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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI

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Frats survive Christmas weekend, four DUI's reported

BY ERIN JULIUS AND CHRIS LAUDERMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND MANAGING EDITOR

Fraternities survived their first weekend under the new alcohol enforcement policy with little problem, but many changes. Parties were moved into hotels, restaurants, and off campus houses where students could drink, regardless of their age.

Lexington police chief Bruce Beard reported four arrests for driving under the influence and one arrest for indecent exposure and drunk in public.

"There were an awful lot of alcohol-related incidents this weekend," Beard said. "I don't know if that [enforcement of the alcohol policy] was the reason we had more DUI's or not."

At the Inter Fraternity Council meeting during

the last week of November, University security announced that they would be looking for underage drinking at fraternity parties and reporting violations to the Administration and IFC.

All parties in the fraternity houses will require wristbands to identify legal drinkers. If security sees a student drinking in a fraternity house, the security officer will ask the student to show identification.

Mike Young, Director of Security and almost every security guard attended the meeting. According to Brent Beshore, President of Lambda Chi, Young said security would look for underage drinking during Christmas Weekend. "No longer will security look the other way when underage drinking occurs on campus," said Beshore.

Freshmen men said that alcohol was easy to obtain off campus. "There didn't seem to be any formalities in

getting drinks," said one freshman man. "We just had older friends getting us drinks."

According to freshmen, fraternities reportedly followed the rules in the house. "You needed a wristband to get cocktails or champagne in the house," said a freshman man.

"We did not serve alcohol at dinner in the house," Erik Kiewiet de Jonge, President of Phi Psi, said.

But University security told a different story. "We had some problems in the houses," said Young.

The problems involved serving underage students, no use of wristbands, and a communal source of alcohol in four or five of the houses.

Fraternity presidents feel that parties will continue to shift off campus. Beshore echoed Kiewiet de Jonge in believing that this will be a trend.

"[Parties being moved off campus] depends on how the school enforces the policy in the future," said Kiewiet de Jonge.

Traveling in and out of the country was not difficult for students. Fraternities provided sober drivers. Traveller's services also ran from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. "I think they [the fraternity] gave rides out before everyone started drinking," said a freshman man.

"It was easy for me to get a ride," said Drew McWay, a freshman who went out to the Polehouses. He also said that the fraternity provided sober drives whenever anyone needed one.

One country party had three kegs and hard liquor, said one freshman man. According to several freshmen men, champagne and liquor flowed freely at off-campus houses.

Weekend parade kicks off the holidays in Lexington



BY ETHAN JAMESON
STAFF WRITER

Wrapped in a thick jacket, gloves and a beanie, eight-year-old Jake Billings bounced from foot to foot in anticipation of the parade about to come down Main Street which had been transformed into a Christmas wonderland.

About 400 local residents and college students braved the cold Saturday night and lined the sidewalk of Lexington's Main Street to watch the city's annual Christmas Parade.

"I saw it last year with the trucks and police cars and everything and it's so cool," said an excited Billings. "Then they whir their



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sirens and lights and stuff. That's the best part."

Lexington police and VMI cadets kept traffic off Main Street and kept shivering onlookers onto the sidewalk as the Parade started 20 minutes later than the scheduled 5:00 p.m. commencement.

Children received balloons from Christmas elves and candy was thrown by gloved hands into the gathered crowd.

Floats included marching bands from local area schools and VMI, the Lexington Life Saving Crew, Stonewall Jackson Hospital, and several police units and rescue service providers from neighbor-

ing towns and cities.

"This is the first parade I've been to since being in Lexington," said Washington and Lee junior and Main Street apartment resident, Christine Sprow. "I love it, it's great, but what's with the cadets carrying guns in a Christmas Parade?"

The Rockbridge Christian Academy enthralled the crowd with their float featuring a faculty member singing the story of Christmas in front of a nativity scene with students from the Academy playing roles of shepherds and wise men.

Glasgow Endowment speaker "America's foremost humorist" talks about Lee

BY KATHRYN KRALL
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday evening, the Glasgow Endowment presented a lecture by Roy Blount Jr., a well-known humorist and author. Blount has written columns for The New York Times, The Oxford American, Esquire, Rolling Stone, Playboy, and Sports Illustrated. He was praised by the Chicago Tribune, which reported that "he has become America's foremost humorist."

Blount is the author of sixteen books, including "Robert E. Lee: A Biography." Raised in Georgia, Blount enjoys commenting on American customs and is an avid spokesman for "Southernness."

The subject of his talk was his recent work on Robert E. Lee. He read selections from his work, in addition to sharing interesting facts he learned about Lee while doing research for his biography. He presented humorous and often scandalous tidbits about General Lee that most people have never heard. Blount came across many little-known details. "Lee wore size 4 1/2 C shoes. I just couldn't get past that- it sounded round! I thought maybe the author was talking about Traveller or something." Blount mentioned that we know relatively little about Lee's personal life, but "one thing we do know about him- he was fond of having his hands and feet tickled."

Even mundane events in Lee's life were

presented with wit and humor. Blount recounted an episode occurring while Lee was president of Washington College. "When reviewing the troops at VMI with General Smith, he wanted to show that he was out of the army, so he would purposely walk out of step. That takes a lot of rhythm. Maybe Lee wasn't as white as we always thought."

Toward the end of the lecture, Blount opened the floor for questions, because, according to him, this improves almost everything. "A lot of plays could be improved by throwing the floor open for questions. For example, Othello. If they had opened the floor for questions about halfway through, the tragedy could have been averted."

Freshman Dane Boston related what he found particularly humorous, "When asked what he thought of the Confederate battle flag, Mr. Blount replied that he had an idea for a new Southern flag, incorporating a black hand and white hand clasped in friendship on a symbolically chromatic field of blue (the sky) and green (money), over the motto 'Just fine. And you?'"

The evening ended with Mr. Blount singing his original country song, "I'm Just a Bug on the Windshield of Life."

"I enjoyed his sharp wit and talent for storytelling," said Dane Boston. "It was a delightful Dixie-themed time in Lee Chapel."



COURTESY W&L NEWS OFFICE

Students advance in Rhodes Waddell reaches the final stage of interviews

BY SARAH MURRAY
NEWS EDITOR

This year's list of Rhodes Scholars does not include any students from Washington & Lee University, but four students distinguished themselves in the demanding application process.

Ricky Busby '05, Robyn Konkel '05, Jeremiah McWilliams '05, and Timothy Waddell '04 all advanced to the semi-final interviews, with Waddell continuing to the final stage of interviews.

There are about 1000 Rhodes applicants every year. Applicants with exceptional references and personal statements attend state-wide interviews. Approximately 100 students advance from the state level to the eight regional interviews. Four winners are selected from each region—32 total—and receive full scholarships for graduate work at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

About six to ten W&L students apply to Rhodes annually. This year, 13 students and graduates applied and four received state interviews. Both numbers could tie or even set a school record, although official documentation doesn't go back far enough to confirm that.

Applying for a Rhodes scholarship was an obvious choice for Busby, who is majoring in Medieval and Renaissance Studies with a concentration in Art History. "I knew that I wanted to go to graduate school and the Rhodes made perfect sense—2 years of fully-funded study at one of the best universities in the world."

Konkel, a public policy major, was familiar with the procedure after interviewing for a Truman Fellowship in her junior year. Even so, the selection process was challenging. "The other ten competitors were amazing people," she said. "The interview itself was, to put it mildly, intense."

George Bent, Associate Dean for Student Academic Support, works as the faculty liaison for Rhodes applicants. His experiences have convinced him that students here are strong contenders. "Rhodes...is looking for a leader who performs well in the classroom, who is interested in talking about issues inside and outside of the classroom, and who is willing to take

intellectual risks," he said.

This year's applicants in particular convinced him that there is a "core group of students" who fit the bill. And on W&L's small campus, those students have more opportunities to get involved in athletics, community service, and club leadership.

"I would put any of them against anyone else's any day," Bent said.

Politics professor Robert Strong has a similar esteem for students after supervising the Rhodes applicants in past years. "Every year the W&L juniors inducted into ODK, Phi Beta Kappa, and other honor societies plus the recipients of various athletic awards and academic prizes...constitute an impressive group," Strong said.

Bent also insists that the school's much-vaunted name recognition comes into play. "Washington & Lee University carries some clout. They know us," Bent said. "Your next-door neighbor may not know what 'Washington and Jefferson' is, but the people who matter do."

Several statistics reflect these strengths. Strong scoured the Internet for other schools with four Rhodes interviews; he found none outside of the Ivy League, national military academies, and a few large state universities. The University of Virginia, with almost 13,000 students enrolled, only received three state interviews to W&L's four.

Yet this year's record numbers and strong applicants did not alter a 13-year stretch without Rhodes Scholars. No W&L student or graduate has won a Rhodes scholarship since Patricia Lopes-Harris in 1991. In comparison, the News Office reports that six W&L students won scholarships between 1973 and 1983.

Bent says one large obstacle in recruiting for Rhodes is that many students consider themselves to be unworthy of a scholarship.

"[W&L students] go to Nicaragua. They work in soup kitchens. They do things," Bent said. "They should be knocking my door down, but instead they're all bashful with their hands in their pockets."

Out of this year's 32 winners, 16 are women and 16 are men. The most successful schools were Harvard, with five winners, and the U. S. Naval Academy, with three.

International grocery store opens after two year delay

BY MEGAN WARD
STAFF WRITER

The first grocery store in Lexington to include a martini bar opened its doors on Nov. 20. A grocer carrying gourmet cuisines from around the world, has been trying to open for almost two years, but owner Erik King says this time the date is definite.

Besides offering a wide selection of gourmet and international cuisines, as well Internet shopping and an online catalogue, the 14,700 square-foot store located in the Lexington College Square Shopping Center will have two separate restaurants, Café Mohring and Matsumoto Sushi Bar.

Sam Matsumoto, the sushi chef, has owned restaurants in Richmond and Washington D.C. and was Demi Moore's personal sushi chef during the filming of *G.I. Jane*.

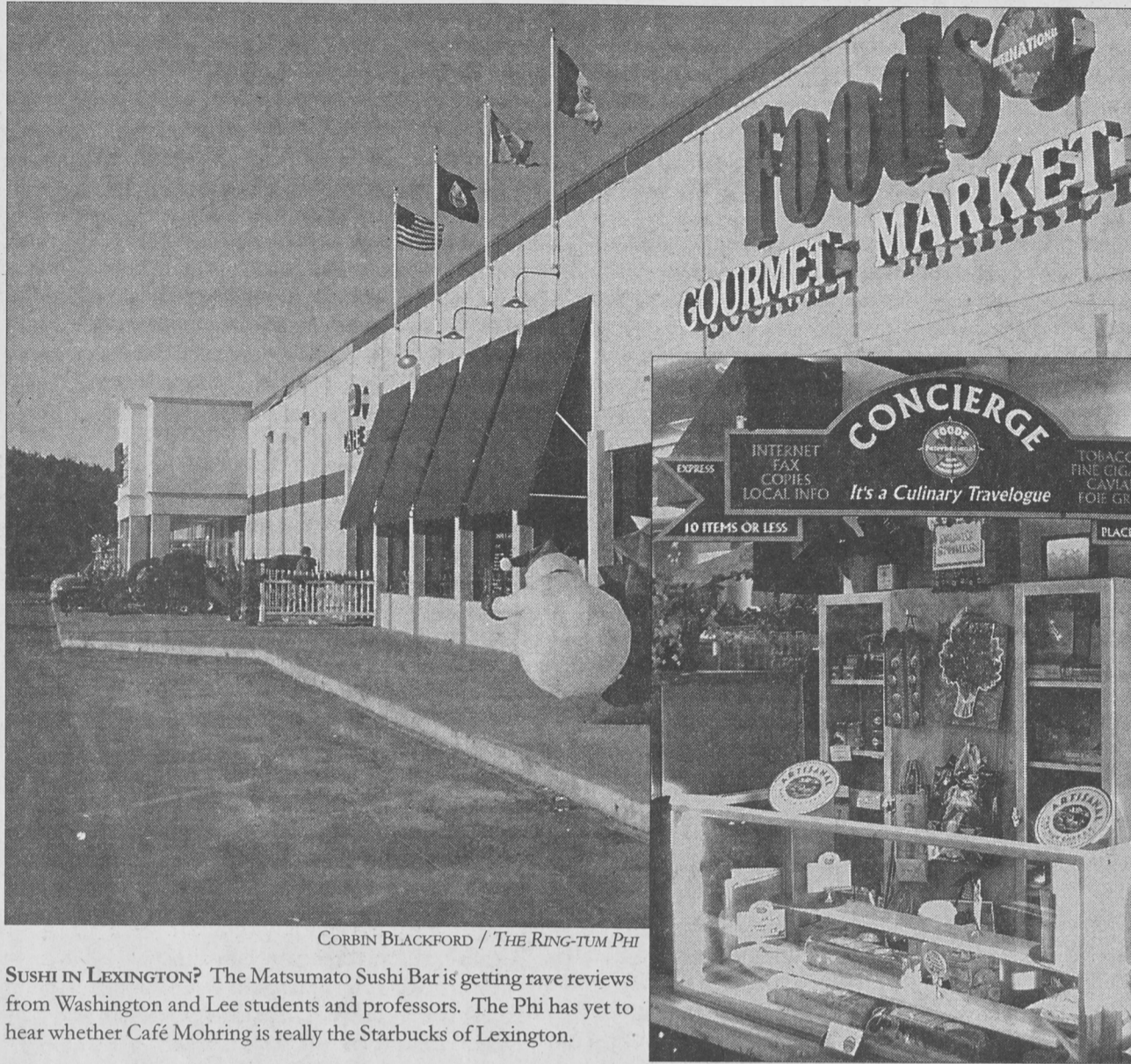
Café Mohring will offer a full coffee bar. "We're going to be the Starbucks of Lexington, I think," said King. There will also be a cyber-café, where King hopes local students will come to study.

The months leading up to the opening of the store have been long and frustrating, with constant rumors circulating about when the store will open and whether it is connected with Foods of All Nations in Charlottesville.

The Charlottesville store is not legally or financially connected with the store in Lexington. But Erik King, the owner of the Lexington store, is the son of the founder of the Charlottesville store.

King's father is still on the board of directors at the other store, but the two are run separately.

Although King's family remains close to the Charlottesville store, King said the rela-



CORBIN BLACKFORD / THE RING-TUM PH

SUSHI IN LEXINGTON? The Matsumoto Sushi Bar is getting rave reviews from Washington and Lee students and professors. The Phi has yet to hear whether Café Mohring is really the Starbucks of Lexington.

tions between the two are strained. The Charlottesville store says otherwise.

Butch Brown, CEO and president of Foods of All Nations, says that the relationship is fine, and he hopes the Lexington store will be successful.

"I think that Lexington will benefit from a store like that," said Brown.

King decided to start the store in Lexington after his brother had opened a Foods of All Nations in Virginia Beach. But the Virginia Beach store suffered after Sept. 11 because many military personnel stationed there were called for duty shortly thereafter. Sales dropped from \$20,000 to \$3,000 a day, and the

store had to close after only six weeks. The financial losses incurred from the closing of the Virginia Beach store would not allow the company to open the Lexington store. King then broke away from Foods of All Nations, and took matters into his own hands.

King has been trying to open the Lexington store since November 2002, but was delayed by the death of his brother, who had started the Virginia Beach operation, in May 2003.

King doesn't believe that competition from his store will endanger any other Lexington businesses. But local coffee shops and groceries like Healthy Foods and Lexington Coffee seem to target a similar consumer profile.

While Lexington Coffee and The Daily Grind declined to comment, Jo Parent, manager of Healthy Foods, said that she hasn't talked to anyone from Foods International so she doesn't know if they'll be carrying similar products.

"Any time an enterprise moves in everyone is affected," said Parent, but added that she isn't sure exactly how Foods International will affect her business.

"I really believe in networking," said King, who said he will work with already established local business, hoping that his store's presence will increase the amount of business for everyone.

And King is a firm believer of the 'gas station' theory: "The more gas stations you have on a corner, the more gas is sold," he said.

Burish vows to pursue ambitious goals with American Cancer Society

BY LEAH KERSHAW
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee University President Tom Burish, who began his work with the American Cancer Society 20 years ago when he accepted a grant for cancer research, has vowed to drastically reduce cancer rates during his term as chairman of the ACS.

Burish is proud to be the new chairman of the ACS, the largest nonprofit voluntary health organization in the world. Burish said that it is a "privilege to follow exceptional leaders." As chairman of the ACS, Burish will be working with millions of other people to reduce cancer rates in America. This year alone 1.3 million people will be diagnosed with cancer and 550,000 people will die of cancer related illness.

By the year 2015, Burish's goal is to have reduced the age adjusted incidence of cancer by 25% and cancer related deaths by 50%. The ACS has partnered with the Center for Disease Control and the National Cancer Institute to meet this goal. Every year since the mid 1990's, the rates of both age adjusted cancer mortality and the incidence of cancer have decreased. Burish said the decrease is the result of fewer people choosing to smoke. 25-30% of cancer related deaths are affected by smoking.

Burish outlined a multifaceted plan to reach his goal. Health education in schools must be increased to stress to importance of healthy habits such as exercise early in people's lives. The mass media will continue to play an important role through commercials and advertising. ACS has also recently joined in a partnership with the American Heart

Association and the American Diabetes Association. All three organizations have united to provide the same message about protecting oneself from disease.

Additional research is also important to reducing cancer rates. Through research, doctors will be able to provide better screening and diagnosis for cancers that are currently not fully understood.

The ACS funds \$120 million of cancer related research a year. This money comes from the \$800 million dollars the ACS raises every year. Around 90% of the money raised by the ACS is the result of voluntary contributions averaging \$40. As a result, the ACS is not beholden to any one group and can direct its money wherever it deems necessary.

Burish acknowledges the difficulties which will be involved in balancing his duties as President of W&L and as chairman of the ACS. Burish

maintains that his priority is W&L. Working the ACS has helped Burish to better connect with students and alumni whose lives have been touched by cancer. Burish himself lost his father to cancer several years ago.

Burish also names W&L's tradition of service as a factor in his continued volunteerism. "How could I not have service as a value, I'm not doing anything that the majority of students, staff and alumni don't do" said Burish. While Burish acknowledges that his current position as chairman of the ACS might be more visible than other volunteer efforts, it is certainly not any more important.

The ACS is optimistic about Burish's terms as its chairman. John Seffrin, the CEO of the ACS said, Burish "has provided steadfast and visionary leadership to the society and has never wavered in his abiding commitment to our lifesaving mission."

GAB looking ahead after problems with Christmas Weekend scheduling

Leaders plan for "three or more" events during winter, spring

BY KATHERINE SHELL
ASST NEWS EDITOR

After the excitement on campus surrounding the Christmas Weekend band sponsored by the General Activities Board, students were surprised to learn that neither band was actually as available as the GAB had previously thought. However, the GAB looks forward to booking more bands for this year and using the student survey again to determine which bands the students want to see perform on campus.

W&L students were polled over the weekend of November 5, with Better than Ezra and Pat McGee winning over Bone Thugs 'N Harmony by 7 votes. After the survey, the GAB attempted to book Better than Ezra and Pat McGee for Christmas Weekend. Because

of family conflicts, Better than Ezra was unavailable, and the GAB withdrew their contract. The second runner up, Bone Thugs 'N Harmony, was offered a contract, but was unwilling to comply with a previously agreed upon contract. The GAB was unable, because of unexpected circumstances, to book a band for Christmas Weekend.

Next semester, the GAB plans to have "roughly three or more concert-like entertainment" this year, says Hartley Meric, '07, and a member of the GAB. The GAB is looking into attempting to book Bone Thugs 'N Harmony for next semester. Lauren Peters, '06, President of the General Activities Board, said, "We cannot disclose at this time exactly what bands we are looking into for next term, but we do hope to utilize the student survey again." She also added,

"We are looking into the Harlem Gospel Choir for spring, and alternative entertainment options such as Peking Acrobats or Harlem Globetrotters." Students will definitely have input on which bands will visit the W&L campus in the future.

In the past, the GAB has been able to book such bands as Karl Denson's Tiny Universe for Homecoming 2003, and has been sponsoring General Comedy in the Commons every Wednesday night where students are able to see student opening acts and professional comedians. Also, the GAB has organized Common Grounds in Café '77 with live acoustic performances. This year, GAB brought Keller Williams for Kellerween, and Drive By Truckers for Homecoming. Students can look forward to more acts visiting Lexington this year.

Cold weather, maybe snow, expected soon

BY ETHAN JAMESON
STAFF WRITER

Students and local residents looking forward to snow can expect the area's first snowfall any day now. A late, colder-than-before winter is anticipated.

According to regional weather forecasters, temperatures may have plummeted and rain has started to fall, but here in southwest Virginia, folks can expect to wait until December for the first predicted snowfall.

"Perhaps after December 4-7 time range, we'll finally see some significantly colder air, and a pattern shift occur," said Wally Mayo, a meteorologist with weatheroanoke.com. "As for the general season outlook, we are in a weak El Nino status. Personally, I feel such times are fairly good for significant snows."

Mayo also feels that we have a 65% chance of greater than normal snowfall this season.

According to Scott Lancey, a forecaster with Mid-Atlantic Weather in Lexington, Va., "It's unusual for the Lexington area to receive accumulating snow right after Thanksgiving but we

usually have had some snow by December 10th." Lancey added that the type of weather experienced in November usually is not an indicator of what the overall winter will be.

Forecasters also predict a much colder winter than in previous years.

David Wert, chief meteorologist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Blacksburg, Va., office, said that, "The NWS - National Weather Service - is calling for a colder winter than normal with precipitation at or slightly below normal."

Richard Dunn, webmaster for the Central Virginia Weather Station's website, agrees with the winter forecast, adding that "the general consensus that I have seen is that this winter will be colder than normal in this part of the country."

Dunn was quick to add that, "However, colder weather doesn't always translate into more snow. The long range forecasts that I have seen have been split between normal to above normal precipitation."



Several campus organizations host events marking 16th annual World AIDS Day on December 1st

BY KELLY JO LARSEN
STAFF WRITER

December 1, 2004, marked the 16th anniversary of World AIDS Day. Various campus groups marked the day the raising both money and awareness.

GayLaw handed out red ribbons and raised \$450 from law student and faculty for the AIDS/HIV Services Group of Charlottesville. GayLaw President, Tamara Graham, believes the event was a great success. She noted that they enjoy working

with a local group, such as the one in Charlottesville, because "we can emphasize that AIDS has touched all of our lives and isn't some mystery out there in the darkness."

On the undergraduate campus the Gay-Straight Alliance also hosted several events. They teamed with LIFE to sponsor free HIV testing in the Student Health Center. In a short two hour span, nine people were tested. The GSA and LIFE also brought a piece of the AIDS quilt to be hung in the John W. Elrod Commons. The twelve by twelve section, composed of panels representing people

who have died of AIDS, is just one of 5,683 pieces of the AIDS quilt.

The GSA also sponsored a showing of "Philadelphia," a movie starring Tom Hanks as a lawyer dying of AIDS.

Both GayLaw and the GSA thought it was increasingly important to celebrate World AIDS Day given the growing problem of AIDS across the world. Graham states, "AIDS affects our community so powerfully, and by our community, I mean our large community—not just the gays." She cites the Women's Law Student Organization and the

Black Law Student Association's support of the World AIDS Day as showing that all people can find a connection to AIDS that inspires them to help. GSA Treasurer Theresa Dougherty notes that "by increasing awareness and encouraging people to get tested, we can help prevent the spread of such a devastating disease."

UN health officials believe there are 39.4 million people world wide infected with the HIV virus and that number grows daily. Students can receive confidential AIDS testing in the Student Health Center.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004

THE RING-TUM PHI OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

Phi calls for safety

Washington and Lee University is no longer a safe place to drink. It's counterintuitive, but pumping up security patrols and using wristbands to identify legal drinkers creates a dangerous social atmosphere.

We are not making an argument for underage drinking. The law is the law and we can't argue with it.

Underage drinking in a college town, especially one as small as Lexington, is to be expected. Students are leaving home for the first time and testing and enjoying their freedom away from their parents. Drinking is simply the most exciting, and dangerous, privilege of adulthood.

Washington and Lee students are a smarter-than-average bunch, but that doesn't mean we all understand our limits with alcohol when we enter as freshmen. Part of growing up and creating your identity is making mistakes. The old Washington and Lee understood that, and did its best to ensure a safe environment for its students.

The Washington and Lee of today, in the same spirit, is trying to create a safe environment but may be making the situation worse. Enforcing the alcohol policy has already moved more parties into the country. Even with the best Traveller service money can buy, students will probably be tempted to drink and drive at ever-increasing rates.

When students were allowed to drink in fraternities, the dorms and most homes were within walking distance. Security patrolled through fraternity houses frequently enough to intervene in a bad situation or drive someone to the hospital.

In addition to the dangers presented by country parties, there is another, purely social, aspect. In the Washington and Lee of old, all students were welcome at all parties because parties were held in fraternities. Country parties are held in private homes, which will segregate the student body further into exclusive groups. Lost is the sense of community created through open parties.

Inevitably, Washington and Lee students will drink. Enforcing the alcohol policy will only make drinking more dangerous.

Alcohol, the White Book, and sober driving, oh my

This week I had so much on my mind that I'm going to be talking about three issues- first, I address some reactions to my sober driving piece. Then, I move on to the dismal fate of the "Withdrew Vs. Dismissed" White Book amendment that I and a hundred other students proposed. And finally, I talk about alcohol, for obvious reasons.

Sober Driving

Thanks to everyone who wrote in with comments and thoughts on my last article in the Phi, which detailed my recent sober driving misadventure. I got two major ideas from all of you. The first was that you really hate the Lexington Police Department. I'm not sure that they specifically target W&L students for minor infractions, as some of you assert, and I think that on the whole they do a very good job. I just wish they'd be a little more understanding of the problems/motives of sober drivers on campus. The second sentiment I got from your letters was regret that I, personally, was quitting my sober driving gig, and exhortations to keep fighting the good fight for the University and for my fellow students. I cannot thank you enough for your sympathy, but I really can't resume sober driving, at least not in the immediate future. I really can't afford even risking another ticket, in a simple financial sense. But I have much appreciation for you anyway.

Amendment to the White Book

I wrote an article a few weeks ago about the inherent unfairness of the current White Book policy of labeling a dismissed student's transcript either "withdrew" or "dismissed" based on whether the student left after a closed or open hearing, respectively. Many of you signed the petition that brought this matter, with the help of EC members Thomas Worthy and Wheeler Sparks, to the EC's attention.

I was both encouraged AND disappointed with the EC's response. There were actually two proposals, one that would have changed the wording to ALWAYS be "withdrew," and one that would have changed the wording to always be "dismissed." The "withdrew" proposal was voted down unanimously. The "dismissed" proposal was voted down 11-0, with two abstentions, Worthy and Sparks.

I was encouraged by the fact that the EC did not dismiss me outright, as I feared they might. There was a highly productive discussion, and in particular Craig Hensel, Marie Trimble, and Justin Arnold brought up some points that I had not considered. A lot of light was shed on the real pros and cons of switching the White Book over as a result. The EC has shown me that it is willing, at least, to give real thought to student opinion as to Honor System change.

I was disappointed, naturally, that the EC voted both measures down. Some members of the EC did not speak, ask questions, or really participate at all in the discussion, and at the end of the dialogue, they simply voted "nay" without comment. I had hoped for more than that.

And then, of course, there is the 2 ton elephant in the room, the fact that the EC has been unable or unwilling as of yet to enact any real Honor System reform. A few weeks ago they voted down what I thought was a very well-reasoned out and viable amendment from Ms. Kelly Jo Larsen, a senior, who argued that the partial definition of an Honor Violation as "lying, cheating, or stealing" amounted to codification, and that students are beginning only to classify actions as HVs by the standard of whether they are "lying, cheating, or stealing." She proposed that the EC remove the "lying, cheating, and stealing" phrase, arguing that students can define for themselves what is honorable or not, and that they were already of the opinion that lying, cheating, and stealing were dishonorable. The EC voted this down 8-4 (Worthy, Nunez, Duddy, and Stafford were the four dissenters), but I never really heard a persuasive argument against the amendment. Some felt that it was valid, but not important enough to act on (isn't ANYTHING related to the Honor System important enough to act on?) Others felt that the "no codification" rule and the "lying, cheating, stealing" standard balance each other out rather than contradict each other, something I find highly questionable.

The point is that the EC is beginning to appear generally opposed to change when it comes to the Honor System. This is crucial in a period when our concept of Honor must not become stagnant, lest it begin to resemble a set of rules or a simple code of conduct, as has happened at other schools with "Honor Systems." The White Book is not perfect, nor is it the unquestionable, final word when it comes to the Honor System. It can and should be changed in a significant way. The change I ask of the EC is not the destruction of the Honor System or of the Single Sanction. The request is only for fairness, and for a renewal of vitality, for fear that Honor at our University will otherwise drift slowly away into obsolescence.

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Alcohol

I have to tread carefully here. I'm not exactly a big fan of alcohol, in fact the only time I've ever had it was when I was three. In those days I would steal my mom's wine coolers with the studied precision and efficiency of the stealthiest of ninjas. Thus, feel free to call me on it if you think I say too much with too little experience.

Both of the bitter, bickering sides in this debate would do well to be honest with themselves. The administration should not kid itself by giving us the line that they are simply enforcing existing policy that was already on the books. Those policies have gone a long time without really being enforced, and the administration should know that an alteration of the kind they are arguing for WILL have a dramatic effect. I know that part of the University's reasoning, stated or not, is to escape from legal liability, should something tragic occur, and this is valid. If a freshman dies this weekend at a fraternity from alcohol poisoning, the school can

and will be successfully sued for millions. But the student argument that enforcement will push drinking off-campus where it cannot be controlled is also valid. The administration and the Board of Trustees can't pretend that off-campus drinking does not exist, and it should know and care about the fact that enforcement of the kind they are advocating will actually increase the risk of things like alcohol poisoning and DUI. They cannot simply wash their hands of the likely sicknesses and (perhaps) deaths that will occur as a result, increased Traveller funding or no. The University will have to sell a better solution than that.

On the other hand, the alcohol culture of W&L should not kid itself either. As I said before, the administration can't simply wash their hands of the likely danger of pushing drinking off-campus. But make no mistake- if drinking does go off-campus as a result of enforcement, and people start dying, the blame will rest squarely on our shoulders as students, and not on the administration's. It is a piece of propaganda wielded fearlessly by many that "heavy drinking will always happen on this campus no matter what," and while it may technically be true, it is not something to be quite that proud of. Some students remind me of the little kid who, being informed that he could not swim in the family's swimming pool by himself because his mom is afraid he'll drown, tells his mom that he'll go play by the train tracks instead, where mom can't supervise him. It's a threat of GREATER harm to oneself designed to draw a response out of fear (or concern for us) from the parent (or administration, in this case), and I find it childish and immature to a tiresome degree. We are not children. Freshmen to seniors, we have all demonstrated not only intellectual maturity, but superiority, in gaining admittance here. Thus, of course, the 21 year-old drinking age IS foolish and ought to be reduced to 18, and I think to some degree the students have a point that they ought to enjoy certain freedoms while here. But on the same hand, since we are mature, rational adults here, the administration has a point that we shouldn't throw about the threat of drinking off campus, thus sending innumerable student drunk-drivers into those bloody films that they show in driver's ed classes. That's intellectually AND morally bankrupt.

The issue is not as simple as either side would like to make it. If a solution that really works is to be found, it will take a lot of discussion and probably end up being a complicated and much-argued-over compromise. What will result in disaster is if the administration tries to railroad over the students, or if the students pack their bags and leave in a huff for Zollman's (or wherever). The administration should be willing to REALLY listen to the students and to implement a plan that is at least half-satisfactory to them. The students should try to understand where the University is coming from, and not try to make a claim to absolute freedom of action.

The sort of hostility and unwillingness to compromise that I'm seeing is not worth student deaths. As I said before, all the people at this University are rational, mature adults- students, faculty, staff, administrators, and trustees. I am confident that we have the brains to make a plan that works.

Quote of the Week

"Notre Dame is willing to do anything to be NCAA football's powerhouse again, including selling out their academic standards."

~ESPN Sportswriter Alan Grant

THE RING-TUM PHI

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Ups and Downs

Opinions Editor Caley Anderson gives you his take on what rose, what fell, and what stayed about the same this week at W&L and the world.

Ups and Downs - ↑ Before Colin Powell even resigned, of Condi Rice- "Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the next Secretary of State." Ah, the sweet, sweet taste of infallibility.

Beer - ↓ I guess brewers will just have to find some OTHER college to put their kids through, uh....college.

SVU - ↓ I feel creeped out by the ogling dude from Southern Virginia University and I'm a GUY.

Notre Dame - ↓ Let me play the bleeding heart liberal for a moment. Davie- gets his full term as a coach despite being horrible. Faust- gets his full term as a coach despite being horrible. Willingham- gets fired early despite doing better than either Faust or Davie because.....well, let's be honest, it's because he's black.

BCS - ↓ In more college sports, Auburn gets the short end of the stick.

NFL - ↑ San Diego....super Chargers, San Diego....CHAAAARGERS! Remember kids, the Chargers are the only team powered by DISCO.

NBA - ↓ Both fans and players are to blame. Solution- don't throw crap at players. Also, don't go INTO the stands to beat up fans.

Holidays - ↓ Apparently the season starts at Halloween now.

MLB - ↓ Bonds "didn't know" that the steroids, which he obtained from the steroid man at the steroid shop, were steroids. Sure, Barry. Sure. Last sports one, I swear....or not. What can I say, it's an interesting sports month.

Supreme Court ↑ They bob and weave, passing the law ball around looking for an opening until bam, they rush in and dunk it. This court is picking its battles well, and isn't being activist OR stodgy.

Plants in the Commons - ↔ Good lord. I thought they had gotten rid of the infernal Vietnam of plants that used to inhabit this building, but apparently the holidays are all about the wreaths.

VMI - ↑ Congrats to our Lexmates for taking down Virginia Tech the other night, both on the court and in a certain Phi editrix's heart. Way to go, Keydets. Ok, THAT'S the last sports one.

John McCain - ↑ Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the next Republican nominee for President of the United States. And if I'm wrong, hey, I'll be far away from W&L by the time it's proven.

Pixar - ↑ Every time I think they can't POSSIBLY make a movie better than THAT one, they do.

Caley's Fall Term Professors - ↑ Anagram of "Rush, Velasquez, DeLaney, and Machado" is "Ouch! He'll squeeze and rave a mad day!" The squeezing I get from all of them, the raving from one in particular.

Zen - ↔ Zen students used to work for years at menial tasks, driving their minds and bodies to the brink, until, in the midst of this exhaustion, some offhand remark by their teacher would enlighten them. Anyone else feel like that right now? I mean, I'm all about the enlightenment, it's just the menial labor that I don't care for.

Stop-in - ↑ Traveller adds a stop there, offering the opportunity to say "I'll stop at the stop in stop." Or, alternately, if you were going to try to PREVENT someone from stopping at the stop-in stop via telegram, you'd say "Stop! Don't stop at the stop-in stop stop."

Redundancy - ↑ Isn't it funny?

Redundancy - ↑ Isn't it funny?

Carissa's leftover thanks to give- why we should be happy at W&L and at home

Before Thanksgiving break, I could just imagine being snuggled into my own bed, watching the snow fall, listening to the fire popping and cracking in the fireplace, having a wonderful meal with friends and family, and putting up the Christmas tree.

I am usually a level-headed person, but the sentimentality of the holiday season always gets to me. My favorite day of the entire year is Christmas, and in my excitement and anticipation, I don't really give Thanksgiving its due. This year, things changed. I have so much to be thankful for that I really wanted to appreciate Thanksgiving as more than a stepping stone on the way to Christmas.

While the bad always comes with the good, I think we have a lot to be thankful for here at Washington and Lee. For many people I know, college was a struggle. They only had one choice of where to go and sometimes did not even have enough money to make it all the way through.

When I think about the struggles of adults who go back to school, students who have to work their way through college, and people who never got the opportunity to go at all, the first thing that I am thankful for is that I am here.

Everyone knows the party scene here, but our parents would be quick to remind us that they sent us here for academics. While some people might consider the academics as being just a small part of the education they are receiving, I don't think that we could ask for any better. I hate taking general education requirements and think that physical education classes should be electives, or at least worth credit, but our classes are made bearable by our wonderful professors.

Not all teaching styles mesh with learning styles, but there have been several classes that I passed only because of devoted professors who have spent endless hours babying me through every step of the material. There have been professors who stayed late and came in early just to fit into my busy schedule.

Even though I sometimes leave office hours frustrated, I always leave knowing more than I did when I walked in. I feel like I really know a lot of my professors. I'm interested in their families and who they are. When your professor invites you to have dinner at his house with his family, you

know you are very lucky to be at such a special place.

Speaking of great, accessible professors, each of us has at least one supporting us at every turn. They are our advisors; pushing us to do better, recommending classes, and keeping us on track. We are at a point in our life where we have a lot of pressure to decide what we want to be. No longer do we get to dream and fantasize about what we want to be when we grow up. Now we have to decide.

My mom always said that every decision can be undone, but we're tightly weaving the tapestry of our lives, and nothing can be completely undone and erased from our memory. Everything we do will either set us forward or backward, but we can't stay the same, just as experiences won't let us return to one point in our past. During this important time, our advisors can take our dreams and turn them into the reality that we will live for the rest of our lives. Even though a lot of people can plan the course of their college careers, our advisors are our safety nets and I am thankful that there is always someone here, watching out for me.

The last thing that I want to mention is the environment in general. I'm thankful for small classes, intimate discussions, the speaking tradition, and most of all, the honor system. The honor system allows professors, administrators, faculty, and students

to place faith and trust in one another—the same qualities that we celebrate during the holiday season.

So as you are in the midst of the holiday season, remember that both Christmas and Thanksgiving remind us to count our blessings. I don't know anyone who is more likely to get distracted by family, friends, presents, going to movies, hanging out with high school buddies, and just being sidetracked in general than me so I know it's a challenge to appreciate this season for whatever it might mean to you.

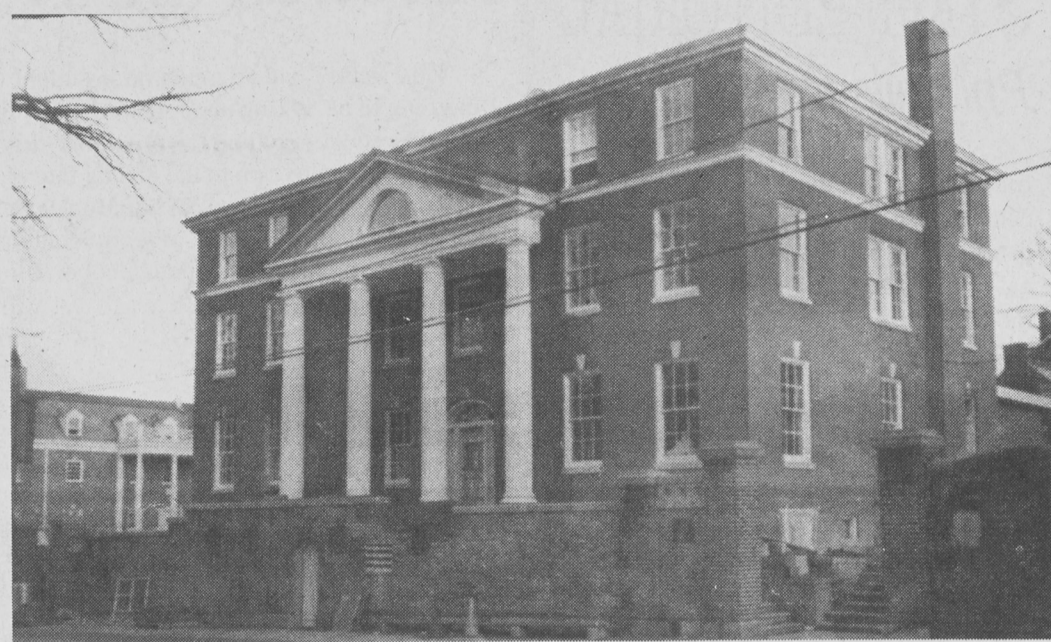
But during a time of finals, projects, essays, and stress, just thinking about the wonderful things we have and saying thank you or Merry Christmas to the people who make it easier for you to deal with these things all year long can put things into perspective and add to the joy of the holidays.



IN THE IRONS
CARISSA SHIPLEY '07

So as you are in the midst of the holiday season, remember that both Christmas and Thanksgiving remind us to count our blessings.

You gotta fight for your right



FILE PHOTO
PARTAY. Every fraternity, and W&L's unique social scene, are threatened by the new enforcement policy.

Usually, I try to be original. When everyone else wrote about the election, I wrote about my lab top. (By the way, I love my new mac!) But this week, I must follow the pack. So, if you are sick of reading about the new drinking rules (which you shouldn't be, since you faithfully read my article first, right?) I must warn you.

What follows is a full-out bitch session. And I am about to use my position in the public eye to further my own goals. But since you are a W and L student or someone close to one, I bet we share some of the same interests. I am willing to venture that partying is something near and dear to your heart, too. (I know that it is a sin for us to have interests outside of the classroom, but sorry, it can't be helped.)

Apparently, I picked the wrong year to transfer. The school I love... Wait, the school I loved, is morphing into every other small liberal arts college in the nation. No more drinking in the fraternity houses? I hate to be the grim reaper, but social life here at Washington and Lee is dead folks. Dead.

No. I am not being over dramatic. It's all down hill from here folks. Don't believe me? Think that off-campus parties can keep the social scene alive? I don't want to burst your bubble, but trust me on this: unless we do something to stop the "fun police" our way of life will come to an end. It's sad but true. Dickinson, a long time ago, was once much like Washington and Lee. But its good days were over long before my arrival. As one of my former classmates was quoted on www.princetonreview.com: "We still hear about 'Drinkinson' but we're all wondering where the hell it went."

And where the hell did it go? (I'm not sure if I'm allowed to swear in a school newspaper. Well, *%&^ that. I'm on a tangent.) "Drinkinson" died the day the administration outlawed drinking in the Greek houses. Some less educated students remain oblivious to what they are missing out on. One of my ex-classmates even told the Princeton Review that, "the students at Dickinson are smart as hell and love to party like rock

stars." Haha. Yeah right. Only if "rock stars" sit around in their rooms doing shots of Stolli's before they hit the streets. Campus security at Dickinson forced us to be closet drinkers. I don't want to be a closet drinker. I have good Irish genes, and I'm damn proud of them.

I don't need alcohol to have fun. But, you and I both know that it has some amazing and welcomed side effects. Some people drink so they feel more confident. Others drink to forget their problems. I drink because somewhere in between Natty Light number 2 and 3, I get the idea that I can dance. I wasn't blessed with rhythm. I can't clap a beat, and I am horrible at scansion—the reason I'm not an English major. But after a drink or two, when Eminem comes on the radio, I decide that I am the next white rapper to hit the scene. It doesn't matter how much I slur. The important thing is that I know all the words—even if they come out in the wrong order. Band parties and dj parties just don't hold the same allure when everyone shows up stone-cold sober. But maybe that's just my opinion.

So for the sake of SnackBar Jones and the Pi Phi djs, I am making a proposition. Drunk dial an alum. (OK. Maybe you should be sober for that.) Let the administration know how much we hate these new policies. Do it peacefully, and do it respectfully. But do it. Complaining to each other won't get anything done. And maybe complaining to the board won't either. But there are a lot of people out there who have fond memories of the good ol' days. And they do have pull.

We must band together. To paraphrase Bill Pullman's inspiring speech from one of my favorite movies, Independence Day, "We can't be consumed by our petty differences anymore. We will be united in our common interests... We are fighting for our right to [drink]. We will not go quietly into the night! We will not vanish without a fight!"



DICKINSON TRANSPLANT
KRISTINE EARLY '07

Letters to the Editor

Cross Country runner criticizes sports coverage

Dear Editor,

I have seen my share of laziness and disrespect for the subject that is being reported on any given day in the media, but as a member of the crosscountry team and out of concern for any future in journalism you may have, I felt it was necessary to point out the exceptionally egregious errors in your article on cross country in this week's Phi.

As a matter of fact, you waste no time in showing that you have made no effort whatsoever to investigate the progress and success of the cross country team when your headline says "Johnson, Erickson prepare to go to nationals later in year in Wisconsin".

Later in the year as in December? Maybe over Winter Break, or on New Years Eve? You were ob-

viously too lazy to even be lazy enough to just assume that they are running at Nationals this Saturday.

At least you made the effort to look in the media guide to quote our Coach saying we "absolutely" had a chance at competing for the ODAC title, but didn't take literally five more minutes to peruse it, saying one sentence later that Nathan Johnson "recently recovered from an injured first two years."

Unless attending William & Mary inflicted some unknown mental or physical pain on Nathan, I'm pretty sure he transferred here and didn't run his first two seasons of crosscountry, and that it was in fact AJ that was injured.

Well, maybe you got bogged down in the inextricable complexity and confusion of the 2004 W & L crosscountry media guide, and overlooked that

Nathan and AJ, although they have the same last name, are in fact two different people!

That's only the first paragraph of your article though. You start your second one with "Coach Kris Hoey of the women's team had similar goals for her women's team."

At least this is just repetitive and stupid sounding, and not a blatant lie, you just sound like Brick from Anchorman. The next sentence, you say that the girls, determined to have a successful season, "put in several miles of training over the summer." What is several miles? Maybe 7, 8, 10 miles the whole summer?

The cross country race itself is several miles! Actually, I think you're right, I think everybody that runs cross country just throws in a hundred meter sprint everyday and calls it a day.

The next paragraph is even worse. You call Lindsay Erickson, Jessica

Buckingham, and Kelly Zwart sophomores.

The best part is you are not even consistently wrong. Three paragraphs later you note that freshman Lindsay Erickson claimed a first place finish at ODACs! However, your fourth paragraph is fine.

Good job, you reported successfully that both teams went to Harrisonburg and won the ODAC title. You even note in other paragraphs that our coaches received ODAC coach of the year awards and that

Nathan Johnson won several awards. I applaud you! Soon though, you lose either focus or interest again, fabricating that ODAC Conference champions automatically get a berth to the regional meet.

A minor mistake, one that could have been avoided by actually asking any cross country team member, but the fact is, anybody who wants to can go to the regional meet.

Roanoke, Lynchburg, Virginia Wesleyan, and EMU were all at Regionals.

Well, other than that, you just had a few awkward phrases here and there that further show you neither know nor care about, but most likely both, the sport of cross country. I look forward to reading future sport articles that you actually take interest in, and comparing them to the complete travesty of an article you put out.

I'll end by quoting Billy Madison: At no point in your rambling, incoherent response were you even close to anything that could be considered a rational thought. Everyone in this room is now dumber for having listened to it. I award you no points, and may God have mercy on your soul.

Your faithful Ring-Tun Phi reader,

Alex Mahoney

East Asian Languages notes difference from East Asian Studies

Dear Phi Editor:

The Ring-Tum Phi November 15 edition carried an article entitled "International Education Week: Groups to stress international education," by Chris Lauderman. In the penultimate paragraph there is a listing of the groups associated with the two-week event, and among them is listed "the Department of East Asian Studies."

This is incorrect. There is no Department of East Asian Studies. We are the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL), and the co-sponsors of this program. East Asian Studies is a program, not a department, and they did not co-sponsor the event. There is frequent confusion on campus between our Department and the EAS Program, and we would appreciate your assistance in helping the EALL Department to be correctly recognized.

-EALL Dept.

Phi Quick Poll

"Do you think that sexual assault is a serious problem on this campus?"

105 students polled, 54 male, 51 female. Poll has 97% confidence in a +/- 5% margin of error

Male

Yes 33%
No 67%

Female

Yes 84%
No 16%



Students must take responsibility for current underage drinking problems

College students like to drink even though it's unlawful for about half of us to do it. Because no amount of complaining, ranting or raving is going to reverse the University's obligation to operate within the bounds of Virginia law, we should focus our attention elsewhere.

Any reasonable person also knows that college students are going to seek a buzz no matter how difficult it is to come by. If the University does not allow underage students to drink on campus, we'll flock off. The responsibility to party safely that we once shared with the University is now entirely our own.

Instead of demanding that the University has to take care of us, why not do it ourselves? Why not show that we are responsible adults?

We all know that partying off-campus certainly has the potential to create dangerous situations. Does it have to, though? Instead, off-campus parties could provide the opportunity for us to show how responsible we are. We can create a safety net of our own. We don't need the University looking over our shoulders.

Drinking away from the University does not necessarily have to be inherently more dangerous than imbibing in a fraternity house.

The responsibility for ensuring a safe-drinking environment has now been placed squarely on our shoulders.

Instead of forcing Security to monitor us, it's time for us to begin taking on that role for each other. Instead of fighting it, let's rise to the occasion. Let's show the University community what we're made of.

There are a number of practical things that can be done to ensure safe off-campus parties. If you see a classmate in need of help, get it.

If someone needs a ride and you are sober, offer it. Plan for yourself and don't drink more than you can handle.

Stay with friends and watch out for each other. If you are throwing a party, make sure you have plenty of water and food for your guests who might need it.

Make sure you have sober drivers available to people who may need a ride.

Follow the same rules for an off-campus party that you would for an on-campus one.

Because we live in a community of trust, we ought to take advantage of that fact. Let's do it by showing trust in one another.

On a related note, as student coordinator of the Traveller Program, I can provide you with contact information for the company that operates the Traveller Express buses.

They will be happy to work with you to offer transportation to your guests above and beyond Traveller's capabilities. Just shoot me an email (brooks@wlu.edu) before your next off-campus event and I'll send you a phone number. You don't even have to invite me!

In short, we are intelligent, capable young adults. We ought to be willing to take on this responsibility. Now is the time for us to begin watching out for each other and to ensure that when we drink, we do it in a responsible, adult way. When we graduate into the dreaded Real World, we'll have to do all of this on our own. Why not show them that we can handle it now?



CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
JEB BROOKS '05

University's new alcohol enforcement makes assault likely



photo courtesy of ilacanada.com

FOREBODING. Country places like this might cause the University's ladies to party in fear.

As a woman, I object to the enforcement of the alcohol policy. Sexual assault is the most egregious problem on our campus, and that crisis is being disregarded in the crackdown on drinking. And no, enforcing the alcohol policy will not alleviate the sexual assault problem on this campus. If anything, women I talk to believe that the enforcement will create a more dangerous atmosphere for women. Enforcing the alcohol policy changes the face of the W&L party scene for the worst.

We have already seen the effects of enforcement: drinking was pushed off campus over the weekend, people pre-partied hard before going out and snuck alcohol into parties. People have shared many criticisms of the alcohol policy enforcement, ranging from the mundane to the grim.

Some complained that the cocktail parties held in off-campus houses just aren't as genteel as one would expect a Washington and Lee function to be. When I entered this school as a freshman, the mission of Washington and Lee seemed to be creating ladies and gentlemen capable of thinking, working and socializing in the real world. My parents remember a speech in Lee Chapel in which administrators emphasized responsible drinking. That attitude is no more.

Others complained that they got drunker than they meant to, because they shot liquor in secret rather than drinking moderately in public. Still other women have mentioned that they fear a rise in the use of date-rape drugs. This is a sound fear. In the past, fraternity presidents have held the liability for what occurs in the house and thus, did their best to ensure safety. No one will hold such liability at a country party.

Additionally, instead of the cans

handed across the bar in a frat basement, people predict the rise of kegs and grain in the country. This means an increase in the use of open containers, which my mother has been cautioning me against since high school. Who knows when something could be slipped into a frat cup full of beer? Kegs and grain are also dangerous because one does not necessarily know what goes into them. Drugs could be dropped in, or there could be confusion over the strength of the alcohol-is it vodka? Is it everclear? The difference is huge.

Off-campus debauchery is not responsible, but it is the logical result of the new enforcement. I do not like country parties; in my time at Washington and Lee, I have been to about three. Fraternity houses have always felt like a much safer environment to me. Maybe it's the security guards one occasionally sees in any frat basement. Maybe it's the massive number of people in a given party; safety in numbers. Maybe it's just the comfort of knowing that I can walk myself home at any given moment. Would a country party have any of these advantages? No.

For the past two-and-a-half years, I have always had choices about where I wanted to socialize on the weekends and frat basements have always won out over private parties in country homes. Enforcing the alcohol policy changes the face of the W&L party scene for the worst, and frankly, it scares me.

I'm envisioning young women trapped in country homes. Off-campus homes are a more intimate environment, so it is much more likely that a man will feel entitled, and a woman will feel obligated. Traveller only runs until two, it's not unrealistic to believe that people will be unable to get rides home. Most fraternity men are up-standing people, but sexual assault occurs on this campus now and country parties provide even more opportunity for assault.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ERIN JULIUS '06

Term "pro-choice" clarified, education about sex encouraged

In American politics there are certain topics that often polarize people, even those who may share similar political ideology. One of these topics is abortion. I identify myself as "Pro-Choice" and I hope that after reading this, my reasoning behind believing that way will be clear.

In talking about abortion with others I have often found that they believe Pro-Choice to mean Pro-Abortion. I personally disagree with the word Pro-Abortion because of what the name implies. It seems to suggest being "for" abortion in the sense that I go around trying to convince women to have abortions. This is certainly not the case.

In my opinion abortions should only be performed under three circumstances: the health of the mother is at risk, the child would be born disfigured or with any unnatural deformity, or the pregnancy was a result of rape or incest. With those views on abortion I can not call myself "Pro-Life" because I do not believe in protesting in front of abortion clinics and threatening those who have abortions with eternal damnation.

Of course not all people who identify as being Pro-Life engage in those practices it seems to be common in Pro-Life lobbyists. And while I personally know women that have had abortions that did not fit into any of the previously mentioned circumstances, I still believe that a woman has the right to determine whether she carries her child to full term or not as it is

her body.

I am also very strongly opposed to making abortion illegal. While I think that all abortions should take place within the first trimester, making all abortions illegal is not practical. Just because something is made illegal does not mean that people will not indulge in that activity. This also applies to abortion, by making it illegal women who see abortion as the only

option will resort to unhealthy, harmful, and potentially fatal methods. Essentially by making abortion illegal a black market for abortion will be created. And with the resent verdict of Scott Peterson, who was found guilty of second degree murder for his unborn son, I can foresee a possibility of Roe vs. Wade being overturned because people view the crime Peterson committed as being so heinous.

If people identify themselves as Pro-Life and want to help reduce the number of abortions the best way is to emphasize abstinence as well as the use of contraceptives and prophylactics among teens. By reinforcing these methods both at home and at school, which is where teens spend most of their day, will help increase the amount of awareness they have in regards to sexual activity and its possible results and will help decrease the number of abortions performed each year. And although I would prefer that women not have abortions, some of them will, and it is a choice for them to make.



REFLECTIONS
MARCAS BANKS '07

...by making it illegal women who see abortion as the only option will resort to unhealthy, harmful, and potentially fatal methods

Good Luck with exams!

Have a safe and happy holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

The Ring-tum Phi's next edition will come out January 10, 2005.

This Week in Sports

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Women's Basketball vs. EMU -- 7:00	Men's Basketball vs. Guilford -- 7:00	Women's Basketball vs. Guilford -- 7:00			Women's Basketball vs. VWC -- 2:00 Men's Basketball vs. Piedmont -- 8:00

THIS PAST WEEK'S SPORTS IN BRIEF...

W&L Women's Basketball Falls to Randolph-Macon, 69-56 (12/4)

Junior guard Megan Silva scored 29 points to lead 23rd-ranked Randolph-Macon to a 69-56 win over Washington and Lee in ODAC women's basketball action on Saturday afternoon in Ashland, Va.

W&L Women's Swimming Wins Randolph-Macon Invitational (12/4)

The Washington and Lee women's swimming team claimed the Randolph-Macon Invitational on Saturday afternoon by finishing first of eight teams. The W&L men, sporting a limited crew, finished second of four teams.

W&L Men's Swimming Second After Day Two of F&M Invitational (12/4)

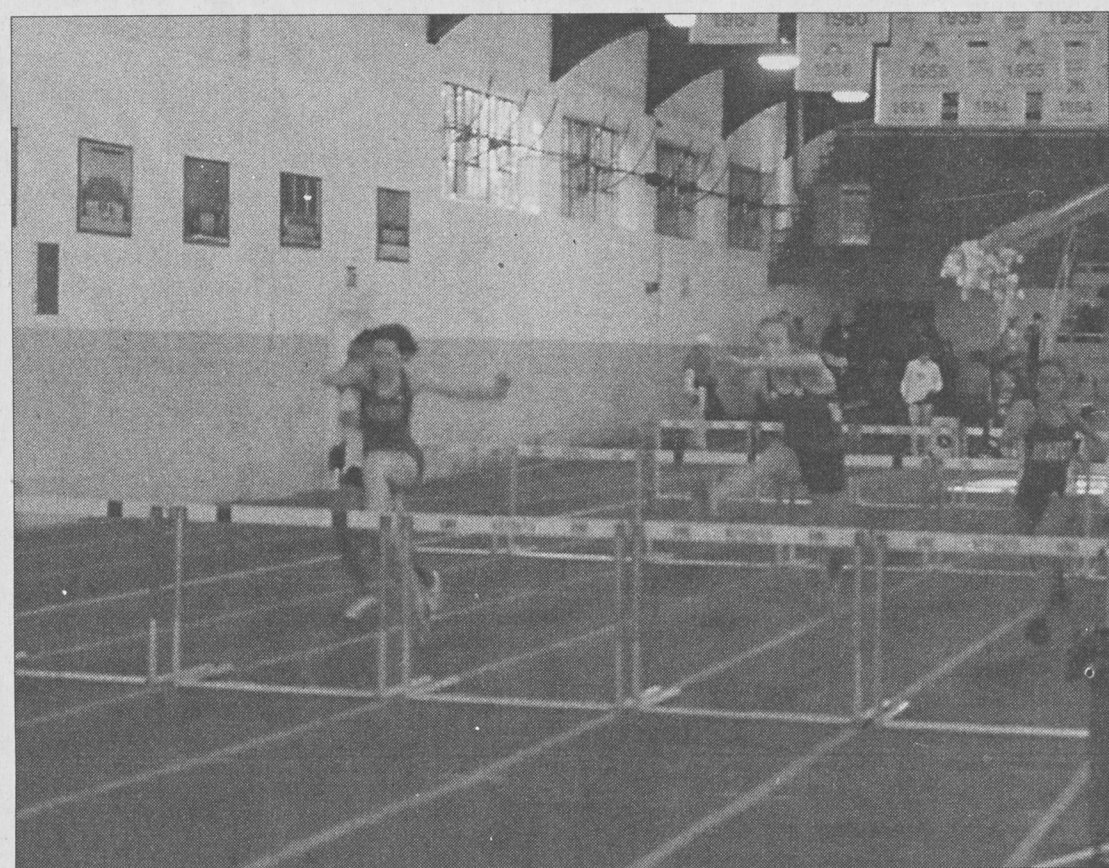
The Washington and Lee men's swimming team currently resides in second place out of eight teams following the second day of the three-day Franklin & Marshall Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

W&L Wrestling Competes at Scranton Invitational (12/5)

The Washington and Lee wrestling team was in action on Sunday afternoon, competing in the Scranton University Invitational. No team scoring was recorded.

W&L Men's Basketball Falls to Virginia Wesleyan, 98-61 (12/5)

Virginia Wesleyan shot 68.8 percent (22-32) in the first half en route to a 57-23 halftime advantage in defeating Washington and Lee, 98-61, in ODAC men's basketball action on Sunday afternoon.



CORBIN BLACKFORD / RING-TUM PHI

JUMP THAT HURDLE. Indoor track, a not so well known sport at W&L, has started. Go support the indoor track team as they jump hurdles and perform other feats indoors.

Intimate U
FINE LINGERIE

*Brands You Know
and a Whole Lot More!*

Felina
Hanky Panky
Cosabella
Le Mystere
Arianne
Honeydew

21 W. Nelson St.
463-6963
Mon - Fri 10-5:30
Sat 10-5

"semper ubi sub ubi"

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Team loses grasp of victory in second half

W&L SPORTS RELEASE

Washington and Lee held an eight-point second half lead but could not hold on, as the Generals dropped a 63-58 decision at Randolph-Macon in ODAC men's basketball action on Saturday afternoon.

The Generals (0-7, 0-2) led by as many as 10 points (24-14) in the first half and claimed a 36-32 halftime edge. The lead pushed back to eight points at 43-35 with 16:46 remaining, but the Yellow Jackets chipped away until claiming the lead for good with at 55-53 with 7:33 remaining in the game.

W&L shot just 8-for-26 (.308) from the floor in the second half, while R-MC shot 12-of-23 (.522) in the second stanza. W&L was paced by senior

guard Mike Stuart (Warrenton, Va./Fauquier) and sophomore guard Chris Halkitis (New Port Richey, Fla./Ridgewood), who scored 16 points each.

Freshman forward Greg Bienemann (Chatham, N.J./Chatham) notched 10 points, and freshman forward Colton Braud (Houston, Texas/James Taylor) added seven points, five rebounds and five assists.

Randolph-Macon (2-2, 2-0) was led by junior forward Justin Wansley's 24-point, 15-rebound effort. Sophomore forward Philip Hawley added 12 points.

Washington and Lee returns to action on Sunday as it travels to Virginia Wesleyan for a 2:00 pm contest.

Emily Hulen / Ring-Tum Phi

A game to remember

Of all the recent sports events, nothing tops the brawl

BY RYAN GRITTER
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

Well, Thanksgiving break certainly had quite a bit to keep us sports fans interested, not the least of which was the fight between the Pacers and Detroit fans. I had come home from a night out to be greeted by the sight of stupid fans getting punched in the face....over and over again. I had to watch 6 times before I was able to go to bed.

I don't know about anyone else, but I've always been curious to see these guys fight, I mean they're like 6'6" and completely jacked....it was a dream come true to see them in combat.

Though on that note I must say I was rather disappointed in their fighting abilities. Jackson landed a nice shot on that random fan, I'll give him that, but Jermaine O'Neal was slipped and fell as he punched some fan on the court. He looked so lanky and goofy slipping and falling like that.

Then Artest was not able to live up to his words and a mouth like that you know he's been in plenty of fights in the past. I liked when he palms the first guys face and slams in down, but after that it was all downhill....nothing but pushing and grabbing.

Then when that chubby little bastard comes up to him on court he misses twice! What the crap!!!! The guy didn't even go down...thoroughly disappointed.

Also, in the stands, some little point guard (I couldn't catch who it was) gets beaten down so

quickly that I had to include the previous parenthetical. Seriously, some enormous black guy just beats the crap out of him with no trouble at all, and the player had to be at least 6'2" and ripped.

While we're on this topic, let

"I don't know about anyone else, but I've always been curious to see these guys fight, I mean they're like 6'6" and completely jacked....it was a dream come true to see them in combat."

RYAN GRITTER

Then the next few days after they quickly switched to viewing all the players involved as criminals. Watch that one fan open a fresh Mountain Dew and pour it directly onto Jermaine O'Neal's face and tell me who the criminals were in this situation.

So enough about basketball, let's move on to baseball. For all of you who doubted whether or not Bonds used/uses steroids, let me give you an update here, a checklist of sorts. 1) Balco Industries has now been confirmed as providing steroids 2) Sheffield has come forward and admitted that Bonds gave him steroids, and 3) Giambi has admitted to steroid use, and that he got the steroids from Bonds' weight trainer. Coincidence? Please.

Finally, the sport that usually gets the most attention on Thanksgiving probably deserved the least. What was the deal with the football match ups this year? The first game was kind of entertaining as we could watch Peyton tear the Lions up, but he was out early in the third quarter, and the rest of the game was worthless.

Then the next game, Bears vs. Boys, by far the worst offensive game I've ever watched. No offense equals no interest, take a lesson from baseball on that one.

Yet, despite footballs' holiday disappointments, nothing could bring us down from the incredible fight, which was joined by more cool fights in college and pro football, as well as plenty of shows based on fights... which are always good.

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*7:30am to midnight- Thursday 16th

*7:30am to 4:00pm- Friday 17th

*7:30am to 2:00pm- Monday 20th-Wednesday 22nd

*closed Thursday 23rd until Sunday Jan. 2nd at 5:00pm

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LAW SCHOOL BRIEF STOP

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Monday December 13th

Merry Christmas from the Phi

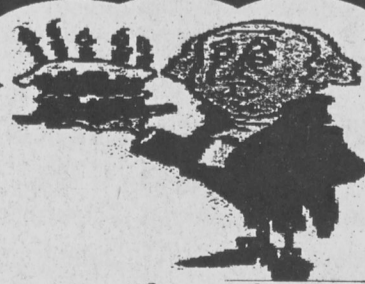
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Lexington offers unique holiday gifts

BY LEAH KERSHAW
STAFF WRITER

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Lexington shops offer unique presents with a personal touch.

For a small college town, Lexington shops offer gifts to fit any student's budget.

Pumpkin Seeds, a boutique featuring women's clothing, accessories, upscale toiletries, and hostess gifts, has much to offer the holiday shopper. Whimsical Christmas ornaments, festive jewelry, and stocking stuffers are sure to please the women in anyone's life.

Molly Gilbride, an upscale women's shoe store, has a great selection of well-known brands including Lulu Guinness and Cynthia Rowley. Molly Gilbride also sells Tarina Taratino jewelry, which was recently featured in *In Style* magazine.

Siobhan Gilbride, the owner of Molly Gilbride and Pumpkin Seeds, said that this funky jewelry, made of Lucite, is a popular item this year.

If you are in search of the perfect hostess gift or stocking stuffers, Fun Food's and Accessories is the place to go. Victoria Pannell, the owner of Fun Food's and Accessories, has appointed her store the "stocking stuffer capital of Lexington." Fun Food's and

Accessories features a variety of fun gifts for the holiday season including a chocolate toilet seat and ant candy. Fun Food's and Accessories is "truly a place to go that you can find something for everyone, animals included" says Pannell.

Pappagallo, another women's clothing store in town, has seen over 27 Christmas seasons in Lexington. If you are looking for help picking out the perfect gift, Susie Crawford, the owner of Pappagallo, is more than willing to help.

Crawford has been in the women's clothing business since August of 1977 when she opened Pappagallo.

Vera Bradley products, affordable jewelry and tons of Free People clothing are among some of the gift ideas that can be found at Pappagallo. Crawford also offers gift certificates and free gift wrapping.

Virginia Born and Bred features Virginia products. Over 80% of the items sold in Virginia Born and Bred are produced by Virginia manufacturers. This shop offers fine gift items and specialty gift baskets which can be shipped anywhere.

Virginia Born and Bred sells silver plated utensils, funky glass colored beads wrapped in wire, which are handmade in Glen Allen, VA. Hilary DeHaan '05 bought some of the uten-



ETHAN JAMESON / The Ring-Tum Phi

O LITTLE TOWN OF LEXINGTON. Still looking for Christmas gifts for friends and family? Downtown Lexington offers many options for the discerning shopper in all of us.

sils for her mom for Christmas. Her mother "likes them because they're classy with a funky edge" said DeHaan.

Artists in Cahoots, the local artists co-op, has tons of unique gift ideas including jewelry and beautiful Christmas ornaments. Sylvan Spirit, one of the jewelry lines offered in the co-op, is sold in over one hundred shops around the world.

Maureen Worth, one the two jewelry designers for the line, said Sylvan Spirit is making special holiday jewelry for the season. The holiday line will include Holly and Poinsettia jewelry made of clay, silver and bronze. Worth is willing to custom design necklaces and earrings to fit any budget. Custom jewelry is completed in three to five days.

Michael Viviano '07 ordered a custom made necklace for his mother. He was pleased with the necklace and said that it turned out beautifully. "Since I'm from a big city, I don't tend to see as much localized type stuff like Sylvan Spirit, so it was a nice change from what I'd normally buy as a gift," said Viviano.

Lexington boutiques offer W&L students great gift ideas with a local twist.

For a small college town, Lexington shops offer gifts to fit any student's budget.

W&L Bookstore Presents...
Student Book of the Week
A weekly feature of the Bookstore and the Ring-Tum Phi

This week:



This hilarious holiday book is full of Jeff Foxworthy's trademark humor. Includes the Redneck Twelve Days of Christmas, "The Night After Christmas," and dozens of holiday-themed "You Might Be A Redneck E..." jokes, including:

- You might be a Redneck if...
 - The plastic deer in your yard at Christmas double as practice targets.
 - Santa Claus refuses to let your kids sit in his lap.
 - Even your snowman has a beer gut.
 - Christmas dinner was too slow crossing the road on Christmas Eve.

Hilariously illustrated, this book contains a bonus CD of Jeff Foxworthy's Redneck 12 Days of Christmas. Makes the perfect gift for your favorite redneck friend or relative.

Regular price: \$14.99
Book of the Week Price: \$12.50



Alternative Christmas carols you ought to learn

BY EMILY EDWARDS
ARTS&LIFE EDITOR

Many an odd thing has occurred on our campus over the past couple of weeks. Something tells me our beloved Dubyuhnell is changing... and in some cases, not for the better.

So this is the last *Phi* before Christmas break. And in the Christmas spirit, I have "written" a few carols for all on campus to appreciate.

I offer my sincerest apologies to the original writers of these timeless, traditional melodies.

Go Tell it on House Mountain
tune: *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

While Fratlords kept their watching,
O'er quiet basements by night,
Behold throughout Red Square,
There shone an evil light.

Chorus:
Go tell it on House Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on House Mountain
That Burish comes to rule.

The Fratlords feared and trembled
as wristbands arrived in tow.
Twenty-one and over,
or drinking's a big "no-no!"

(chorus)

Down on the Colonnade,
this ruling came to be.
Trustees sent out the letters,
hands tied by ABC.

(chorus)

What Grade is This?
tune: *What Child is This?*

What grade is this that faces me,
in classes I am failing?
While Harvard, Dartmouth and Princeton
inflate their grades for rankings.
This! This is infamy!
I study hard but get a B.
Brown! Yale! They work much less,
and get an A with no stress.

Good Freshmen Men Rejoice
tune: *Good Christian Men Rejoice*

Good freshmen men rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice.
Give ye heed to what I say,
RUSH! RUSH!
Pledgship will come your way:
To Upperclassmen you will bow,
So enjoy your life right now.
You will hate your life!
You will hate your life!

Good Freshmen men rejoice
With heart and soul and voice.
Now your life is endless bliss,
RUSH! RUSH!
You came for Dubyuhnell for this.
Frats will open up their doors,
And you'll be blessed for evermore.
Eight weeks you must endure!
Eight weeks you must endure!

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

www.alphaphialpha.net

Why Alpha at WLU?

Fraternity Mission Statement

The objective of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is to stimulate the ambition of its members; to prepare them for the greatest usefulness in the causes of humanity, freedom and dignity of the individual; to encourage the highest and noblest form of manhood; and to aid down-trodden humanity in its efforts to achieve higher social, economic and intellectual status.

Where Alpha Phi Alpha Can Be Found

Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans, was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong of Brotherhood between African descendents in this country. The visionary founders, known as the "Jewels" of the Fraternity, are: Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle and Vertner Woodson Tandy.

Alpha Phi Alpha was founded with one thing in mind: scholarship. An Alpha man is first a college man, and his greatest boast is scholastic excellence in his chosen field of endeavor.

The Fraternity has grown from seven men in 1906 to over 175,000 men today. Times have changed and Alpha Phi Alpha has kept abreast with the times, but one thing that Alpha Phi Alpha has never relinquished is scholarship. Proven scholastic attainment has always been a requirement of initiation in the fraternity. As an Alpha man, you will be required to uphold this transition of scholastic excellence throughout your life.

Alpha Phi Alpha is represented on the campus of leading universities and colleges throughout the United States, Africa, Europe, the West Indies and Asia (Korea & Japan). There are more than three hundred fifty college chapters to be found on the same number of university campuses that have been accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency. The fraternity has been interracial since 1945.

Membership Requirements

Proof of Enrollment Transcript – minimum GPA of 2.5
Essay Biographical Sketch/Resume
Proof of Voter Registration
Three letters of Recommendation
Application and Membership Fee

Why Become an Alpha at WLU?

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. representation on the Washington and Lee University campus would provide opportunities for African-American students and others to seek membership in one of the historically Black Greek letter organization. Our primary focus is community service and to provide a link to the WLU campus and the Lexington community of issues and concerns the African-American community and other people of color.

The most remarkable leadership in the African-American community in the 21st century has without question come from the ranks of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. The fraternity has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of the African-Americans and people of color around the world. This is your first step toward joining the ranks of hundreds of thousands of great men whose interest lay outside themselves. **Be a part of the group of men to accept the challenge of becoming the first members of the fraternity since 1991 at WLU. If qualified, are you up to the challenge?**

To learn more about becoming a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., please feel free to contact Mr. Sean L. Bates (Advisor) at Batessl@vcu.edu or at 804 519-5176.

“War of the Worlds” stirs up excitement in Lexington

BY ELYSE MOODY
STAFF WRITER

People all over the country have been reading about the shooting of the Steven Spielberg film “War of the Worlds” here in Rockbridge County. Filming begins December 13 and 14 for military scenes and will continue through December 16 with scenes of civilians.

Actor Tim Robbins is rumored to be in town for the shoot; some say he was spotted at Dairy Queen on Friday. When co-star Tom Cruise and Spielberg were in Lex scouting out locations, they also dropped by DQ. What is it about that place? I don’t know, but if you are looking to get an autograph, it seems like the place to be.

I decided to get a closer look at the process and attended the open casting call at Rockbridge County High School. Apparently, they are looking for about 500 extras: 11 children, a bunch of women and military types, and a handful of men.

The casting call was held from 8 AM until 4 PM on Saturday, but I decided to get there a *little* early to take advantage of every possible opportunity to meet someone exciting or to be “discovered”—as it were. Here’s a rundown of exactly what happens at these crazy events, at least in my experience:

4:00 AM—Shower and getting ready for my close up. That’s right, most people were probably getting HOME around now. You have to sacrifice for stardom, my friends.

4:30 AM—Leave Woods Creek Apartments for the parking garage, approximately 26 degrees Fahrenheit.

4:35 AM—Return to Woods Creek, as I forgot my resume and non-returnable, close-up photograph. Back to the car, and we’re off. Yes, and it’s still freezing.

4:45 AM—Cruise through the Rockbridge County High School Gym, where the casting call is taking place. Yes, some people did in fact *camp out* in order to be the first ones in the door. I see their Crazy Creeks—they definitely camped out at the high school.

A group of about 30 people shivers in the cold, wearing about a dozen layers, including blankets and sleeping bags. Other people make their spouses wait in line while they sit in their cars. That’s devotion to science fiction.

5:00 AM—Waffle House. A fantastic place to be at 5 in the morning. Lots of coffee, and hash browns scattered all the way. Just in case this event lasts all day, it seems like a good

idea to have an enormous breakfast. If you’ve never been there this early, it’s an interesting experience—I highly recommend it.

5:45 AM—Back to the Gym. The crowd has grown to about 100 people, and Sonia Siu and I fearlessly join the line. It’s still dark and about 28 degrees at this point, and we are both wearing heels just in case there is a need to look professional for

Special talents? Excellent at death scenes, can cry on demand successfully, speak French, play guitar, and am naturally, effortlessly clumsy—a must-have quality of victims in Sci-Fi movies. Feel like a shoe-in.

this. We soon realize that this was a mistake, as our toes gradually lose feeling. Next time, I will be sporting Siberian bobsledging gear and toting a portable space heater. It would be worth the absurdity—it is ridiculously cold.

6:00 AM—Still freezing. Losing feeling in all extremities by this point, but begin an interesting conversation with the people around us in line. One man is holding a spot in line for his 2 sons. Another woman is a law student at the University of Richmond who drove up at 3:00 AM (!!) just to get here in plenty of time.

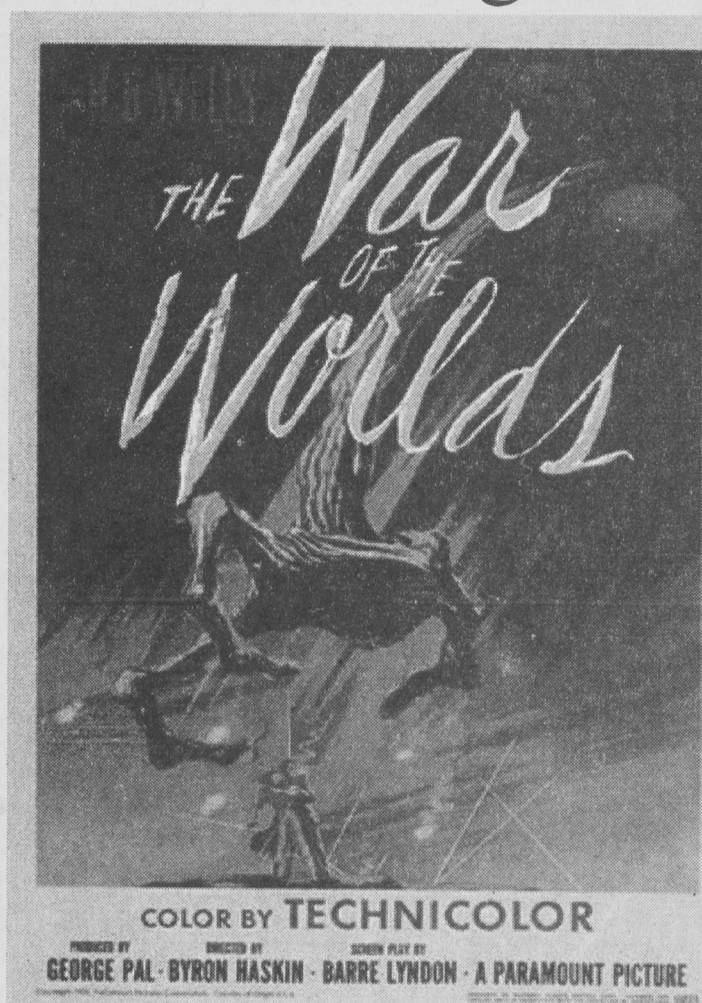
6:30 AM—Still no sign of potentially being let into the gym and out of the cold. Beginning to wonder if this is worth the effort. The crowd has grown to a couple hundred people at this point.

7:00 AM—And the end is in sight; they promise to open the doors by 8:00 AM. The crowd is getting a lot bigger now, maybe closer to a thousand people. Lots of small children come around 8 with hopes of getting one of the eleven specific roles for young kids.

7:25 AM—Official-looking woman shows up in clothing inappropriate for the weather. We assume she is important and begin to hope that we’ll be let inside soon. Just thirty-five more minutes...

7:45 AM—A man in trendy clothes and black, square glasses announces that the process will begin in a couple of minutes, and a woman starts handing out forms to fill out. They ask your name, height, weight, and standard measurements. So ready to go inside by now; I am wondering if my toes are going to be frostbitten by the time I get home. Do I still *have* toes? I don’t know—I can’t feel them.

8:00 AM—Call my mom, tell her where I am and what’s going on. She asks if I’ve met Tom Cruise. I say, “Give me time.” She asks me if I’m wearing flip flops in an accusatory tone. I say, “No, thank God.” I think the Reefs have been retired for the season. Finish filling out form. Special talents? Hmm...excellent at death scenes, can cry on demand successfully, speak French, play guitar, and am naturally, effortlessly clumsy—a must-have quality of vic-



It’s THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT. People from Lexington and surrounding area came to Rockbridge County High School on Saturday for a chance at Stardom: being an extra in Spielberg’s latest endeavor, yet another remake of *The War of the Worlds*.

tims in Sci-Fi movies. Feel like a shoe-in.

8:20 AM—FINALLY move inside. My toes are tingling (they WON’T have to be amputated! Phew!), but I am still excited. I scan the room for people exuding an aura of celebrity. Disappointingly, I see no one and sense no vibes. Maybe if I get picked for a part I can meet Tim Robbins?! Just maybe.

8:25 AM—Hand in my form at the table in the front of the gym. No big whoop. Nothing to be excited about yet—just waiting for that call. That’s all I can do now. Wait.

That, and turn on the heat in my car and drive home while listening to Mariah Carey Christmas on the radio. And take a nap.

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