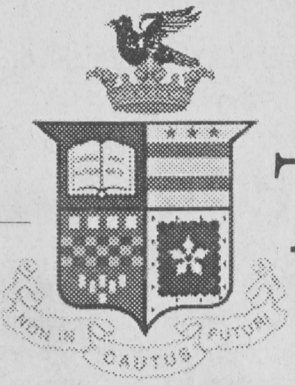


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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI

The student voice of Washington and Lee University since 1897

VOLUME CVII, No. VIII 15
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2003

Mysterious thief swipes several textbooks from the C-school

BY KAELA HARMON
STAFF WRITER

Recently, there has been a rash of thefts in the Commerce-school. One victim, Akshat Shah, a senior economics major, returned to campus from Thanksgiving break, he discovered that three of his textbooks were missing from his storage cubby on the third floor of the C-school.

His first thought was that he had simply misplaced them but by Monday afternoon the Associate Dean of the C-School, Rob Straughan, had received several other reports of missing books, and it became apparent that Shah was not alone.

Dean Straughan said that he had received at least seven reports of missing textbooks. Most of them are the accounting book used in

Professor Elizabeth Oliver's intermediate accounting class, however a Math Economics book, a statistics book, and a management informational systems (MIS) book have also been reported as missing.

With the accounting book itself selling for \$106.25 used and \$141.50 new that's well over \$500 in stolen books.

In response to the reports, Dean Straughan sent word to students and faculty in the C-School via e-mail making them aware of the problem and asking that students report any missing to security and to professors. "Stuff like this happens from time to time", Straugh said. In the mean time, "we've tried to make copies of the material."

Because her class was most affected, Professor Oliver contacted the publishing company's representative about replacing the books. Professor

Oliver said that the publishing company was kind enough to send complimentary copies of the accounting book. The books arrived Friday.

As of now there are no solid leads as to who might have taken the books although politics Professor Bill Connelly did recall that around the time that the books had been reported stolen a man came by his office, introduced himself as a book buyer and asked him if he had any books he wanted to sell.

"All I know is that I had never seen him before, and my office is just a few doors down from where [I understand] the books were stolen. Hence I reported my suspicion and a description to Mike Young."

Young, head of security said that he does not believe that the culprit is a student or anyone closely associated with the school who knows

and respects the Honor System. Executive Committee President, Helen Hughes, shares Young's opinion.

"It's hard for me to believe it could be a student [but] if it is a student stealing the books it would be considered an Honor Violation," said Hughes.

At this point Young has said that security is doing everything that they can and asks that all missing books be reported to security.

He also asks that any suspicious looking people be reported.

"Students have to remember that we have a large number of visitors on the campus and that they [students] shouldn't leave expensive items laying around. The best way we can protect ourselves is you have to protect your stuff," said Young.

University hopes to use Co-op, Dupont for more classroom space

BY CHRIS LAUDERMAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI

Rumors of the co-op's demise have been spreading across campus in the past few months leaving students confused and upset.

According to Tom Contos, University Architect, however, that is not the case at this time. The future of both the Co-op and Dupont Hall remain in question. "Academic uses are our main focus," stated Contos.

The Co-op was built in 1911 and has a wood frame with a brick exterior. The original purpose of the co-op was to house a 120 seat dining hall on the first floor and bedrooms upstairs for the kitchen staff. The back section of the building, facing Graham Lees was added in the 1960's to house the bookstore.

A few years ago, the University looked into converting the Co-op into additional classroom space for the overcrowded Williams School.

Washington and Lee also looked into building an addition on to the Williams School to house additional classrooms.

Both options, however, were too costly and the University decided to rework the space in the C School and take the large library of the school and convert it into two classrooms and a smaller library instead.

Renovations for this project took place over the summer.

Dupont Hall was built on a tight budget in 1954. The school built Dupont Hall in the cheapest way possible by using a concrete block construction instead of steel. This makes re-designing the space nearly impossible.

The University has concluded that the core of the campus needs to be reserved for academic use. This means that administrative offices would need to be moved off of the Colonnade and the Plaza. Ideally, this would mean that both the Co-op and Dupont Hall would be used for an academic function.

The academic function of the Co-op would most likely be offices while the function of Dupont Hall would be offices in addition to new, "smart" classrooms.

The University is experiencing an office crunch as a result of the hiring of new faculty, on-leave faculty, and phased retirement. The smart classrooms in Dupont Hall would create better classroom space.

Possible demolitions are being looked into for the most effective use of space. Washington and Lee is getting ready to hire an architect and engineer to do a feasibility study of the two buildings.

A report to the board on these two buildings is expected to be given in February.

Snow hits Lexington, campus 'opens for business,' Physical Plant workers 'scramble' to clear paths

BY JEB BROOKS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Students, faculty and staff woke up on Friday morning to a snow covered Lexington. By the time most of the campus community first saw the snow, administrators had made the decision to open for "business as usual."

Provost Tom Williams, Vice President Joe Grasso and Director of the Physical Plant Scott Beebe met early on Friday morning to make a decision regarding the opening of campus.

Beebe had been in touch with Physical Plant workers who worked all night to stay on top of the effects of the snowfall.

According to Williams, who drove in from west of town, "the local roads were more than just passable."

Administrators checked weather.com as well.

The call to keep the campus up-and-running was made between 5:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

The campus community was alerted by a broadcast email that was sent at 7:39 a.m.; the email called on everyone to "use your best judgment of your lo-

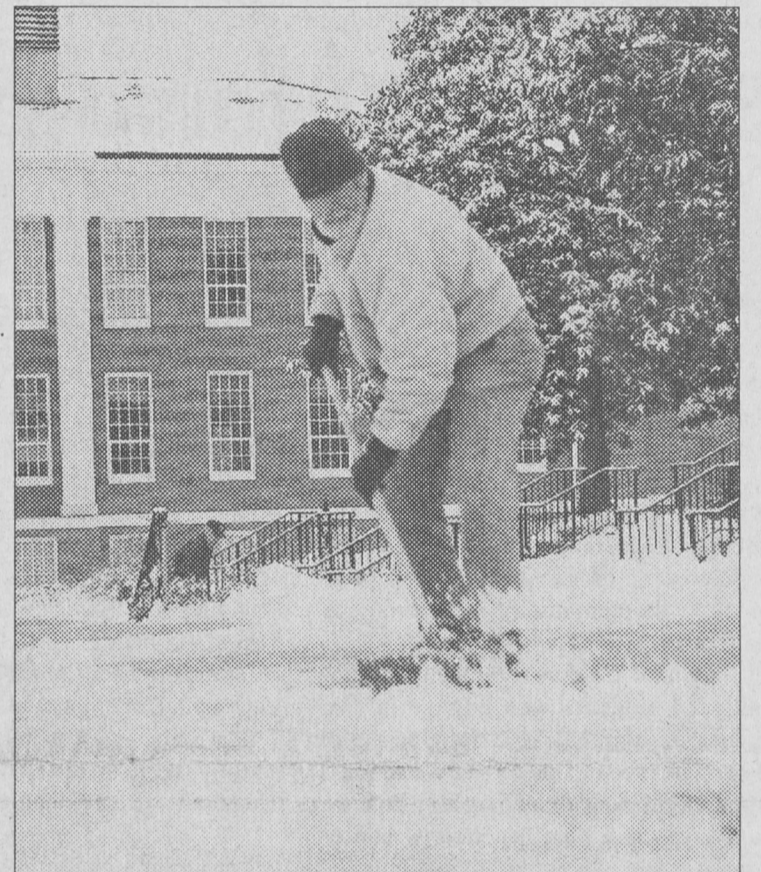
cal circumstances when making a decision to come to campus." Williams said that, "not getting here is a forgivable offense." That mercy extended to students, faculty and staff.

The cost of the snow event to The University is, "built into budgets," according to Williams.

According to Williams, "Washington and Lee rarely shuts down for snow."

Williams remembers the campus closing for a storm that hit Lexington seven years ago. The closure lasted two days. There was a travel danger related to the blizzard, but the real reason for the closure was that, "Virginia power asked us to cut power in any way we could." The storm caused a rolling brownout in the area, and Washington and Lee was consuming too much power.

Williams speaks of one local legend regarding the closure of campus. President Coles, who came from the University of Georgia, cancelled classes after a gentle snowfall. He subsequently suffered years of condemnation by the board of trustees and other campus officials. Decision makers ever



JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI

Working hard. Maintenance workers arose early Friday morning in order to clear safe paths for students all over campus. One worker called the nasty winter ahead "job security."

since have been weary of closing the colonnade because of the weather.

Physical Plant worker Alan Black referred to the forecasted bad winter ahead as "job security."

Worker files complaint of unsafe working conditions

BY ERIN JULIUS
NEWS EDITOR

Since the construction of the Elrod Commons, some students and employees claim to have felt tremors within the building. A formal complaint was filed by a University employee with the Occupational Safety Hazard Act/Administration.

The complaint listed several objections to the new construction, the most serious being that the Commons is subject to tremors and is just generally poorly designed.

According to University Safety Officer Paul Burns, the

Commons was monitored on Wednesday.

"Nearly all the items were resolved or deemed not to be a violation," said Joe Grasso, Vice President for Administration.

A high noise level in the dish-washing area was one of the complaints listed. After Wednesday, OSHA official determined that the noise levels were not up to an "action" level in the dish-washing area.

As for the noise level in the Cafe Emporium it was, "nowhere near what would cause us to take action," said Burns.

Burns blamed the noise level, "on dishes clinking together," he said.

Poor design of equipment in the Commons was another complaint, but this is not an OSHA issue.

Burns said the University would continue to address this issue with employees. The complaint of a broken glass panel at the salad bar was also determined not to be an OSHA issue.

The Commons Elevator was cited as malfunctioning, which Burns says is, "always a potential problem" with new buildings.

Tremors in the building, perhaps the most serious issue referred to in the OSHA complaint, did not turn up a citation.

"I myself haven't felt anything like that," said Burns. Ac-

cording to Burns, buildings move after they are built and such a phenomenon is not an OSHA issue.

The only possible OSHA violation was in regards to the floor drains.

This complaint has, "been addressed previously by the school and the contractor," said Burns.

OSHA states that its mission is to, "to save lives, prevent injuries and protect the health of America's workers."

To accomplish this, federal and state governments must work in partnership with the more than 100 million working men and women."

Traveller's services tailored to your needs

BY KATIE HENDERSON
TRAVELLER PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Traveller changed its driving routine for the period spanning from Thanksgiving break to Christmas break.

The Traveller Committee launched a two-week trial period as an attempt to make the current system more effective.

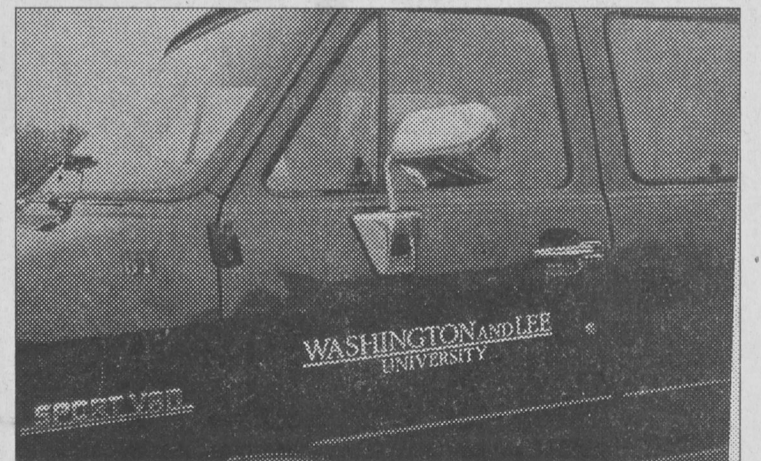
Now, any student can call the Traveller number at 458-8900 seven nights a week from 10pm until 2am and a car will be dispatched to the student's location.

Vans traveling on the set route will still run on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

The Traveller committee hopes this period will be a better use of its resources. The committee's primary goal is to best serve students' needs.

Please contact any of its members with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Traveller also implemented a first-ever program for Christmas Weekend. Students pledged not to drink or drive for the weekend and were entered in a drawing to win a surprise personal celebrity sober driver.



CORBEN BLACKFORD / THE RING-TUM PHI

Vroom. Traveller vans are well-known by Washington and Lee students for providing a welcome sober ride during prime party hours.

The program was considered a success with 320 participants and Traveller thanks Dean of Students Dawn Watkins for participant as the driver. The winner of the drawing was Senior BJ Conrad.

Traveller is planning several more campus-wide events for next term.



FILE PHOTO

Dupont. One day, this hall will offer "smart classrooms" to students

Applebome discusses 'intense competition' in media

BY SARAH MURRAY
STAFF WRITER

Peter Applebome, deputy metropolitan editor of *The New York Times*, came to Washington & Lee last Tuesday to address the effects of the Jayson Blair scandal on news media.

Jayson Blair, formerly a *New York Times* reporter, became famous in May 2003 when the newspaper's management announced that the 27-year-old had plagiarized the work of others, "fabricated comments" and "concocted scenes" during his four years with the paper.

"He's been depicted as a tragic figure, this brilliant young journalist on the way up," Applebome said. "He was never a brilliant young journalist. He was just a loveable screw-up."

In discussing "The Press After Jayson Blair", Applebome made it clear that no new problems have been created for news media. The chief effect of Blair's deception was to draw attention to problems that already existed as a result of intense competition and arrogance.

"Pressure to succeed and stay ahead of the pack is incredibly intense," said Applebome of the ever-increasing competition among media for readers and viewers. The upshot: an aggressive, achievement-oriented newsroom in major papers such as the *Times*, with the pressure for results falling on reporters' shoulders.

Blair received respect from his *Times* colleagues because he seemed to be a driven reporter who put in long hours. In reality, he never

visited many of the locations listed in his bylines, nor did he interview many of his 'sources'. Much of his information was lifted from the Internet, some directly from other journalists' work. Applebome knows now that in response to a high-pressure environment, the young reporter "imbibed the gospel of achievement to this perverted degree."

"We talk a good game of family values and 'it's important to have a life'," Applebome admitted. "But the guy who works 8 hours does better than the guy who works 4 hours. And the guy who works 16 hours is pretty hard to beat."

In attempts to gain a larger audience, media often focus on scandals or popular celebrities, sometimes for weeks at a time. Coverage this narrow damages the quality and comprehensiveness of the news. According to Applebome, today's news culture is like a parade with elaborate floats, such as O.J. Simpson's trial, President Clinton's impeachment, or the death of John F. Kennedy, Jr. Each float commands the public's entire attention until the next spectacle appears on the horizon.

While ambition provided a motive for Blair's actions, conceit allowed it to happen. "The biggest sin of the media, top to bottom, is just arrogance," Applebome said.

Several major newspapers employ an ombudsman who acts a liaison between the paper's

audience and its editors, handling readers' concerns and questions. The *Times* never took this step, believing that its reliability was regulated in other ways. While magazines employ fact-checkers, this method is impossible at a newspaper with a daily or weekly deadline. Editors and sources alike must put their faith in the integrity of reporters.

"This business is, to a certain extent, based on trust," noted Applebome.

In this case, that trust was taken too far. The Jayson Blair story is underscored with the fact that signs of his falsification appeared long before his dismissal and were ignored. Most notably, his record of corrections was three times higher than the *Times* average.

How could nobody have noticed? Certainly some editors did, but the highest levels of *Times* management paid no attention to their observations. Then-metro editor Jonathan Landman even sent a memo to other mid-level editors which stated, "We have to stop Jayson from writing for the *Times*. Right now." No action was taken.

In light of this knowledge, suggestions have been raised in the media that Blair's African-American heritage prevented his dismissal. Applebome firmly denied this, calling race "a very small part of the Jayson Blair story. He had a better chance of getting in the door because he's black. That's all."

"The biggest sin of the media, top to bottom, is just arrogance,"

PETER APPLEBOME

Bonners give 900 hours of service

BY SARAH MURRAY
STAFF WRITER

With major service groups such as Nabors Service League, S.A.R.A.H., and Alpha Phi Omega on campus, it's simple enough for Washington and Lee students to serve their community. Now, however, there is another option. Few students know of it and fewer can get into it—the Bonner Leaders are the unseen service organization on campus, but their presence in the community is as strong as any other.

Bonner Leaders are faculty-recommended students who engage in two years of concentrated service—900 hours, between 8 and 15 per week—and are recognized with scholarships from the university and from Americorps Education Awards. The program is highly selective—only 1600 students nationwide are members of Bonner Leaders or its sister program, Bonner Scholars.

"As the program develops further, the Shepherd Program anticipates Bonner Leaders becoming a recognizable force on campus," said Avery Gholston, Community Service Coordinator and adviser for the Bonner Leaders program.

The program, a child of the Bonner Institute in Princeton, New Jersey, places each member with specific service opportunities. Students work only at one or two sites in order to maximize the positive changes they produce. Since service continues year-round, most participate in one local program during school and another during the summer. Programs include Head Start, Project Horizon, and Hoofbeats Therapeutic Riding Center, among others. If members have taken

Interdepartmental 101, Introductory to Poverty, Shepherd Poverty will sponsor their involvement in the Shepherd Alliance summer program.

"It is an honor to work with such talented, dedicated, thoughtful and reflective students," said Gholston.

Sophomore Sarah Weil, who works primarily at Hoofbeats and Head Start, has found the experience to be enlightening. "When I come back after volunteering, I am grateful that I only have to worry about writing a research paper or studying for a test," Weil said. "The stress of college is a privilege compared to worrying about living with a physical, mental, or emotional handicap."

Weil has been named 2003 Volunteer of the Year by Hoofbeats Riding Center.

27 schools sponsor a Bonner Leaders program, including Princeton, Berkeley, Rutgers, and UCLA. At each of these programs, six ideals form the basic philosophy: social justice, spiritual exploration, diversity, civic engagement, community building, and international perspective. Students who show themselves to be committed to these values receive semester-based scholarships as well as payment for summer internships, all of which are sponsored by the Bonner Institute but funded by individual universities and Americorps.

There are currently eight Bonner Leaders at Washington and Lee. Approximately five more openings have been made available to applicants this year. Bonner Leaders are selected at the beginning of Winter Term. The process requires a faculty recommendation, an application, and an interview.

Hidden Hero: Daniel Vos tutors, works with employment services

Vos has volunteered all around the world, from Richmond to Tanzania

BY JORDAN ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Senior Daniel Vos is a student who has found many ways to help the community locally and internationally through his various efforts in service. He has spent much of his free time helping others and exploring the areas around him to get a local and international feel of community.

Following his freshmen year, Daniel spent his summer in Tanzania with his Church doing service through construction and educating the community there. This seemed to spark his interest in actively helping those in need.

He has spent the past two summers working in a volunteer program through the Shepherd Poverty Program in Richmond. There, he worked directly with refugees from around the globe, including places such as Afghanistan. Through this experience he got to know many of the people he was helping, including the Sudanese refugees he spent the summer sharing an apartment with and helping to educate.

Currently, Daniel continues to show a desire to help people by tutoring students in need in the Rockbridge area, as well as working with the Rockbridge Supported Employment program, which assists people in finding jobs.

Vos is a Classics major, and he plans on using this major to assist in his goal of teaching internationally, particularly in a place like Tanzania.

Vos chose to major in Classics solely out of interest; however, he feels that it represents "the best thoughts that people have thought through the ages."

He mentioned Professor Beckley's courses on poverty as well as Introduction to Political Philosophy taught by Professor Velasquez as some of the best classes that he had experienced.

After college, Daniel, a Detroit native, plans first on working with the "Teach for America" program, which arranges for qualified individuals to teach in underprivileged schools. He hopes to teach in the areas around Detroit for at least two years, before pursuing his international teaching goals.

With regards to his international focus, he encourages all to "think outside the box, have a big vision of the future, and to educate yourself about the world." He stressed that just by going outside W&L you can



meet people you wouldn't normally meet.

Vos's biggest complaint about Washington and Lee was just that the student body does focus inward a lot. However, he also said that the professors challenge this tendency quite a bit.

Though his life is hectic at the moment, the biggest piece of advice for everyone — especially seniors — was to simply "take time to relax."

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE RINGTUM PHI WILL BE PRINTED
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2003

THE RING-TUM PHI OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Use caution when posting
campus notices

Campus notices are a public forum for sharing information. Many students, faculty and staff reap the benefits of the system.

It is a great venue for getting information out about what gets lost over the weekend. It is not a great venue for commenting on what fellow students have lost. By writing notices about notices, submitters only detract from the effectiveness of the program. Too many notices are not a good thing.

The benefits to campus organizations are endless. The ability to quickly and easily make the entire Washington and Lee campus aware of important information is fantastic. It only works, however, if groups release only critical information. Campus notices must be a secondary system. If an email list of group members exists, use that before concerning the entire campus with club-related problems.

The effects of the deterioration of campus notices have further implications. Broadcast emails, sent to everyone's email account have increased. When the Executive Committee or some other group wants to send critical information they bypass campus notices because students do not read them. Instead of using a single email for all information, some groups have to resort to further clogging of student inboxes.

Don't get us wrong, we love the occasional side-splitting addition to our morning routines just as much as the next guy. Our concern lies with the wasted notices that provide no benefit to readers.

In short, campus notices must be brief and provide relevant information only.

Quote of the Week

"I'd like to be able to check in to the Paris Hilton."

~SNL Cast Member

Jimmy Fallon on the hotel in Paris, and certainly nothing else.

THE RING-TUM PHI

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The Ring-tum Phi is published Mondays during the undergraduate school year at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. The Ring-tum Phi is a member of The Publications Board, but is otherwise independent.

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

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Apples and Oranges: Sweatshops



LONG A CRUSADE OF COLLEGE CAMPUSES, A NEW UPSWELL OF SUPPORT FOR SWEATSHOPS HAS AWAKENED IN RECENT YEARS. TODAY, THE PHI ASKS: DO SWEATSHOPS REALLY MAKE SENSE?

Yes

TRAN KIM, '05

She starts work at about 6:30 in the morning and doesn't get off until 7 at night with only a half an hour for a lunch break in the middle and does this six days a week. While working, she has injured herself twice when needles went through her hands. This is the experience of one woman interviewed by *New York Times* journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryle WuDunn in an article titled "Two Cheers for Sweatshops." Yet she is grateful for her job. As appalling as the conditions faced by workers in the sweatshops are, I am against boycotting them for the purpose of ending them altogether.

First, sweatshops bring globalization and progress to developing countries. If China's 30 provinces were counted as individual countries, then the continent would have had 20 of the fastest growing countries in the world between 1978 and 1995. So far, its per capita output has been doubling every 10 years. In addition, many of the vibrant parts of the country are located in what is called the "Sweatshop Belt." The World Bank has also confirmed growth from sweatshops in industrial nations such as China, South Korea, Indonesia, and India and projected that Asia's share of global domestic product will rise from 55% to 60% by 2025. To put these figures into perspective, that is roughly the West's share at its industrial peak half a century ago.

Secondly, sweatshops provide poor people in industrial nations with jobs they would not otherwise have and enable them to acquire a better life that they would otherwise not have. George Apenteng, the director of Ghana's Institute for Economic Affairs, said, "People here want into the global marketplace; they know it's the only way out of poverty." The International Labor Organization in a report titled "Labour Practices in the Footwear, Leather, Textiles and Clothing Industries" found that the sweatshop industries in Asia and South and Central America have been a major source of employment for women in low-wage economies. For an impoverished Indonesian or Bangladeshi woman with a handful of kids, \$1 or \$2 a day makes a huge difference in her ability to provide for her children.

Thirdly, if sweatshops were to be shut down, then what would happen to the people employed by them? These individuals would have to resort to other means of getting financial stability, and one of the tragic consequences has been child prostitution. In many third world nations parents from low income families sell their children into child prostitution to get money and to decrease the number of mouths they must feed. In these areas, there aren't many options but the sweatshops do offer an option.

Another point we need to consider is that the lifestyles to which we're accustomed are foreign to those living in third world nations. They can live on \$1 or \$2 a day whereas we can't even survive one hour on that kind of money. However, I do not fully support sweatshops. On the contrary, I think many reforms are in order, but boycotting them in an attempt to force closure is not the answer and is more harmful than helpful. The people living in third world nations need more help than guilty Westerners refusing to buy goods from Nike and Reebok. Until they get that help, sweatshops provide a means of survival.

Rebuttal from Anderson

Sweatshops do not help the people they employ economically. It is true that the third world countries that have sweatshops experience general economic progress, but as I mentioned in my primary argument, this growth largely goes to urban centers and the middle class by creating confidence in more advanced business in outside investors (i.e., the tech boom in India) rather than actually helping the unskilled lower classes who work in the sweatshop. And without the wages they need, they'll never "graduate" to higher callings.

The argument that the poor people who work in sweatshops would perish or be forced into horrible tragedies such as child prostitution is null and void because this happens very, very often even to people who already work in sweatshops. True, \$1 or \$2 is better than nothing, but not by much. The average need for income from Tran's impoverished Indonesian or Bangladeshi woman with a handful of kids is at least \$7, according to United Nations research. While sweatshops do keep people from being unemployed, this is little comfort when they resort to selling their children anyway because their wages aren't enough.

The claim that third world nation residents can live on \$1 or \$2 a day is not backed up by any sort of hard evidence, and additionally, is simply false. As I have repeatedly cited, the United Nations, as well as the various labor departments of these poor nations' governments, puts the need for income of the average sweatshop worker at a minimum of \$6

I, like Tran, don't want to eliminate light industry in developing countries completely. But the large conglomerates that own sweatshops do need to be persuaded that wages must be raised, maltreatment must end, and hours must be reduced if these poor individuals are to be given what they need to participate in an advanced economy—a little spending money, their dignity and security, and time for education.

No

CALEY ANDERSON, '06

Sweatshops, on the surface, have the very plausible benefit of improving the host nation's economy. People point to U.S. History, and how sweatshops "improved the economy. This is partially true, but as I will show, sweatshops to more to hinder economies than help them. While I don't think they should be eliminated altogether, I think they should undergo so much reform as to not deserve the name "sweatshops" anymore.

It stands to reason that if sweatshops did indeed allow for the advance to a high-tech industry and service economy, sweatshops would be non-existent or rare in First World countries. But this is not the case. Sweatshops are just as prevalent in the G8 (the largest at Western economies) as they are in the poorest nations of the world. Let's take our very own United States, and let's pick as an industry textiles, a typical sweatshop industry. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that out of the 22,000 or so sewing shops in the United States, at least 11,000 are in gross violation of minimum wage and overtime laws. At least 16,000, the Dept. of Labor says, are in gross violation of basic safety and health laws. What does that make those shops? Sweatshops. And they comprise more than half of the U.S. textile industry. In fact, the U.S. transition to an advanced economy only came AFTER progressive reforms in the early 20th Century actually outlawed sweatshop conditions and improved education. So, while sweatshops may indeed be very good for the higher-ups in a developing economy, who can take their profit of exploitation and use it to invest in more advanced economic pursuits, the lower-downs suffer even worse. India, for instance, seems to be growing a high-tech job market. But for the poor, it's fool's gold. The high-tech jobs are being taken by people who were already members of the upper classes, most of them residents in major Indian cities. Their educations were probably financed (directly or indirectly) by the lower class' sweatshop economy. One might assume that with more high-tech jobs comes fewer sweatshops, but this is wrong. The lower classes suffer even more. The number of sweatshops in India has actually increased by 32% since 2000, by admission of India's own government. All this does is provide a "better economy" for the rich while making it even worse for the poor.

Sweatshop proponents also add that the workers are "fine" with the wage they are paid, since they are used to living in conditions of abject poverty. This is an out-and-out lie, and the people who tell it are either malicious or ill-informed. Yes, they CAN live on much less per day. But not that much less. Let's take the average Haitian who works at a Disney factory located in Port-Au-Prince. According to the United Nations, their pay per day is \$2.15. Their living expenses (for themselves, not counting their families) are more than \$6.

So what's the solution? The large conglomerates like Nike have the power to simply end it right now. All they have to do is keep the middleman (the guy who owns the factory) from exploiting the workers. While a wage rate of \$5/hr. is out of the question (since workers CAN live on less in those countries), they should earn at least the living wage for their own expenses, and maybe a little extra for savings and their family. \$10/day (or \$1/hr) seems fair. And are unsafe working conditions and maltreatment of workers just to cut costs really necessary? I'm sure that Nike will survive the slight decrease in profits that they will suffer by treating people humanely.

So, as you can see, light industry does have a place in developing economies. But sweatshops as they exist today are merely wringing economic viability from the worker and giving it to people who don't need it. Reform, massive reform, is called for.

Rebuttal from Kim

Simply because a practice benefits one group disproportionately more than another group does not mean that it is wrong. Unfortunately, that is economics. But the little money that does go to the little people does help them, and that fact cannot be denied. If you worked in high school, you might remember that you probably did much more work than your superiors and earned far less, but simply because your boss got 20 times more than you did doesn't mean that the amount you got wasn't helpful. We can argue about how unfair that situation is until we're blue, but the reality is that you were better off with whatever little pay you got rather than nothing at all, and the typical high school worker eventually gets a better job. I am arguing that that is the situation for most of the people working in the sweatshops.

The argument that sweatshops are bad because one group benefits far too much from it is weak and illogical if the central concern is for the well-being of the impoverished people in these nations. I think I can reasonably assume that most of the workers in Western sweatshops are illegal immigrants who cannot otherwise find employment because of their lack of documentation. My father and I were once in that situation because we were illegal aliens in Cambodia while we were escaping from Vietnam as refugees, and I can assure you that whatever meager job that we could get under the table was better than nothing. After having spoken to my dad (who is from Vietnam, the home of many sweatshops itself) about this issue, I can say that the people who work in the sweatshops are thankful for the opportunity regardless of how difficult the work may be. They have little understanding of economics, and I do point this out to say that they are not aware of their "suffering."

It is the responsibility of informed citizens like us to orchestrate an international effort to reform sweatshops if we truly care, but not to end them. I agree that change needs to happen, and I don't know what the right approach is and how we get the corporations to reform, but I know that it requires a strategy in which the corporation sees the improved conditions as beneficial to their financial endeavors. So I hope and pray that the situation changes for the better and that we will be a part of this effort.

Self-discovery happens on campus



PHOTO COURTESY OF quincy.edu

GET INVOLVED. These students are becoming involved in a typical manner—talking to a professor.

College is a lot of things. It's a time for fun, excitement, independence, education, and preparing for a future career. But it is also and most importantly a time for personal growth and finding out who you are. Take a long look at yourself, don't be afraid to find both strengths and faults, and go about changing what you don't like. It's easy to say, "just be yourself" and not worry about bettering yourself. I'm often guilty of this myself—and use it as an excuse when I don't feel like doing something I should. But college is the time when you get to decide who you will be—and what it will mean to be you.

Be like Descartes and question everything. Put all of your actions, attitudes, and beliefs under scrutiny and make your own decisions about what is right. From a very young age, we are all instructed in how to act and what to believe. We go to our parents' church or synagogue, listen to their reactions to politics and debates on T.V., and are confronted with the views from their generation. They, naturally, underwent the same process when they were growing up. When my grandmother recently came to visit, I was surprised and mildly irritated when she told me to have dinner ready when my dad wanted it: because our schedules were not as important as his. Times really have changed from the days of the proper fifties' housewife, and rightly so! And times should keep on changing. We live in a more politically correct and tolerant world and I am proud to be a part of it. But we still have a ways to go, (our fine institution being no exception). For starters, let's be politically correct in our hearts—not our heads. Carefully picking what words and titles to use to not offend people is a step in the right direction but is over-emphasized. Show kindness in your actions—not words.

Keep up with politics and dare to have an opinion

that goes against your parents or peers. Think about things and decide where you really stand. If you believe something—ask yourself why. If it's just because it was what you were always taught and had taken at face value, then perhaps it's time to consider it more carefully (or perhaps for the first time). While you're at it—you might even reflect on levels of drinking and partying. Hint: if you are failing one or more classes, you might consider more work and less play in the every popular



THE BIG PICTURE
ANNE FINLEY '07

(and admittedly catchy) "work hard play hard" scenario.

Find what is important to you and apply yourself in those areas. If you wish W&L had more diversity, join the

MSA or Hillel; if you lament our reputation as being intolerant of alternative lifestyles, join the GSA; and if you want to give back to the community, help out with the Nabors Service League. There are so many options to get involved at our school but not enough people take advantage of them. Don't just leave it to someone else—practice what you preach. Don't accept things that are wrong. Make them better, or else you have no right to complain when they aren't the way you would like. I'm indifferent to the Spring Term issue, but I know many people who are heatedly against its removal. Yet, I hear that only an embarrassing few actually attended the student hearings. That says it all.

Nothing really important happens effortlessly. Too often we choose the easy way out: always picking fun over work, only making friends with people who are like us, condoning things we know to be wrong, and believing things just because the idea of doubting them is too unsettling. We are no angels. We all have to consciously choose to do the right thing and craft ourselves into the person we want to become.

Coward of the Week

Today, we feature the Man in the Cloth Mask:

Michael Jackson

BY OPINIONS EDITOR CALEY ANDERSON



PHOTO COURTESY OF shine.com

You have, of course, heard of Michael Jackson's latest venture into legal trouble, if not, welcome back from that cave you've been inhabiting. It's the usual charge that Jackson, during one of the more interesting nights at his bizarre Neverland Ranch in Santa Barbara, California, made inappropriate sexual advances and actions towards a minor.

This is, of course, not the first time this has happened, and it's all a part of Jackson's declining career. Throughout the 1990s, the once, but not future King of Pop ("I hate pop music." -Michael Jackson) has seen his career spiral from stardom and reverence for his musical skills into disappointment at his latest album, "Invincible," and fixation on his bizarre behavior, which we can only speculate was a textbook case of someone who snapped under the spotlight of fame.

Jackson's response has predictably been (according to his lawyer) that the 12 year-old boy and his family are nothing more than gold-digging lawsuit abusers, and that the Santa Barbara District Attorney's office is a haven for racism.

Now, don't get me wrong, Michael Jackson has created some really great and enjoyable songs over the years. "Bad," "Beat It," and "Thriller" are all a part of his popular, rockin' oeuvre. I personally recall with fondness his musical feud with MC Hammer (during which I rooted for The Hammer, but I enjoyed MJ's side of it all the same).

But let there be absolutely no doubt about my feelings on this matter—pedophilia is completely inexcusable under any circumstance. This isn't even a case of 17 year-old "jailbait"

pedophilia, this is a 12-year old boy, and it seems to be a particular issue with Mr. Jackson. A more serious 1993 case was dropped when the witness refused to testify out of fear of Jackson's wrath. Jackson himself admits he has a "special" relationship with children in his recent interview with the news media. Although he says it's "non-sexual" and that it's "very sweet," I have my doubts about that.

I'll reserve my judgment on whether or not Jackson is guilty until the court renders its decision, but let's talk about what Jackson has done so far.

He has started a huge campaign in the press through his lawyers to smear the accusing child as greedy. You might recall that this is the same thing he did to the alleged victim in 1993. Now, it's easy enough to defame the character of one accuser, but when several of them start to come forward (Santa Barbara authorities have 100 leads on other individuals Jackson may have abused), I, at least, begin to become suspicious.

And what's this nonsense about racism? Jackson blames a lot of things on racism—his flagging record sales, his criminal allegations, and generally everything that is wrong with his life. It's just a strawman for him to attack in this case, a false scapegoat that really has nothing to do with the issue at hand.

So, for maliciously attacking the many children who have accused him of molestation, Jackson earns my vote as Coward of the Week. Unconstitutional judges are one thing, but I hope you're with me in coming down on this alleged pedophile.

Letter to the Editor

Anderson mistaken in criticizing Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore

In your article, You claim in your last paragraph that Justice Moore "is a traitor to the ideals of the Constitution." This could not be further from the truth. What Justice Moore is trying to do is challenge the prevailing Supreme Court ruling on the establishment clause and overturn it to what he and many others feel is a more constructionist and constitutionally sound one. First of all, the establishment clause was meant to prohibit the United States government from creating an American church, a la England. Unfortunately it has now been twisted to mean "separation of church and state," a phrase that comes from a letter by Thomas Jefferson in the 1800's. However, Thomas Jefferson did not aid in writing the Constitution, he was in France at the time, his letter was written decades after

the Constitution came into effect, and he was not advocating for this policy, but merely pondering it.

Anyway, "separation of church and state" was not what the founders intended, we know this based on notes from the Constitutional Convention. In fact, certain members were worried that the 1st Amendment would be viewed that way, but others assured that it was impossible to misconstrue (ha!). When the Constitution was completed, George Washington called for a day of prayer and thanksgiving and thanked God for the opportunity to create the document. In fact, some of the first acts of Congress were to publish Bibles for the Northwest Territories and to provide for a chaplain. Does this sound like the creators of the Constitution intended for the document to be read as "sepa-

ration of church and state"? Even today Congress is opened with prayer. The Constitution makes it illegal for the government to establish (or create) its own religion and to prohibit the free exercise of religion. It does not prohibit any semblance of religion existing anywhere in public life as the Courts these days seem to preposterously rule. The 1st Amendment means freedom OF religion, not freedom FROM religion. This perversion of the Constitution is what Justice Moore is trying to call attention to and correct.

On side notes:

-Your refusal to capitalize "God" shows deference toward this atheistic view of law.

-You said it is people like Justice Moore that are "responsible for the degradation of America into a [sic] apathetic voter wasteland" however, isn't he doing just

the opposite? He's rallying those who agree with him, and in AL it is a considerable amount, to get out and vote and fight for what they believe in.

-You say that Justice Moore has "no respect for the law" and that he violated the "separation of church and state" interpretation by the Supreme Court as if the law and the Supreme Court's interpretations of it are always correct. Remember that the Court upheld slavery, segregation, and Japanese internment camps, among other cases.

-Any angry Alabamians write in yet? (ed. note—no, Alexa, but check the last issue of the Trident to check out an Alabamian's response, and pick up this coming Wednesday's issue to see my response to these criticisms in the form of a letter to the editor

-Alexa Moutevelis

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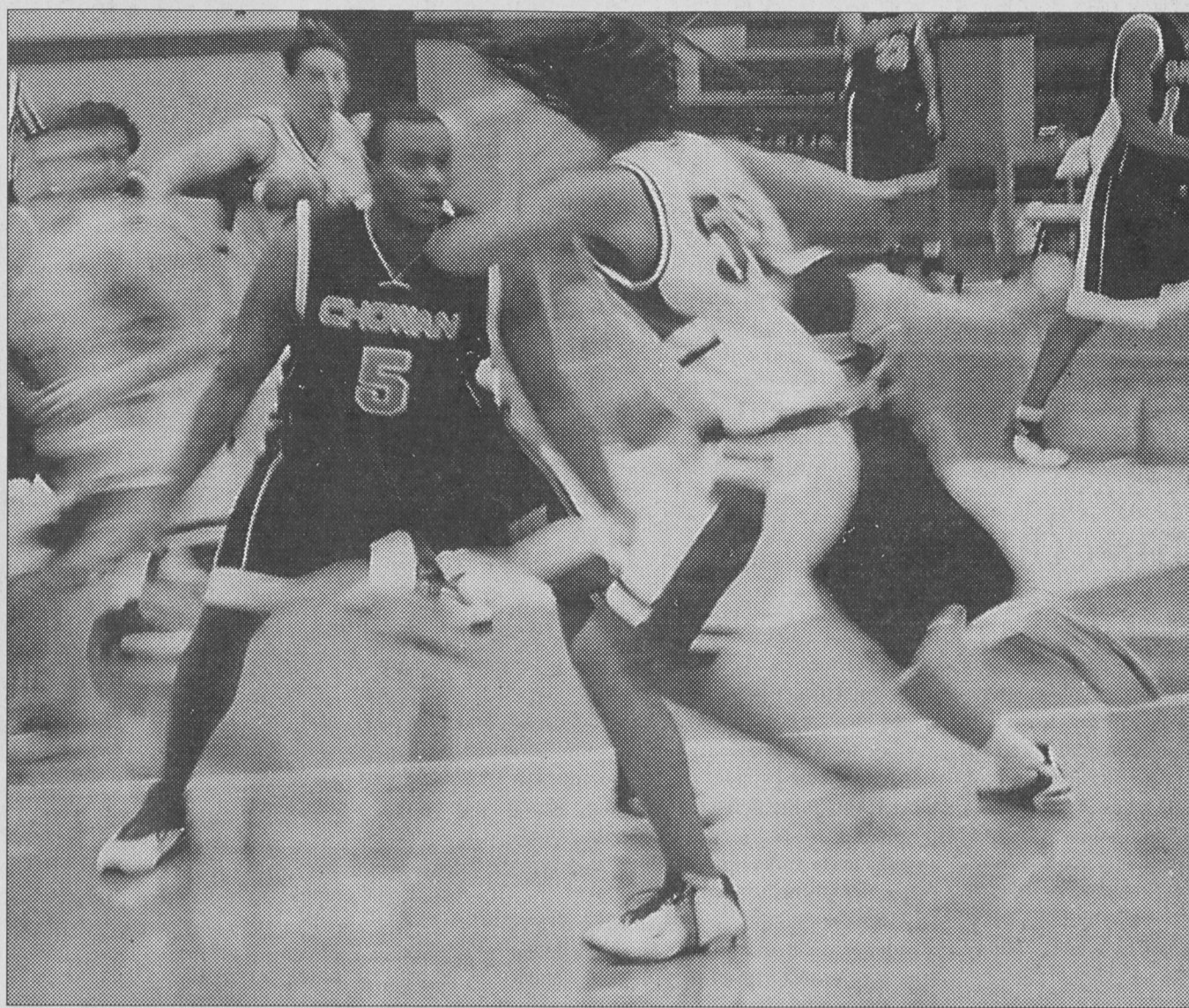
Generals earn first ODAC victory after dropping three

JOHN HYLAND
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After dropping their first three decisions, the W&L basketball team has won two out of their past three games. Last week, the Generals earned their first ODAC victory against Guilford on Wednesday then dropped a tough non-conference contest to Chowan on Saturday.

In the Generals road victory against Guilford (2-4, 0-1 ODAC), they got off to a slow start and were down 33-25 heading into halftime. The Quakers would extend their lead to as much as ten points at 37-27, two minutes into the second half but their good fortune would end there. The Generals went on a 16-3 run over the next eight minutes and held a 43-40 lead with 9:26 remaining. Guilford would trim the lead to 45-43 with just under five minutes remaining but it was close as they would get as the Generals preserved their lead en route to a 59-50 victory. Despite being outrebounded 40-35, the Generals stingy defense was clearly the difference in the game. The Generals allowed just six second half field goals and for the game, held the Quakers to 29% shooting from the field, while shooting 47% themselves. Another key stat was W&L's foul shooting, going a perfect 12 for 12 in the second half. Individually, sophomore swingman Phil Landes' 15 points and freshman guard Chris Halkitis' 14 points led the Generals. Senior point guard Michael Denbow paced W&L on both ends of the floor, contributing 6 assists and 5 steals.

In Saturday's home loss, W&L let their third



CODY GABBARD / RING-TUM-PHI

BRING IT ON. Freshman forward Alex White takes on a Chowan defender in the team's non-conference Saturday loss.

straight victory slip through their fingertips. The game was close throughout, with Chowan assuming a 37-34 lead at halftime. However, the Generals got hot midway through the second half and went

on a 15-5 run, taking a 66-64 lead on a pair of Landes free throws with 2:46 remaining. The Generals would be shut out for the remainder of the day. On the next possession, Chowan sunk a three-pointer, clos-

ing the game on an 8-0 run to down the Generals 72-66. In the loss, W&L was led by freshman guard Coleman Lyons' 16 points. Halkitis chipped in 11 points while sophomore forward David Will added 10 points. Freshman forward Alex White had a solid all-around game, contributing 8 points and 8 rebounds. The Generals were once again outrebounded, 33-27. Their solid field goal defense in the Guilford game eluded them as Chowan shot 52% to their own 46%.

The Generals appear to have rebounded from their early season losing streak that included a defeat to Division I Citadel. Clearly, much of those woes can be attributed to unfamiliarity, as there are a lot of new faces in the Generals' program. W&L is under the direction of first year head coach Adam Hutchinson, an Amherst College graduate, who comes to Lexington from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. In addition, the Generals lost their top two scorers from last season and the roster features only two juniors and two seniors and six freshmen. The Generals will rely on senior captains Denbow and forward Hamil Jones to lead the underclassmen. Already, it appears that the younger guys are responding. So far this season, Halkitis and Will are the Generals' leading scorers while as aforementioned, freshman Landes, Lyons and White have all turned out solid performances in recent games. The Generals' success this season will depend on how quickly these diaper dandies can adjust to the college game. W&L returns to ODAC action when they travel to Bridgewater in their last contest before Christmas.

Swim teams compete in invitationals over the weekend

Women place third in Randolph-Macon invitational

ALLISON PERRY
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The womens' swim team traveled to Randolph-Macon where it placed third out of eight teams in the two-day invitational.

Placing ahead of the women's team were Marymount with 423 points and Randolph-Macon with 409 points. The Generals finished with 375 points.

Helping Washington and Lee in its third place finish was sophomore Kristine Holda, who came in second in the 100 freestyle with a time of 56.43.

Holda also came in second in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:05.05.

Junior Laura Westerman placed second in 200 IM at 2:27.84 and fourth in the 200 butterfly at 2:35.82.

In the 100 breaststroke, freshman Abbie Sauter finished third with a time of 1:16.46. Senior Erin Dougherty also contributed to the Generals' score with a time of 20:42.95 in the 1650 freestyle, placing her at third in that race.

The women's team now has a record of 6-2, 3-0 in the ODAC. They do not compete again until January when they travel to Randolph-Macon on the tenth.

Men place fifth in Franklin & Marshall invitational

W&L SPORTS RELEASE

The Washington and Lee men's swimming team finished in fifth place at the three-day Franklin & Marshall Invitational, concluded on Sunday in Lancaster, Pa.

The Generals scored 793.5 team points, while invitational champion Mary Washington scored 1,632 team points. Spring-

field (1,200) finished second overall, followed by Ithaca (1,142), Gettysburg (958.5), W&L, Franklin and Marshall (575.5), McDaniel (340.5) and Saint Mary's (111).

Washington and Lee's day-three efforts were paced by senior Eric Ritter (Birmingham, Ala./Mountain Brook), who won the 200 Back with a national "B-cut" time of 1:55.04. The victory

marked his third top-place finish in the invitational. On day two he won the 50 Free with a time of 21.64 and touched the wall first in the 100 Back with a national "A-cut" time of 51.40.

Freshman Mike Ginder (Jacksonville, Fla./Episcopal) concluded the weekend with a strong day-three performance. Ginder finished second in the 100 Free with a time of 47.67 and com-

bined with Ritter, senior Drew Catanese (Southampton, Mass./Suffield Academy) and junior Chris Colby (Ossining, N.Y./Archbishop Stepinac) for a second-place time of 3:15.64 in the 400 Free Relay.

Washington and Lee returns to action on Saturday, January 3, when the Generals travel to the Florida Atlantic Invitational. Meet time is 10:00 a.m.

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Golf Etiquette tip of the week:

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Womens' basketball takes two straight

By KIM GUNST
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team won both of their games last week, defeating Emory & Henry (60-55) on Wednesday and St. Mary's (73-54) on Saturday.

The Generals saw two players record double-doubles in Wednesday's game.

Freshman forward Jessica Hunsinger led the team with a game-high 17 points, a career-high 16 rebounds and a program record eight blocks.

Sophomore guard Louisa Feve also recorded a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds, while freshman guard Sarah Otey rounded out the

team's double-digit scorers with 10 points.

Captain Bethany Dannelly is very impressed with the team's hard work and strong performances so far this season.

"With our win against Emory and Henry and several other close games, I think that we all now believe that we can compete with any team in the ODAC," Dannelly said about Wednesday's win. "I think that the other ODAC teams will also begin to realize that we are a much stronger team than we have been in the past."

Senior forward Sarah Michaels proved just that as she led the Generals to a victory in

Saturday's game against St. Mary's. She scored a season-high 26 points and grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds.

Michaels scored six of her points on a pair of three-pointers that provoked a 12-2 W&L run to close the first half, giving the team a 34-25 halftime edge that they would not surrender.

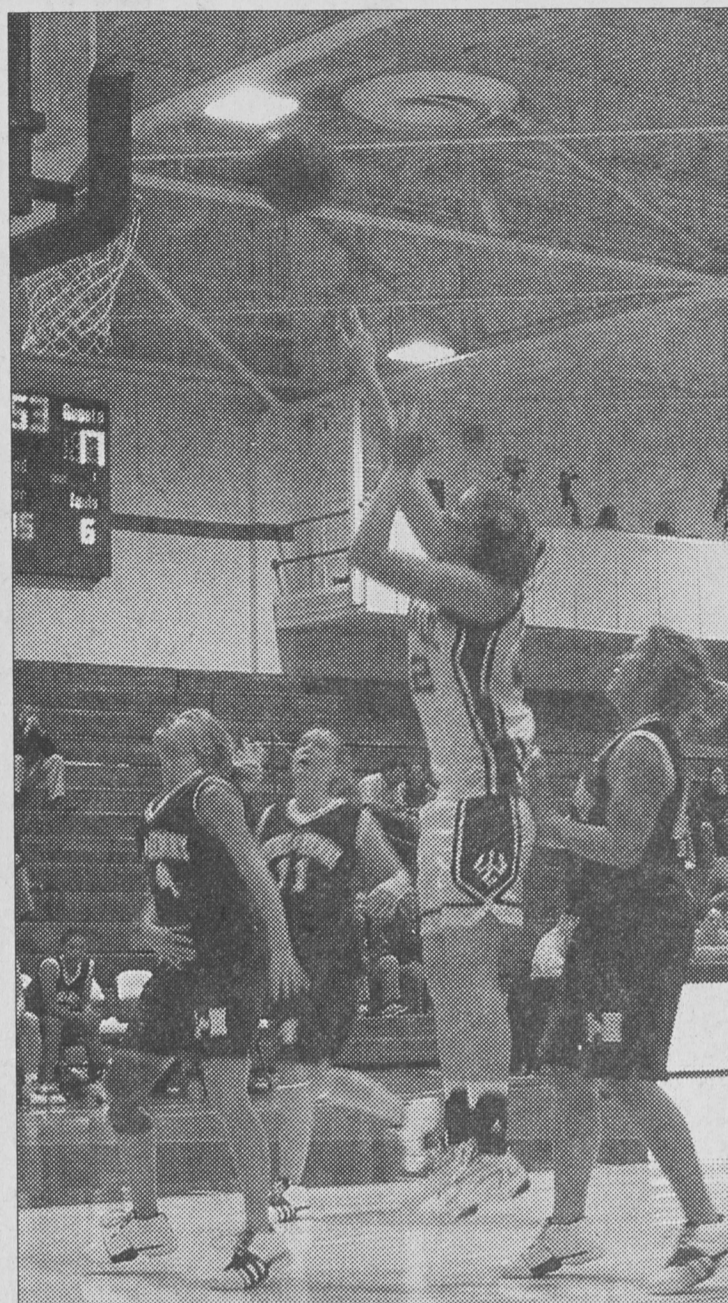
Michaels canned 5-of-8 three-point attempts and had three assists. Sophomore guard Louisa Feve scored a season-high 20 points, grabbed seven rebounds and had a team-high five assists. Freshman forward Jessica Hunsinger added 10 points and eight rebounds to compliment Michaels' and Feve's

efforts.

The women are undoubtedly off to a great start this season. "We have played very competitively in every game this season," Dannelly said while discussing the team's expectations for the season.

"I think that everyone on the team is very optimistic about our potential for this season. Coach King has done a great job of beginning to rebuild the women's basketball program."

The team matched their win total from all of last season and are now 3-3 overall. The Generals will return to action on Tuesday as they host Southern Virginia for a 7:00 pm contest.



CHRISTINE GRAY / KING-TUM PH

JUMP SHOT. A General shoots for two during the team's 60-55 win over Emory & Henry on Wednesday.

Indoor track teams compete in VMI Invitational

By KIM GUNST
STAFF WRITER

The men's and women's indoor track teams began their season by competing in the VMI Keydet Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

Strong performances by the freshmen look promising for the women's team. Sara Behmerwohld placed second among Division III competitors in the 55-meter high hurdles with a time of 9.78 and Kathryn

Brennan tied for second in the pole vault with a school-record vault of 8.00'.

Junior Ann Tompkins, a new addition to the women's team, will also be a strong competitor this season. She placed second among DIII athletes in the 200-meter dash with a time of 29.54.

The women's team is looking forward to the rest of their season. "Track is off to a great start," Captain Meredith Walker said. "We have worked hard this fall, and while we have a promising amount of individual talent,

we are also beginning to come together as a team. We have plenty of time to work on technical improvements, but it was great to see everyone supporting one another at our first meet."

On the men's side, sophomore Keith Sullivan led the way by placing second among DIII athletes in the triple jump (11.90 meters) and third in the long jump (5.71 meters). Junior Lee Stinnett also had a great start to the season. He finished fifth among Division III competitors in the 55-meters (7.06) and 200-meters

(25.66).

Head Running Coach Nate Hoey foresees a great season for the Generals this year. "I'm happy with the way things turned out," he said after the meet on Saturday. "We're definitely looking forward to getting ready for Indoor ODACs. I think we're going to turn some heads this year."

The men's and women's track teams will return to action on January 24 when they compete in the Susquehanna University Invitational.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 7	Wednesday, December 8	Thursday, December 9	Friday, December 10	Saturday, December 11	Sunday, December 12
• W Basketball vs. Southern Virginia--7:00	• M Basketball at Bridgewater--7:00	• Open	• Open	• Open	• Open

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Senior Kisha Barnes devoted to bringing diversity to W&L

KELLY JO LARSEN
STAFF WRITER

Senior Kisha Barnes is no stranger to working with minority issues. As one of the founding members of the Washington and Lee Chapter of the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, she has been actively involved with many aspects of diversity on campus.

Originally from the D.C. area, she came to W&L as a transfer student from Drew University in New Jersey on the good words of her friend, Marinda Harrell. With a laugh, Kisha says Marinda, "conned" her into coming, but that she's "very grateful to her" for the experience. As an African-American female, she has always been interested in minority affairs. While at Drew University she hoped to start a NAACP chapter there, but left before she had the opportunity. When she arrived in Lexington, she heard about a failed attempt to start a chapter on campus and, after speaking to then Dean of Minority Affairs Courtney Penn, she decided to give the chapter another try. The W&L chapter was started two years ago, and has been actively working to sustain itself on campus since then.

Nationally, the NAACP focuses on primarily African-American issues, but also works on many different minority issues. According to Kisha, nationally, they "do a bit of lobbying, some protests, voter registrations, focusing on youth empowerment, and letter writing campaigns" though that is not all that they do. On campus, the NAACP is currently planning a Voter Registration Drive to be held in January. They hope to work

with Young Democrats to get people registered to vote in Virginia. Kisha explains, "I don't think politics is as important an issue as it should be in Lexington, especially from a minority point of view." The W&L NAACP is also planning to host a Night of Achievement at Rockbridge County High School to recognize some students who might not be otherwise recognized. They also have conducted a tutoring program with the Human Rights Alliance.

Recently they have written a two separate letters to President Burish expressing concern over the lack of minorities in the administration and on staff. The second one included a package from the NAACP entitled "Call for Action" which asked for a plan from the University for increasing its diversity and creating a diverse curriculum. President Burish sent them a letter explaining that because of its location, it's hard to recruit a diverse staff. Kisha says they are now trying to "get at the heart of the matter and that it might be a failure in active recruitment" that explains the lack of diversity at W&L.

Being a leader of a minority group on campus hasn't been easy for Kisha. Getting people involved has been the biggest challenge. In the future, she explains, "I hope to guarantee that the NAACP will be in existence after I leave and they are successful." The NAACP is open to all students, regardless of race.

When talking about diversity, Kisha wants everyone to realize that black students are not trying to separate themselves. "We're not trying to be social outcasts," rather, she believes "we need to start dispelling stereotypes." At W&L, Kisha said, "the environment forces us to fit into a box... We have to



STEVEN MARINOS / THE RING-TUM PHI

get past stereotypes and the misconception that minorities want to assimilate."

Kisha would like to see a shift to recognizing the value of diversity rather than trying to force people to fit into a preconceived perception. Part of this could be fostered by all the minority groups working together and working along with non-minorities. Kisha

holds high hopes for Washington and Lee's future, "I really believe we have the potential to welcome diversity... we just need to break down social barriers and create an environment where we can talk and converse. I don't mean a utopian society, but a place where we are at least comfortable to communicate."

McDonalds names W&L its featured business

BY KATHERINE SHELL
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee has chosen McDonald's as the featured business of the month for December. This entitles all students and faculty to a fifty percent discount at the McDonald's on 62 East Midland Trail from now until December 31st.

The discount is valid during breakfast hours Monday through Friday from 6:30 AM until 10:30 AM and Saturday and Sunday from 6:30 AM until 11:00 AM. There are no regulations on how much food can be bought with the discount.

McDonald's ask that

especially large orders be called in ahead of time at 540- 463- 3600. A W&L I.D. is required to obtain the discount.

The restaurant's menu offers a wide selection of American food. Diners can enjoy everything from hamburgers to chicken filet sandwiches. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily.

McDonald's is not the only restaurant offering discounts to W&L students and faculty. The Arby's at 512 East Nelson Street is currently offering a twenty percent discount to students and faculty that have their University I.D.'s. The Arby's offer is valid all day.

Campbell and Costa engaged to be married

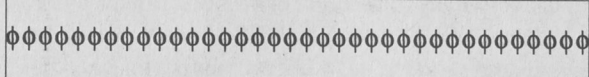


PHOTO COURTESY BERNIE CAMPBELL

Bernie Campbell, a member of the Washington and Lee class of 2005 recently got engaged to Sara Costa, William and Mary class of 2005.

Both Bernie and Sara hail from New Hampshire, where they attended Salem High School together. They have been dating for three and one half years. They began dating during a high school musical production, *Brigadoon*, where Campbell was an actor and Costa was a member of the technical crew. They were also members of the high school quiz bowl team together.

Bernie is a history major at W&L and plans to go into teaching, and Sara is a Chemistry major at W&M and plans to pursue a graduate degree before going into the research field. The couple has not yet set a date for the wedding, and will not do so before graduation.



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Date Economics at Washington and Lee – Importing is Best

A long time ago, before the first female students matriculated in another Great Leap Forward of university lore, importing was a way of life. From Sweetbriar, Hollins, Randy-Mac Womens College, Mary Baldwin, and of course, the dreaded Southern-Sem, the girls would flock to Lexington on the weekends to get a little taste of the frat life and accompany their favorite frat lord to wild date functions. Fraternity boys would buy their booze, get their bands, and the ladies would just roll in.

Then girls came to W&L. No big deal. Then came the sororities. Guess it had to happen sometime, with such a Greek-oriented place. And then, while no one was paying attention, the entire dating scene at W&L changed completely when sororities began to dominate the dating scene of this school.

At first glance, this doesn't seem to make a lot of sense. After all, isn't it the fraternities that throw the parties? Aren't the date functions all fraternity events? It's the guys that ask out the girls, right?

Perhaps, but as every fraternity boy understands, the sororities determine where the fraterni-

ties stand in W&L life. Naturally, frat guys are assessed partially on who they get fratty with, specifically the girls that can be found at their houses. Would the Big Four (if such a thing exists) be so big if they didn't have hot sorority women flock to them in numbers? Would the "lesser" houses be less sensitive if they could mix with the top-o-the-line sisterhoods?

Certainly there will be critics responding with something like "you're overreacting Tim—sororities don't make certain houses cool and other houses less cool."

Well why are fraternities compelled to mass-produce T-shirts that proclaim to the world that they pimp sorority chicks like gods. You gotta just love those "Mixer Shirts" — my favorites are the ones that displayed to anyone with the power of sight that a fraternity mixed with two sororities in the same weekend. Did you guys want a prize, other than a lame T-shirt, for being pimp-daddies? Why else would these shirts exist if not to broadcast that sororities really do affect where fraternities stand here on campus.

Thus, we've concluded that sororities do matter. If you're a frat boy, you're in some way affected by this weird sorority-fraternity dynamic. What can you do? Maybe we should look back to our past for the answer.

I'm fortunate to have friends in the various schools close to Lexington. Anytime I've brought an "outsider" girl to frat functions, I've always been refreshed by hanging out with someone who wasn't already molded by the Greek culture at W&L. Before I go further, I should say that I've always been a big supporter of our school and the way it is — for all the negative idiosyncrosities we can find in our Greek system, I've never seen or learned of a better fraternity/sorority culture anywhere. But once you get into it, there's no getting out. It's tough to be a student at W&L and not see things in the black and white of Greek life. I have to believe that before sororities came to W&L, people were less concerned about what house they belonged to and who was better or worse, and were more worried about which girl school girl they were going to try to mack it with over the weekend.

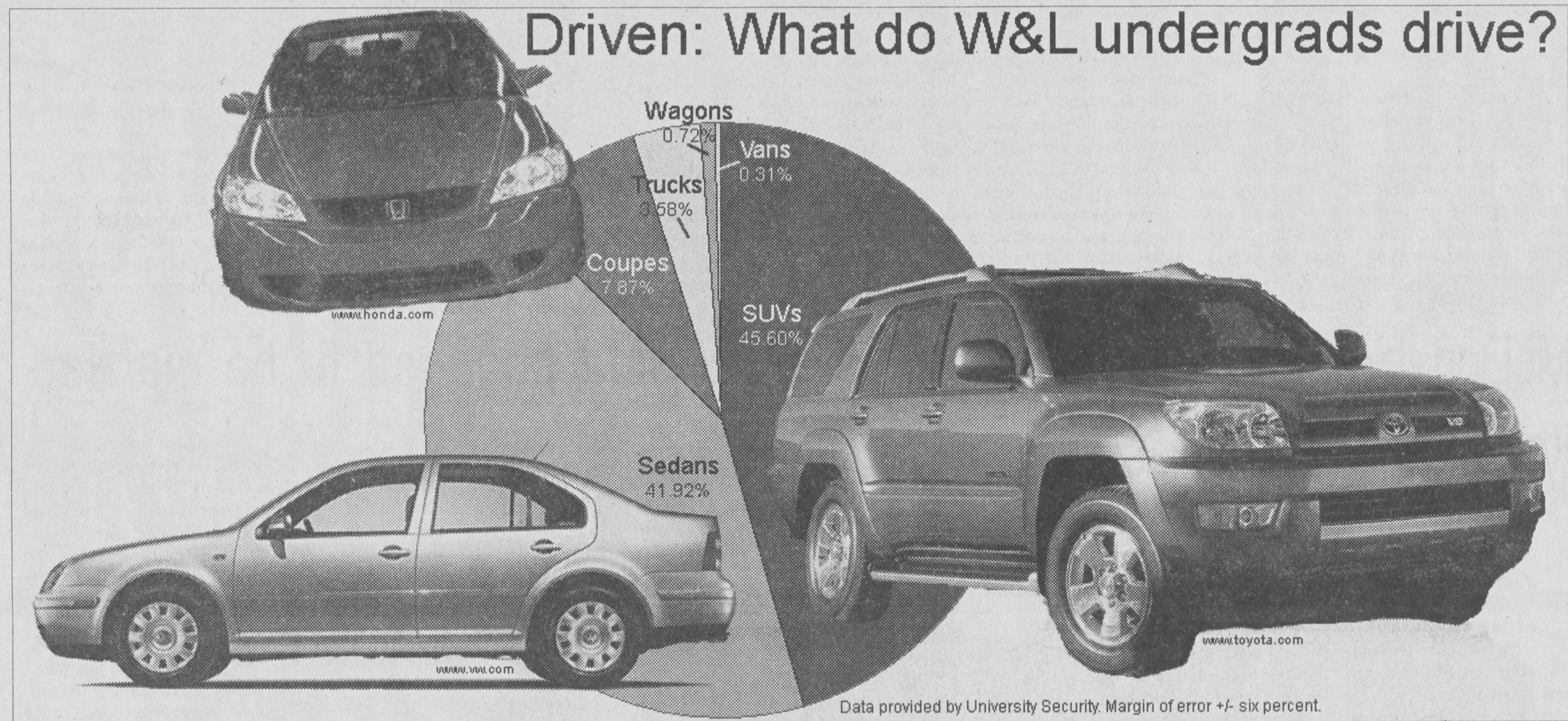
Why not get back to that? Imported girls have no concept of which houses are the supposed

"cool" houses. They're just here to party. Through the passing of legends, they know that W&L is a marquee party school — they come for the fun, for the magic. They certainly don't come to hook up with Joe Schmo from Fraternity X because his house is the downright coolest on earth.

I have no problem with sorority girls. I just happen to know girls in sororities. I like pretty much all of them. And they haven't done anything wrong. It's all a product of our environment. By default, W&L girls have been W&L-ized. It doesn't make them any less fun to have for date functions. But, just once in a while, it's fun to bring in someone who's not a part of the system. Someone who doesn't have all the Greek pretentiousness that we can never seem to separate ourselves from. Someone who knows nothing about Lexington. Someone who just wants to have fun.

Those frat lords of the past didn't have much of a choice. Nowadays, we have our own ladies to contend with. But think about all those poor souls around the world who haven't yet experienced a W&L party. They deserve a chance. Import one over — you may be pleasantly surprised.

Φ ABSOLUT FRATLORD
TIM SMITH '04



Golden Rule-family secret to success, act as genuine manipulative gentleman

BY MARSHALL RULE
 STAFF WRITER

Delayed flights. Lost luggage. Missed connections. They are all a part of travel, especially during the holiday season. Approximately 36 million people traveled over Thanksgiving in order to be with friends and family. With that many people flying, there are bound to be problems and inconveniences for fliers.

All these inconveniences left many fliers, including myself, frustrated, annoyed, and angry. But is it right to take out all of our anger on the attendant behind the desk, or on the voice on the other end of the phone? While sitting at the gate feeling sorry for myself about my delayed flight, I noticed countless people yelling and threatening the attendant. I began to feel sorry for the poor fellow behind the desk who was getting blamed for all of the airlines problems. People seemed to think it was his fault that the plane

didn't pass inspection earlier in the morning. The poor guy is a customer service representative, not a mechanic.

Here, ladies and gentlemen, is a valuable lesson I learned from my family many years ago. The lesson is how to solve problems and get what you want by acting like a true, yet slightly manipulative lady or gentleman, whichever applies to you. I was taught that you can't always get what you want by forcing other people to help you. In order to get what you want or need, you must operate delicately. This is my family's secret to success. By following these simple instructions, you will not only be a step closer to getting what you want, but you will also avoid looking like a malevolent jerk.

1. The first thing you must do is find a customer service agent of the opposite sex. You may have to allow other people in line to go ahead of you in order

to accomplish this, but trust me, it is well worth it.

2. Learn these words: "I have a problem and I need your help." Practice these words until they roll off your tongue. Guys, let's be honest, when a girl says they need our help we get all excited for the chance to be a knight in shining armor to some little hottie. And girls, you too get excited to be able to show some conceited, egotistical pig that he needs women to make it through the day. It also never hurts to throw in a couple of compliments, such as, "Wow, you sure do strike that keyboard with masculine authority." (Note: guys do not use that line on women. A woman would not find that that remark as complimentary as a man might.)

It's that simple folks. A cute face, some key words, and a bit of manipulation. That's all that stands between you and everything you ever wanted. After seeing your puppy dog face, the airline worker, bank teller or even police officer may just go a little above and beyond to help you out. Maybe even the cashier at a

grocery store just may spot you that extra quarter for your six pack of Budweiser—I mean soda.

When you are nice to people, they will be nice to you. When you act like a sadistic madman, that's exactly what you are going to get in return. It isn't the attendant's fault that the plane's girder on the rotary belt is broke. Nor is it the cashier's fault that you can't afford a six pack.

There is a saying that, "you can't control what happens to you, you can only control your reaction to it." So don't be that guy standing at the counter yelling and screaming that because of a cancelled flight you are going to miss "Friends" on NBC. Instead, put on that sad desperate face, and work my family's magic. After all, there is a reason that I have been pulled over five times and have never received a ticket. The knowledge is yours now. Share it with your family and friends, but not too many. We need to keep this family secret a little bit quiet.

QUICK HITS

Φ Despite all the money the school spent on air conditioning to keep the classrooms frigid in the summer, the penny-pinchers in Washington Hall certainly aren't wasting any money warming campus now that it's winter.

Φ Compared to all of the other houses, the Christmas lights at SPE are a little lacking.

Φ The best part of the Main Street parade was the drunken elf running through it. Thanks, buddy.

Φ The more educated a woman is, the less likely it is that she'll marry and have children.

Φ Women smile more than men.

Φ Fraternity men really ought to do a better job telling dates what to wear at their events.

Φ Wow! Wasn't Traveller's personal celebrity sober driver the best idea to rock this campus in a long time? Thanks to Dean Watkins for giving up her time. Congrats to winner BJ Conrad.

Φ Hey Sam Walton: not selling Hanukkah paraphernalia at Wal-Mart is discriminating.

Φ Can anyone tell me what war the Salvation Army fought in?

Φ Three cheers to Right Food Red for playing "Hava Nagila" at Lambda Chi this weekend. Way to mix up the set list.

Φ As I was jamming my fork into the toaster, my friend said he didn't think it was a good idea. So I said, "Yeah? Well, I don't think it's a good idea to be a loser, just like you!" He tried to say something else, but I was laughing too hard to hear him.

Φ I am being naughty for the rest of the year. I would do anything for Cole in my stocking—Cole Boyle that is.

Φ C-Money, quit feeding the geese before dinner.

Φ Why are the italicized unlauted U's (Û) coming, who really cares, and why is something killing trees to inform us?

Φ Grendel has had an accident. So may you all!

Φ If somebody ever calls you pretentious, a nice comeback would be to say, "Pretentious?! Moi?!" because you'd dispel the unwarranted accusation and at the same time show your knowledge of French.

Φ How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Lalli Pop?

Φ TFC: It's almost 2004, you guys should start looking at the newest Lexus SUV models.

Φ If there is anyone interested in indexing 1700+ students, please e-mail the Calyx at calyx@wlu.edu.

Φ What will be declared "rights" next? Is there a human right to a comfortable bed, a car, free health care, and a college education?

Φ Please remember, in December, to giftwrap your member.

Φ If the police ever catch you stealing a rare diamond, I bet a funny thing to say would be that your dog had told you to do it. How would they know what your dog said?

Φ With all the effort to remove them from campus, you'd think dead leaves were the Brides of Satan or something.

Φ Is it just me, or are the Cadavers slacking?

Φ When lifting a cow, even one only one-week-old, always lift from the knees.

Φ Throwing snowballs or any other missile at a passing car is a felony.

Φ The best lineup for the men's basketball team includes three freshmen and two sophomores.

Φ It's not a good idea to order Domino's pizza if you plan to pass out before it arrives. It's an especially bad idea if you pay with a credit card because they still get the money and you don't get any pizza.

Φ Who took the time to attach bells to all of the W&L Life condoms? Talk about a waste of University resources!

Φ Snow hiking is a fun pastime and should be enjoyed as long as the snow lasts.

Φ Snowflake, a rare albino gorilla, has died in the Barcelona Zoo. We mourn her passing.

Φ The Commons smells like a hamster cage.

Φ The student who asked Dean Futrell to Christmas Weekend would like her to know he is heartbroken that she didn't accept his invitation.

Φ E-mail your anonymous Quick Hits and fun stories from Christmas break to phi@wlu.edu.