

#378.755  
R552  
v.106  
no.20  
c.2



# WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI

VOLUME CVII, No. VIII  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2004

The student voice of Washington and Lee University since 1897

## Speakers say Rock on, Mock Con

BY ERIN JULIUS  
NEWS EDITOR

Boston's mayor Menino called the 2004 Mock Convention to order early Friday afternoon, just as he will at the 2004 Democratic Convention in July.

James Carville lived up to his nickname the "Ragin' Cajun" as he got the Warner Center hot and hollering on a Saturday morning.

Menino spoke briefly, emphasizing the need for elected officials to "engage" young people. "In July, I hope my party will have something new and significant to say the American people," said Menino.

Political Chairman Michael Denbow called Mock Con a "daunting task" that "sets the men and women of Washington and Lee part," he said.

"I will guarantee you yet another correct prediction," said Denbow.

Virginia Governor Mark Warner spoke during the first session of the Mock Convention. Warner called the Mock Convention, "one of Virginia's greatest traditions."

Warner compared the current Democratic race to his own campaign. He said his campaign had been an unconventional one that offered Virginians a different message. His campaign made it possible to, "like NASCAR, hunting and bluegrass and still be a Virginia Democrat."

When discussing the Presidential race, Warner said he hoped that candidates don't, "get mired down in social issues," and that the next President will focus on fiscal responsibility.

After his speech, Warner called the Washington and Lee student body fiscally conservative, "a reflection of the Virginia electorate, but I don't think they're knee-jerk conservative on social issues," Warner said.

"I only got hooted at by a couple of people," he said of Washington and Lee's historic conservatism.

David Boren, President of the University of Oklahoma, and a former Senator for and Governor of Oklahoma, praised Washington and Lee as a place where, "honor is not just a slogan, but a way of life."

Boren called this Presidential election the most important in his lifetime. The next President needs to, "set as a top priority rebuilding trust and respect of the U.S. around the world," he said.

America's standing in the international arena was a common thread found among the speeches given at Mock Convention.

In a show of support for General Clark, former Navy Secretary John Dalton spoke to the crowd. Dalton indicted President Bush for the loss of support around the world, saying that riots start in the street when Bush goes abroad.

"We are no longer respected and trusted in the world," said Dalton.

Dalton campaigned for Clark in New Hampshire and D.C. and believes in him because, "foreign policy is going to be a major issue," in the campaign said Dalton.

America needs, "a strong candidate who runs as Commander-in-chief," said candidate General Wesley Clark via telephone.

Balanced fiscal spending was another common theme. "There are times to be conservative and times to be liberal...and we must be balanced in what we do," said South Carolina Representative James Clyburn at the second session of the Mock Convention.

Political commentator James Carville keyed the Mock Convention, calling it "one of the true great traditions on American politics."

The Bush Administration doesn't, "deserve reelection...because they have a cynical view of America and Americans," he said.

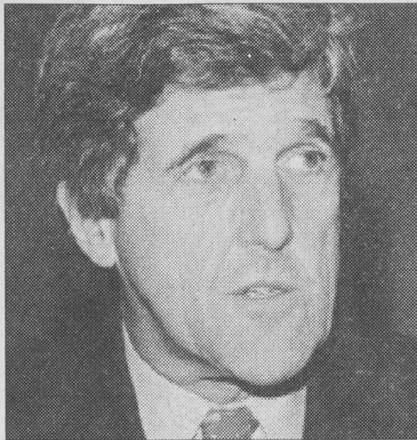
"Who are these clowns to tell the Democrats anything about the economy?" Carville asked.

Carville did not support any one Democratic candidate, but said, "the only way John Kerry is gonna lose this thing is if he gets caught with a dead girl or live boy."

Carville criticized Bush the most. Kerry is, "just a better man than Bush," he said.

The Mock Convention felt, "very real" and, "gives the students here a sense of the real momentum and excitement of politics," said Carville.

### PRESIDENTIAL



COURTESY KERRY.SENATE.GOV



COURTESY EDWARDS.SENATE.GOV

Decision 2004. Washington and Lee's Mock Convention picked Senator John Kerry (D-MA) to be the Democratic candidate to oppose President George W. Bush. The Convention selected Senator John Edwards (D-NC) to fill the Vice Presidential slot on the ticket. Check page seven for Mock Con memories.

## Traveller makes changes for better

BY MAGGIE SPEASMAKER  
STAFF WRITER

Over the past year, strong leadership and key changes have strengthened Traveller, the safe-ride system that serves the Washington and Lee community.

When Bailey Edwards took over as General Chairman of Traveller this fall, he faced several problems. Traveller was suffering from poor accounting, a record of unreliable service, and student dissatisfaction. To remedy these problems, Edwards put his committee to task.

"First we accounted for every dollar we had spent," said Edwards. "No business can be successful without solid accounting information, and I think Traveller is no exception."

The Traveller Committee also determined ways that they could spend the 40,000 dollars granted to them by the Board of Trustees at their October meeting. Edwards, along with his committee, decided to use the grant to expand their educational program and implement trial periods for more effective operating procedures.

As a supplement to the safe-ride system, the Traveller Committee is putting more money into programs that educate about the risks of drunk driving. "We have started an education sub-committee where we are looking to bring in speakers before Fancy Dress and Foxfield," said Katie Henderson, secretary of Traveller.

In addition to the education efforts, the Traveller System is undergoing new operational procedures. A trial period is currently in effect testing these current changes.

Instead of having vans run the set route throughout town on low volume nights, there are now dispatched drivers every night of the week. The routed vans now run only on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

"In short, the biggest change is that you can call for a ride from Traveller every night of the week to go anywhere," said Edwards.

Although the trial period is not over, members of the Traveller Committee are confident that these changes will be beneficial.

Students are making use of the nightly dispatched car, even with pledges, and the numbers are expected to rise even higher after pledgship.

Edwards says that the Traveller education sub-committee has produced good results as well.

They held a campaign trying to get people not to drink and drive over Christmas Weekend that was an enormous success. More than 300 students signed a pledge and wore ribbons throughout the weekend indicating their agreement not to drink and drive.

"The greatest prize came on Monday morning when we learned that no DUI's were given to W&L students during Christmas Weekend," said Jeb Brooks, chair of the Traveller education sub-committee.

At this point the only serious complaint that students have about the Traveller System is the amount of time it takes to get a ride.

"Our proposal for the Trustees raises this student concern, and hopefully, we will be able to provide more drivers in the future," said Edwards.



## Safehaven policy protects students who seek help for substance abuse

BY CATHERINE SWAN  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

At a university ranked as the #5 party school in the nation by the Princeton Review, a primary concern of the Washington and Lee community is that students party safely.

The practice of Safe Haven encourages students to act responsibly and seek medical attention if they find an individual whose health is in danger due to substance abuse.

Simply put, Safe Haven ensures that students who need to seek medical treatment for substance abuse will not face judicial action. For the administration, the practice is centered on ensuring student safety.

"It's a weighing of risks of what practice will encourage and not discourage responsible behavior," said General Counsel Leanne Shank.

Although the practice encourages students to act responsibly, it could also be seen to promote irresponsible behavior.

Even if a student has committed a strike as defined by the Student Judicial Council's three-strike system, if he goes to the Student Health Center to seek medical help, he and the individual or individuals who took him will be free from judicial action.

While the administration realizes this could promote irresponsible drinking, they still believe that safety should supersede the threat of judicial action.

"My goal in sticking to this practice is to make sure that students don't avoid indicated medical care because of concerns about disciplinary consequences.

On the other hand, I don't want to see it abused, with high risk drinking practices promoted because of a perception that the Health Center will just take care of the consequences and no one will get in trouble," said Dr. Jane Horton, Director of Student Health Services.

Dean Watkins agreed that although the practice involves a weighing of interests between student safety and disciplinary measures, in the end it works because it places student safety first.

"If we think there is a persistent problem with a particular organization or with a particular individual, we'll take another look at our practice," said Watkins.

From the perspective of the Student Health Center, the issue is one of medical confidentiality. The law requires the Student Health

Center to keep all personal health information confidential, ensuring that students are in a 'Safe Haven' when seeking medical treatment.

"Medical confidentiality comes first in a health care setting. This has always been our practice since I started working here in 1987.

The only exception to this is if someone has been in repeatedly, is felt to be a risk to themselves or others, and is not cooperating with evaluation/treatment for the problem," said Horton.

## Grades suffer fall term slump

BY CALEY ANDERSON  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Grades are in for Fall Term 03-04, and as usual, the Fall Term slump struck with a vengeance.

Students tend to do better with experience, and so a large influx of freshmen every Fall Term tends to drop grades for independents, while even more experienced students have problems because Fall Term tends to be somewhat more difficult than Spring Term.

As usual, sorority Pi Beta Phi led the field with a GPA of 3.458. The Pi Phis have not been shaken from their top spot since Winter of 2001, when they finished second.

Fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha came in second with a GPA of 3.416, a significant gain for them, as usually either Kappa Alpha Theta or Chi Omega comes in second.

Rounding out the top three was Kappa Alpha Theta with a GPA of 3.407.

All the fraternities and sororities (as well as the independent men and women) suffered a lower GPA this term than Spring term of 02-03 with one notable exception.

In an exceptionally rare occurrence, Chi Psi improved their Fall Term GPA (3.176) over last term's Spring Term GPA (3.075), making them the biggest gainer.

The second biggest gainer was Lambda Chi Alpha, which actually lost .054 of a grade point, but that was the smallest loss.

Another rarity was that the dubious distinction of biggest drop this year occurred with fraternity Phi Delta Theta, which went from 3.268 to 2.990, a whopping .278 of a grade point. As a result, the Phi Deltas took over the cellar spot from Chi Psi.

Ordinarily the biggest drop from Spring Term to Fall Term are either the independent men (3.085, a .262 drop) or independent women (3.184, a .249 drop).

This drop is because all the freshmen are, of course, generally counted as independents during the fall term.

Data for the informal fraternity of Alpha Delta Phi was unavailable, as the University Registrar counts the ex-members of Sigma Phi Epsilon (which was a middle of the field fraternity in terms of GPA) as independents

## Spring term's fate to be decided soon

BY ANN STEWART BANKER  
STAFF WRITER

After much anticipation, a decision on the academic calendar could be less than a week away. The Board of Trustees will open their winter meeting Thursday, and according to Secretary of the Board Jim Farrar, the calendar issue is the central item on the Board's agenda.

"They've been discussing the various calendar options for a couple of meetings now," Farrar said. "They've got all the information they can have." Less than two weeks ago, the provost sent an updated report on the topic to all 31 Board members, in preparation for upcoming discussion.

Despite the extensive groundwork, President Burish has stated that there can be no guarantee that a decision will be reached. Farrar echoed the president's sentiment.

"We just don't know how the conversation will unfold," he said. He does think a vote can be expected as long as the Board feels they have all the information they need. The plan for discussion is fairly straightforward. On Friday morning, the Board meeting will open with preliminary com-

ments from Rector Norwood and President Burish. The various calendar plans will be reviewed, highlighting pros and cons of each. The treasurer will make a presentation on the different options, and then the topic will be open up to discussion and questions. There will be time at the meeting on Saturday morning for follow-up discussion, and if all goes well, a vote will be made.

Executive Committee President Helen Hughes will be making a presentation to the Board on Friday morning as well. At this point she is confident that the Board is fully aware of the student sentiment on the issue. Hughes is hopeful that a decision can be reached, but she also realizes the weight of the matter. "If they do not have enough time or do not feel as if they completely understand all the information, they won't make a decision," she said.

Assuming a decision is reached, the communications office will be ready to announce the information through a campus-wide email, likely to be sent on Saturday afternoon after the morning meeting. The communications office also plans to post the decision once it is made on the Washington and Lee web site as soon as reasonably possible.

# VMI unveils 'Master Plan,' construction to change campus

BY SARAH MURRAY  
STAFF WRITER

The administration at the Virginia Military Institute is working hard to launch their "Master Plan", which consists of renovations that will significantly change the landscape of the nation's first state military college. The proposed construction includes five new buildings, a parking garage, and four athletic practice fields that would ideally be completed in 12 years.

The ambitious plan is still only a dream. Fundraising the projected cost of \$100 million has not even begun. Col. Ken White, Director of Marketing and Communications, said the idea of a tuition increase "was shot down immediately". Only one of the buildings is eligible for federal support, due to the ROTC program that will be housed there.

The school intends to rely upon contributions from alumni and other supporters. VMI's superintendent approached possible donors about this dream before the "Master Plan" was even drawn up.

"This is truly in its infancy," said White. "It's contingent on so many things."

Admittedly, it sounds like the brainchild of a Bond movie villain. But the "Master Plan" is really a heartfelt attempt to improve life at the Virginia Military Institute. According to White, the plan was not intended to make significant changes to the quantity or personal qualities of VMI cadets. Instead, its only purpose is to enrich the VMI community.

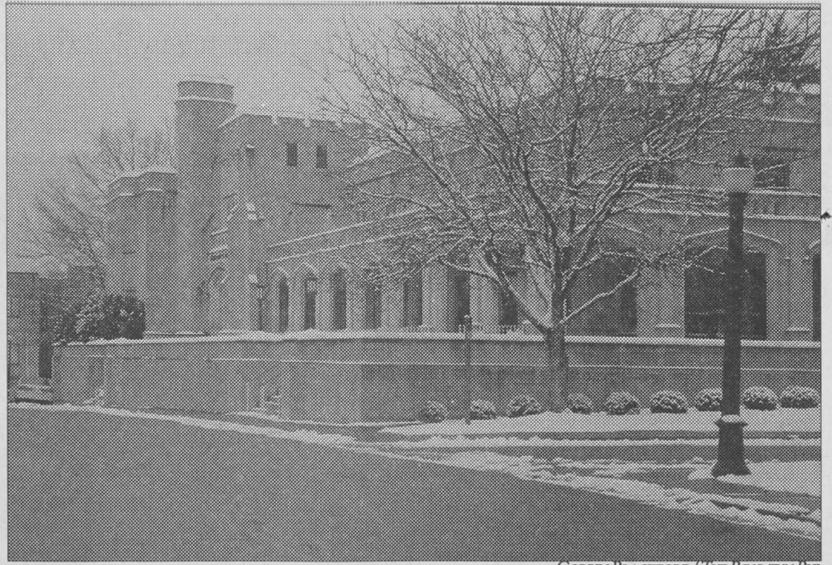
The plan proposes only one new class building. Along with that, it includes a field house, a student union, and an aquatic center with a pool and all facilities. A leadership center with a 600-seat auditorium will be used for seminars and guest speakers. The parking garage will be built out of necessity, since the leadership center will be built on the site of the existing parking lot.

Construction of four new multipurpose practice fields will bump the tennis court out of its current spot and move the hiking trail away from its current path. The administration considers these inconveniences to be on the path to involving every cadet in intramural sports.

According to White, making VMI a pedestrian campus is another dream of its superintendent, General J. H. Binford Peay III. However, the roads along the parade grounds and in front of the Barracks may be closed to vehicles during the implementation of the "Master Plan".

The "Master Plan" is a recent addition to the list of construction projects in the city and at Washington & Lee. But VMI hasn't forgotten other Lexington residents in their enthusiasm. Luckily, most of VMI's projects will take place in a way that exclusively affects the campus. But Col. James R. Groves, Planning Officer, has been working closely with Lexington's city manager and city engineer to ensure the smooth coexistence of all undertakings—just in case.

"It's important that we work very closely with



CORBIS BLACKFORD/ THE RING-TUM PHI

**Gimme Veemies!** VMI Construction under "Master Plan" slated to take 12 years, will change the campus to a pedestrian friendly one.

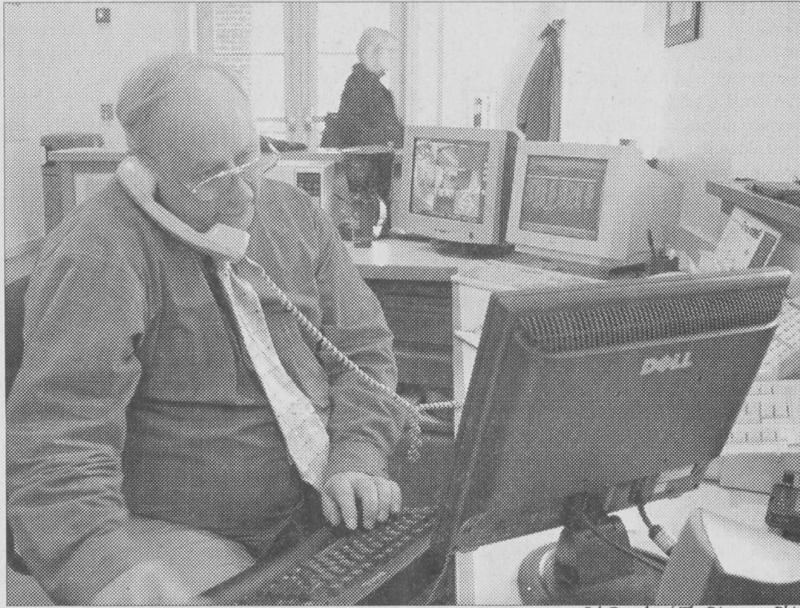
the city to coordinate all these projects," said White.

Several changes have already been made since the plan's introduction in November. In response to state pressure to increase enrollment, the administration had planned to enlarge the Barracks. That proposal has been postponed due to the difficulty of designing a suitable addi-

tion to the building. More changes will probably occur before the "Master Plan's" completion.

Though the "Master Plan" is not yet ready to be implemented, the Keydet's dining hall has already been approved for renovation. Construction will begin on March 1st to raise the hall's capacity from 600 cadets to the current enrollment of 1300 cadets.

# Hidden Hero dispatcher Ed Bolger protects students, loves Washington and Lee



Jeb Brooks / The Ring-tum Phi

During the weekends, campus security is in the hands of one man. Ed Bolger's official title is "Security Information Assistant" for the Security Department. He works the security/information desk in the Elrod Commons on Fridays and Saturdays at midnight. His job is essential, considering the nature of the W&L campus on Friday and Saturday nights.

Ed describes his job as assisting the university community and looking out for their safety. He monitors several phones, a beeper and several TV screens each of which serve a specific purpose in keeping the campus secure.

He has been described as "one of the nicest men you will ever meet." He observes the speaking tradition with almost every individual that walks by his desk. Ed loves this school, the students, and the faculty. He describes the student body as "the future of America", and praises the students for being very respectful and sincere. His devotion to the school is boundless — if it's a problem for the students, then it's a problem that needs to be solved, he said.

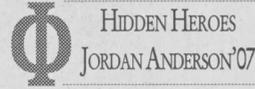
Being around the students makes him feel "10 years younger." He said his favorite thing to do is

to simply watch the students as they walk by and look at their facial expressions. "You can tell so much by someone's facial expression," he said. He also said that by exercising the speaking tradition, you can brighten up someone's day. When he sees someone that looks in a rush or distressed, he makes sure to say hi.

Bolger is a Virginia native from Falls Church, near Washington, D.C. He worked for Marriot Corporation until 1990, when he retired. After that he worked as a private classified defense contractor with internal security. Six years ago he decided to move closer to his daughter who teaches at VMI and his son-in-law who teaches here.

Bolger worked for W&L last year as well in the old Graham-Lees security office. He likes the Elrod Commons much better because he gets to interact with the community more.

Bolger wants to get out and see more of the country, but at the same time, he loves the Shenandoah Valley. His advice to all students is a vehement "Stay in school." Also, be yourselves, don't change for anyone else, and appreciate the faculty and staff here.



# Mayock named Associate Dean of College

BY KYLE WASS  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Washington and Lee announced the new Associate Dean of the College, Professor of Romance Languages Ellen Mayock, last week.

The position of Second Associate Dean is a fairly new position, created by President Elrod several years ago. Mayock's job description is to, "help the College assess its academic programs and will assist in the accreditation process, developing and tracking the College's capital projects, and hiring additional full-time, adjunct and visiting teaching staff for the College and interdisciplinary programs." Her tenure as an Associate Dean begins July 1.

Mayock said she believes "that the job description will evolve as I come

to understand better this new post and the needs of the College faculty and students."

Mayock will continue teaching, with a workload of one academic course per term, and up to two courses per year in her three-year term as Associate Dean.

When the position of second associate dean was created, the idea was that "the College manages the largest number of faculty, students, departments, and programs on campus and that the [current number of] administrative positions devoted to the College were insufficient to handle the workload," said Mayock.

As Dean Stewart assessed the strengths and weaknesses of this aspect of the College, she began to mold the job description for the second associate dean.

Mayock has been at Washington and Lee since 1997, when she arrived as assistant professor of Romance Languages, and became an associate professor of Romance Languages in 2002.

Mayock has considerable background and a special interest in 20<sup>th</sup> century Spanish literature, and has a book coming out later this year entitled "The 'Strange Girl' in Twentieth Century Spanish Novels Written by Women."

In her new role as Second Associate Dean, Mayock said she is "particularly interested in deepening our commitment to the liberal arts in real and practical ways...[and] although [she] feel[s] conflicted by leaving full-time teaching for the next three years, [she is] delighted to be able to maintain a load of two courses per year and to continue to work with ESOL and Women's Studies."

# Donate to save Music Festival

BY KATHERINE SHELL  
STAFF WRITER

Fundraising to save Spring Term's Buffalo Creek continued last week. The fundraising is a reaction to a recent announcement by the administration that the festival could not continue due to liability concerns.

Inge Hill, co-producer of the festival, collected funds last week in the Commons to save the festival. Hill collected several hundred dollars from the students, and is optimistic that the festival may be saved. If it is held, the event will be smaller than in the past.

The late announcement of the

decision to discontinue the festival will have a large effect on the ability to raise enough money to keep the Buffalo Creek Music Festival.

Hill is making additional plans to raise money in the following weeks.

He also hopes to gain recognition from the Executive Committee in order to allow students to make donations using University Cards.

Hill realizes that even a great deal of fundraising cannot compare to the amount of money spent in previous years on Buffalo Creek by the IFC. He hopes the concert be enjoyed by students this year.

## A Bar A Ranch: Spend a summer in Wyoming

Spend your summer in Wyoming on one of America's best guest ranches. Now hiring for **June 1 - September 11 and June 1 - September 25**. Check our staff web site at [www.coolworks.com/abara](http://www.coolworks.com/abara) for details, or call Bob or Margie Howe, Managers, at 303-838-1950. Bob Howe will be on campus February 4. You can set up an interview on e-recruiting. No need to post a resume; you can bring it to the interview.



GLORIA LAWRENCE RANGEL  
PILATES/ALEXANDER METHOD 540-461-3447

309 N. Main St.  
Lexington, VA 24450

*Need a rest from  
everyday life?*

*Treat yourself to a luxurious  
full body massage by*

*Kelly Harris, BA, CMT*

*Certified Massage Therapist  
Board of Nursing Certified  
13 Years Experience*



**Gift Certificates Make  
Great Valentine's Presents!**

**(540) 264-0063**

## ATTENTION STUDENTS!!!!

HOUSE FOR RENT  
"In the Country"

Next School Term  
Lease begins June 2004

3654 Collierstown Rd.

4 Bedroom, fully furnished

\$1200/mo.

Call Nancy Allison at  
James Wm Moore Real Estate  
28 South Main St. - 463-7080

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2004

# THE RING-TUM PHI OPINIONS

## STAFF EDITORIAL

The power of the press

The power of student publications is undeniable. The student press is free to print whatever it chooses. As long as we avoid libel and slander, we are freer than any other student organization on campus.

The *Ring-tum Phi* maintains a high standard. Because we must hold other groups accountable, we must also be willing to take the high ground, even when it is difficult. Who holds us accountable? Who is willing to stand up and tell us if we do something wrong? We are.

Campus newspapers have a duty to print the truth. We must realize that what we write becomes a matter of record. Like it or not, what we immortalize with a word processor becomes as-good-as fact for many readers. When we willingly choose to print (or not print) something, we ignore the importance of that trust.

Let it be known that the *Ring-tum Phi* will correct any mistake we make. We do our best to leave no stone unturned in the search for the truth behind a story. We try to avoid making mistakes in the first place.

If we do make a mistake, we immediately correct it. If we are found to be in error, we correct the misperception we created. We do this because we understand that you, our readers, place a certain amount of trust in us. We will cut a feature or even a few Quick Hits before we cut a correction. We will not wait two weeks hoping something will die down before taking action. We act immediately because that is what we hope you would do.

Any abuse of power is inexcusable, and when something is brought to our attention, especially if they are egregious, we will fix them. We do this because we respect you, our readers. We understand that if we lose your trust, we lose everything. We can only hope that other student organizations might be willing to take the same attitude.

## Quote of the Week

"Last in literacy, first in Pulitzer prizes."

~Spotted on a Mississippi Mock Con T-Shirt.

## THE RING-TUM PHI

**Editor in chief** **Jeb Brooks**  
**Assistant Editor** **Kyle Wass**  
**News Editor** **Erin Julius**  
**Opinions Editor** **Caley Anderson**  
**Asst. Opinions Editor** **Anne Finley**  
**Arts & Life Editor** **Megan Morgan**  
**Asst. Arts & Life Editor** **Chris Lauderman**  
**Photography Editor** **Cody Gabbard**  
**Asst. Sports Editors** **John Hyland**  
**Production Assistants** **Chad Kiewiet de Jonge**  
**Copy Editors** **Emily Edwards**  
**Kelly Jo Larsen**  
**Alexa Moutevalis**  
**Kate Zawyrucha**  
**Sarah Beth Campbell**  
**Vanessa Arness**  
**Aubrey Miner**

**Business Manager** **Paul Seifert**  
**Asst. Business Mgr.** **David Seifert**  
**Circulation Director** **Henry Grimboll**  
**Asst. Circulation Dir.** **Stuart Presnell**  
**Distribution Dir.** **Thomas Worthy**

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.

**The Ring-tum Phi**  
University Commons Room, 341  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, Virginia 24450  
Telephone: (540) 458-4060  
Fax: (540) 458-4059  
Email: phi@wlu.edu  
Subscription rate \$40

# Apples and Oranges: Space Program



PHOTO COURTESY OF jpssoftlab.com

FOOL'S ERRAND? Mars may hold secrets to the origins of life on Earth, as well as potential for colonization, but should we be focusing on our earthly problems?

NASA's most recent mission to Mars has created a lot of buzz in the press. Proponents say that there are many practical uses for space exploration, mining asteroids, terraforming, and colonization, but detractors say that it's all a pipe dream compared to other problems that require our attention and money. Today a Junior and a Freshman square off on this interesting issue of intrepid exploration

### Pro

ANNE FINLEY, '07

A lot has been happening recently in the exciting world of space exploration. A new mission to Mars has uncovered more invaluable data about the composition of rocks and the possibility of water on the planet's surface. What would this mean for us? There is a very strong possibility that Mars may have developed similarly to our planet in a way where it would have at one time been possible to sustain life. Such a concept opens a world of possibilities. And increasing NASA's budget, like President Bush recently did, could one day lead to a manned mission to Mars and the kind of answers that only can come from first-hand exploration.

Many will wonder why it is important to spend billions of dollars in order to understand our universe and our future prospects. They will wonder whether the money could have been put to better use, to solve the array of problems facing us already in our lives on earth. The answer is yes and no. We have many problems and they are real and significant. Yet, I believe it is our duty to use our technology to find out what we can. There will never be a time when the world is perfectly stable and at peace, thus there is no better time than now to devote all available resources to the study of space. It must be an ongoing effort, one that develops and progresses with the changing times. Think what the world would be like if no one utilized or developed technology and if countries refused to put funds aside for research. We cannot say that space exploration is unimportant to our daily lives. We do not yet know all that it has to offer.

I wholeheartedly believe, and scientific research supports the possibility, that there must be other planets which are capable of sustaining life similar to that of our Earth. Besides the fact that the presence of water on a planet in our very own solar system suggests that it once or one day could contain life, there are billions of other solar systems in our almost infinite universe. It is illogical to think that there could be no other planets like ours, no other people similar to us. Like the movie *Contact* aptly put it, if there weren't more instances of intelligent life in our vast solar system, "it would be an awful waste of space". And such a thing would be important for us as human beings to know and care about. We may not be alone, and this prospect is very exciting and worth exploring.

There are many potential uses for space exploration; it's not just something we do out of hubris. Not only do the water deposits and chemical leftovers on Mars indicate that there was once possibly life on Mars, which is an exciting prospect for us to explore, but Mars could be useful as a mineral deposit for mining, as a possible site for colonization some time in the future, and other such potentialities. This is true not only of Mars, but of all space exploration. The more that we know of the universe in which we live, the greater the potential for the human race.

If we give up on space exploration now, we will be missing out on valuable information which we have the capabilities of knowing. We are an affluent and technologically advanced nation. We are already doing all we can to tackle the problems facing our nation, with people researching cures for cancer, volunteering in soup kitchens, and working with the children that are our future. We must devote money and resources, though not to the same degree, to the exploration of space. If maintaining our Earth is vital for our present well-being, than learning all we can about our universe may be just as imperative for our

### Con

TRAN KIM, '05

"So?" That was the first thought that came to my mind when I heard that a Mars rover had come across some rocks on the red planet. The NPR piece went on to say that scientists think that these rocks could have possibly been formed from water, which would be a very thrilling discovery in their opinion. With all due respect to science and technology, I frankly do not give a damn whether or not Mars had a drop of water on its planet two million years ago, two days ago, or two hours ago. How does the discovery of water impact my life and the lives of billions of people on earth?

Just when I thought that George W. Bush could not make any more senseless policies, he disappoints me with this one that proposes a \$12 billion increase over five years on new space exploration programs. He also wants the United States to return to the moon—again. We already did it once and as fascinating as the mission may have been, what was the point? There is nothing on the moon but the moon and its rocks. If the astronauts had returned with a critical element vital to the discovery of a treatment for cancer, I would applaud their mission.

The entire fallacy of the space program is in its basic endeavors to quench a curiosity about life beyond earth and to somehow fulfill America's narcissistic sense of accomplishment. As amazing as these accomplishments are, I am not terribly proud of them. When we have discovered a way to combat poverty, to combat cancer, and all the other problems that affect human beings on this planet, I will be proud.

Here is the rundown of the problems that Americans face alone: hunger, homelessness, lack of healthcare, joblessness, illnesses, etc. The list doesn't stop. These are the problems that we need to solve, not why did Spirit malfunction. Why are we so eager to tinker with tools and build space machines? Why aren't we tinkering to end the problems that destroy human beings on a daily basis? Space will always be there for us to discover and enjoy, but will we be around to discover in the future the way we are progressing now?

There's an old saying that there is a time and place for everything. At certain points in our lives, we are meant to do certain things because it is the right moment. We can't run without having first learned to crawl. There are appropriate times to have fun and there are times when we need to work, and as students, if you do not know how to differentiate, you are probably on a course to failure. Likewise, there is a time for us to discover space and enjoy all the wonders that are beyond our planet, but this is not the time.

We are at a critical juncture in our lives when there are more problems than ever before. We didn't have diseases such as Aids, Mad Cow Disease, the Chicken Flu, and the various cancers that kill human beings. Nor did we have the large amounts of homelessness, poverty, and social problems that also kill human beings. These are the problems that we must tackle. Not until we have improved the lives of human beings that we can move on to frivolous endeavors such as Mars. The exploration of Mars, similar to the parties that Washington and Lee students so delight in, are simply not important to the real world and its problems.

The problems that plague the human race are not easy to solve and it takes much time and energy, but I don't believe that they are impossible to solve. But we can't simply give up and run away to another issue simply because the first is a little too hard. When we have the solution to ending poverty or curing cancer, the sense of accomplishment will be much more satisfying than finding out there is water on Mars. It's the difference between getting an A in Professor Velasquez's philosophy class and being able to guzzle a dozen Bacardi shots at the bar.

# Use case-by-case judgement for execution of minors



PHOTO COURTESY OF emchatus

END OF THE LINE. Capital punishment is a part of U.S. justice, but should minors be eligible for execution in the right circumstances, or should everyone under 18 be exempt from the laws that govern the death penalty?

The Supreme Court agreed last week to consider once more the Constitutionality of executing minors for death penalty offenses. The specific case is that of an individual named Chris Simmons, who was 17 when he robbed and murdered a passerby. The court, which is typically a 5-4 conservative court, usually upholds capital punishment, but recently did decide against the execution of the mentally retarded and incompetent, so the ruling on this issue will be closely watched.

It's my belief that age is a number, and that it's not necessarily a measure of maturity. While the

government needs an age limit for some things, like voting, that wouldn't otherwise have a standard by which to go, the death penalty is too serious to enforce an age limit law.

## Φ MODERATE'S MUSINGS CALEY ANDERSON '06

The argument is true that there are some minors who were perfectly aware of what they were doing, and chose to commit a capital punishment offenses nonetheless. I agree, to a point, that such individuals are deserving of the death penalty. Whether or not a 13 year old would be capable of doing this, I'm not sure, but my point is that it should be taken on a case by case basis. The only

relevance of the 18-year-old age marker should be that people 18 and above should be assumed to be competent to stand a death penalty trial (unless there's some extenuating circumstance, such as mental retardation).

I'm not saying whether the death penalty is a "good" or "bad" issue, so no raging letters to the editor on that, please. My main idea is that, as a matter of law, the Supreme Court should rule that execution of minors must be upheld, but only in cases where a very stringent standard of competence has been upheld.

To use a personal example, when I was 16 and a high school Junior, my particular high school, Santana HS in Santee, CA, became the

latest to be shot up. 15 students were injured, and an additional two were killed. An additional couple dozen were shot at without being hit, myself included. The lone perpetrator of these killings was convicted of murder and attempted murder, and my entire community was watching closely to see whether or not it would be possible for him to be executed. The controversy in California was that a referendum had specified that minors could be tried as adults, but no specification of the death penalty was made. The lawyers for the killer challenged the law and lost, and he was tried as an adult. The prosecutor, however, made the right decision and did not seek the death

penalty, but rather life imprisonment. The student was 15 when he fired the gun, and the prosecutor believed that that was too young to be completely sure of what he was doing. It is instances like this that prove that our judicial system is one that works. Our prosecutors do not automatically seek the highest penalty, they seek the penalty that they believe is just. The whole system is oriented to create a just result. In this case, the shooter received a life sentence with parole possibilities at the age of 60.

Do I think this is right? It's difficult for me; one of those who died was my friend, as well as several who were injured. I myself remember him randomly selecting me as a target, leveling his pistol at

me and firing, missing my head high by about a foot. Nevertheless, I can sympathize a little bit with him. He was an adolescent who's going through the chaos of a public high school, a chaos made worse by the fact that he had just moved there and was not exactly getting along well with his new peers. Certainly, I don't completely pity him and think he should be treated leniently, far from it. What I believe in is the ability of a court to look at and judge a death penalty case fairly based on the accused individual. I had great confidence in our judicial system to deal with this issue on its own when the accused was guilty of a crime against me, and I still do.

## Letter to the Editor

### Finley wrong on Minority Weekend

Dear Editor,

After reading an article published on January 19th, it is once again brought to our attention that many students on campus do not understand the issue of diversity that we all face. The Princeton Review has ranked W&L as the second most homogeneous campus in America. This is not a ranking to be proud of, so it would be understandable that the administration is trying to dispel this title. The Minority Student weekends were established to help the W&L community become much more diverse.

These students are sent a letter from the university stating what the weekend is a MINORITY student weekend. These are students from various areas and various ethnic minorities who come for the weekend to see what W&L is all about. The article written by a Ms. Anne Finley would lead us to believe that these weekends are not "conducive" to genuine diversity. She starts off saying "You may have noticed an unusually large number of prospectives on campus this weekend." How would she know this? It is only because they were minority students. Is 16 an unusually large number? Well, this is how many minority students were on campus.

She claims to want diversity, but when efforts are made to diversify the student population, she has an issue with it. So let's get to the core of her motivation for writing the article. As she stated herself, she was a little "jealous" that her "minority" friend was

invited to the campus for free. It is true that Washington and Lee pays for the travel expenses and meals in the dining hall for minority students visiting the campus for the weekend, but do they not do the same for athletes? If you are going to attack the system for one group, you should attack it for all groups involved. This practice is not unique to only Washington and Lee. Many other leading universities around the country including Williams College, Emory College, Dartmouth College, and many others have similar minority student weekends. She states that "no one wants to feel that they are only wanted for how they look on paper", yet aren't we all statistics? The state you come from makes you a statistic, your gender makes you a statistic, your test scores make you a statistic, and the fact that you were accepted into W&L makes you a statistic. So this argument is invalid. The article written was highly insensitive to all minorities on campus.

It implies that minority students receive preferential treatment solely based on their race. This only propagates the notion that minority students do not deserve to attend W&L. Not only is this belief not true, but it makes the minority student's four years here all the more difficult. If she truly believes that we can improve diversity on our campus only by "changing our attitudes and exuding a sense of openness and tolerance," she should have reexamined the premises of her article, and apply this belief to the minority student weekend. If she or anyone else is interested in minority affairs, feel free

to join the Minority Student Association, which does not exclude anyone based on race.

Sincerely,  
Cherelle Moser  
Marcus Banks  
E'Lon Cohen  
Cynthia Cheatham

### Response from Anne Finley, '07

When I sit down to write an opinions editorial, I do not try to be controversial. I do not attempt to make my headlines inflammatory to attract readers; in fact I have never even written my own headline for these pieces. I am deeply saddened that readers have found my piece on the minority weekend insensitive, because promoting tolerance and open-mindedness has consistently been my primary goal and topic throughout my first year as a Ring-tum Phi columnist and Washington and Lee Student. But let me respond the best I can. First of all, I whole-heartedly agree that the Princeton Review Rankings regarding Washington and Lee's homogenous structure and lack of race interaction are not something to be proud of. In fact, if readers still had a copy of my first article from back in late October, my critic's remarks sound like they could have been a direct quote from it. We are on the same side. Some particulars of my article may not have been perfectly well-informed or to their liking, but I maintain that the general spirit of it was of the best intentions. I did not mean to criticize the weekend or the valuable

work that the administration and MSA perform to help diversify our campus. I am glad to hear that some minority students received letters detailing the nature of the event, but I still know personally of at least two instances where this was not the case. My motivation was not the personally-insulting suggestion that I was merely jealous of my friend's all-expenses-paid trip to campus. I ask only that people who would attack another's article read it carefully first and attempt to understand its true spirit. So many of us read only the headline, rashly decide what they think it is saying, and then respond harshly.

-Anne Finley

## Letters policy

The Ring-tum Phi welcomes all responsible submissions and letters. All submissions must be emailed to [phi@wlu.edu](mailto:phi@wlu.edu) or in the University Center mailbox by 5pm Friday to appear in the following Monday's Edition. The Ring-tum Phi reserves the right to edit submissions for content and length.

## Mens' hoops loses heartbreaker, storms back with solid victory

### Team losses to no. 4 ranked Randolph-Macon, comeback and beat Averett to advance record to 4-14

By JOHN HYLAND  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The W&L men's hoops team dropped a tight home decision to Randolph-Macon, the fourth ranked team in the country on Sunday afternoon but turned around and took out their frustration on Averett, in a non-conference match-up to improve their record to 4-14 on the year.

The Generals struggled offensively in the first half against Randolph-Macon, shooting just 32% from the field and only connecting on eight field goals. They were able to make their free throws and play tough defense and trailed just 28-26 at halftime, as they looked to avenge an early season 75-

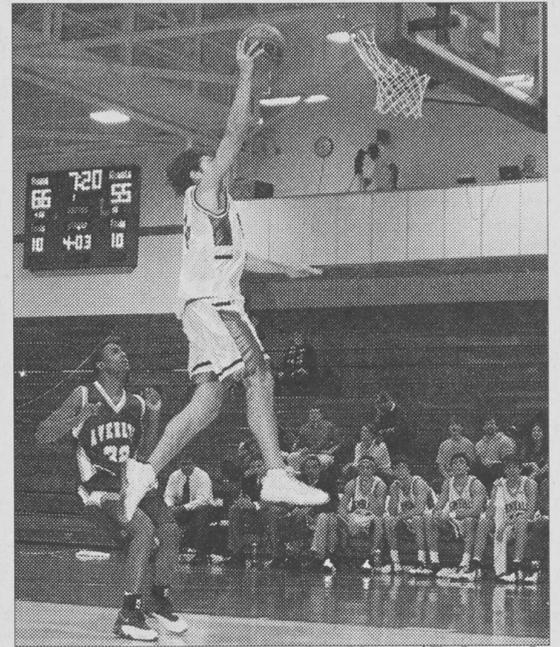
56 loss to the ODAC leader. The Generals continued to hang tight in the second half and took the lead 40-39 with 13:11 remaining on a four point play by freshman guard Chris Halkitis. The Yellow Jackets broke a 48-48 tie with 8:29 remaining and never trailed again. The Generals would get as close as three points with under a minute left but the Yellow Jackets were able to make their free throws and preserve the 66-61 victory. It was a familiar scenario for the Generals who have consistently played good basketball against some of the best teams in the country this year, only to lose games in the final minutes. Halkitis contributed 19 points and 8 rebounds to lead the Generals. He was joined in

double figures by senior co-captain Hamil Jones who added 10 points.

On Wednesday, the Generals hosted winless Averett, hoping that their solid efforts could finally earn a victory. W&L jumped out to an early first half lead, shooting a solid 53% from the field and using a 16-2 run to take a 41-25 halftime lead. The Cougars started the second half on a 9-2 run of their own and closed the lead to 43-36 but it was as close as they would get. The Generals depth was apparent throughout the game as ten players got significant playing time. The Generals bench outscored the starters 53-29 for the game. W&L was also able to use a distinguishable size advantage in

defeating the Cougars. Sophomore forward Phil Landes scored a career high 20 points and added 7 rebounds and Jones contributed another 14. The Generals outrebounded the Cougars 48-30, led by 10 boards from Halkitis. Freshman guard Coleman Lyons also had a solid evening in scoring 14. W&L was able to overcome a paltry 18 of 34 performance from the foul line by shooting 50% from the floor and hold the Cougars to 38%.

Hopefully, the Generals will use this victory to give them added confidence when they resume their conference schedule. They played Roanoke yesterday evening and host Emory & Henry on Wednesday.



STEVE MARINOS / THE RING-TUM-Phi  
GOT AIR. A General takes it to the goal in the team's victory over Averett.

## Swim teams win final home meet against Marymount

By ANN BANKER  
STAFF WRITER

In their last home meet of the season, the Washington and Lee's men's and women's swim teams defeated the Marymount Saints on Saturday afternoon. The men's final score tallied 117-60. The ladies came out ahead in a tighter finish with a score of 106-97.

For the women, seniors Jackie Green and Mandi Kimble each won an individual event. Green won the 200 Fly, swimming it in 2:28.12. Kimble took the 1000 Free with a time of 11:42.19.

Sophomore Kristine Holda and freshman Abbie Sauter also won individual races for the women. Holda took first in the 200 Free and Sauter won the 200 Breast.

For the men, senior captain Eric Ritter was star of the meet. He placed first in the 200 Back with a time of 1:53.79, but it was his performance in the

400 Medley Relay that stole the show. Starting off the relay with the 100 Back leg, Ritter swam an impressive 51.38. With this A-cut time, Ritter broke the pool record, making him only the second male General to hold a record in the Cy Twombly Memorial Pool.

Overall, the men won seven individual events. Junior Chris Colby, sophomore Clark Barrineau, and freshmen Michael Ginder and Kevin Hayes all placed first, Barrineau and Ginder in two events each.

The Generals have some down time before their next meets, but by no means will their training ease up. The men face their next challenge at the Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championship starting Feb. 13. The ladies do not compete again until Feb. 20 when they travel to Radford for the ODAC Championships where they are ranked to win.

## Eastern Mennonite downs womens' basketball 98-59

W&L SPORTS RELEASE

HARRISONBURG, Va. — Eastern Mennonite used a 21-3 run over 7:18 of the first half in cruising to a 98-59 win over Washington and Lee in ODAC women's basketball action on Tuesday evening.



COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

The Royals (15-1, 11-1) held a slim 16-12 lead with 12:01 remaining in the first half, but saw the lead balloon to 23 points (49-26) by halftime. The Royals shot 53.0 percent for the game and forced 22 W&L turnovers in leading

by as many as 42 points in the second stanza. The 98 points were also the most ever scored against a W&L women's basketball team.

The Generals (8-10, 5-8), who shot just 25.7 percent (9-35) in the first half, were paced by sophomore guard Louisa Feve's (Bethesda, Md./Winston Churchill) 22 points on 5-of-9 shooting from beyond the arc. Senior forward Sarah Michaels (Norfolk, Va./Norfolk Academy) added 11 points.

Carrie Grandstaff paced five Royals in double-figures with 19 points on 5-of-6 shooting from three-point range. Amanda Reynolds scored 18 points and Laura Ludholtz contributed 13 points and nine rebounds.

Washington and Lee returns to action on Sunday as it hosts Roanoke for a 2:00 pm contest.

# Your Dream: "I want to become a doctor."



The Johns Hopkins Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Program prepares college graduates with strong academic records to apply to the best medical schools by giving them the personal attention, the necessary science and math courses, and one-to-one academic advising.

If you or someone you know wants to pursue a career as a doctor, apply by **March 1**.

For more information, visit [www.jhu.edu/postbac](http://www.jhu.edu/postbac) or call **410-516-7748**.

# Your Reality:

"I don't have the required courses for medical school."



JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY

Post-Baccalaureate  
Premedical Program

# Generals' spring sports preview: lacrosse, baseball

## Mens' lax has high expectations

By CAM GARNER  
STAFF WRITER

Loaded with talent, the W&L Men's Lacrosse team is poised for a truly stellar season thanks to a talented and experienced senior class and depth at every position. A 10th place ranking in Faceoff Magazine's preseason poll does little to illustrate the potential this year's team has. "We have great team chemistry this year," says senior midfielder and Co-Captain Jimmy "Hunka" Zunka, "Everyone, including a large number of freshman, will contribute this season...the team is gelling already." You are right, Jimmy, gellin' like a felon.

Anchoring a defense that led the ODAC in goals allowed (83) is two-year starting goalie and Captain Ansel Sanders. Averaging 5.88 goals allowed and a .608 save percentage at the end of last season, Ansel garnered First Team All-ODAC and Honorable Mention All-American status last season and will no doubt build on their accomplishments in his senior campaign. Backing Sanders up is freshman standout Chris "dollaz" Lalli, who will do his best to fill the shoes of departed netminder Pat "Casey."

The defense also returns Senior Captain Lawson "Grumbino" Grumbine and Junior Eric Koch, two physical defenders that helped Ansel shut opponents down last season. Stepping into the starting role at the third close-defense position is Junior Bill "Bruiser" Fox, who is ready to lay down a beating or two this season. "Koch, Ansel and I have played together for two years now, and Fox will step right in and play well for us...our defense will be one of the best in the ODAC again this season" says Grumbine.

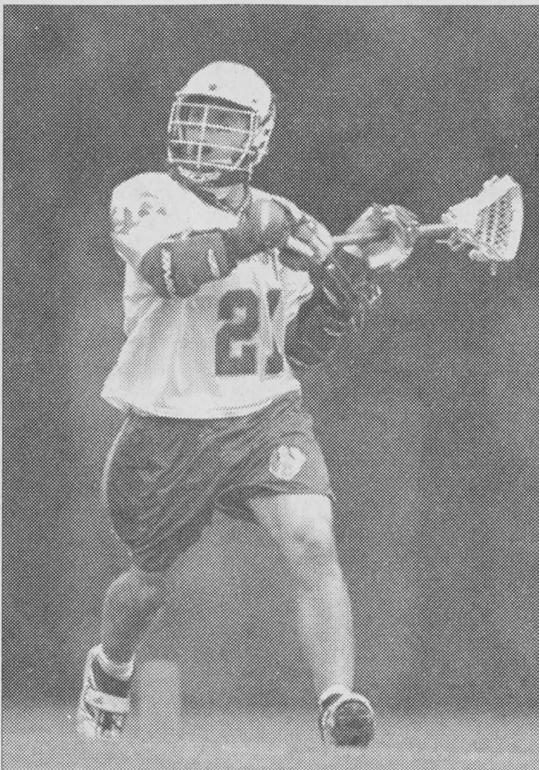
Kenny Rasamny will assume the longstick midfield responsibilities, filling the void left by the departure of All-American Matt Conners. Junior Ben Morris and Freshman Peter Goodwin will share time at longstick midfield as well. Zunka, Junior Adam Chesbrough and Freshman Charlie Clark will handle the defensive midfield for the Generals. The team will use a number of different players to attempt to replace starting Faceoff middle and Captain Tommy Melanson. Juniors Mike Baracco and Adam Chesbrough, along with freshman Corey Gaber will each take their share of draws this season.

In the midfield, the Generals return a number of key players. Senior captain Dustin "I'm the man" Martin returns after a great junior season in which he had 22 goals and 9 assists, earning him First Team All-ODAC and Honorable Mention All-America honors. Rounding out the first midfield are seniors Mark McLewee (15,10) and Mike McNamara (4,2). McNamara missed a substantial portion of his junior season due to a knee injury but as senior midfielder Rich "chicks" Williams puts it, "this season is the return of the booosh."

The second unit is much more green, featuring freshmen Jim Ryan and Matt Arcati, and sophomore Perrin "actually, I'm wearing three collars" Monroe (3, 0). Although they are young, Head Coach Mike Cerino will be looking to the young, talented second line to provide a solid scoring punch that will take a bit of pressure off the attack unit.

Leading the attack again this year are Senior Matt Fink and Junior Gavin Molinelli. Fink paced the team with 35 points last season, while Molinelli produced 31 points and was named Honorable Mention All-ODAC last season. The third attack position will feature a number of different players this season. Senior Rich Williams, Juniors Body "Jack" Murray and Gabe Katz, and Freshmen Grant Martin and Jason Fitzsimmons will all rotate through the attack this year. "Everyone who steps into that third attack spot will contribute, especially Body, I mean, the guy had four goals in practice the other day, how do you stop that?" Williams mused.

This year is looking up for the Generals as they start the season hotter than the vinyl flames on Ansel's truck. The squad opens the season at Greensboro on February 20th and faces a strong Washington College team the 28th. Come support the Generals this year as they seek their third straight appearance in the ODAC finals and a run at the NCAA tournament; Lord knows I'll be there.



COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

## Womens' lax looks to continue success

By SARAH BLOOM  
STAFF WRITER

After a 2003 season of success after success, the Women's Lacrosse team returns to the fields to train and practice for what they hope to be another proud season for the Generals.

"This season we are trying to take it to the next step and compete with the top teams in Division III," said senior Kelly Taffe. Taffe was recognized last season as a first-team All-ODAC attacker along with her teammate, senior goalie Joanna Perini. Perini and Taffe will team up with nine other returning starters to guide the Generals to victory this season.

Leading the efforts will be Coach Jan Hathorn. Hathorn also left last season with honors. Named the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association Division III South Atlantic Coach of the Year by her colleagues, Hathorn led her team all the way to the Division III National Championship last year. Hathorn does not intend to hold anything back this year.

"Our coach has set a very challenging schedule for us and is giving us the chance to step it up a notch," explained Taffe. "We are practicing with more intensity and setting our goals much higher." Indeed, the rankings suggest that the Generals have reason to be proud. According to Lacrosse Magazine Preseason Division III polls, the Women's Lacrosse team ranked in the top ten of Division III teams.

As far as goals for the season go, Taffe sums that up when she says, "We plan to make it past the first round of NCAAs!"



COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

## Baseball hopes to build on last year's success

By JOHN HYLAND  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After finishing 2003 with one of the best seasons in school history, the W&L baseball team will try to eclipse last year's heroics by capturing an ODAC championship. Last year that goal eluded them. The Generals finished 28-8 before falling to perennial ODAC juggernaut Virginia Wesleyan in the conference finals.

The bad news for the Generals is that they will have to overcome the loss of three outstanding players to graduation, all of whom received postseason accolades. Centerfielder Bobby Littlehale hit .362 last season with one homerun and 23 RBI in addition to playing standout defense, first baseman Brian Gladysz, hit .358 with 4 homers and 33 RBIs and ODAC player of the year shortstop/pitcher Michael Hanson hit .371 with 5 homers and 23 RBIs and now plays in the Atlanta Braves farm system.

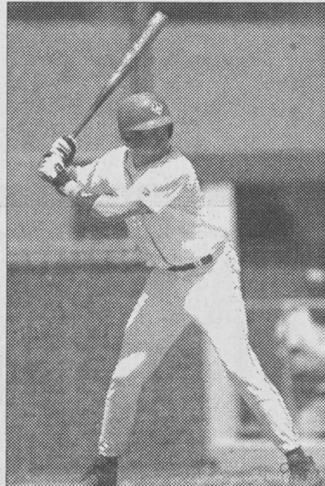
The good news for the Generals is that their stellar pitching corps remains virtually intact, a terrific sign for a team contending for a conference championship. The rotation is led by senior left-hander Peter Dean, an all-state performer a season ago, going 8-2 with 1.67 ERA. Joining Dean in the starting rotation will be fellow seniors and righthanders Mike Wert and Dan Kagey. Wert was 7-1 last season with a 3.73 ERA while Kagey finished 7-3 with a 3.05 ERA. Kagey will also be looked to for his bat as one of the most experienced hitters in the Generals lineup. Playing the outfield when not on the mound, Kagey hit .274 with 10 RBIs.

The Generals will also rely upon senior righthander Bryan Mulhern as both a starter and in relief. A season ago, Mulhern was 3-1 with a 2.29 ERA in ten appearances. Just as importantly, Mulhern is perhaps the best returning hitter in the ODAC. He will primarily be an outfielder when not pitching. He was another all-State performer last season, leading the team with a .392 average, 6 homers and 48 RBIs. Mulhern will be joined in the bullpen by junior righthanders Brian Higgins and Ken Hackman, who will get plenty more innings than they did a year ago.

Mulhern and Kagey, along with junior catcher Zach Bausch will solidify the middle of the lineup. Bausch hit .355 with 4 homers and 33 RBIs last year. Austin Allain will try to do his best to fill Hanson's shoes. The senior will shift from second base to shortstop and will assume the leadoff position. Last year, he hit .289 with a homerun and 33 RBIs and was second on the team in runs scored. The rest of the lineup remains somewhat of a question mark.

Senior Paul Sibley and juniors Chris Chaplin and Warren Hunter platooned in the outfield last season and will be expected to get even more at-bats. Junior Adam Bullock will likely be the everyday third baseman where he split time a year ago with sophomore Scott Gosselink, who moves over to second. Sophomore Taylor McConnell will likely start at first. If these players succeed in assuming larger roles in 2004, the team will be in great position to top last year's heroics.

Hunter gives the best outlook for the upcoming season, believing, "despite some of the question marks at the bottom of our lineup, we will go as far as our pitching takes us." The Generals hope that superb pitching staff will take them to a conference championship. Their season opens on February 16th at Oglethorpe.



COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 3	Wednesday, February 4	Thursday, February 5	Friday, February 6	Saturday, February 7	Sunday, February 8
• W Basketball at Randolph-Macon Women's--7:00	• M Basketball vs. Emory and Henry--7:00	• Open	• W Basketball at Guilford--7:00	• Wrestling at Albright Tri--11:00 • M Basketball at Hampden-Sydney	• M Basketball vs. Lynchburg--3:00 • Track at Christopher Newport--TBA

What do Michelle Kwan, the Phoenix Suns and Georgia O'Keefe have in common?

They all know Roling Structural Integration can improve physical performance in the athletic arena and daily life. Roling Structural Integration is a method of soft tissue bodywork that organizes the body within the field of gravity.

Questions? More information? Contact:

Patricia Sandage 540-463-6828  
Certified Rolfer 540-463-4411 cell  
www.proling.com patricia@psroling.com

**Student Discounts**

P  
H  
I

S  
P  
O  
R  
T  
S

Ring-tum Phi

STSTRAVEL.COM  
Join America's #1 Student Travel Operator

CANCUN  
ACAPULCO  
JAMAICA  
BAHAMAS  
FLORIDA

SPRING BREAK  
2004

Sell Trips, Earn Cash, Go Free!  
Now Hiring On-Campus Reps

Call for group discounts

ST STUDENT TRAVEL SERVICES

1-800-648-4849 / www.ststravel.com

Golf Etiquette Tip of the Week:

If a group is playing the course faster than you, let them pass.

#1 Spring Break Vacations!

Cancun, Jamaica, Acapulco, Bahamas & Florida. Best Parties, Best Hotels, Best Prices! Group Discounts, Organizers Travel Free! Space is limited! Book Now & Save!

1-800-234-7007  
endlesssummertours.com

# More than mainstream: Calvin Awkward meets Greeks

BY KELLY JO LARSEN  
STAFF WRITER

Frats, frats, frats. In honor of another year of fraternal diversity, we are featuring a student of fraternal diversity. Calvin Awkward is among only a handful of minority students in the Greek System; a sophomore history and politics major from Accokeek, Maryland, he is a member of Chi Psi Fraternity.

Looking back, Calvin rushed almost by accident. "Initially I wasn't even thinking of rushing. The thought hadn't even crossed my mind," Calvin recalls. "If I would rush I knew I would go to a historically black fraternity. But, I wasn't going to go to a historically black school." Calvin came to W&L for a lot of reasons including the academic reputation, financial aid and the small town atmosphere. "I'm scared of big universities. There are too many people," Calvin explains.

Freshman year, Calvin started building friendships in many of the houses across campus. "I started building bonds with people and I realized

how much it [rushing] could affect me in the future," he recalls. In the end he decided to participate in formal rush. "I was one of only four African-Americans who rushed last year. Surprisingly, that was about 25% of the black freshman." For Calvin, it came down to SPE and Chi Psi, but he said that in the end Chi Psi was where he would toss his hat. "Half way through fall term, I was calling the Lodge my home. My bonds at Chi Psi were so much closer. I really had a great bond with every guy in that house. It wasn't something I could ignore."

Calvin is one of only a few African-Americans active in the Greek system. Often, Calvin explains, blacks don't rush because it's "harder to find a comfortable place in the system." Also, many are legacies at black fraternities and sororities or their families won't allow them to rush. "The black community is not separate by choice," he says. "Like anyone else, you are attracted to people you most connect with. Consciously, I don't think people try to build barriers. No group tries to completely separate itself from other people." Calvin explains, "The negative rumors turn them off to

the Greek system. There are problems in the system, but there are problems between the majority and minority in a lot of settings. There are problems that are everywhere; it's just a lot more visible here."

Calvin doesn't buy into most of the stereotypes about the Greek system though. "Personally, I haven't had an experience that would make me question it [the Greek system] or make me wonder," Calvin says. "I've felt accepted everywhere. I've been accepted by those 'racist' frats. I really don't think that there are any real 'racist' frats. There are racist people, not racist houses." As for rush, "it's not the color of skin, it's more the person," Calvin holds. "If you're a cool guy and they like you, they'll give you a bid. If you're an asshole, they'll kick you to the curb."

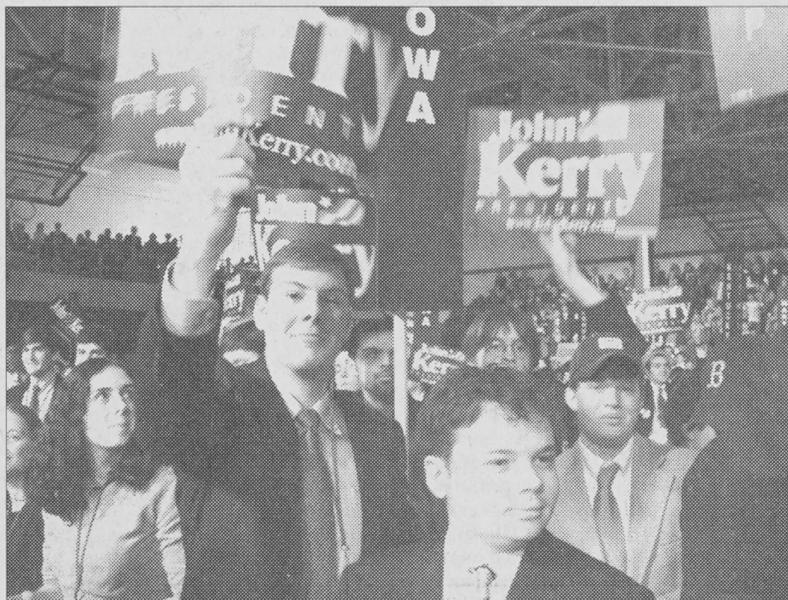
Calvin has been successful in crossing over into what is often seen as the "white students" activity of fraternity life. Often, black students have reported feeling "shunned" by their fellow minority students after deciding to rush. Calvin disagrees with this though. "I think it's getting

better. I was treated no different by my black friends after rushing." This was aided partly by Calvin taking an active role in the minority community. He serves as an officer in both the MSA and in the gospel choir. He has also tried to encourage more minority students to rush. "I felt it was my job to inform them about the rumors, the drawbacks and the positive things about the Greek system," Calvin said. He was pleased that he managed to get two black males to consider rushing; though they decided not to in the end, they both expressed thanks that they had at least given the Greek system a chance. To other black freshmen, he offers this advice: "Have fun here at W&L. Experience new things, make new friends. Go out into the community and become involved. You only go to college once and the friendship and memories you build will be with you forever." After all, Calvin explains, "Your experience at W&L is what you make it. If you spend 4 years of your W&L career saying that this place sucks, it is really gonna suck. I love this school. I feel like where I am, with the support I have, I've been accepted."

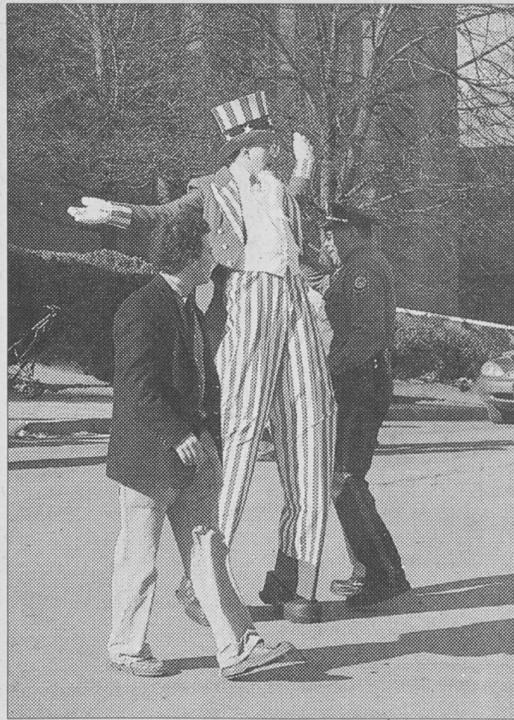
## WASHINGTON AND LEE DEMOCRATIC MOCK CONVENTION 2004



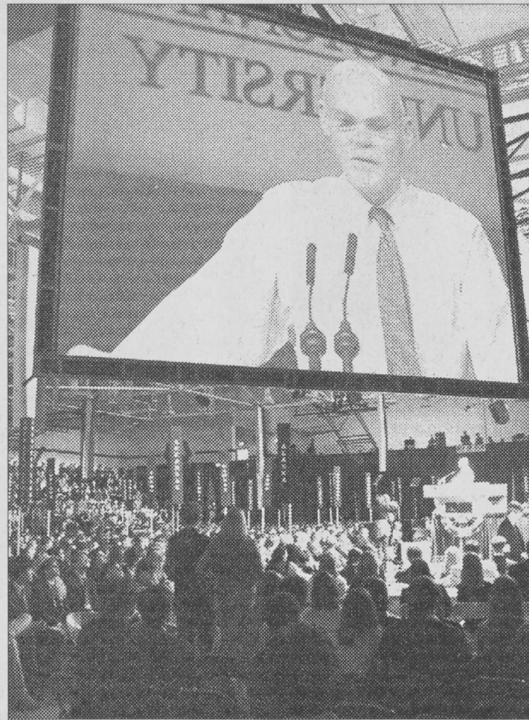
JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI



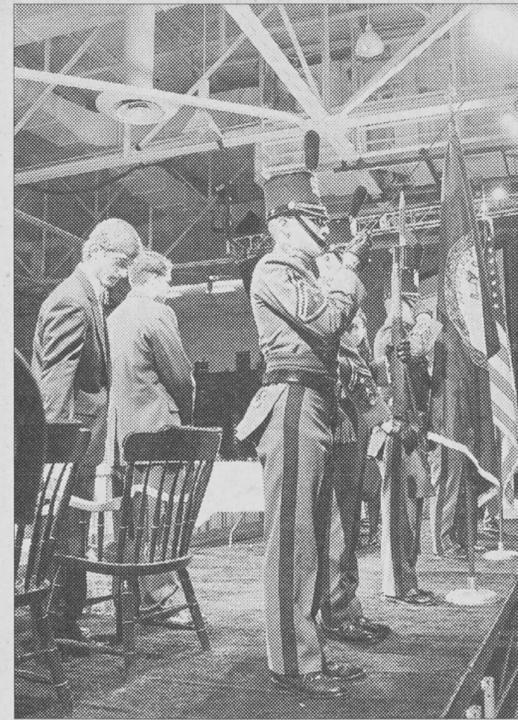
JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI



JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI



JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI



JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI

**Mock Con Memories.** From the excitement of the parade to the energy in the Warner Center, many students shed their conservative leanings to become Democrats for a day or two. The event was called a success by most attendees. Speakers such as James Carville and Governor Mark Warner inspired students

to work hard to make their final predictions. After all the delegate votes had been tallied, Kerry-Edwards was the ticket the 2004 Washington and Lee Democratic Mock Convention chose. Washington and Lee students will find out how accurate their prediction is after the real Democratic Convention in July.

## University Cleaners

THE CLEANEST OF THE CLEAN.  
CALL US FOR ALL OF YOUR DRY CLEANING,  
LAUNDRY AND ALTERATIONS NEEDS

Great Service  
First-Rate Quality

7 North Jefferson Street  
463-3622

dry cleaning,  
laundry, alterations

The Ring-tum Phi wishes  
the W&L student body  
good luck on upcoming midterms

HOME FOR SALE  
704 No. Main St., Lexington

Short walk to W & L and downtown. Remodeled 1885 Historic home on Institute Hill. New kitchen with all new appliances. 4 B/R, 1 1/2 Bath, storage room and large laundry/workroom with washer & dryer. Shows like a model home. Asking \$229,000.  
Call (540) 464-3738

Thanks to  
everyone who  
made

MOCK  
CON

so successful

## Theory of college evolution: changing your high school mold

There's this theory floating around about college students. It goes something like this: college is a clean slate. No matter who you were before, you can go away, break out of your mold, and recreate yourself in college. Essentially, in this new environment, you can be whoever you want to be.

Sounds great on paper, right? The implications seem pretty sweet. You can escape all the labels you've drawn in the past, escape the niche that's been dug for you in the pre-college world, and make a completely new persona for yourself. You can go from band geek to frat lord. You can go from unpopular nerd to a hook-up master. In theory, there are no limitations. The sky's the limit, right?

Not quite. There is one thing we are limited by — ourselves. While we may be able to change our behavior, our actions, or choices, it's not quite so easy to change our personalities. It's not like we can just wake up one day and say "Today I will be a different person." It just doesn't work that way.

But some people try. To some people, it's so important to escape their "high school trap" that they'll try almost anything to experience something new — even to the point where they'll try to be a different person. But it seems sometimes that no matter how hard you try, it's impossible to escape that past...it's always there, at home, waiting for you to come back to it. That's what this article is about, the two differ-

ent worlds that we may never be able to reconcile — the college world and the home world.

No one can simply change themselves in an instant. Trying to do so probably causes more harm than good — instead of making things better for yourself, you cause self-doubt. You seem fake to others. It's transparent. Frat lords see this behavior in freshman rather often — you know those guys who decide "W&L is my world" as soon as they get here. They come up with those ridiculous stories about how they slept with some

celebrity's sister, or how they drank two cases of beer once without even getting a buzz. They try to impress us with this façade they've tossed together, when really, all they show is the confidence-issues of a guy who's trying to escape his high school past as soon as possible. Don't get me wrong — these aren't bad guys by any means. They just try to do too much too soon, and in the wrong manner.

It is possible to change, or rather, to evolve in college. I consider myself living proof. Though I couldn't necessarily prove that I'm a different person, I can say confidently that I'm more comfortable with myself now than ever before. People can interpret it however they want, as loosening up, or as breaking out my shell, or as some hypothetical descent into debauchery. But to look at it that way is to miss the point. Sure, I might act differently now than I ever did in high school (much to the chagrin of my once-

proud parents...I know you're reading this Mom), but it's not about breaking out of some mold. It's not about testing limitations. Instead, it's about comfort, about happiness, about self-approval. As my undergrad years are approaching their conclusion, I can finally say with confidence that Tim Smith is an OK guy.

So, while it may take time, college can provide that opportunity to evolve as a person. But here's the problem — people at home don't want you to evolve. People at home want you to be exactly the same as you always were, to fit the preconceived notions that they've had for years.

High school is about stereotypes. It doesn't take a private viewing of "Not Another Teen Movie" to figure out this truth. But what is it about these labels that makes people want to cling to them as long as possible??

Here's an example. Once in a while at home, I'll end up at some party where there are high school folks I haven't seen for years. Inevitably, they'll notice the beer in my hand, and suddenly all hell breaks loose: "Tim, You Drink! I never knew you drank!" This has happened more than once. Apparently, if you're Tim Smith, you are forbidden from enjoying a frosty ice-cold beverage, because the label people have attached to you doesn't allow it. How quaint.

People at home, unless you stay very close with them, don't bother to follow your life. They don't bother to think about you've changed in your other college world. They pre-

fer to cling to their insulated rigid stereotyped notions as long as they can, to the point where they can't bring themselves to comprehend the person you've evolved into. To them, you will always be "football star's ex-girlfriend" or "band-geek valedictorian" or "grunge-stoner-depression guy." That's what they knew you as then. Why should they bother to think of you differently?

In college, there is some liberation. True, we can't just conjure up a new personality from scratch — this isn't some kind of "College Eye for the High School Guy" makeover. But college at least frees us from those previous labels, if only long enough to allow us to evolve as people. We may not want to change. We may not choose to. But college does provide that opportunity, for those who choose to grasp it.

But be aware, always, that the other world will always exist. I know full well what I'm in for when I travel home. I'm facing a host of rigid-minded twerps who all too often refuse to see me for anything else other than what they expect. I have to deal with that, and usually, I deal with it by returning to Lexington as quickly as possible. Here, I can be myself, be the person I'm comfortable with, without getting crazy looks or shocked reactions.

High school was fun while it lasted. Now let us all agree to pretend that high school never happened. Maybe, just maybe, we'd all be a little bit better off.

## Administration must change weather policy to keep students alive

BY JEB BROOKS  
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

The decision to bring Washington and Lee students, faculty and staff to campus last week was a bad one. Stories of cars careening, students stumbling and faculty falling were all the buzz while the Washington and Lee community waited out last week's snow storm on The Hill.

The administration's decision ran counter to its assumed purpose of keeping students safe. Schools, businesses and other institutions all over the region recognized that opening during one of the most treacherous storms in recent history would be a mistake. They remained closed.

Physical Plant workers can do only so much when snow and ice fall at such a rate that the Colonnade side of the Lee Chapel path is already covered with winter precipitation by the time shovels have gotten to the bottom. As usual, the men and women of that department did an excellent job. The weather was simply too quick for any worker to stay on top of.

The advice to "use your best judgment and not come in until roads have im-

proved" is hardly acceptable. Students who decide not to come in miss class time, which they must make up for no fault of their own. Other students feel compelled to attend classes regardless of such a warning and come in despite the grave danger of making such a decision.

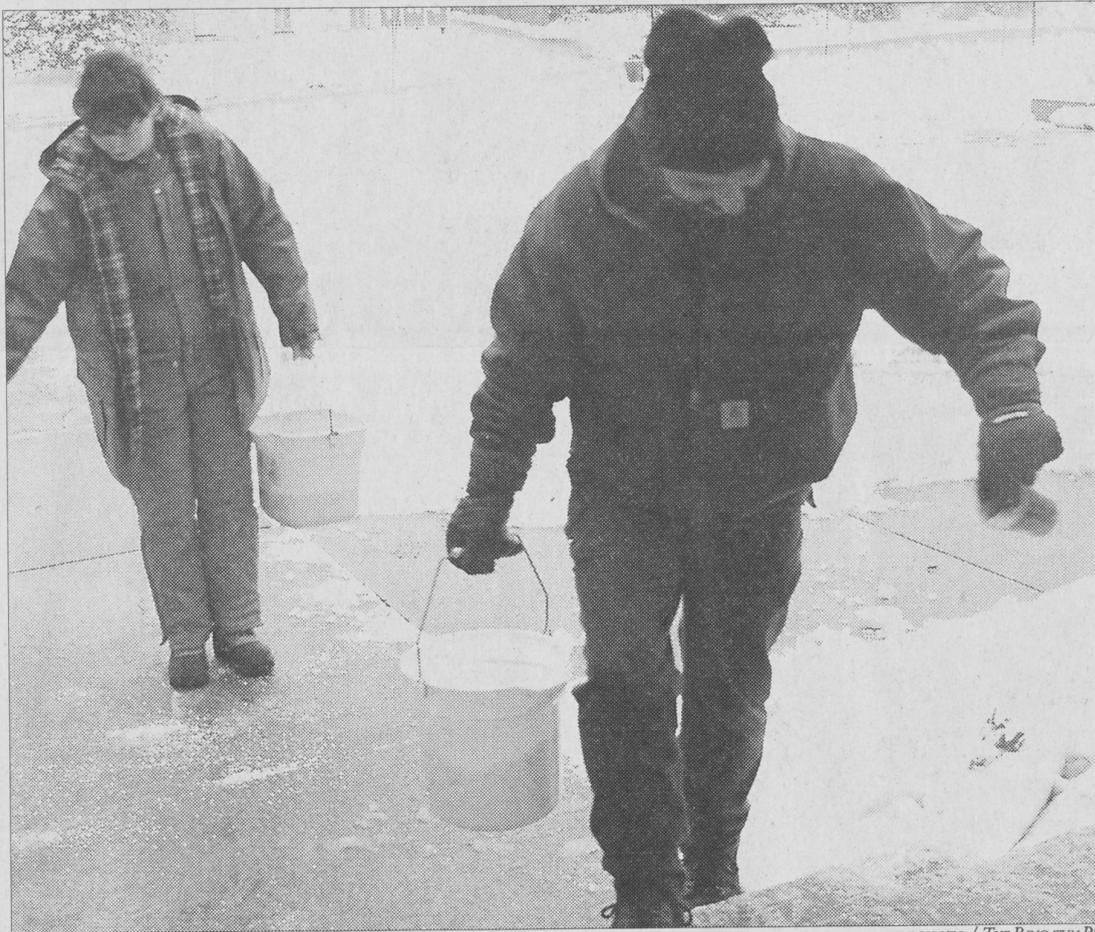
Students at Washington and Lee will live off campus along routes that the Virginia Department of Transportation may or may not sufficiently clear. University policies must recognize that reality.

Unfortunately, it will likely take student deaths to make the administration stand up and take notice of the need to occasionally cancel classes because of weather.

Thanks go to the faculty who realized the danger and decided that the safety of their students was more important than the content of their courses.

In short, the administrators who decided to keep Washington and Lee open for "business as usual" took a big risk.

Gentlemen, I urge you to reconsider your decision making process to account for the dangerous conditions faced by students, faculty and staff who live off campus.



When major snowstorms hit the Washington and Lee campus, Physical Plant workers can only do so much. The administration must begin to be more conscience about student safety..

## QUICK HITS

- Φ Professors need to figure out that there are two Heaths in the Groupwise address book, Andrew and John.
- Φ Wow! Ronnie Dugger so inspired me I'm headed to the polls for Dennis next Tuesday.
- Φ I wish I had a million billion dollars.
- Φ "AIKEN, S.C. (AP) - James Brown was released from jail Thursday on a domestic violence charge and told not to contact the wife he's accused of pushing to the floor." Hmm, maybe To the Nines wasn't such a bad choice after all.
- Φ Why is Oklahoma so windy? Because Kansas sucks and Texas blows!
- Φ I'm starting a napping club in my room. Anyone want to join? Graham-Lees dumpster side.
- Φ Best T-shirt slogan that was not approved for print: "Michigan - at least our illegal immigrants are from Canada."
- Φ Why do they clear the entrance to the old bookstore when it snows? Is it vital to have access to this empty building?
- Φ I said "gay" out loud the other day, meaning festive, and some girl shushed me. PC people piss me off.
- Φ You are the jelly in my peanut butter and jelly sandwich. No wait, you're the bread.
- Φ Something in their workout makes Lacrosse players really booty-licious and apparently the ladies can't get enough of that ghetto booty. Hey, I'd tap that.
- Φ Chaz-dunk has a really nice derriere and word on the street is Lolli is handsomely endowed. Together, they make the perfect man.
- Φ I thought the video clips circulating via e-mail were hilarious enough, but even in my drunken stupor, the live act made me convulse with laughter.
- Φ Best pick-up line from a freshman KA: "I am willing to risk it if you are."
- Φ Yes, that was a live phone call from Wes Clark.
- Φ Would someone please tell me who this Kah is that everyone keeps talking about?
- Φ Diversity at W&L: What color North Face jacket do you wear?
- Φ The ladies of the Puerto Rican bobsled team are the most fun people on campus.
- Φ Guys, let's not depend on our hook-ups and their roommates for condoms. After all, the Health Center does give them out for free... with bells on.
- Φ Girls, with this many date functions, there is no reason why you can't cover every guy at W&L before you start importing.
- Φ When wearing extremely tight pants on the Hill, be cautious of putting your hands in your pockets. What happens if you start to fall and can't get your hands out in time?
- Φ Did anyone else hear the anonymous Ohio delegation officer saying how much she would like to sleep with James Carville?
- Φ How about the anonymous California delegation girls noting the sexiness of Wes Clark's son?
- Φ Michael Denbow is destined to be a game show host.
- Φ Don't forget: Today is Groundhog Day.
- Φ How does James Carville do it? "She's on the bottom."
- Φ W&L Men's Swimming beat Marymount on Saturday to finish the season 7-0 for their first undefeated season in years. And, it's Coach Shinofield's first year.
- Φ All those sketchy RCHS girls at the Windfall party really added to the atmosphere. But the RCHS pages at the Convention were hot.
- Φ Did anyone else see the prison guard in leather on the California float?
- Φ Who was that guy in the Clinton mask during the platform debate?
- Φ Kudos to those who held up a Bush/Cheney '04 sign during the nominating speeches.
- Φ Shedding a single tear: Sid Vicious of the Sex Pistols died today in 1979.
- Φ In happier news, Shakira turns 27 today.
- Φ At press time, the Super Bowl wasn't yet decided. Congratulations to the winning team.
- Φ Brett Kirwan is NOT a tool! He's my hero.
- Φ E-mail your anonymous Quick Hits and plans for Washington Break to [phi@wlu.edu](mailto:phi@wlu.edu).