house and will keep it in case it comes back to campus in several years.

Colby said that even if the IFC does not vote to accept Alpha Delta Phi, they will still exist on campus.

"Whether or not the university recognizes Alpha Delta Phi as an official Washington and Lee fraternity, Alpha Delta Phi will recognize our brotherhood as a legitimate Alpha Delta Phi chapter," Colby said.

Dean Watkins said Alpha Delta Phi could possibly be violating the Comity of the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) if it allows former SigEp members to join its fraternity. The NIC does not allow one fraternity to receive members from another fraternity.

Colby said that the former members of Washington and Lee's chapter are no longer affiliated with SigEp, referring to the letter that SigEp nationals sent to parents this summer. The letter said that the



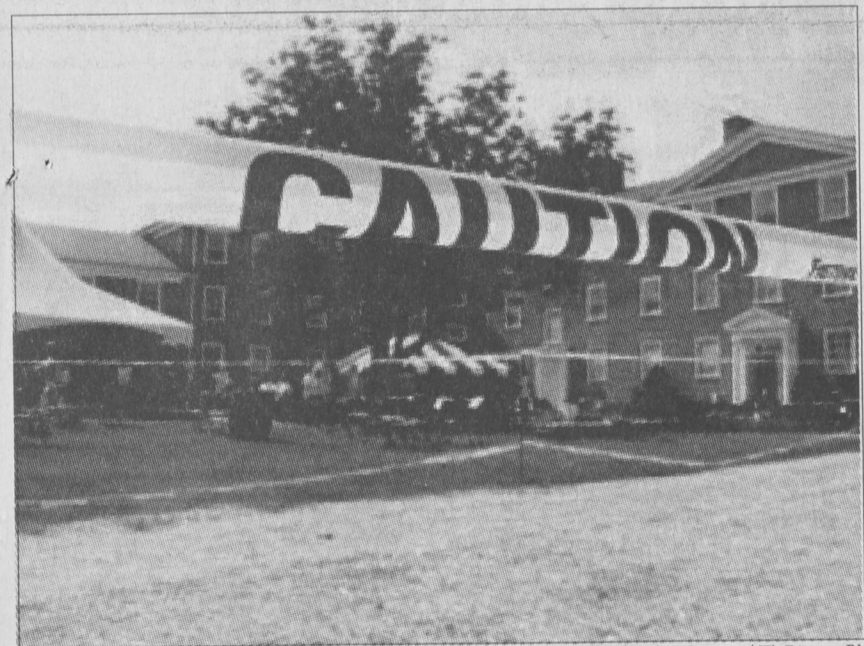
JEB BROOKS / The Ring-tum

**FALLING OUT OF LEX.** Sigma Phi Epsilon has fallen from Lexington and hopes to land at "Fallout" as Alpha Delta Phi. The "Alpha-Delts," as they wish to be called, are currently in the process of attempting to rush freshmen without the benefit of an official chapter house. Instead, they plan to take advantage of off-campus houses like this one on Washington Street.

members could achieve alumni status after graduation. But Colby said the former members will not try to become alumni.

"What everyone needs to understand is that we are not creating a new fraternity on campus," Colby said. "But rather continuing a brotherhood under different greek letters."

### WELCOME FROSH



JEB BROOKS / The Ring-tum Phi

**CAUTION, CONSTRUCTION AHEAD.** Freshmen arrived to find the campus almost out from under construction. Some workers remain in the new John W. Elrod University Commons as well as in other buildings wrapping up what was a busy summer for the campus. This year's freshman class contains 455 freshmen from 44 states and 17 foreign countries. With average SAT scores ranging from 1320 to 1420 and average ACT scores ranging from 28 to 31, this year's class certainly makes the cut. Most of the freshman arrived on Saturday, however many came early to participate in pre-orientation week events or athletic camps. The official Freshman Orientation Week Program began on Sunday with activities designed to help the incoming students adjust to Washington and Lee life. Included in the itinerary is an activities fair held in the BDG quad. The event highlights many student organizations on campus.



JEB BROOKS / The Ring-tum Phi

**WHAT A TASTY MORSEL.** Dean of Students Dawn Watkins and new Dean of Freshman David Leonard take a moment to enjoy a free hot dog while helping freshmen move into their rooms during freshmen move-in day. Watkins was chosen in early June as Dean of Students. She had previously acted as Dean of Freshmen. Leonard was named in July. He comes to Washington and Lee from Whittier College in California. "We couldn't be more pleased about David Leonard joining our Student Affairs team. I feel confident he will serve our freshmen and the W&L community exceedingly well," said Dean Watkins.

## Board to determine new calendar by 2004 Spring Term's fate still in question after months of debate

BY KATIE HOWELL  
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

### Spring Term background

Spring Term was born 33 years ago when Washington and Lee officials decided the school needed a change of pace from a traditional two-semester calendar. Professors developed alternative courses for the six-week term, students took advantage of study abroad and off-campus opportunities and everyone enjoyed Goshen.

Three years ago the administration first challenged the future of Spring Term at Washington and Lee. After extensive review and debate, the faculty voted 127 to 64 in favor of the present three-term calendar and the system was not challenged again until summer 2002.

University President Thomas Burish requested a second study of the calendar last fall. He said financial reasons and faculty course loads were the main issues sparking the most recent study. Faculty and administration spent months studying the benefits and setbacks of the current 12-week-12-week-six-week calendar and proposing ideas about alternate calendar possibilities.

"W&L won't be W&L if we have the second-best faculty," Burish said last spring. "Over time it's going to be difficult to attract the best faculty if we don't fix things."

Burish announced last spring that the main issues to be addressed in future calendar discussions are Washington and Lee's status as a stellar liberal arts university, faculty scholarship, faculty and student recruitment, the Spring Term atmosphere, academic rigor, coordinating the undergraduate calendar with the law school's that is currently a two-semester system and reducing faculty teaching loads to a more acceptable five courses per year. Three student forums as well as numerous faculty debates were

held last spring to discuss the issues. The academic year ended without a final answer on the future of Washington and Lee's calendar.

### Recent developments

A decision will be made about Washington and Lee's calendar by the end of this academic year, Executive Committee president Helen Hughes said.

Three calendar reports were released on September 3 to discuss the possibilities for three different calendar systems: Washington and Lee. Over the summer faculty committees met and discussed the pros and cons of each of the three systems—the current 12-12-6 calendar, a traditional two-term 14 calendar, and a middle-of-the-road 13-13-4 calendar.

"The 13-13-4 calendar is, by its very nature, a compromise to all constituents—students, faculty, and administration," professors Marcia France and Mike Pleva wrote their report on the 13-13-4 calendar.

Each report addresses the calendars in relation to the issues addressed by Burish last spring. The reports are posted online at [www.wlu.edu/CalendarDiscussion](http://www.wlu.edu/CalendarDiscussion).

Hughes said in a campus-wide email that the undergraduate faculty will discuss the three options on September 22 and will hold the first of two votes on September 23. The first vote will eliminate the option with the least votes. Within the next week, the faculty will vote again, selecting an option that they will present to the Board of Trustees October 23-25 as the faculty choice along with the other two options. The Board will then decide among the three options by the end of the academic year which system to implement at Washington and Lee. Hughes said if a different option than the current 12-12-6 system is chosen, it will take at least two years to come into effect.

## W&L administrator resigns because of sodomy charges

BY ERIN JULIUS  
NEWS EDITOR

David Long, Washington and Lee's vice president for university relations, was charged with solicitation to commit sodomy and assault and battery over the summer. Long was arrested in Pennsylvania on July 30. It's unclear why Long was charged with assault.

The charges stemmed from a sting operation on a Harrisonburg adult bookstore. A Harrisonburg grand jury indicted Long and 25 other men on 34 charges following a three-month investigation of Harrisonburg Adult News.

According to a Harrisonburg police news release, the investigation had utilized undercover work by an officer inside the store and video surveillance of the store's parking lot. The 26 men were indicted on charges ranging from misdemeanor indecent exposure to sodomy. Long was arrested in Pennsylvania after crashing into

a parked car. The officer that investigated the crash discovered the outstanding warrants for Long and arrested him.

Long, who was head of Washington and Lee's communications, development and alumni relations departments, was placed on administrative leave with pay July and resigned "for personal reasons" on August 1.

He worked in fund raising at W&L since 1988. Tom White, Washington and Lee's communications director has called Long a "valued and dedicated employee" and said the school is aware of the indictment but does not know the facts of the case so it's "withholding comment and judgment."

Long lives in Lexington with his wife and three sons.

The Supreme Court recently struck down Texas' anti-sodomy law, however, Virginia's law against sodomy has not been repealed. Virginia court has upheld its sodomy law in cases where the offenses were committed in public.

Check out pages 4 and 5 for a handy map of Lexington

# University bans music sharing

Administration stops lawsuits before they happen, questions of Honor left up to Executive Committee

BY ANDREW LATIMER AND JEB BROOKS  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR AND EDITOR IN CHIEF

On-campus residents in search of free music and movies this week found nothing but frustration as university officials enacted measures to stop illicit file sharing over Washington and Lee's connection to the Internet.

The ban, which is expected to be announced formally by Provost Thomas Williams within several days, has already affected users of popular "peer-to-peer" applications such as KaZaA, iMesh, Morpheus and Audiogalaxy. Currently, special equipment and software designed to analyze data on the school's network has been set to allow certain types of traffic, like viewing web pages and sending e-mail, while blocking the offending programs.

The move marks the latest chapter in the school's struggle with protecting its community from an increasingly aggressive nationwide legal assault on file swapping, spearheaded by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). The organizations, which claim billions of dollars in losses due to widespread music and movie piracy, zero in on its targets by tracing the addresses of illegal users back to their institutions or Internet service providers, or ISPs.

If contacted by industry lawyers, the university must now hand over the names of the sharers for prosecution instead of being left to deal with the problem on its own as it did in past cases. By late August, the RIAA had issued over 1,145 subpoenas with dozens being added every day, with fines as hefty as \$17,500 per song illegally distributed. "That's what we're nervous about," said Dean of Students Dawn Watkins, who participated on a six-member ad hoc committee established by former Provost Larry Boetsch last fall to examine the complexities of online rights and file sharing.

With pressure mounting as the new school year approached, the body recommended complete barring peer-to-peer activity. In an e-mail dated July 28, Director of University Computing John Stuckey made it clear that "the stakes are too high not to do what we can, even at the cost of a likely howl of protest."

A random survey of the freshman dormitories revealed confusion and indignation about university actions. With no official notice, word about the ban spread through campus at first as a rumor when all attempts to trade or search for files ended in failure.

"Now I've lost one of my biggest reasons for moving back to the Hill," said one upperclassman who asked to remain anonymous. Some looked at the effort as an extreme tactic to save university bandwidth. Dawn Watkins regards the latest policy revision as motivated by the potential of serious legal threats.

"The users are the ones being held liable. We just want to make sure that this doesn't happen to our students. The use of such (sharing) software has been banned from faculty and staff computers for at least a year; now students face that same ban," Watkins said.

Whether or not file sharing is an honor violation is a matter that will be left to the Executive Committee, which so far has not indicated its views on the issue. Yet the change is sure to prompt campus discussion on "media theft."

In a recent announcement by the RIAA, amnesty has been promised for downloaders who agree to delete the files that they share and agree to no longer share files.

For now, Professor Sarah Wiant, professor of copyright law at the Washington and Lee School of Law, and University Computing have advice for network users. Among them are deleting illegal music files, disabling the sharing features of KaZaA and other peer-to-peer programs and consulting the documents at the Electronic Frontier Foundation's website at [www.eff.org](http://www.eff.org).

According to HelpDesk manager John White, students who bring their computers for service will not be policed. "We can't expect people to come in if they think that we're going to turn them in," he said. Only if the sharing software affects the performance of the computer will it be dealt with, he said.

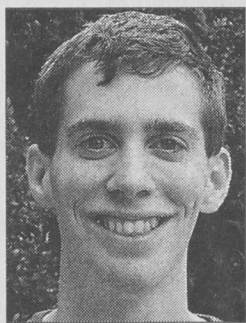
The data analysis equipment that blocks file trading, dubbed a "packet shaper," is also not intended to be intrusive. While it can determine the type of data being sent over the network, it does not scrutinize the specific files or names passing through the university's servers. Last fall, the packet shaper was implemented to keep peer-to-peer traders from swamping Washington and Lee's connection.

Off-campus students who do not rely on the university's Internet service will not fall under the jurisdiction of the Provost's decision or the packet shaper. Additionally, students who purchase songs through legal download services like BuyMusic.com and the Apple iTunes Music Store are unaffected.

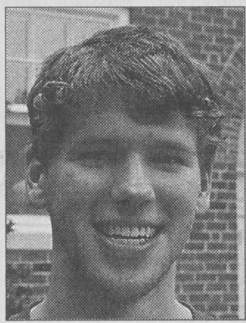
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## TALKBACK: Freshmen, what do you think of Washington and Lee, so far?



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-Sam Wilmoth '07



"It's been a lot of fun. It's good going out. Orientation hasn't quite been too much fun."  
-Stuart Hurst '07



"It's been a lot of fun and I've met a lot of nice people."  
-Jenny Hau '07



"So far, I've enjoyed it and everyone seems to be really friendly."  
-Morgan Hill, '07



"It's been great so far. The campus is beautiful and all the kids seem really cool."  
-Chris Tittle, '07

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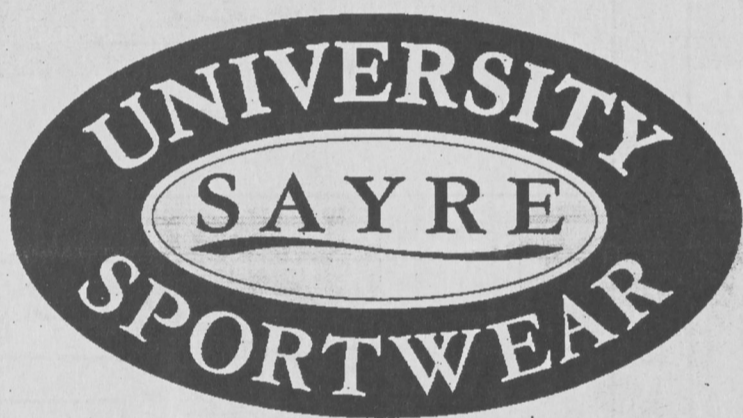
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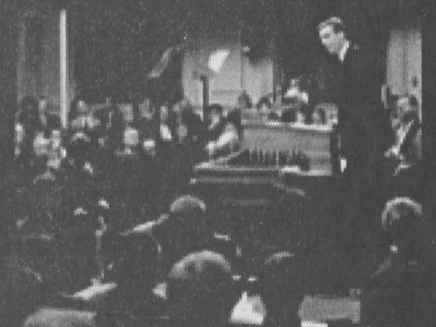
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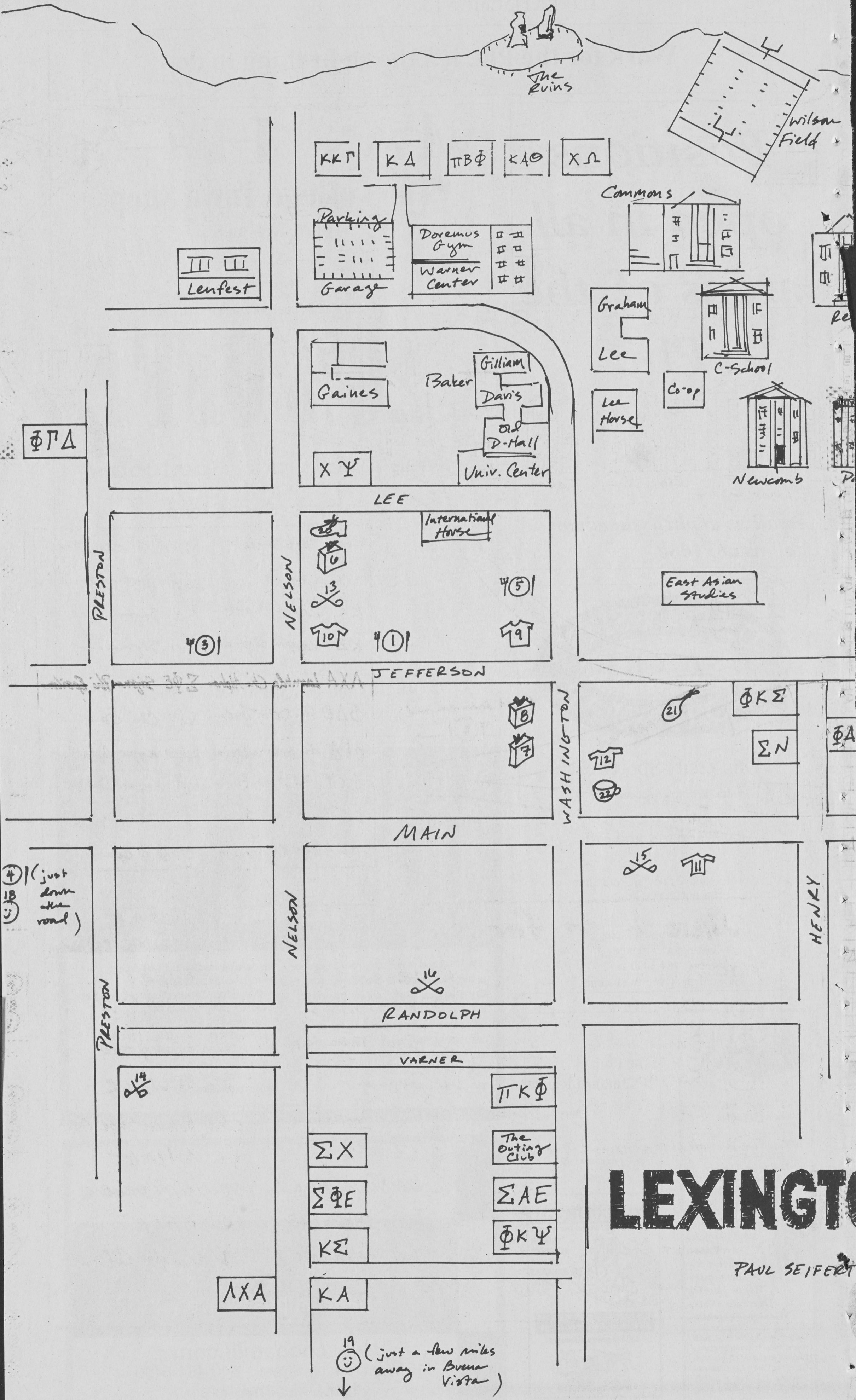
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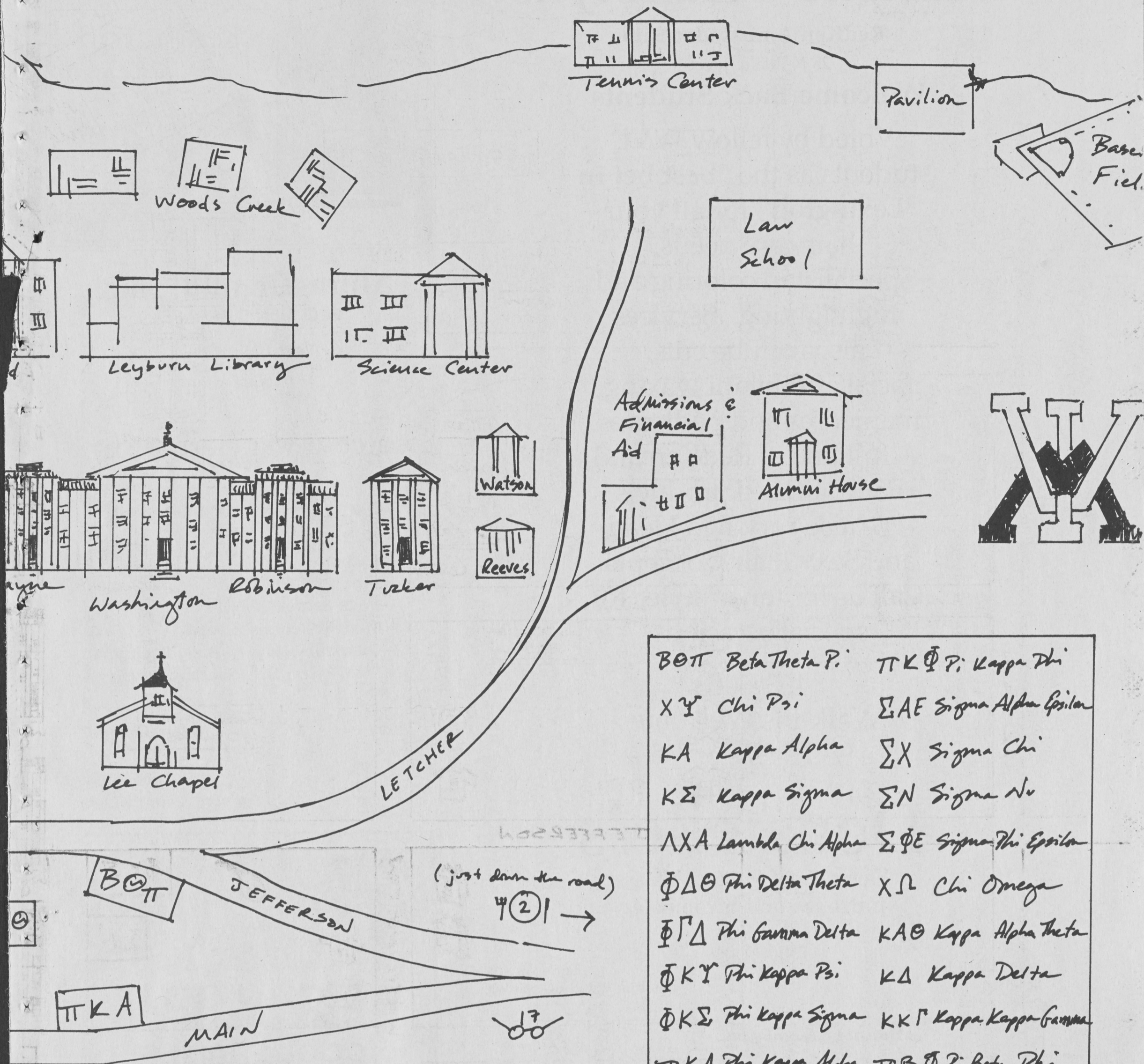
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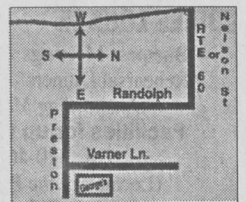
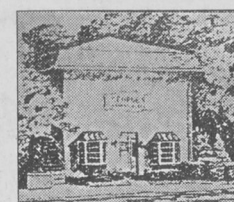
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# Welcome to the new Washington and Lee

BY TIM SMITH  
ABOUT TUTORING

Welcome, incoming freshmen, to the fifth great party school in the country. Welcome to the nation's 12th ranked liberal arts college. Welcome to the most revered Greek system in all of academia. Welcome to Lex Vegas. It's great to have you all here the NEW W&L.

That's right - this isn't the W&L you expected. This isn't the W&L you meant to apply to. This is a different school. Confused?? Let me explain.

Washington and Lee is a school absolutely rooted in rich tradition. It's a beloved place to virtually every person who once walked the Colonnade. But the W&L they remember is not the school you will know. W&L is changing. It is changing as you read this article.

Change has always haunted W&L. This is a school that thrives on tradition, depending on the past to give us our academic identity. Without those traditions, W&L has no identity. But tradition and change are rarely compatible things, and so progress in Lexington has typically not been a cherished process. When you rely on the past so avidly, it's tough to face the future with a smile.

After a cheating scandal, W&L left big-time athletics behind. It's tough to imagine UVA or Tech Maryland playing at Wilson Field, but it happened. From what I've heard, that was a tough change to swallow. Co-education was another hot issue, but in the 1980s, that change was also made. What brings us to the still current issue that has plagued Lexington for the past 6 months - the wonderful Spring Term question.

Spring Term will eventually say goodbye. Anyone who does not recognize this fact is in denial. The decision has probably already been made - it's just the matter of when it all finally plays out. It will be a tough change to experience, as well. But even more disturbing, perhaps, is the foreboding signs surrounding our beloved fraternities. Over the summer, our school's chapter of Sig Ep was removed from campus. And though the university played part in kicking Sig Ep off, and may in fact have decided to save that fraternity, the loss may carry some

implications about the future of fraternities in Lexington.

The signs are not good. The new alcohol policies deprived us of tailgating and drinking games, and while that change seems irrelevantly minor, it was certainly a big deal at the time.

The demise of Spring Term will also potentially take away some of our favorite traditions - Derby Days, Buffalo Creek, and other events could be casualties to the calendar change. And of course there is that beautiful new building, the Commons, the new hub of campus. Certainly, the building is a necessity, but there's also not a doubt in my mind that many of the powers-that-be hope that it will serve as a fraternity deterrent, a place where new students can go to escape the shadows of Red Square and Davidson Park.

Obviously, none of these factors I've listed directly contribute to the future demise of our Greek system, but with the recent removal of Sig Ep, I can't help noticing a bad taste in my mouth.

Finally, there are those pesky Princeton Review rankings that were just published. To be a student in the 5th best party school in the country is a great thing. Administrators and parents (though

certainly some parents will be certainly proud) are naturally not as excited. And besides that party issue, they are definitely some other rankings on that list that might make university officials a bit nervous. Lots of beer. Lots of liquor. Overwhelmingly homogenous student population. To an administrator who wants to ensure a healthy positive academic environment, these can't look like good things.

It's only natural that the university should try to improve on our school's faults (or what they perceive to be our faults). And so the school will make changes to make our school more marketable to the world, more competitive with our rivals, and a more attractive place to get an education.

But, and here's the point I've been working towards, Where Are Our Faults? Despite those potentially negative rankings, W&L managed to jump one spot and become the 12th best liberal arts school in all the land. Even more, those same Princeton Review rankings have us listed on some of the most positive lists. Out of all those schools, we are #8 for having the happiest

students. 99% of people at W&L want to be here. We love it here. That's why it's so homogenous - not because we don't market to minorities or because we are racially exclusive. It's because everyone here wants to be here. It's why you can look through the

Freshman Facebook and see that more than half the guys already have frat hair before they even get to Lex. Furthermore, we know W&L will deliver. We the alums - they all wanted to come here too. They had a great time, and that's why they will continue to give donations and keep close ties with the school.

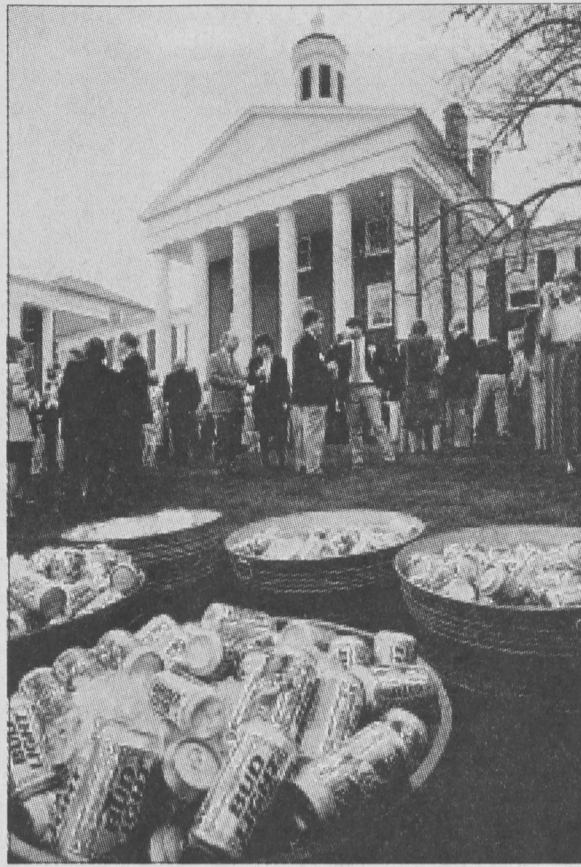
Sure, we party hard. So hard that a school with 1600 kids can beat out the likes of Florida State, Sewanee and all the others. Meanwhile, academics, we blow most schools out of the water. We are receiving an unrivaled education in the midst of unrivaled weekend debauchery. And we love it.

So no wonder we get pissed when we sense a "Swarthmoreification" of W&L. If we wanted to go anywhere else, chances are, most of us would. This is the school of our dreams, and we do not want the dream to end.

But it will end. Change is coming. It is nobody's fault - there is nobody to blame. Burish and the head honchos don't want to change any more than we do. They just see things slightly differently, more in terms of dollar signs and practical academic efficiency. That's what they are paid to do - to make tough decisions that we don't understand. No, it is no one to blame. It's simply a product of the way we do things here. We hold on as long as we possibly can, until the last possible second, until the change finally goes through. We should.

I had the opportunity to hear a certain W&L official speak a few weeks ago, and he defended our position, as I have. To be a ridiculous party school and an unrivaled academic institution - "a pretty damn good thing," he said. I say it's not just a good thing - it's paradise. I'm a senior this year, and already I dread leaving Lexington, before classes have even started. I sure many of my fellow seniors feel the same way.

So to you incoming freshmen, I welcome you once again. You have much to look forward to, but much to fear as well. This school is changing. Don't let it change without a fight.



FILE PHOTO / The Ring-tum Phi  
The good old days. The past carries many fond memories for W&L alums. Beer on the colonnade was just one of the surprises our not-so-distant past holds.

## Princeton Review releases academic, social rankings

BY JEB BROOKS  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Princeton Review recently released its rankings for the Best 100 Colleges. Washington and Lee received top marks in several categories.

According to the rankings, Washington and Lee University students are taught well, socially active and politically conservative. The review says that students at the University have very caring professors, miss Republican President Ronald Reagan and consume a lot of alcohol.

The Review uses open ended questions to gain further insight into campus life. Washington and Lee is described by one of its own students as a "little utopian society" that offers "really small classes" and "strong sense of community among the students, faculty and administration."

Another student says that Washington and Lee has "a student body like a country club: white, well-off, Republican." The same student goes on to say that, "My little Neon is parked next to a Lexus, a Saab and a brand new SUV - in the freshman lot!"

One other student states that, "'Work hard, drink hard' is our motto."

The Review uses current students to rank their schools in categories ranging from Parties to Politics. 106,245 students were asked to rate their own institutions based on the 2002-2004 academic year.

In addition to its rankings, the Princeton Review is well known for its test preparation courses, admission and education services, and books.

Washington and Lee University Rankings in <i>The Princeton Review's</i> <i>'The Best 351 Colleges'</i>		
#7	Professors Bring Material to Life	Academics
#5	Professors Make Themselves Accessible	Academics
#18	School Runs Like Butter	Administration
#2	Alternative Lifestyles Not an Alternative	Demographics
#5	Homogenous Student Population	Demographics
#6	Little Race/Class Interaction	Demographics
#3	Lots of Beer	Parties
#6	Lots of Hard Liquor	Parties
#2	Major Frat and Sorority Scene	Parties
#5	Party Schools	Parties
#1	Students Most Nostalgic For Reagan	Politics
#8	Beautiful Campus	Quality of Life
#8	Happy Students	Quality of Life

## What the hell's a Ring-tum Phi?

the grand old traditions and early Washington and Lee newspaper scandals: reprinted from *The Ring-tum Phi* of Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1967.

Back in the days when telephones (all 68 of them in Lexington, an advertisement boasted) were owned as "up-to-date electric call bells," back when dialing a bell-clapper was called "a naughty-one's lisc," in the same year that the New York Post referred to this city (really) the title "Athens of the South" - there came into being a little newspaper published weekly, "by the students for the Washington and Lee University community," and named after the most popular of that University's football cheers: "Ring-tum Phi."

"Coincident with the administration of President Wilson begins the career of a new publication Washington and Lee, *The Ring-tum Phi*. *The Ring-tum Phi* is a weekly journal and presents a pleasing appearance. It meets a distinct need in the University and relieves the Collegian of what formerly has tended only to clog and retard."

### Literary Magazine

"The Collegian is primarily a literary magazine, and when the editors heretofore were forced to cram a limitless number of locals, they always bewailed the dismal incongruity. Henceforth, we rejoice to see the Collegian freed from matters of this kind, and will both be compelled to try to serve two ends

"Gentlemen of *The Ring-tum Phi*, you have our best wishes. Gentlemen of *The Ring-tum Phi*, we give our sincerest thanks. Students of W. and L., we congratulate you on the advent of the long needed weekly!"

The year was 1897. The Southern Collegian was still a high-quality magazine, being published by the Graham Literary Society. *The Ring-tum Phi* was designed to be a somewhat lighter, perhaps even ribald, complement to the Collegian.

Eighteen and ninety-seven. The year the football coach had to send away for a special noseguard "to protect the colossal proboscis which accompanies Mr. Fitzhugh's countenance." ("Mr." Fitzhugh was a student; everybody then was Mister or Doctor of Professor or Reverend.)

### Scandalous Verse

Eighteen and ninety-seven. The year of the Great Hell Scandal. It seems the very first editor-in-chief, George Houston, in the fourth issue of the neophyte newspaper, published a column of "Football Songs," one of which was included with this verse:

"Each other's back, boys  
"Has got a knack, boys,

"Round the end.  
"And it's a sin, sir,  
"For Oberlin (a W&L player), sir,  
"To buck the V.M.I. boys' line so awfully hard.  
"Then join the yell, boys,  
"And yell like hell, boys,  
"Sure enough.  
"To W&L U., boys,  
"And foot-ball, too, boys,  
"Let's give a rousing, rumbling, roaring football yell.  
"Ring-tum Phi, stickeri bum,  
"&c. &c."

Well, hell broke loose. The next issue, an incensed letter-to-the-editor writer (we told you things haven't changed much) said:

"There appeared in the columns of *The Ring-tum Phi*, last week, a song which, to the very thoughtful person had very little to recommend it... The only thing that I can see that would have recommended it to the editorial eye is the little smack of naughtiness which makes the first rhyme in the last verse.

"The Editor seems to be filled with pride to even know the author; he puts the verse in the

editorial commending it as 'especially good.' He says the words tire the voice a little.

"Now everyone, who knows anything of the subject, knows that the sound of that 'h' has a very rasping effect on the vocal chords. How much better it would have been had the line read: 'And yell right well, boys.' It would have sounded better, been easier on the voice, and would have saved the writer and Editor from showing their weakness.

"It can be admitted that, to some eyes, there is something worthy of admiration in a dark, purple crime, but to bow before a sinlet like this is weakness personified.

"In the future let me suggest that the Editor follow the path of virtue. He will not only find it pleasant, but may keep himself from showing his lack of taste.

—R"

Well, "R." intimidated Mr. Houston. Who wouldn't be intimidated if he were editing a brand-new paper that nobody, not even students, had ever heard of, named *The Ring-tum Phi*; and somebody came along and accused him of printing sinlets