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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2004

The student voice of Washington and Lee University since 1897

Spring Term saved Board sides with Burish

Six week academic program remains with necessary changes and possible tuition hike

BY KATIE J. HOWELL
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Spring Term is here to stay. Washington and Lee's board of trustees voted unanimously Friday afternoon to keep the six-week term a university tradition after university President Thomas Burish and other administrators recommended the decision earlier that day.

"We are keeping spring term, and I think it's the right decision," said Philip Norwood, rector of the board.

The decision came after months of study and deliberation by faculty, administrators and board members. Money was the main factor for initially questioning the future of Spring Term. Norwood believes that the board has found a way to keep the shortened term a feasible option for W&L.

Students and faculty can expect to see two major changes in the current way the thirty-three-year-old tradition is administered. Students will be expected to take a minimum course load of six credits during spring terms for three out of their four years at Washington and Lee. Students could take spring terms during their first three years, and then graduate in late April or early May of their senior year.

Current students need not worry about these changes just yet, however. A press release issued by the board announced that the improved 12-12-6 calendar system will not take effect until the 2007-2008 academic year.

In order to prepare for these changes, however, the board expects the university to financially prepare for the change during the next few years.

Norwood said that tuition hikes for both undergraduate and law students are a likely option for providing the funds to make the 12-12-6 calendar system a fiscal reality for W&L.

"The tuition hikes won't be pertinent for the coming calendar year," Norwood said. "The utilization of tuition dollars may be just as important as the hikes. This is all a function of limited resources and the allocation of those resources."

The university began studying the academic and financial implications of the current 12-12-6 calendar system after former president John Elrod announced that the school would move toward a five-course teaching load per year for faculty. He wanted to make the institution's teaching loads comparable to peer schools in order to attract competitive faculty.

The new 12-12-6 calendar that the board has selected will allow faculty to teach an average of six courses per year. Professors currently teach seven courses each year. Norwood said that the proposed system will also reduce the teaching load to 5.5 courses by the calendar year 2011-2012.

Making this decision has not been an easy one for the board. Studying



JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI

DECISION. Executive Committee President Helen Hughes, Rector Philip Norwood and University President Thomas Burish discuss the new 12-12-6 calendar.

Board shows support for Traveller, allots \$181,000

BY PATRICIA BALLANTYNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee Board of Trustees voted to give the Traveller program \$181,275 during their winter meeting last weekend.

With this new money, Traveller will become a primary system of transportation for W&L students. "We will be able to put more vehicles on the road," said Bailey Edwards, the Chair of the Traveller Committee.

Starting in the Fall of 2004, when this budget begins, Traveller will have six contracted vans driving a route and up to four dispatched drivers. The committee will start getting these new vehicles together this year.

"This is more than three times the number of vehicles we provide now," said Edwards. "You will not have to wait as long to get a ride, most likely, under 5 minutes."

Most of the current complaints toward the Traveller program address the lengthy wait that students must bare before finding a safe ride home. The Traveller Committee is determined to apply this money toward a decrease in this delay. The Traveller Committee will also spend some of its generous budget on cars for volunteer drivers, "so that the weekly volunteers will no longer have to drive their own cars," said Edwards.

Students will be able to receive rides from Traveller every night of the week.

"This appropriation

shows that the Trustees are deeply committed to ensure the safety of all W&L students," said Edwards.

But the Alumni Association also demonstrated strong support for the improvements to W&L's safe ride system. Under leadership of President Jimmy Brooks, the Alumni Association has pledged to donate money to Traveller.

The money from the Alumni Association may be directed toward Traveller sponsored education programs. These would include speakers, a possible controlled drinking and driving experiment, and pledges not to drink and driver similar to the Christmas Weekend successful effort.

While students have organized the Traveller Committee, advisor, Dean Dawn Watkins, has supported their dedication and worked closely with the committee. Dean Watkins serves as the administrative support for the Board of Trustees Campus Life Committee, which sponsored the Traveller proposal for the full Board's vote.

"It's been my pleasure to work with the Traveller Committee," said Dean Watkins. "Under Bailey's leadership the Traveller Committee has spent long hours examining and evaluating the current program to implement a plan that supports our students and encourages responsible decision making."

"This is a good day for W&L students. We worked hard to make Traveller better serve the W&L students, and we are pleased with the result," said Edwards.

Three fraternity pledgeships suspended for alleged hazing incidents

BY ERIN JULIUS
NEWS EDITOR

Security is investigating three fraternities for suspicion of hazing. According to University officials, hazing is not congruent with University expectations of honor and civility and therefore threaten the preservation of the Greek system.

"Should an investigation yield nothing the new member education processes would proceed. Should an investigation yield hazing by an individual, the case would go before the Student Faculty Hearing Board. Should it yield hazing by a group it would go before the Inter-Fraternity Council," said Dean Watkins.

Fraternity President and New Member Educators were informed of the expectations for New Member Education at the beginning of the eight-week period. No hazing activity was specifically one of these expectations.

a \$100 million gift," Norwood said. "We've never had a donor that big."

While the above situation is more hypothetical than reality, the board expects to raise the money necessary to implement the calendar changes through tuition increases, endowments and a change in the pricing of university services like room and board.

The law school will maintain its current calendar system with two fourteen-week semesters.

FOR CAMPUS REACTIONS, see page 2

The new member activities have been suspended to ensure the safety of new members, which could be jeopardized by the type of activities that have been reported to the University.

According to University officials, the alleged conduct is in direct contravention of institutional policies.

Freshmen men were encouraged to report any hazing incidents to the relevant fraternity leadership and to the Inter-Fraternity Council.

The Inter-Fraternity Council's policy on hazing is as follows: "No initiation or pledge training activity shall constitute any physical or emotional hazard to the individual. Such potential hazards include alcohol abuse, dangerous physical exertion or exhaustion, physical or emotional violence, paddling and other types of abuse."

The University defines hazing as, "a harassing, excessive task associated with initiation or membership in an organization."

Dried blood, bandage found in Southern Inn meatloaf

BY SARAH MURRAY
STAFF WRITER

For most visitors, Mock Convention's only irritation was the barrage of potatoes from the Idaho parade float. But one visitor from Alabama found cause to complain

the last thing that I want is a dessert that is covered in WHITE whipped creme and RED berry sauce, both of which would be fine targets for hidden DNA

Randall "Cade" Parian, a first-year law student at Samford University, came to Lexington last weekend to see a family friend. Parian and several others decided to have lunch at the Southern Inn between Mock Convention events.

In the middle of eating his meal, Parian felt a strange, "not so meatloafey" object between his teeth. Removing it, he discovered that it was a bandage partly filled with old blood.

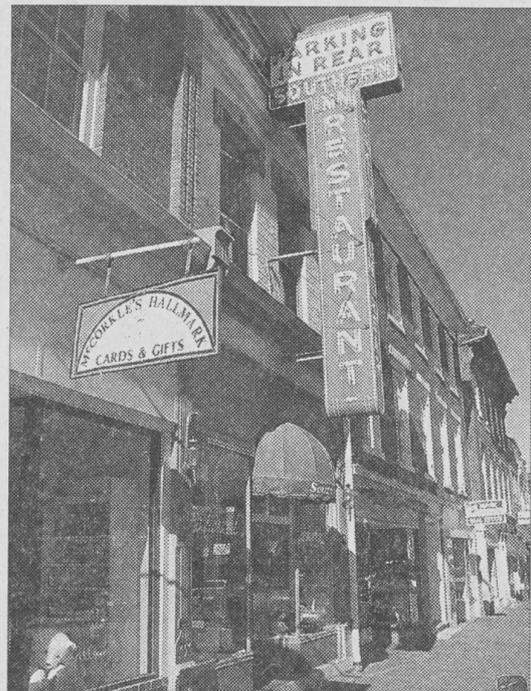
Parian attracted the clientele's attention by "screaming a profanity" and by calling across the res-

taurant to inform the manager of the incident. The manager immediately removed the bandage from the table and offered the Inn's apologies as well as a free meal and dessert. Parian refused the dessert, "the last thing that I want is a dessert that is covered in WHITE whipped creme and RED berry sauce, both of which would be fine targets for hidden DNA.

Parian has not filed a complaint

with the Virginia Health Department, whose regulations stipulate that restaurants' food must be "safe and unadulterated."

Though Parian enjoyed Mock Convention, he was less pleased with the Southern Inn's slow service. In fact, after several complaints to the staff, he joked with his party that the staff "is going to spit in your food if you guys don't shut up." Shortly afterwards, the food—bandage included—was delivered to the table. The Southern Inn had no comment.



JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI

Plans in place to improve safety of I-81

BY PATRICIA BALLANTYNE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Interstate 81 is still improving despite statewide attention to long-term proposals.

Transportation agencies are using technology to help interstate travel. And lawmakers are introducing legislation to increase the safety of I-81.

As part of the Smart Travel Virginia program, Rockbridge County's VDOT district is placing three cameras on I-81 and one on interstate 64. They will be up this spring, but 26 more will follow.

"We have to make sure everything is working with the software," said Eric Gorton VDOT's Public Relations Assistant for the Staunton district. "We will learn lessons when putting them up."

"In other parts of the state where cameras have been used, they've been very helpful," said Sergeant Mike Honaker of the Virginia State Police.

Drivers on I-81 can now see Road and Weather Information Systems (RWIS), which look like space-age little towers with radio antennas. They detect the air temperature, pavement temperature, and wind speed. Their sensors count vehicles traveling in either direction and determine tractor trailers from passenger cars.

Both the cameras and RWIS give information for the six Changeable Message Signs that now straddle the interstate in Lexington's district. VDOT and the state police use these signs to relay messages about accidents and delays to oncoming traffic.

"If you give motorists advanced warning, maybe they can go a different way," said Gorton. "And that cuts down the

delay, keeping the traffic moving better."

"Basically, our view has always been that highway safety involves three areas: education, engineering, and enforcement. The signs are more of an aspect of the engineering and education side," said Honaker. "It does seem effective in communicating with the motoring public."

Legislation from Delegate Ben Cline and Delegate Chris Saxmon also target the current I-81 status.

Saxmon is pushing for a pilot program for I-81, which would last a year and involve a state-wide director to focus on safety for the interstate. Another one of his Bills would prohibit trucks from using the far left lane to pass in areas of more than two lanes.

Cline's recent I-81 House Bill calls for more police presence on the interstate. Not only does he want ten new Virginia state troopers, but he also pushes to furnish out-of-date cars to rest in the median and act as decoys to slow traffic.

"Studies have shown that presence of police directly impacts speed, which directly lowers the number of accidents," said Cline.

The third aspect of Cline's proposal would require three passing lanes on steep portions of I-81, which would allow trucks to slow down. Honaker said that if people would obey traffic laws and the speed limit most of the interstate safety problems wouldn't exist.

"We've never been so focused and committed as three agencies to make the interstates as safe as possible," said Honaker. "The Interstate is safe now. These improvements are a normal adjustment to maintain the safe condition of the highway."

Hidden Hero Ansel speaks for students

Senior Ansel Sanders is this week's hidden hero for his exceptional work on the 12-12-6 Committee. Last spring Ansel and EC President Helen Hughes formed 12-12-6, a group that could openly voice the opinion of the student body.

12-12-6 actively sought to influence the faculty when they made their vote earlier this year when they made their vote concerning the calendar. This vote influenced the Board of Trustees' recent decision.

12-12-6 was made of a diverse selection of students, to give the most unbiased student voice regarding the calendar decision. Ansel acted officially as the liaison between the faculty and the actual committee and was responsible for delivering the student proposals and reporting committee responses.

Ansel from his hometown of Weems, Virginia was



HIDDEN HEROES

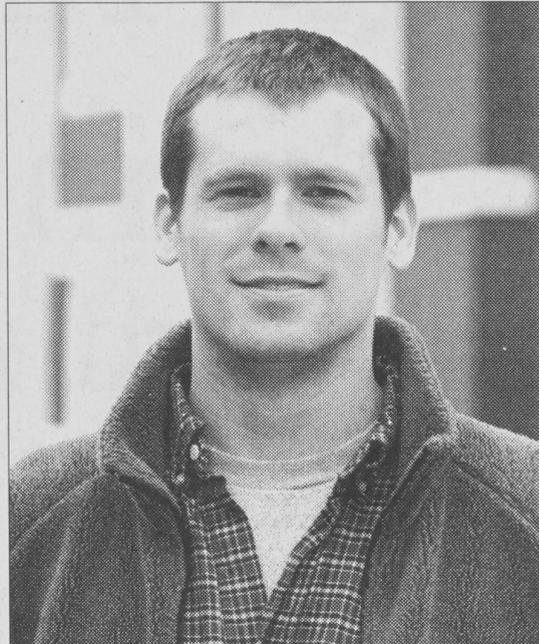
JORDAN ANDERSON '07

came to W&L hometown of Virginia because searching for a quality small liberal arts college and Washington and Lee fit the bill. Lacrosse was a huge draw as he enters as goalie for his fourth year.

Spring Term was also among his favorite aspects of the school. It has "academic possibilities you cannot have at other times," with the variety of classes and opportunities that professors offer specifically during the six week term. He also said that the student body is amazing, that we are "what makes this place special."

Ansel is an English Major and said that he could not name a favorite professor if he tried; "it would be like picking names out of a hat, because they are all amazing," he said.

Following graduation, Ansel will be working with Teach for America, teaching middle school English up in Baltimore. As a senior, his advice to other students is to enjoy the opportunities and experiences here while you can. Also, take advantage of all the school has to offer. Thanks to the efforts of Sanders and the 12-12-6 Committee, the academic potential will continue to be as diverse and enriching as possible with the retention of Spring Term.



STEVEN MARINOS / THE RING-TUM PHI

Heroes. As head of the 12-12-6 Committee, Ansel Sanders led student body input regarding Spring Term.

The Ring-tum Phi solicits nominations for students, faculty and staff whom you believe to be Hidden Heroes. If you know of someone who contributes quietly, please submit your Hidden Hero nominations to phi@wlu.edu.

Students react positively to calendar change

BY ERIN JULIUS
NEWS EDITOR

Saturday afternoon students received an email announcing the Board's decision to preserve a modified version of the 12-12-6 calendar. Campus reaction seemed overwhelmingly positive.

"I can't tell you how impressed I was with the way the meeting ran," said EC President Helen Hughes after presenting student views to the Board. "I couldn't ask for a group of people who cared so much about the students and about the school. We're very lucky to have this

type of people working for us,"

"I think it's phenomenal, it's a good decision for the school, it preserves the character of the

school," said Tom Borda, '06, "I also like taking a 6-credit Spring Term only three out of four years so when you're a senior graduating you have more time to

spend with your job or your internship. It's a very good way to solve the problem," he said.

I couldn't ask for a group of people who cared so much about the students and about the school.

HELEN HUGHES,
SPEAKING ABOUT THE BOARD
EC PRESIDENT

"The process was handled

in the correct way. Once the Administration realized how big an issue this was to the alumni stu-

dents and faculty there was ample time for input from the three groups," said Brian Castleberry, '04. "Student input was led by Ansel Sanders and Helen Hughes who

did a good job of expressing, in a well-developed manner, the student feelings," he said.

Students of all backgrounds

value Spring Term. "Although I'm already studying abroad, I want to do some other studying abroads and I can't commit a whole semester, so Spring Term is good for that," said Afsin Yurdakul, '06, an international student.

Not all students were thrilled with the preservation of Spring Term.

"It's been said that we would get out earlier and have a longer Christmas break if it were a two-semester system," said Megan Murphy, '07, "although I do like the six weeks to be able to go abroad," she said.

Play increases domestic abuse awareness on campus

BY CATHERINE SWAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The V-Day movement will make its mark at Washington and Lee this week with the production of The Vagina Monologues February 11 and 12 in the Commons Theater. V-Day is an organized worldwide effort that seeks to stop violence against women.

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of violence against women while supporting organizations that provide services to women affected by violence and sexual assault.

The Women's Student Law Organization is organizing the production of The Vagina Monologues, but other organizations, including KEWL and CAIR, are contributing to the V-Day efforts.

The Vagina Monologues were performed two years ago at W&L and were well received. Event organizers plan to continue supporting V-Day events each year, either by a performance of the monologues or other events that promote awareness of violence against women.

There are several ways students can support V-Day. The first is by attending The Vagina Monologues, this Wednesday and Thursday at 7:00 in the Commons Theater. Admission is \$12 in advance, and \$15 at the door. Donations will be collected for Project Horizon at each performance. Student organizations are encouraged to sponsor a care package for families leaving the local shelter. The organizations are looking to raise \$6000 from ticket sales and individual contributions.



Correction

In last week's article headlined, "Donate to save Music Festival," we incorrectly implied that the administration had cancelled Buffalo Creek Music Festival because of liability concerns. Actually, the administration informed festival organizers that using fraternity funds for the event violated national rules. Additionally, university officials began encouraging organizers to fundraise for the events in January. If you would like to contribute to the Buffalo Creek Fund, please contact Inge Hill at hillm@wlu.edu.

Participate in the 2004 Literacy Campaign

The campaign runs from Jan 19-March 12.

- Book drive, with drop-off points at the W&L Library and the University Commons.

- "Lunch Bunch" at the Best Seller Bookstore. Children bring a bagged lunch and for a book reading and craft. Ages 4-7 from 11:00 - 12:00 on Feb 7, 14, 28, and March 6. Ages 8-12 from 12:00 to 1:00 on Feb 14 and March 6.

Questions? Contact Steve Martinenza martinenzas@wlu.edu

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THE RING-TUM PHI
 STAFF EDITORIAL

Mock Con behavior inexcusable

Provost Tom Williams' letter (found on page four of this week's *Phi*) causes concern for us. The behavior he relates in that letter is unquestionably egregious. The Washington and Lee community has a responsibility to the larger Lexington and Rockbridge area. We have a duty to behave like responsible adults. Our behavior at the Mock Convention Parade is apparently evidence that we are unable to do so.

The images presented in the letter are ones more often associated with a Saturday night fraternity party than a Friday morning at a middle school.

We understand that Mock Convention happens only once in our four years and that it is important to live up the event. But what possible reason can we have for behaving like imbeciles?

No wonder media coverage was sparse when these are the images we present. Don't get us wrong, we thought Mock Con was an otherwise smashing success.

The behavior of a small number of students, however, was less than acceptable. It is to those students that we now turn.

We are role models for younger students in the community. A role model is not arrested at a middle school for drinking too much. A role model does not vomit off the back of a poorly constructed float. A role model does not leave beer bottles tucked behind a school bus. A role model does not relieve herself in front of a classroom window.

We're the ones with egg on our faces this time. Last week, we did not portray ourselves as the responsible young adults we are. Instead, we acted less mature than the middle school students who gawked at our actions.

Maury River Middle School: We are not able to apologize for the entire student body, but we can speak for ourselves. The staff of the *Ring-tum Phi* would like to apologize for any offensive behavior we might have engaged in. We hope other members of the student body are willing to take the same action. We are sorry.

Administrators deserve thanks for 12-12-6



SPRING DIGGING. These archaeology students were enrolled in Anthropology 377, a field archaeological course offered during Spring Term, one of many saved by the 12-12-6 decision. PHOTO COURTESY OF archaeology.wlu.edu

Washington and Lee is a very unique school with a whole host of very old traditions. Some students find a few of our unique traditions questionable (understandably), such as our dominant Greek scene, or our decades-old alcohol culture. What we are all agreed on, though, is that those traditions that make Washington and Lee unique as an academic institution are hallowed, and must not be altered lest our beloved University lose its soul. Why does a student come to Washington and Lee instead of an Amherst or a Williams or a Claremont-McKenna? What makes us different from all the rest?

I can think of a dozen reasons, but they all tie in to one important piece of philosophy that the University adheres to—students come to this university to learn, and the goal is simply to allow them to learn and live in the most effective manner possible, nothing more, and nothing less. What makes our school unique? Our classes are taught by the professors themselves (all of whom, without question, are experts who excel in their fields), and not by graduate students or teaching assistants. Our class sizes (for the most part) are very small, and you get a lot of individual attention should you desire it. Our Honor System is the best in the nation, and even though it's only a very few students who are dismissed each year, the result is dramatic—The Honor System is a way of life for students, we all feel safe taking the word of our peers, and we enjoy privileges like self-scheduled exams. Additionally, Washington and Lee is one of the safest campuses around. The things that make us unique are often the same things that make us strong.

This Saturday, the Board of Trustees announced its decision on the fate of another of the institutions that make Washington and Lee unique—Spring Term. Though it only dates back to the 1970s, Spring Term creates many advantages for students, which I'm sure are all familiar to you by now—wider catalog, special study

programs, more classes in general, and so on. Though it has its costs (which we're also familiar with), Spring Term provides unique opportunities and experiences to W&L students. For instance, in my own freshman Spring Term alone, I had the opportunity to take a course in French history from a visiting Oxford professor.

We, of course, will not keep our full four-year Spring Term as it exists today, but the need to change it is real, and there's a very good case for the three-year Spring Term, as well as the other measures that are being implemented to cut costs. Still, our 12-12-6 schedule remains essentially intact. Many members of our community worked to save Spring Term. The hard work of both the 12-12-6 Committee and our tireless Executive Committee can not be overestimated. A majority of the faculty, our teachers, stood up for us as well. But in the end, it came down to our administrators.

And, I am happy to report this week, our administrators did not let us down. Though there was great fear that the President and the Board of Trustees might betray the students' vision of a unique and special University, those fears proved unfounded.

What President Burish has proven to us through his recommendation, and what the Board of Trustees has proven through their decision, is that they are not out to "Swarthmorify" Washington and Lee. They have proven with more than words that they value the things that make our University's academic experience special. They have proven with decisive action that they place the students of Washington and Lee above both money and mere rankings in U.S. News. I can now look forward to many classes of students passing through Washington and Lee and sharing the same amazing and enlightening experience that I'm enjoying right now. For this, I thank and salute President Burish and the Board of Trustees.

Φ MODERATE'S MUSINGS
 CALEY ANDERSON '06

What makes our school unique? Our classes are taught by the professors themselves (all of whom, without question, are experts who excel in their fields), and not by graduate students or teaching assistants. Our class sizes (for the most part) are very small, and you get a lot of individual attention should you desire it. Our Honor System is the best in the nation, and even though it's only a very few students who are dismissed each year, the result is dramatic—The Honor System is a way of life for students, we all feel safe taking the word of our peers, and we enjoy privileges like self-scheduled exams. Additionally, Washington and Lee is one of the safest campuses around. The things that make us unique are often the same things that make us strong.

Φ TRAIN OF THOUGHT
 TRAN KIM '05

my policy has always been me first, guy second, as harsh as that may be. Usually, my excuse for ending things is that the guy is immature, inconsiderate, has annoying habits, is arrogant, or just doesn't get it. I am not saying that the guys weren't what I just described, but I rarely if ever informed them of their disagreeable behavior and would just cut off communication without any explanation. Since the relationship hadn't meant that much to me yet, I simply assumed it meant just as little to the guy and didn't think I needed to offer any type of explanation.

I have been pondering the age old question of whether or not it is better to have loved and lost or to have never loved at all. I remember first being posed this dilemma in 8th grade by my history teacher, and I have yet to reach a conclusion. Thus far, however, I have tended to follow the path of choosing to not love at all. As a young girl, I wanted to be like a boy and carried myself like one, yelling in gym class and trying to be as aggressive as my short frame would allow me because I thought they had all the fun. I always had an internal competition with them for some reason. It might have been the result of a negative experience as a very young child in which some boys in my neighborhood picked on me and would not let me play with their toys. When crying didn't work to change their demeanor, I resorted to toughness.

But as I grew up, I still maintained an emotional distance from boys because of my negative experience. In middle school, relationships never made any sense to me because they lasted for about two weeks, if that. I remember having one crush for a whole year on just one boy (though I never talked to him) and thought it was very peculiar that everyone else's crushes fluctuated like fashion statements. So I just didn't trust the entity of romantic relationships. I have begun to live in fear of a romantic relationship as a result of seeing my friends' hearts break too many times in high school and college.

I can tolerate most things, but the one thing that I have the most difficulty grappling with is betrayal by any person within my circle. Initially, I would simply act as if I didn't care because I also have my dignity to uphold. On the outside, I would appear untouched by the brutal behavior, but inside, I would be falling apart. Nothing is more painful in my opinion than a cold shoulder from a trusted friend. I have seen how it affects others, and I do not want the same to happen to me. Most of us at this age are emotionally immature and irresponsible, not realizing the painful consequences of our actions, and I take this into consideration whenever I meet a guy. And once this reality hits me, I am handicapped from opening any passageway into my heart. All doors and windows automatically shut.

couple or hear a good love story, my doors and windows creak open a small bit, but never all the way. Even when the love is real and devoted, there is still pain. My father's love for my mother is an example of this. They were each other's first love and met in the aftermath of the Vietnam War and fled together to Cambodia. Through their relationship, they had been each other's support, strength, and reason to fight and survive the perils of the Cambodia/Vietnam jungles. But my mother died in Cambodia when I was two and to this day, twenty years later, my father still remembers her as though she had just died twenty days ago. He dreams about her, he speaks to her in his dreams, and she is in his every thought and action. He has never been able to love since, although he has dated. That was the biggest loss of his life, and he is still recovering. I doubt he will ever fully recover and move on. I once posed this question to him, and he said that he would rather have loved my mother and lost her than to have never experienced their love at all.

So I am slowly, very, very slowly, widening the passageways because I do believe in true love. I hope that you all do too regardless of whatever pains you may have experienced in past and present relationships. Sometimes the pain is necessary and unavoidable, like long distances, but a lot of the times, the pain is unnecessary and simply destructive, and it is this pain that you need to abandon. As long as you remain in this relationship, you will be as caged as me and miss out on the chance to really experience the real thing. One of my philosophies in life is to never settle for things I can unsettle, so my statement to you is to never settle when it comes to love because unlike purses in Chinatown, the real thing cannot be imitated.

Quote of the Week

"The Secret Service is under strict orders that if Bush is shot, to shoot Quayle immediately."

~Democratic Front-Runner John Kerry, during the term of George H.W. Bush.

THE RING-TUM PHI

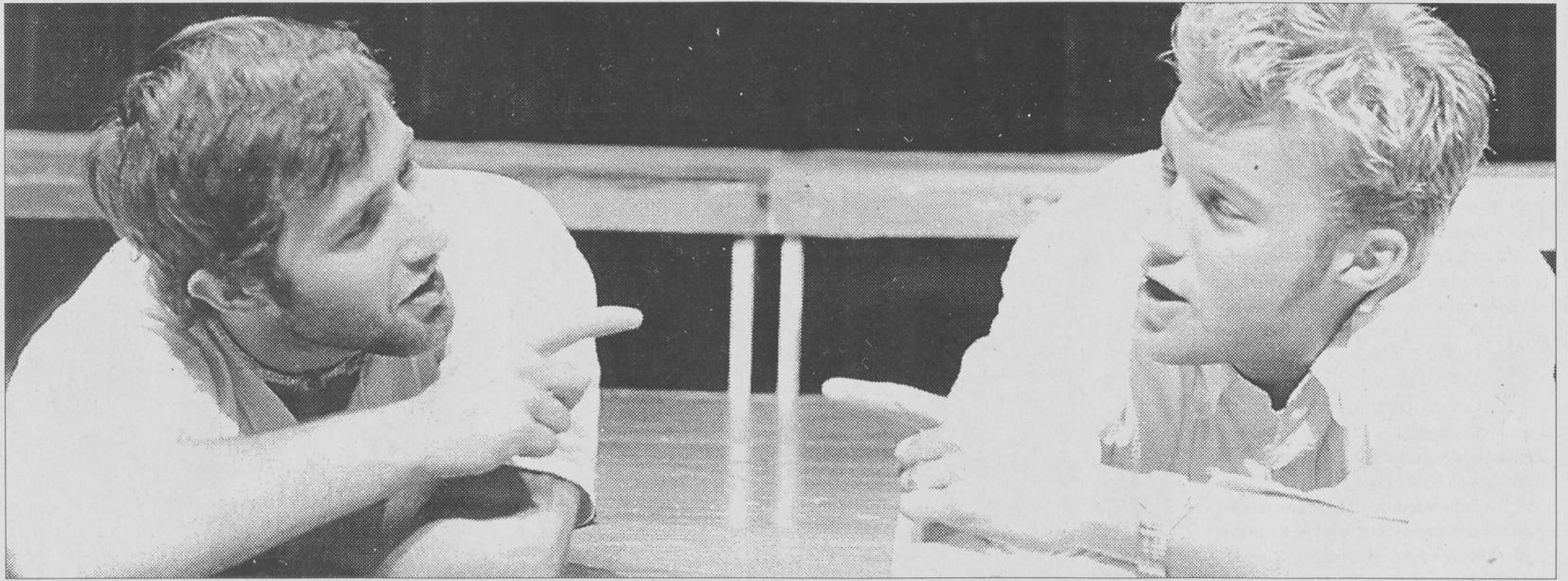
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Greek system discourages interaction between guys and gals



Male Bonding. Theater students, playing Hamlet's Guildenstern and Rosencrantz, exemplify the fraternity emphasis on quality male time which makes platonic female friendships extremely difficult. Potato Man hopes for the day when the possibility of such relationships is more viable. FILE PHOTO

The Greek system is amazing. It enables freshman to drink for free in the fall, and pay for it during pledgship. And most of all it gives all students something to do every night, whether that be a band party, poker tournament, or just some random activity.

I didn't really understand just how great the Greek system was until I went back home and talked to some of my old high school friends who went to colleges where there were no fraternities. The stories were terrible. A typical Friday or Saturday night included finding a 21 year old to buy them a case of beer, then driving around all night, looking for a BYOB party so that they could drink their precious liquid. Sounds like fun huh?

Fraternities don't just give you a place to drink. They are so much more than that. Fraternities give every guy instant friends and roommates... wait... let me rephrase that. Fraternities give each and every guy instant GUY friends and GUY roommates.

It wasn't until last week's *Ring-tum Phi*, featuring an article by Tim Smith (you may know him as Absolut Fratlord), that I realized the imperfections of the Greek System. While his article, headlined "Theory of college evolution: changing your high school mold", had nothing to do with the Greek System, it did get me to think back on my high school experience, and examine how I have changed.

Unlike many other people, I loved high school. It was fun and crazy, and the friendships I made during those four years will last a lifetime. I partied and even did a little work occasionally. Not much different from college I guess. But wait, more than half of my friends from high school were girls. I only have a handful of really good girl friends in good ol' Lex.

It took me a while to figure out just why this change from high school. Did a girl do me wrong, and now am I trying to avoid them? God no. Avoid girls? *Moi?* Not likely. Do I smell? Well yes, but it's not like they run

from me desperately looking for a clothespin to put on their nose to stop the unbearable stench from entering their airways.

Then it hit me. The Greek system does not allow guys and girls to have close friendships. Before I go any further, I should probably clarify something. I am not talking about hookup buddies, or even girlfriends, these things are very different from nonsexual, purely platonic friendships with a member of the opposite sex.

The first semester is full of freshman guys trying to prove their masculinity to upperclassmen in fraternities in the hopes of receiving a bid. These same guys try to impress girls in a similar way. They lay down the "watch me shotgun this beer, vomit, and make an ass out of myself, but don't worry in high school I drank a whole handle of vodka once, so I'll be fine" routine. It is impossible to form a consistent friendship with a member of the opposite sex when you are passed out in the frat basement.

After a little bit of college experience, freshman guys are thrust into the winter term,

more notably, pledgship. A lot of guys don't even have time to shower (thus the reason I smell), much less start or continue friendships with girls. So once again, a normal friendship with a female is put off until spring term, by which time a freshman has been fraternitized, and will forever be known as a frat guy, and is changed forever.

I am not complaining by any means. I wouldn't trade the friends that I have made through the fraternity for anything. I feel free to be myself now more than ever. And I sure as heck wouldn't trade a Greek school for a non-Greek school. I like poker on Wednesday nights and band parties on Fridays. Driving around looking for a bunch of cars in front of house where there might be a party just doesn't sound like fun to me. I already did that...its called junior year in high school.

But isn't there someway to even the seesaw between male and female friends? If you can figure it out let me know. I don't have time to figure it out now though, but I think if I hurry I might just be able to squeeze in a quick shower.

Letters to the Editor

Dean Watkins seeks to clarify, correct article on Buffalo Creek.

I want to make sure to note my extreme disagreement with two statements in the article "Donate to save Music Festival": "The fundraising is a recent announcement by the administration that the festival could not continue due to liability concerns." and "The late announcement of the decision to discontinue the festival..."

Corrections:

1) Festival organizers were told by the University in October that use of fraternity funds for the event violated national organization policies.

2) Festival organizers were told in November by a national fraternity representative that use of fraternity funds for the event violated national organization policies.

3) I spoke with the key festival organizer in January and explained that the University encouraged them to begin fundraising activities since it would not be possible for them to use fraternity or University money to support the event.

We have NEVER said they can't have their own festival - we've just said we can't allow them to break policies to do it and we advised them of their legal responsibilities and risks they are incurring should they decide to offer the event.

As you can see by this timeline, festival organizers were informed one month into this academic school year and the institution should not be held responsible for late attempts at fund raising.

Sincerely,
Dawn Watkins
Dean of Students

Generals ungentlemanly and unladylike during Mock Convention.

Today I spoke with the principal of the Maury River Middle School, having called her to clear up some stories I had heard from a variety of sources. Last Friday, the Mock Convention Parade formed in the parking lot of this school. She reported the following, based upon her first-hand observation Friday morning.

1) Washington and Lee students asked, and were granted permission to use the school's bathrooms. After a while the noise and prevalent odor of alcohol resulting from this use caused her to ask the W&L students to leave, which they did. Shortly thereafter, our students found another entrance to the school and began to enter again, against her expressed wishes.

2) Washington and Lee students were urinating outdoors, visible from the windows of the school.

3) A Washington and Lee student was seen vomiting from the back of a float while it was in the school parking area.

4) Beer was left in the school parking lot. I cannot imagine anyone here at Washington and Lee defending this behavior, in this place, as acceptable. The report of this behavior raises the following questions:

How should we, as a community, express our regrets and offer retribution to the Maury River Middle School?

What should we do to assure we, as a community, behave with more respect towards our neighbors in the future?

The great majority of what I heard and saw of this year's Mock Convention was quite positive. Nonetheless, this does not excuse the actions described above.

Sincerely,
H.T. Williams, Provost

WANTED: Summer Scholars Counselors

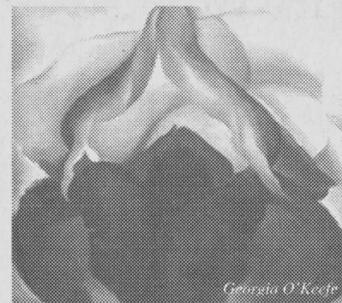
June 30 - July 31, 2004

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

The deadline for turning in applications is February 27, 2004.

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Womens' basketball drops three to ODAC competition

By ALLISON PERRY
 CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The Washington and Lee women's basketball team lost three ODAC conference games this week to Roanoke, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and Guilford.

Roanoke slipped past the Generals, 50-47, last Sunday at home. The Maroons took control of the lead with only 0:50 left in the first half and continued to stay ahead for the rest of the game.

Roanoke reached its largest lead at 47-40 with 3:11 left in the game, but the Generals soon closed in on the gap. Freshman forward Jessica Hunsinger sank her shot to put the score at 49-47. But Roanoke's freshman guard Cindy McGraw made a foul shot with only 0:25 left in the game to reach the final score of 50-47.

Sophomore guard Louisa Feve scored a total of 15 points and had 9 rebounds for the day. Hunsinger totaled 13 points and 13 rebounds. Junior guard Bethany Dannelly also contributed with 11 points.

Leading the Maroons in points was senior

guard Meghan McCue with nine points and three rebounds. McGraw totaled eight points and two rebounds for the game.

The two teams were about even in shooting percentage from the field with 35 percent for Roanoke and 30.9 percent for Washington and Lee. The Generals had 15 turnovers, while the Maroons only had eight.

The Generals lost another close game to Randolph-Macon Woman's College on Tuesday, 57-41.

Washington and Lee controlled the lead up until 10:09 in the first half, but RMWC turned it around and led 29-22 at the end of the half. The WildCats never let go of the lead, ending the game at 57-41.

Senior forward Sarah Michaels totaled 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Generals. Hunsinger also posted 12 points and 15 rebounds.

For the WildCats, senior guard Amy Dameron tallied 19 points and 9 rebounds. Sophomore forward Megan Stensrud added 12 points to the score. The WildCats dominated in shooting with 33.9

percent, compared to the Generals' 24.1 percent. RMWC also had fewer turnovers with only 11. The Generals tallied 19 turnovers.

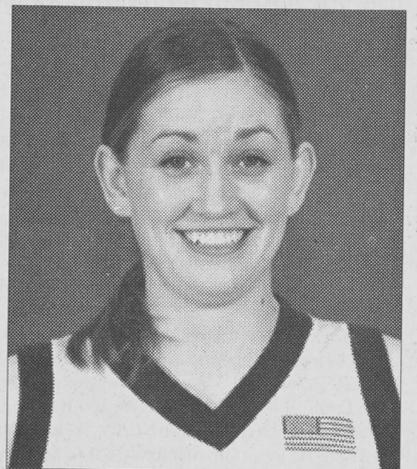
Washington and Lee also lost on the road to Guilford on Friday, 69-38.

The Generals briefly took the lead with 7:25 left in the first half when junior forward Emily Barker hit a jumper to put the score at 17-19. But the Quakers came back and took control for the rest of the game.

Hunsinger tallied 14 points and 14 rebounds to lead the way for Washington and Lee. Michaels also added 12 points and 3 rebounds for the Generals.

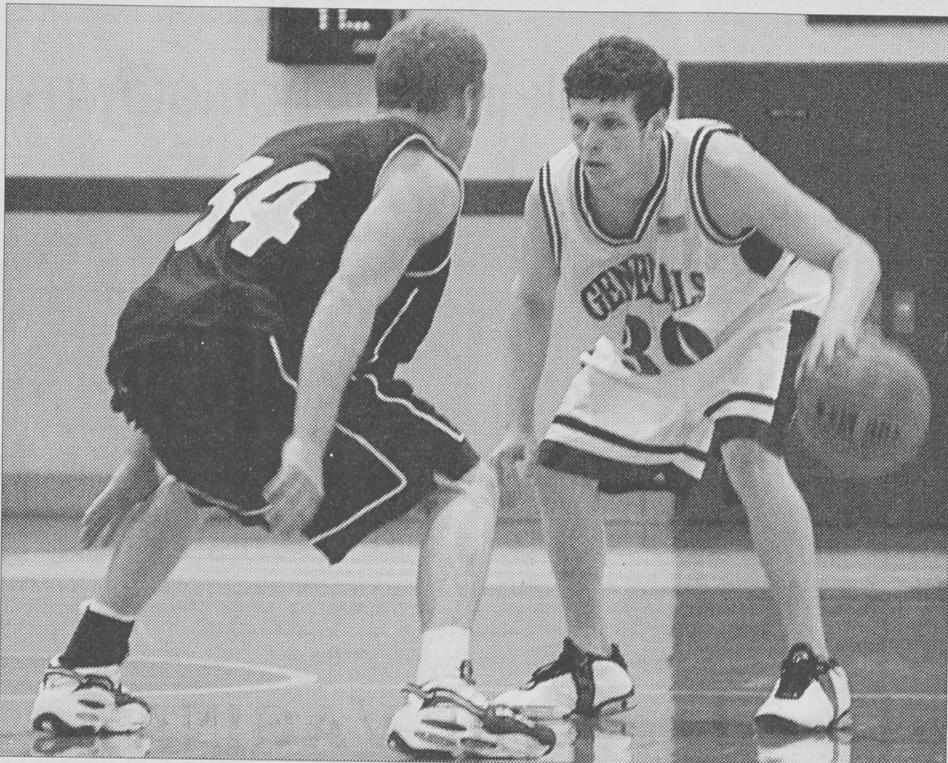
Senior guard Dara Burke totaled ten points and seven rebounds for the Quakers. Guilford shot 45.8 percent during the game and had 19 turnovers. Washington and Lee had 26 percent shooting from the field and 23 turnovers.

The Generals are now 8-13 and 5-11 in the ODAC. Washington and Lee meets up with Lynchburg at home for another ODAC contest on Tuesday. Game time is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.



COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

LEADING THE TEAM. Freshman Jessica Hunsinger helped lead the team in scoring in recent games.



STEVE MARINOS / THE RING-TUM PHI

BRING IT ON. Freshman Chris Halkitis takes on a defender in one of the team's losses this past week.

Men's basketball enters new slump after win

By SARAH BLOOM
 STAFF WRITER

Despite coming off of a win to Roanoke, the men's basketball team fell back in to a slump Wednesday when they took on Emory and Henry. The game was a close one (49-48), but the Generals couldn't hang on for the win. Emory and Henry swished a three-pointer with 4.8 seconds remaining in the game to secure the victory.

Freshman Chris Halkitis lead the Generals with 16 points. Also scoring for the Generals was sophomore Phil

Landes. Landes followed his teammate with 13 points.

Next the team competed against 8th ranked Hampden Sydney. The game ended in complete victory for Hampden Sydney (76-45). Though the game started somewhat slowly, the Hampden Sydney quickly took over the courts and never looked back.

The Generals didn't play without a good fight. Freshman Coleman Lyons earned 14 points for the Generals. Seniors Hamill Jones and sophomore Matt Lawless each scored 8 points.

Wrestling loses two at Albright tri-meet

W&L SPORTS RELEASE

Albright tri-meet results

JOHNS HOPKINS 58, W&L 0

- 149 - Tim Hulme (JH) def. Corey Little (W&L), Fall 1:56
- 165 - Joe Selba (JH) def. Walter Hoyt (W&L), Fall :49
- 184 - Rob Curry (JH) def. Max Courtney (W&L), Maj. Dec. 13-2

ALBRIGHT 39, W&L 3

- 149 - Corey Little (W&L) def. Brandon Cuffee (AC), 10-5
- 165 - Ezra Montesino (AC) def. Walter Hoyt (W&L), Fall 40
- 184 - Eric Drew (AC) def. Max Courtney (W&L), 8-5

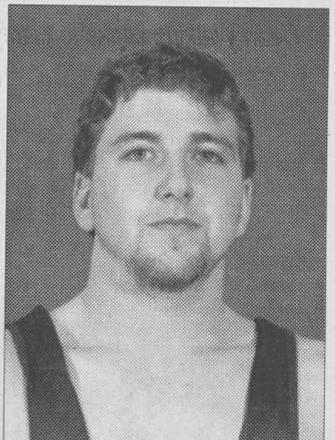
W&L vs. CENTENARY COLLEGE WRESTLERS

- 149 - Corey Little (W&L) def. Isiah Harris (CC), 12-4
- 165 - Ken Jacoby (CC) def. Walter Hoyt (W&L), Fall 2:15
- 184 - Keith Kubicek (CC) def. Max Courtney, Injury Default

READING, Pa. — The Washington and Lee wrestling team dropped a pair of matches in the Albright tri-meet on Saturday afternoon. The Generals fell to Centennial Conference foe Johns Hopkins, 58-0, before losing to Albright, 39-3, in non-conference action.

Senior 149-pounder Corey Little (Charlotte, N.C./Independence) recorded W&L's (0-6, 0-4) only dual-meet victory of the day when he scored a 10-5 decision over Albright's Brandon Cuffee. Little also picked up a victory over Centenary College grappler Isiah Harris. He won that bout with a 12-4 major decision.

W&L will be back on the mat next Saturday at 12:00 noon when it competes in the Muhlenberg Quadrangular.



COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

SENIOR COREY LITTLE

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 10	Wednesday, February 11	Thursday, February 12	Friday, February 13	Saturday, February 14	Sunday, February 15
• W Basketball vs. Lynchburg--7:00	• M Basketball vs. Guilford--7:00	• Open	• W Basketball at Randolph-Macon--7:00 • M Swimming at Bluegrass--TBA • Riding at Randolph-Macon Womens'/LC Inv--TBA	• Wrestling at Muhlenberg Quad--12:00 • M Basketball at Eastern Mennonite--7:00 • M Swim at Bluegrass--TBA	• Open

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Ritter named Division III Swimmer of the Week

Senior earns national recognition for Marymount performance

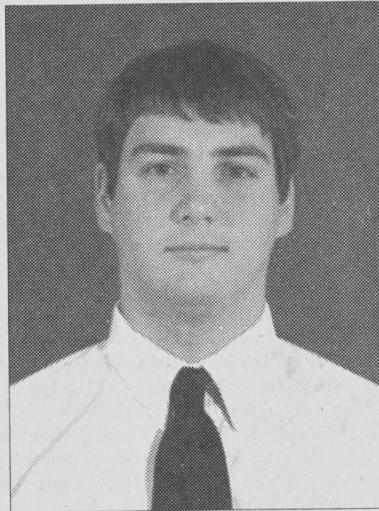
W&L SPORTS RELEASE

LEXINGTON, Va. — Washington and Lee senior Eric Ritter (Birmingham, Ala./Mountain Brook) has been recognized as the Division III National Swimmer of the Week by CollegeSwimming.com for the week ending January 31.

Ritter propelled the Generals to a 117-60 win over Marymount and an undefeated dual-meet season with top performances in the 200 Back and the 400 Medley Relay.

He emerged as the top finisher in the 200 Back (1:53.79), but his performance in the winning 400 Medley Relay (3:41.58) was the highlight of the day. Leading off the relay with the 100 Back leg, Ritter set a pool record with an NCAA "A"-cut time of 51.38. He joins Tim Stanford ('86) as the only two Generals to hold records in the Cy Twombly Memorial Pool.

Ritter and the Generals return to action on Feb. 13 at the Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championships.



SENIOR ERIC RITTER.

COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

Indoor track teams compete against VMI on Saturday

Two school records broken at competition

W&L SPORTS RELEASE

LEXINGTON, Va. — The Washington and Lee men's and women's indoor track and field squads were in action at the VMI Winter Relays on Saturday afternoon. The Generals combined for two-top-place performances and a pair of school records while competing against Division I and Division III competition.

For the W&L women, sophomore Betsy Frayer (Grand Rapids, Mich./East Grand Rapids) emerged as the top runner in the 3,000-meter run, besting all competitors with a time of 11:30.44.

Freshmen Kathryn Brennan (New Orleans, La./Isidore Newman) and Sara Behmerwohld (San Juan Capistrano, Calif./Dana Hills) used their performances to set a pair of new standards for the Generals' program. Brennan vaulted to a program-record mark of 9'4.25" in the pole vault, while Behmerwohld clocked W&L's fastest-ever 55-meter dash with a 9.59 performance.

Junior Meredith Walker (Travelers Rest, S.C./Christ Church Episcopal), junior Ann Tompkins (McLean, Va./Potomac School) and freshman Huntley Rodes (Nashville, Tenn./Harpeth Hall) were also among the Generals' leaders. Among Division III sprinters in the 200-meter dash, Walker took second (29.24), Tompkins took third (29.60) and Rodes took fourth (29.82).

For the men, juniors Nathan Johnson (Lexington, Va./Rockbridge County) and Steven Chambers (Christiana, Pa./Octorara Area) led W&L with the top-two finishes in the 3,000-meter run. Johnson won the event with a 9:02.95 clocking, while Chambers crossed the tape second in a time of 9:14.11.

Junior Chris Walker (Centreville, Va./Paul IV) took top weight-throw honors among Division III participants with a distance of 44' 5.25", while junior Brian Krupczak (Cohasset, Mass./Cohasset) was Division III's second-place finisher in the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.70 seconds.

Both W&L squads return to action on Sunday at the Christopher Newport Invitational.

Support Generals' athletics over feb break in your hometown

Mens' Basketball

Sat., Feb. 14 at Eastern Mennonite 7:00 pm
Wed., Feb. 18 vs. Bridgewater 7:00 pm

Wrestling

Sat., Feb. 14 at Muhlenberg Quad (Baptist Bible, Elizabethtown, Muhlenberg) 12:00 pm
Sat., Feb. 21 Centennial Conference Championships 11:00 am

Riding

Sat., Feb. 21 at JMU/Bridgewater Invitational TBA
Sun., Feb. 22 at Univ. of Virginia Invitational TBA

Womens' Basketball

Wed., Feb. 18 Bridgewater 7:00 pm

Baseball

Mon., Feb. 16 at Oglethorpe 3:30 pm
Wed., Feb. 18 at Emory 2:00 pm
Thu., Feb. 19 at Oglethorpe 3:00 pm
Sat., Feb. 21 Villa Julie (DH) 12:00 pm

Mens' Lacrosse

Fri., Feb. 20 at Greensboro 3:30 pm

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



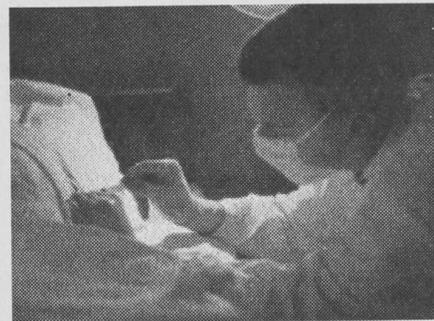
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"I don't have the required courses for medical school."



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Program

More than Mainstream: independent woman Rian Lewis

Someone pointed out that in all our discussion of rush and pledgship, we had ignored one of the largest minority groups on campus: independent women. The issues facing independent women can be very different than those facing independent men. Rian Lewis knows those challenges well and has successfully navigated the social cycles of W&L without a Greek affiliation. A junior psychology major from Winchester, Virginia, Rian has never regretted being an independent. A self-described "turbo psych-nerd," Rian keeps herself busy through a wide array of activities beyond the Greek system: "I'm a bleeding heart liberal and an officer in Young Democrats. I am also a co-Chair of the Gay-Straight Alliance, a dorm counselor, a peer counselor, and am on the Multicultural Student Advisory Board. Oh and school," Rian explains.

Rian is glad she rushed. "It's a fun experience," Rian recalls. With a chuckle, she explains, "Rush is a game. It's people I've never met before pretending to care about my name and where I'm from." All in all, "it was very entertaining" and a memorable time.

Rian came to W&L for a variety of reasons.

"It was the best school I got into. Initially I was very turned off by the idea of going to a school that I wouldn't fit into—nostalgic for Reagan, Greek oriented. My dad went here though, and he encouraged me to give it a shot, so I thought, 'What the hell?'" Arriving at W&L, Rian, like many freshmen knew little about Greek life. Lacking the ability to discern a Psi from a Delta, Rian decided to take a laid back approach to the entire system. She rushed because it was something that she felt she should do—after all, everyone else did.

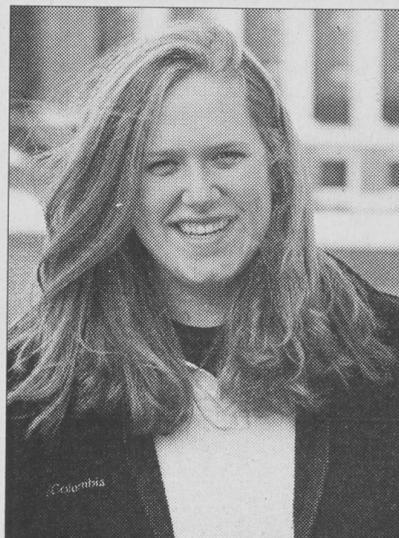
At the end of rush week, Rian decided that sorority life was not for her. Withdrawing from rush is a decision Rian is glad she made. "I'm not committed to meetings and rush workshops or being forced into a social circle," Rian said, which is good for her busy schedule.

Sorority t-shirts might be the one thing Rian misses about not being in a sorority. "I've never had a moment of regret at all, though I will admit that I have t-shirt envy. They are so clever and witty! W&L mainstream t-shirts just aren't as good." Among her favorites are the Theta and company shirt, the Coca-Cola

themed tees, the KD shirt with Audrey Hepburn, and this year's KD bid day shirt.

Beyond the expansive amount of t-shirts she is missing out on, Rian's experience as an independent has been a good one. Even the biggest challenges can be overcome she explains. "You do have to go make an extra effort to be social. You don't have social events scheduled for you," Rian says. To independent freshmen she issues the advice, "Being in a sorority is not the be all, end all at Washington and Lee. Winter term freshman year is probably the hardest time to be an independent. All the girls are having their first mixers and socials, and they are going through pledgship. Its gets a lot easier and you can have a very happy social life. You can have a very fulfilling social life without Greek letters."

Though an independent, Rian thinks the Greek system is necessary at Washington and Lee. "I think its good, and I think W&L needs it. What else would there be to do in Lex?" she laments. As a dorm counselor, Rian had an interesting perspective on Rush week this year. She is grateful for the opportunities that being a DC has given her. "I have eleven girls in four houses. I encouraged them all to go through



STEVEN MARINOS / THE RING-TUM PHI

rush. I joked about rushing for the independents, but I wasn't very successful. They all found the sorority that was right for them."

Valentine's Day activities in the Lexington area

BY MAGGIE SPEARMAN
STAFF WRITER

The Superbowl has been played, Mock Con has come and gone, and "Feb Break" is only days away. This could only mean one thing. Everyone's favorite holiday, Valentine's Day, is rapidly approaching. While some people shudder at the idea of celebrating this romantic day with that special someone, there are those people who look forward to it each year.

For those of you who refuse to recognize Valentine's Day, that is fine. This article is not for you. However, for the rest of you, regardless of your dating status, read on. You may be thinking that Lexington is that last place you would want to spend this special day, but let me persuade you otherwise. Couples in search of a casual meal to those who want a weekend getaway, Lexington has the answer.

Those of you who want to kick off the festivities a few days early can attend the Washington and Lee Men's Basketball game against Guilford on Wednesday, February 11 at 7 pm. It is "Valentine's Cheap Date Night," and the first 50 couples will receive free popcorn, soda, and candy. Game giveaways will also include dinner at the Wilson-Walker House,

Fancy Dress tickets, and chocolates from the Cocoa Mill.

Lexington is also hosting the third annual Chocolate Lovers' Weekend from February 13-16. People can enjoy a wide range of events throughout the weekend: carriage rides through downtown Lexington, wine, beer, and chocolate tasting, and a pancake breakfast, just to name a few opportunities.

If a simple dinner is more your style, the Sheridan Livery is the place to go. Chefs have prepared a special menu for Valentine's Day weekend that includes a chocolate soufflé topped with a raspberry sauce and fresh strawberries for dessert.

In addition to these romantic activities, Lexington also has an assortment of Valentine's Day gifts. Whether it's for that special someone, a good friend, or even for yourself, Fun Foods and Accessories has the answer. You can show your significant other just how you feel with a packet of traditional conversation hearts or chocolate bars bearing the saying "I love you." Get in the mood with scented candles or a jar of "Love Fudge." Single girls, you can even purchase the ideal boyfriend at Fun Foods and Accessories. With a choice of Mr. Right, Lover Boy, and Mr. Perfect, you can "Grow a Boyfriend"

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in just seconds by placing this small figure in a cup of water and watching him expand.

Hopefully these ideas have motivated at least some of you to take advantage of what Lexington has to offer for this year's

Valentine's Day. With a wide range of activities, at least one is fit for you. Whether it be an intimate dinner for two or a day of beer and chocolate tasting, enjoy your Valentine's Day, it only comes around once a year.

New play performed at Washington and Lee

BY CHRIS LAUDERMAN
ASSISTANT
ARTS AND LIFE EDITOR

"Metamorphoses" weaves together love, tragedy, change, and victory to incite the audience and seize their attention. The play is a contemporary version of Ovid's Greek myths. What makes "Metamorphoses" unique is that it is performed in a pool.

The play begins with the story of Creation. Following the Creation are eleven scenes. During each of these acts a character changes in some form. The cast is phenomenal in that they bring each of the eleven scenes to life. Seniors Brandon Waddell, Charlie Boisky, and Jeremy Mims stirred the audience with their portrayals of many characters. Other cast members included Ligia Abreu, Bahskar Banerjee, Caleb Dulis, Ruth Esponda, Joseph Harouni, Anna Heatwole, Kelly Kopicial '96, Julian Ledford, Sarah Orvin, Sheryl Silvers, Paige Smith, and Victoria Stanham.

Midas is the first scene in the play. Boisky plays King Midas. The gods grant him one wish. He wishes to change himself so that everything he touches will turn to gold. The god Bacchus, played by Banerjee, warns King Midas that it is a bad idea. He turns his daughter,

played by Abreu, into gold—one of the many tragic elements of the play.

Orpheus and Eurydice's scene is another tragic, but excellent, part of "Metamorphoses." Waddell plays Orpheus, a musician whose bride, Eurydice, dies on their wedding day. The story follows Orpheus into the underworld where he has gone to ask for his bride back.

Boisky, Smith, Abreu, Orvin, and Dulis act in the twisted tale of Pomona and Vertumnus. Vertumnus is in love with Pomona, but she expresses no interest. He then tells her a story about what happens to girls who ignore love.

The myth of Phaeton was particularly amusing. Phaeton, played by Waddell, is the son of the sun, Apollo, played by Ledford. Phaeton is getting therapy for the deep hurt he has from being the son of the sun. Waddell's acting was great and he had the whole audience in laughter during this scene.

This play evokes many emotions. It was funny one minute and tragic the next. "Metamorphoses" was an enjoyable piece of my weekend. I highly recommend this performance to the every student. There are only three showings of "Metamorphoses" remaining. They will be performed at The Lenfest Center for Performing Arts tonight, tomorrow, and Wednesday in the small theatre.

The Ring-tum Phi wishes you a great
Feb Break

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Sports movie genre produces 'spectacular films'

Occasionally, a seasoned columnist keeps an idea in his hip pocket to fall back on in case his weekend is tied up in a poker tournament and some famous lovin'. Last Friday, *Miracle* hit the big screen. The film recounted when the United States defeated the massively favored Soviet Union in Olympic hockey at the 1980 games at Lake Placid. This cosmic clash of good vs. evil, capitalism vs. communism, and professionalism vs. amateurism, arguably delivered sports' all-time grandest upset. Plots of this genre usually produce spectacular films. This columnist and his good buddies give you a comprehensive breakdown of the best and worst sports movies in specified categories.

The John Schauffele Category—Children's Films—*The Sandlot*

The *Sandlot* gets the nod over *Angels in the Outfield* and the *Mighty Ducks*. Bennie "The Jet" Rodriguez could start in centerfield for the hapless Angels who needed Christopher "The Doc" Lloyd to vault them into the pennant race where Tony Danza gave his all-time finest performance. Quoting Schauffele, "*The Sandlot* is the greatest movie of all time. Ever." The *Mighty Ducks* probably had more influence on our generation with the Triple Deke, the Flying V and "Quack, Quack..." but the subsequent

unnecessary sequels drop it from first to third.

Honorable Mention:

Angels in the Outfield, *Mighty Ducks*, *Little Big League*

The Clark Finney Category—The Underdog Wins—*Hoosiers*

Like Finney, this small-time country squad went big time and won the state title. *The Natural* is too good for this category and Rudy is not good enough. *Seabiscuit* never won a coveted Triple Crown race and Rocky never lost to anyone not named Mr. T.

Honorable Mention:

The Natural, *Rudy*, *Rocky*, *Seabiscuit*, *The Rookie*, *Radio*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Bloodsport*

The Jim Sargent Category—Comedies—*Major League I and II*

This category has a strong list of contenders. Most movie watchers would probably go with the first *Caddyshack*, but our crack staff of voters decided that *Major League II* crushes the second *Caddyshack*—yes, there is a second—and lifts it over the overrated *Bull Durham*. Bob Uecker's "Just a bit outside" is probably the best line of all in this field.

Honorable Mention:

Happy Gilmore, *Caddyshack*, *Bull Durham*, *Slap Shot*, *The Waterboy*, *Basketball*, *Celtic Pride*, *Forget Paris*, *Cool Runnings*

The Sigma Chi Freshmen Pledge Class Category—Overrated—*Raging Bull*

Like the Sigma Chi Pledge Class, *Raging Bull* and *A League of Their Own* get raving reviews from the respective IFC and Movie critics. However, having seen both the Sigma Chi Pledge Class and *Raging Bull* and co., it is easy to conclude that not only are the aforementioned marginal, but overrated as well.

Honorable Mention:

A League of Their Own, *Any Given Sunday*, *The Bad News Bears*, *Finding Forrester*, *Tin Cup*, *Ali*

The Chris Surdo and Leah Greenberg Category—Romances—*Days of Thunder*

Cutting Edge (figure skating) makes *Days of Thunder* earn its keep. Matt Fink's favorite movie *Summer Catch* makes a valiant push, but falls short at third.

Honorable Mention:

Cutting Edge, *Summer Catch*, *For the Love of the Game*, *Love and Basketball*

The Cameron Lord Category—Tear-jerkers—*Heaven Can Wait*

These movies could make Cameron Lord cry twice. *Heaven Can Wait* is a forgotten classic and has been tarred by the recent Chris Rock remake of the movie in the altered form of *Down to You*. What similarities do a 70s Los Angeles Rams quarterback and a 90s comedian have in common? Nothing. Brian's Song popularized the name "Brian" for the Baby Boomers to which we owe for our fearless IFC president.

Honorable Mention:

Brian's Song, *Remember the Titans*, *Field of Dreams*, *The Sixth Man*

The Jess Lipsey Category—Hidden Gem—*The Longest Yard*

What do Lipsey and Burt Reynolds have in common? Once football's over, they throw down every single night. Reynolds, though, has not closed the Palms down in a record string of 47 consecutive Saturdays. The HBO original film *61 could be the best baseball movie ever made this side of *The Natural* and *Field of Dreams*. Castleberry gives his highest recommendation to *Hoop Dreams*.

Honorable Mention:

*61, *Hoop Dreams*, *The Program*, *Junction Boys*, *He Got Game*, *Blue Chips*, *White Men Can't Jump*

Dead fraternities in W&L's past

BY CHRIS LAUDERMAN
ASSISTANT
ARTS AND LIFE EDITOR

The thought of more fraternities at Washington and Lee is hard to imagine, but forty years ago, we had a few more than we do now. Most current students know the drama that unfolded during our time with Sigma Phi Epsilon and what happened about a decade ago with Delta Tau Delta. Most, however, are oblivious to what made the other fraternities disappear.

The mid 1960s to the early 1980s brought hard times to the Greek System at Washington and Lee. The early 1970s marked the lowest percentage of men joining fraternities which was at less than fifty five percent. As a result, Kappa Alpha, Kappa Sigma, Delta Upsilon, and Sigma Phi Epsilon all dissipated because of financial hardships. Delta Upsilon was the only fraternity that did not try to re-colonize during the fraternity revival of the early 1980s.

Alpha Tau Omega was founded at VMI. The Beta chapter was founded at Washington and Lee a few years later. Most students have heard the famous campus urban legend that surrounds this fraternity. According to legend, the brothers of ATO hijacked a train, and not being a very honorable thing to do, got kicked off campus. Buddy Atkins,

Acting Dean of the Elrod University Commons believes that this is strictly legend.

The real reason ATO is no longer at Washington and Lee is because of housing. Fraternity houses began construction in the 1920s. Every fraternity except ATO obtained their mortgage through the University. This was to have extra freedom. World War II essentially stopped fraternity activity. After the war was over, the creditor wanted not only current rent, but also rent from the four previous years. The house could not survive financially.

Zeta Beta Tau was a thriving Jewish fraternity prior to the mid 1960s located in the current Kappa Sigma house. "They were selling themselves as an alternative to a fraternity," said Atkins. Starting in 1964, Jewish students started to look at other fraternities besides ZBT. This started a downward trend that continued into the 1980s for ZBT. When fraternities made their comeback, ZBT could not recruit anymore. No student wanted an alternative to a fraternity; they actually wanted a real fraternity.

Phi Epsilon Pi, located at the present KA house, was another, less successful Jewish Fraternity. In 1969, Phi Epsilon Pi merged into ZBT. The brothers refused to merge with their next door neighbors and formed their own fraternity,

Psi Upsilon, which lasted for approximately five years.

The successful colonization of Chi Psi in 1977 brought hope to some of the dead fraternities. KA obviously had pressure to return since they are the Alpha Chapter. SPE and Kappa Sig also made comebacks to campus. What is surprising is that ATO did not try to re-colonize since Lexington is home to their Alpha Chapter as well.

KA bought Psi Upsilon's house, SPE moved in beside FIJI, and Kappa Sig moved into the Outing Club House. The Fraternity Renaissance of the late 1980s brought changes to the fraternity scene. SPE, Kappa Sig, and Sigma Chi all had houses that could not be renovated to meet acceptable standards. The plan was to build 3 new houses in Davidson Park, but with the death of ZBT, Kappa Sig moved to their current location. Sigma Chi moved from Lee Street, currently the Communications Office, to Davidson Park along with SPE.

The early 1990s brought the death of Delt, and 2003 the surprise suspension of SPE. No one can predict what the next big Greek event will be for Washington and Lee, even though it appears the re-emergence of SPE in 2006-2007 will get that distinction.

LOOKING DOWN ON THE PAST



JEB BROOKS / THE RING-TUM PHI

Old George. Recently, a replica of the Old George statue that sits atop Washington Hall appeared in the Commons lobby. This statue has played an important role in past Washington and Lee traditions. When the statue was first erected in the 1840s, students frequently painted the statue various colors. W&L freshmen usually painted it blue while VMI cadets also painted the statue, using their school colors red and yellow. The statue was painted so often that when it was scraped in 1949, layers came off that were an inch and a quarter thick. It was estimated that there must have been around 125 layers of paint on the statue. In recent years, the statue has been painted only infrequently including once in 1958 and Fancy Dress Weekend in 1974. At the time, Security was unsure how the students were able to access the statue, although they hypothesized that the students got onto the roof through the third floor of Washington Hall and then used a ladder with a central extension to get one person on top of the podium to paint the statue.

QUICK HITS

Φ Who is "unstable Bob?"

Φ The most amazing English professor ever... Professor Craun!

Φ Kudos to the person who dolled up Cyrus McCormick over the weekend. Now he has some bling to go along with his reaper.

Φ Tell prospective students not to apply to Washington and Lee. It is turning into PCU and we can all thank Dawn Watkins and Teresa Glassman.

Φ I think Kisha Barnes (Ms. NAACP) has a beautiful smile and needs to smile more often. Can you be my Valentine?

Φ Give peas a chance.

Φ So Amy... lunch?

Φ I heard some kid in the freshman class used to have a house in Vermont.

Φ Word is there are two shoes lurking around the freshman dorms. Maybe they should get together and tie laces.

Φ What animal should you never play cards with? A cheetah.

Φ Mrs. Burish, please don't ever again let your husband out of the house with the sweater he wore Tuesday night.

Φ Could someone please ask "Chaz-dunk" and "Lolli" to stop writing Quick Hits about themselves. Here is a hint: No one cares.

Φ Trivial Pursuit IS fratty!

Φ It's the car I have always wanted, and now I have it. I rule!

Φ "Aaaaaaaamen. Sing it with me now. Aaaaaaaamen, little louder now!"

Φ Snaps to Puerto Rico and the Democrats Abroad roll calls for being the only thing funnier than Burr's amens.

Φ Wearing spandex and cycling during the Mock Con parade is about as cool as being Richard Simmons.

Φ We've got the magic stick, if by magic stick you mean oranges. -Florida delegation sign

Φ Who else is surprised that Tom Burish turned out to be the hero in the Spring Term saga?

Φ If sleep deprivation is reason enough to cancel pledgeship than Professor DeLaney's classes should also be called off.

Φ Happy Birthday to W&L grad Roger Mudd, who turns 76 today.

Φ Thanks to the 12-12-6 committee for all your hard work to save Spring Term.

Φ Don't forget to buy your Valentine a song from JubiLee in the Commons Lobby.

Φ Third-floor Graham-Lees above the breezeway is the best hall in freshman history.

Φ Today is the 163rd anniversary of Jefferson Davis' election to the presidency of the Confederate States of America.

Φ Tom Brady is a hottie!

Φ This week Janet Jackson's boob popped out of its hole and saw its shadow. Now we'll have six more weeks of overreaction.

Φ Happy Birthday to Bill Brooks.

Φ The difference between jam and jelly is that jam has seeds. So what's marmalade?

Φ How did you celebrate Ronald Reagan's birthday on Friday?

Φ So how long has Cyrus been wearing those Mardi Gras beads?

Φ Go to the Women's Basketball game on Tuesday against Lynchburg. It's a big ODAC contest.

Φ So, did GDI have its pledgeship canceled, too?

Φ Way to go Bryan Early—big winner in this weekend's interfraternity poker tournament!

Φ FYI: The campaign "For the Rising Generation" surpassed its fundraising goal by \$17.5 million or eight percent. Super job, Development Office!

Φ Cheers to KD and KKG for throwing a risk management-friendly Famous Lovers party.

Φ To Noah Rhodes: Mock Con is over, you can come home now.

Φ I propose a compromise: Why don't we all just agree that Brett Kirwan is an Heroic Tool, like a fireman's axe or something.

Φ E-mail your Quick Hits and stories from Washington Break to phi@wlu.edu.