

# THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2005

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

VOLUME C VII, NUMBER 21

## HOT TICKET

### Brave Fashion Show

The Day of Beauty will take place on Saturday, March 5 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Sorority Houses of Washington and Lee University. The Fashion Show will be held in the evening, from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. It will take place in Evans Hall of Washington and Lee University, black tie attire required. The event will be catered and showcase stylish clothing from local shops, modeled by Washington and Lee students and area residents.

### Discussing the Working Poor

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and David Shipler will speak at W&L on Thursday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. in Lee Chapel. Shipler's address, "The Working Poor: Invisible in America" is open to the public and free of charge. The address will be followed by a 9 p.m. book signing at the Washington and Lee Bookstore.

## SIMPLE LIFE

### Capitalizing on sleep

There is one thing in this world that every college student needs, and almost none of us get: sleep. Here are some easy ways to help get a better supply of slumber in eight hours or less:

#### ■ Avoid Exercise:

9pm is not the time to try and lose those last few vanity pounds, so give it up and just relax. Your body's energy levels peak between 4 and 8pm, so you won't make any real progress anyway. Instead, try a quiet, peaceful activity such as reading—college kids do that sometimes. Experts say that activities such as watching television and surfing the internet should also be avoided at least an hour before sleeping, because they make so many demands on your brain.

#### ■ No More Drama:

This step may be tough for some of us to tackle. Try not to have any important conversations less than an hour before bed. The idea here is optimum relaxation, so when possible, avoid making big breakthroughs in your life just before sleep. Delay any big conversations until the morning, when you will not only be more rational, but also more positive.

#### ■ Bouncing off the Walls Again?

Stay away from caffeine and sugar after 8pm. Not only has your body's metabolism slowed down, preventing you from burning off these calories, but also you will have a harder time trying to settle in for some serious power sleep. Though it sounds like something an old lady would do, try warm milk with honey—milk has a modified version of the amino acid tryptophan, plus calcium, both of which help lull you to sleep. The honey (as well as the temperature of the beverage) allow for better absorption and better relaxation.

#### ■ Get Yourself in the Mood

Nothing says sleep better than a cool, dark room and your favorite PJs. The ideal conditions for sleep involve quiet, steady white noise—a fan works great—as well as a dark room and a comfy bed. Avoid sleeping in uncomfortable clothing such as denim, and try not to fall asleep over a textbook. You'll rest better if you put the books away and lie down relaxed and calm. Also, try to turn your clock away from you, so you can't sense the urgency of time while you're trying to sleep.

■ A few extra zzz's come in handy when trying to avoid illness, stress, and dark undereye circles. Get ready to start each day refreshed and ready—now that exhaustion isn't an obstacle, you'll have new problems to deal with!

## QUICK POLL

Q: Do you use  
www.thefacebook.com?

63%  
Yes

37%  
No

51 students polled, 29 male, 22 female. Poll has 95% confidence in a +/- 5% margin of error.

# W&L eyes major housing reforms

By Chris Lauderman  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Greek housing will be exclusively available to juniors and seniors in the future, according to the preliminary strategic plan. Released over Washington Break, the plan said freshmen and sophomores will be required to live on campus in "Learning Communities," potentially based on a theme.

"The reports are preliminary in nature and now available for all to comment," said Dawn Watkins, Dean of Students. "There are a lot of ideas that would need further exploration but nothing is set in stone at this point."

But if it does happen, smaller fraternities who rely on sophomores to fill their housing quotas may run into financial difficulties. Currently, fraternities have to pay for every bed that is not occupied in their house.

New residence halls are a high priority according to the administration. "There need to be social spaces," said Joe Grasso, Vice President for Administration.

Grasso said that there is a revenue source for the dorms—students. Another reason for building new dorms is to attract conferences to W&L over the summer. He said that the new residences will most likely be suite style and the location of the new dorm or dorms has not yet been determined.

In the coming year, the university will be hiring a campus master planner. This planner will review all areas of campus and decide where new buildings could be built and where pedestrian connections could be made.

If it is decided that Baker, Davis, and Gilliam are located in prime academic areas, freshmen could be moved to another location. Woods Creek Apartments could

even be replaced by a new concept.

"This [sophomore campus residency], like the many other proposals in the various planning reports, is on the table for discussion," Provost Thomas Williams said. "How it will be evaluated and prioritized in the process is far from determined, and input from students, faculty, alumni and others will be important to its consideration."

The recommendation for sophomores to live on campus came from different sources. The gender relations committee pointed out that the sophomore year, the males are gone. Also, the faculty expressed an interest in the Learning Communities. The timeline for this is uncertain. Grasso said it could be as far off as ten years, while Watkins said it might not even happen.

The University says that it is not planning because of a crisis, but because of an opportunity. This opportunity is to

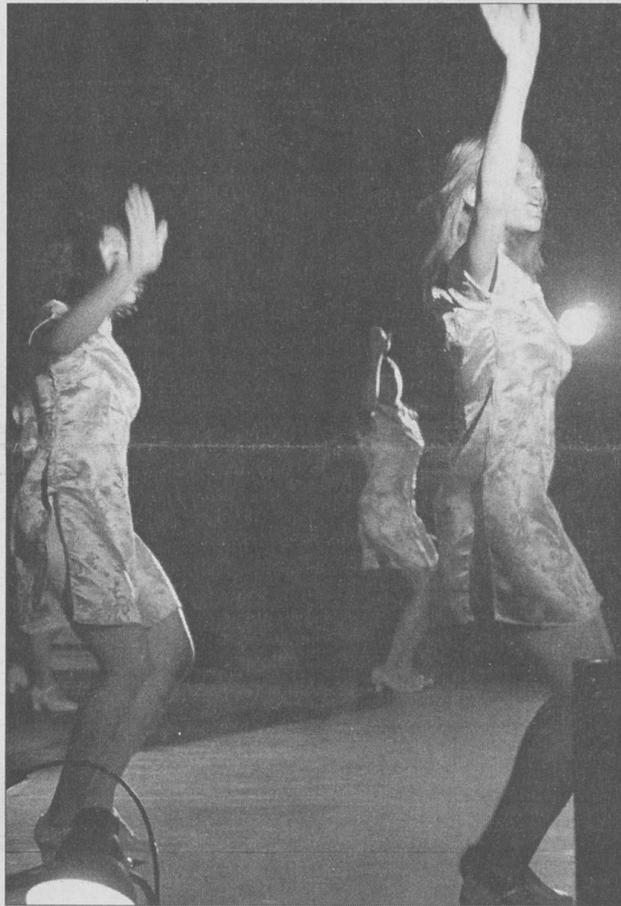
better the school's reputation and ranking.

Nine task forces were organized to come up with specific plans such as academic, student life and admissions. The task forces are composed of Trustees, Administrators, and Faculty members. The members of the task forces were selected by one task force leader who was knowledgeable in his topic. The leader then selected the rest of the members.

The posted plan is not the final plan. It is currently up for discussion and review. Students can make any comments they would like before the final draft is made in February 2006. Comments can be made by emailing Provost Williams or going to the drop box part of the strategic plan's website at <http://strategicplan.wlu.edu>.

"Students should, indeed, take this information seriously," Williams said. "We want to know student views on all these proposals, and want as well to have original ideas from the student body."

## STEPPERS SHINE ON SATURDAY



Corbin Blackford / Photo Editor

Stomping and clapping their way into W&L history, 7 Greek organizations performed a heart-pumping show in the gym on Saturday. The step show, as well as the newly-approved academic concentration, demonstrate a growing interest in African-American studies on campus. Senior Tiffany Jenkins said, "It's great that we're having something different going on around campus. It got a lot of people together."

# African-American Studies coming

By Sarah Murray  
NEWS EDITOR

Four years ago, a student group called the Black Female Alliance first called upon the faculty to create an African-American Studies program at Washington & Lee. Last month, the administration and faculty responded, approving an African-American Studies concentration to be available in the fall.

"We've worked for nearly three years to bring it to reality, and now we can begin the real work with the teaching and the learning," said Associate Professor Marc Conner, who was one of the program's authors.

Conner and Associate Professor Ted DeLaney took up the students' appeals, bringing the proposal before the Committee of Courses and Degrees two years ago. The issue was put aside as the Spring Term controversy escalated, but Conner and DeLaney doggedly brought it back at the beginning of this year.

What started as a student suggestion is now officially a part of Washington & Lee's course selection.

"Undergraduate student ideas can become a reality here if they have merit," said DeLaney, who heads the program.

That's no exaggeration. When a science student worked with her professors to plan an independent degree program, the Neuroscience major was born. Later, student requests triggered the establishment of the Women's Studies concentration.

Completing the concentration is

easier than students may expect. Nearly all of the courses are already in the catalog. Some, like History of the African-American People, have been taught at Washington & Lee for 10 years. Consequently, many students have already fulfilled several of the program's requirements.

"A lot of juniors are going to look at this and say, 'Oh my gosh, I'm halfway there,'" said DeLaney.

"It's conceivable that in the next year or two W&L will graduate its first students with a concentration in African-American Studies," Conner pointed out.

Students in the program are required to take an introductory course (Interdepartmental 130), History of the African-American People, and to complete a senior capstone project. Otherwise, they may choose from certain History, Politics, Sociology, English, Literature, Art and Music courses to finish the 21-credit concentration.

"This is truly an interdisciplinary program," DeLaney said.

The concentration will not be published in the upcoming catalog, but will appear on the registrar's website this fall. Like other concentrations at Washington & Lee, African-American Studies will not appear on any degree, but on academic transcripts only.

A luncheon for interested students will be held on March 7 at 12:00 p.m. Students are requested to e-mail DeLaney ([delaneyt@wlu.edu](mailto:delaneyt@wlu.edu)) if they plan on attending.

# Va. House passes bill to help students with textbooks

By Leah Kershaw  
STAFF WRITER

Local college students are frustrated with the high prices and low resale value of textbooks. Mindful of the slim budgets of many college students, the Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill to help students get the best deal on textbooks.

House Bill 1726 requires public colleges and universities to provide students with textbook lists well before classes start so that students can compare prices with various book vendors to find the lowest prices.

The bill also prohibits professors from accepting any type of monetary payment from a publisher as an incentive to order one of their textbooks.

W&L bookstore co-manager Bill Becker said he always consults several vendors to find the lowest textbook prices. The W&L bookstore makes very little profit, if any, from the sale of textbooks, said Bill Becker.

W&L still uses a brick-and-mortar store to sell textbooks to its students. Operating costs for the store and the high shipping costs of textbooks greatly reduce any profit that the bookstore would make

from textbook sales, said Bill Becker. Becker's goal is to bring the most reasonable price to students.

Amaya Moure '06, a sociology and anthropology major, said she spends \$350 a semester on books. "Textbooks are completely overpriced," said Moure. "It seems wasteful to buy a book and then have the professor assign one chapter to read," said Moure.

Moure estimated that her professors assign only a small section of 25 percent of her textbooks. "In general, most professors don't seem to be concerned with the cost of textbooks," said Moure.

However, Tyler Dickovick, a politics professor at W&L, said he is mindful of textbook prices. Consequently, Dickovick said he tries to keep the books for his classes at a reasonable price, usually under \$150 a semester.

In an effort to reduce textbook prices, Bill Becker said he is trying to increase the number of used textbooks that he can offer to students every year. A used textbook costs 25 percent less than a new book.

Maureen Becker, co-manager of the W&L bookstore, said the prices offered to students for their used books are based on a sliding scale of five to 50 percent of

the new book price based on the condition and demand of the book. The used books are then re-sold for up to 75 percent of their original value, said Maureen Becker.

Southern Virginia University has been using an on-line textbook supply company for six years. John McKenzie, manager of the school store at SVU, said the school switched to an on-line service because the store was an expense to the school.

E-campus, the school's textbook site, competes with Amazon and Barnes and Noble to offer the lowest prices to students.

However, McKenzie admits that on-line textbook services are not flawless. Books do not always get to the students in time for classes, and students who register late or switch classes have to do without books for a few days.

New students who are not aware of SVU's online textbook service are also at a disadvantage, said McKenzie. In an effort to reduce these problems, McKenzie said he stocks 10 percent of the books for all class offerings in the school store for students that have problems with their textbook orders.

Textbook lists for classes are provided two months before the start of a

new term to provide students with ample time to order their books, said McKenzie. However, even with the on-line service, about 20 percent of students buy their textbooks from other sources.

The school encourages students to buy their textbooks from E-campus because the school can hold E-campus accountable for orders and help students when their orders are not correct or timely. E-campus voluntarily upgrades shipping for all orders that have not arrived by the first day of classes, said McKenzie.

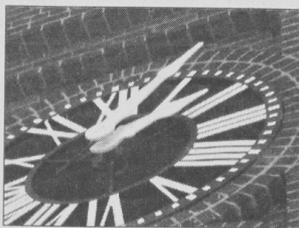
In addition, the school makes a five percent profit from all E-campus textbook sales.

The market for textbooks is very competitive and professors are under constant pressure from publishers to order new editions for their classes. A publisher profits once from a book and that's when it is sold new. Used book dealers profit from all future transactions.

At SVU, professors are cost-conscious and only buy new editions that have a significant difference, said McKenzie.

The high cost of textbooks is not a source of income for colleges. "Textbooks are not a profit center for W&L," said Maureen Becker.

# news



## Students compete in Mock Trial

### Two teams compete in first-time event for W&L

By Katherine Shell and Chris Laudeman  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR AND EDITOR IN CHIEF

This past weekend, W&L's Mock Trial team traveled to D.C. to compete in a regional Mock Trial. W&L sent two teams to the competition.

This is the first year for W&L to have a Mock Trial team, and W&L held their own as they competed against more experienced teams such as UVA, Maryland at College Park, and Howard. Mock Trial's team captains are Aditya Kamath '06 and Bill Larson '08, and they were led by Professor Belmont of the law school and aided by Kimberly Thomas '05L.

"I'm extremely proud," Belmont said. "I think they did an excellent job."

Team A was comprised of Bill Larson '08, Timothy Conway '07, Michael Julius '06, Rebecca Lemoine '08, Walker Humphrey '07, and David Mitchell '07.

Team B included Katie Weber '07, Aditya Kamath '06, Victoria Kesselman '07, Christine Giordano '08, and Sonia Siu '07, with Kathy Garman '08 subbing for Pearse Davidson '07.

Twenty-eight teams participated from the Mid-Atlantic region, the most competitive region. Nine teams advanced to the national level, and only the top ten teams were ranked. Ranking number one was Maryland at College Park.

On Saturday, Team A competed against William and Mary teams in both rounds one and two. Team B went against Mary Washington and Maryland. On Sunday, Team B was put against UVA, who later ranked number five of the twenty eight, and Team A went against Campbell.

Though W&L did not rank in the final top ten, members felt that they had done well for their first year. "The Judge liked us," says Weber. "We thought it was pretty balanced." The results of team b were not yet revealed at the time of printing.

"We didn't get a bid to nationals, but we did surprisingly well for a first year program," Kamath said.

Kamath wasn't the only team member who thought the event went well.

"It was amazing," said Sonia Siu '07. "We didn't know what to expect. We went in and did our best and we did much better than we expected."

Siu also contributes the team's success to Professor Belmont who was helping them along the whole way.

The teams have been preparing for this event all year.

"We had worked all year 6 hours a week practicing the case," Siu said.

This past week, the students participated in several intensive practices lasting 9-12 hours.

Belmont said that she plans on offering this class again next year. It is a one credit class in both the fall and the winter.

There will be two teams again next year lead once again by Kamath and Larson. The Mock Trial team hopes to get more people involved in the fall. The teams of 6-8 people will be selected in the winter.

*"It was amazing. We didn't know what to expect. We went in and did our best and we did much better than we expected."*

Sonia Siu, '07

## First African Lit & cinema panels held this weekend

### Princeton professor delivers Keynote

By Chris Laudeman  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Presenters from 15 colleges and universities from around the country will be in Lexington March 4 and 5 for the first Colloquium on African Literatures and Cinemas and Contemporary Theories.

There will be five panel discussions over the two days. Each panel will have three speakers and one chair. The chair will be a W&L professor.

One panel will be done entirely in French.

Panel topics include, "The Production of Postmodernism in African Cinema," "Foucault's Theory of Knowledge and the African Novel," and "The Theoretical Implications of African-Derived Musical Forms in Literature."

The keynote address will be delivered by Simon Gikandi, an English professor at Princeton University.

Gikandi will be speaking on "Africa and the Paradigms," Friday at 7:30 in the Washington Dining Room of Evans Hall.

Saturday evening in the Commons Living Room, there will be an African drum performance.

These drummers are mostly African performers currently living in Atlanta.

It is not clear how often an African Literature and Cinema colloquium will be

held at W&L in the future.

"I would love to do it again and as frequently as possible," Kamara said. "But I don't know about an annual event."

The colloquium is sponsored by the Class of 1965 Endowment for Excellence in Teaching, the Global Stewardship Program, the Center for International Education, the Office of the Dean of Students for Multi-Cultural Affairs, the Office of the Dean of the College, the Office of the Provost, the University Lectures Funds, and the Department of Romance Languages.

Professor Kamara also wished to thank Lynn Bennett and the students of his LIT 295 class who formed committees to help bring the event to campus.

"I am very grateful for the support from the University and professors," Kamara said.

"I couldn't do it without the moral support of my colleagues," Kamara said.

The colloquium will kick off Friday with a welcome at 9:30 a.m. by the organizer of the event, Professor Mohamed Kamara.

Also welcoming the guests will be John Lambeth, chair of the Romance Languages department and Provost Thomas Williams.

The panel discussions, keynote address, and drum performance are open to the university community.

## Brilliant bunch brings boundless brains as Scholars

By Sarah Murray  
NEWS EDITOR

The campus will be inundated with fresh faces Tuesday as next year's Honor Scholars candidates arrive for three days of interviews, open houses, and tours.

The Student Recruitment Committee, headed by Nick Gorham '05, will usher the 111 high school seniors around campus during their stay. Committee members also read applications, conduct their own

interviews, and turn in an evaluation of the students with whom they come in contact.

"Academically, on paper at least, they're the most outstanding bunch we've ever had," Gorham said.

The Admissions Office selected 140 finalists for the 40 full scholarships offered. Several finalists will also be offered partial scholarships, the amounts of which are determined by each finalist's regional scholarships.

The competitors, who will sleep in the dorms, will attend classes in the

mornings and discuss the school with panels of student leaders and tour guides. Later, each prospective student will undergo three interviews: one with a student, one with a faculty member, and one with an admissions officer.

"W&L sort of takes a special interest in their admissions process," Gorham said. "We're not just looking for kids who are really smart or have knockout SAT scores... We want people who are really going to do good things for the university during their four years here."

The interviewers seek students who

are passionate about the university and academics. The real standouts are those who seem destined to become active community members—volunteers, dorm counselors, student leaders, etc.

The most important question to ask, Gorham said, is, "Once we offer this person a full scholarship, will they really dedicate themselves to paying that debt back to the university?"

The freshman class entering next fall will number approximately 450. 197 students have already been accepted by Early Decision.

## Ethics bowl team wins in Virginia competition over Feb break

By Katherine Shell  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

On February 16, Leah Greenburg '05, Susan Somers '05, Sam Russell '05, Matthew Class '05, and alternate Derrick Barksdale '06, competed in Virginia's Ethics Bowl Competition at Virginia Wesleyan College.

They were led by Professor James Mahon.

After defeating Virginia Wesleyan, Hollins, Lynchburg, and Randolph-Macon Women's College, the team went against Randolph Macon College in the final round. Washington and Lee's team won the 2005 Ethics Bowl Championship for

the first time in the six year history of the competition.

"We prepared by meeting every week in the first half of Winter Term," said Mahon.

"The trick is to have an argument that will be comprehensive enough to deal with any possible counter argument that the other team will come up with. When you have four people presenting one argument, they must think as one mind," he said.

"There is no doubt about it," adds Mahon, "we really have multi-talented students at W&L. They are extremely intelligent, they are excellent public speakers, and they are wonderfully personable."



Photo courtesy Professor Mahon.

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# sports



## THIS WEEK

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

- Baseball vs. Apprentice; 3:00
- Women's Tennis vs. Hollins; 4:00
- Women's Lacrosse at L'burg; 4:00

### THURSDAY, MARCH 3

- Men's Tennis vs. H-SC; 3:00

### SATURDAY, MARCH 5

- Women's Tennis vs. WAC; 10:00
- Track at Va. Tech; 10:00
- Men's Tennis vs. WAC; 10:00
- Baseball at E&H (DH); 12:00
- Women's Lacrosse vs. F&M; 1:00
- Men's Lacrosse vs. Getty; 1:00

### SATURDAY, MARCH 5

- Men's Tennis vs. Goucher; 12:00

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### W&L Men's Swimming Competes at UGA Bulldog Invitational (2/26)

The Washington and Lee men's swimming team set two school records on the first day of the University of Georgia Bulldog Invitational on Saturday afternoon in Athens, Ga.

### W&L Men's Tennis Falls to Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 6-1

The Washington and Lee men's tennis team fell to fourth-ranked Claremont-Mudd-Scripps in the consolation round of the ITA Indoor National in St. Peter, Minn. The Generals will play Mary Washington in the seventh place match.

### W&L Women's Tennis Opens With 9-0 Win Over E&H (2/26)

The Washington and Lee women's tennis team opened its spring season with a 9-0 win over Emory & Henry on Saturday afternoon in Emory, Va.

### W&L Riding Competes in Two Events Over the Weekend (2/20)

The W&L riding team finished eighth out of nine teams at the JMU/Bridgewater Invitational on Saturday, but recovered to place second out of nine teams at the University of Virginia Invitational on Sunday afternoon. Junior Caitlin Lane (Leesburg, Va./Poolesville (Md.)) finished as the high-point rider at the Virginia Invitational.

### W&L Women's Basketball Claims Two All-Conference Selections

Washington and Lee sophomore center Jessica Hunsinger and junior guard Louisa Feve were named to the all-conference team which was announced by the Old Dominion Athletic Conference on Wednesday evening.

## Baseball advances to 8-2

By Marshall Rule  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Washington and Lee Generals baseball team was able to extend its record to 8-2 Saturday afternoon by winning both of their games against Mount Aloysius.

"We had talked about jumping out to an early lead to keep the other team on their heels," said sophomore pitcher Adam Kowalsky, "and we did that with the help of McConnell's homerun in the third inning."

In the third inning, junior Taylor McConnell hit a two-run homer off the left field foul post. After a double by Richard Garland and a single by Jordan Wesley,

senior Adam Bullock hit a RBI double to bring in Garland and advance Wesley who then scored on a wild pitch.

Warren Hunter also hit an RBI single in the inning.

With the help of the McConnell RBI in the first inning, the Generals were able to take a six-run lead after three innings. Both McConnell and David Miller finished the game 3-4 hitting.

Clayton Edwards also extended his scoreless inning streak by allowing only three hits over five innings, and striking out 10 of the Mounties batters.

"We played an all-around good game," said Kowalsky. "Strong pitching, solid defense and timely hitting."

In the second game, the Mounties were able to jump out to an early two-run lead in the second inning after two RBI singles.

Clayton Edwards, however, showed his ability on the offensive side of the ball too by cutting the lead in half with an RBI single of his own in the bottom of the same inning.

But it was in the bottom of the third where the Generals were able to gain the lead for good with a four run rally. McConnell hit a fielder's choice RBI that brought in Dave McKenzie. An error by the Mounties third baseman allowed Garland to reach first, and Miller also scored on the play.

Zach Bausch then hit a RBI double, and Richard Garland was able to score off of another Mounties error.

When the inning was finally over, there had been four runs, off of only three hits, and three errors.

One run in each of the next two innings put the game away for good.

Tim Livingston was able to pick up his third win, giving up only two runs over five innings and with only four strikeouts during the game.

The Generals have started this season off well with an 8-2 record and hope to keep the momentum going.

The Generals' next game is Wednesday.



Kelly Boss / Staff Photographer

## IM Basketball begins

### Faculty clear favorite in playoffs

By Marshall Rule  
MANAGING EDITOR

This year's intramural basketball season started up last week. Basketball has long been one of the most exciting intramural events of the year with all 13 fraternities competing, along with teams from Beta, Faculty, SAO, and three law teams.

The format of the season has changed a lot from last year and has extended the regular season to nine games compared to last year's five. Teams have been divided up into two brackets with the top eight of each making the playoffs. The change has been welcomed with open arms from players.

While the championship is up for grabs amongst a few teams, most teams will just be playing for fun and points in the season IM rankings.

In bracket A, the heavy favorite this year is faculty, who are loaded with ex-college basketball players including Ryan Kadlubowski, who will provide strong inside play. The men's Varsity Basketball head coach, Adam Hutchison, is also playing and provides a very pure shot, especially from the outside. Faculty had two very decisive wins last week over SAE and Law. Odds of winning: 2-1

One team that may provide an upset over Faculty is KA. Four of KA's starting five (Mark Franceski, Ryan Flynn, Max Barrett and Wes McAdams) used to play Varsity Basketball for the Generals. The team is very quick and dominates inside play. Two wins this week makes their odds of winning 4-1.

In Bracket B, FIJI should make the Final Four with Patrick Neuman, Wes Kimmel, and Chris Caramore. Neuman also used to play for the Generals and is able to score not only

in the paint, but also step back past the arc and drain the three. Kimmel and Caramore will also provide a powerful scoring force. Odds of winning: 4-1.

Phi Delt should also arise out of Bracket B into the Final Four. Coleman Lyons and Palmer Dobbs also used to play Varsity Basketball and will provide the strongest guard play in the whole IM league. Odds of Winning: 8-1.

There are a few teams, however, that might become bracket busters and could end up stealing a spot from the four favorites. In bracket B, both Beta and PIKA have legitimate chances of cracking the Final Four.

Beta will be led by Ryan "Flav" Valeri and Matt Connolly. Flav is a slasher who will be tough to stop offensively. Connolly has a very consistent shot, especially from the outside and will provide a good option for a driving Valeri.

PIKA is led by A.J. Manett who can score from anywhere on the court. Pierce and Fassio provide a lot of size inside, and Pierce is able to step outside the arc and spread the defense. Despite a loss last week, PIKA has a chance to squeak into the Final Four.

Bracket A will be a little tougher to crack. The Law II and Law III teams are the only ones that might be able to take home a top two seed, but don't hold your breath.

Last season was full of upsets and last second buzzer beaters including a Lambda upset over Sigma Chi by a last second three and an even more impressive 40 foot buzzer beater by Kyle Wischer to advance Sigma Chi to the Final Four over Law III.

This season should be just as exciting with the new format and expect to see physical play and some good basketball.

## Women's LAX falls to St. Marys

Sports Release  
SPORTS INFORMATION

Freshman midfielder Elizabeth Northfield (Arnold, Md./Broadneck) scored off an assist from junior attacker Becca Christoffersen (Vienna, Va./James Madison) with 1:40 remaining to lift 11th-ranked St. Mary's to an 8-7 win over 20th-ranked Washington and Lee in women's lacrosse action on Saturday afternoon at Watt Field.

The Generals (0-1) led 7-6 with 8:49 remaining after an unassisted tally by sophomore midfielder Mallory Lobisser (Bainbridge Island, Wash./Lakeside). However, the Seahawks tied the game just 1:31 later as junior midfielder Allyson Sarigianis (Bel Air, Md./John Carroll) scored on a free-position shot and setting up Christoffersen's game-winner.

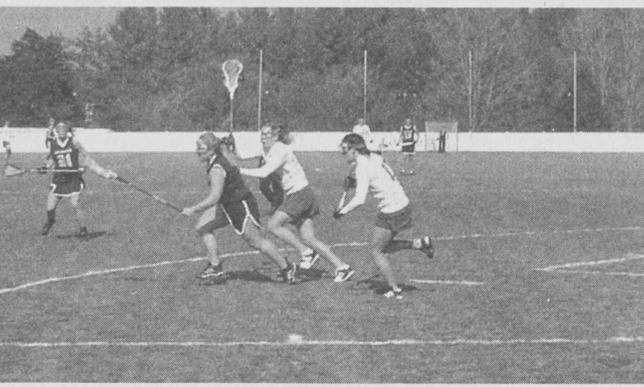
W&L trailed 4-2 at the 29:06 mark of the second half, but fought back with three goals in a span of 2:26 to assume a 5-4 lead with 20:52 remaining. St. Mary's

retaliated with a pair of goals at the 11:04 and 10:38 marks to reassume the lead, before a pair of W&L goals gave the Generals the lead entering the Seahawks decisive run.

W&L was led by senior midfielder Kristen Brown (Baltimore, Md./Catonsville) and sophomore attacker Avery Lovejoy (Old Greenwich, Conn./Greenwich) who scored two goals each. Freshman Sarah Tilbor (West Simsbury, Conn./Simsbury) stopped seven shots in her first career game in goal.

Senior attacker Karli Libertini (Baltimore, Md./Catonsville) led St. Mary's (1-0) with three goals. Sarigianis and senior defender Jenn Nordling (Sykesville, Md./South Carroll) both notched two goals, while Christoffersen added a pair of assists. Sophomore Melissa Puzak (Arnold, Md./Broadneck) stopped nine shots in goal.

Washington and Lee returns to action on Wednesday as it travels to Lynchburg College for a 4:00 pm contest.



Jon Rogers / Staff Photographer

Despite a hard effort, Washington and Lee Women's LAX lost to St. Marys

## Men's LAX wins first game

### Defeats Washington College in Md.

Sports Release  
SPORTS INFORMATION

Washington and Lee sophomore goalie Chris Lalli (Cranbury, N.J./Princeton) recorded 20 saves in leading the eighth-ranked Generals to a 7-6 win over fifth-ranked Washington College in men's lacrosse action on Saturday afternoon in Chestertown, Md.

W&L (1-0) jumped out to a 6-2 halftime lead on the strength of two goals and two assists from freshman attackman Ned Rider (Manakin-Sabot, Va./Collegiate) and a goal and an assist from senior attackman Gavin Molinelli (Northport, N.Y./Northport).

The Shoremen (0-1) scored a pair of goals in the third period to climb to

within 6-4 heading into the fourth period, but W&L senior midfielder Pat Collins (Marshfield, Mass./Marshfield) scored an unassisted tally at the 11:51 mark to give the Generals a three-goal cushion. Washington fired 12 shots at the Generals' goal in the final period, but Lalli stopped 10 of them in preserving the one-goal victory.

Rider led W&L with two goals and two assists, while Collins tallied two goals and one assist. Molinelli added one goal and one helper.

Steven Spivey led the Shoremen with one goal and three assists, while Andrew Ostrusky notched a pair of goals.

Washington and Lee returns to action on Saturday as it hosts sixth-ranked Gettysburg for a 1:00 pm contest.



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# arts&life



## Tennessee girl reflects on The Gates

By Emily Edwards  
ARTS&LIFE EDITOR

I do believe I have seen it all. My latest adventure in the Big Apple proved that.

In case you have been on Mars for the past two weeks or so, you have seen the front page of the *New York Times* or the lead story on the 11 o'clock news. And it has been orange... ehem, *saffron*. Don't get me wrong or anything. I would like to think I bleed orange from Tennessee pride. But Christo and Jeanne-Claude went too far this time.

Late one night over Feb break, my best friend and I were driving down Fifth Avenue and noticed a ghastly array of colored posts all over our beloved Central Park.

My friend remarked, "They must be getting ready for Fashion Week or something." It was the "or something."

The next morning, we looked out of our hotel room window overlooking the Park, and there it was. The Gates, as the Concierge told us. The Gates were

everywhere. A big, orange display of modern art.

Personally, I think it looked like the flag corps of Tennessee's marching band at one of their football games. But for heaven's sake, dismiss the Gates as an eyesore and you're bound to get an earful from art-lovers. I made that mistake at the MoMA and thought that the Chanel-clad socialite beside me in the gallery was going to chop off my head.

The Gates spread for 23 miles throughout the trails of Central Park. I think that they should have changed Tavern on the Green's name to "Tavern on the Orange" until the exhibit closed on the 27th. It would have made much more sense.

I tried to be open-minded about this display of creativity. Really, I did. I thought of the endorphins that my body released when I looked at the mass of orange. I thought of the painstaking work that went into The Gates' construction. Then I thought about the cost.

Millions of dollars. 26 to be exact. The doorman at the Ritz-Carlton told me



The Gates brightened daily strolls for some, while others thought it was an eyesore.

it took over 25 years for Christo and his wife to raise the money. To celebrate the occasion, "Mrs. Christo" died her hair to match her husband's artwork. Too bad she looked better in orange than the Park did.

I would like to think I have a great appreciation for art. I could spend hours upon hours at the Musee d'Orsay or London's National Gallery. I have a collection of art history books. But why did Christo have to go so overboard? And who in their right mind would have donated to an art exhibit that consists of

PVC pipe and cloth? Because that's what it is. 7500-ish orange shower curtains that probably smell like mildew as a result of the rain that fell on Valentine's Day. If given enough time, I could think of 26 million better ways to spend 26 million dollars.

I was told that the exhibit would bring in over 80 million dollars in revenue to the City. Did you make your contribution? Were you one of the lucky ones to see this breathtaking display? If not, be sure to study it in updated art history books.

## Prep offers readers insight into boarding school life

By Nadia Prinz  
STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for an interesting and quick read, try *Prep* by Curtis Sittenfeld. Though the title suggests a superficial fashion statement, the book is a poignant and vivid exploration of the teenage years.

The main character, Lee, is a girl who doesn't quite fit in at the private boarding school she attends. Drawn to Ault by the idea of academic challenge, but mostly by the glossy pictures of the students she sees in the catalogue, she arrives to find out its not all she expected.

The book holds special interest for readers who went to boarding school. Ault, although the name has been changed, is actually a real place. Sittenfeld herself is a graduate of Groton School.

Though she has changed the name, she hasn't changed much else about the school. The specificity of detail is staggering in this work; for alumna, the force of the memories almost distracts from the plot. But even more compelling is Sittenfeld's understanding of the teenage psyche.

Lee feels isolated at Ault, partly because she receives financial aid, but mostly because her classes are so rigorous that she is only a mediocre student. Lee struggles to fit in amongst students she perceives as completely different from her, not only because they come from wealthier families, but because their academic success seems effortless to her. Lee struggles in everything, mostly due to her inability to open up to anyone.

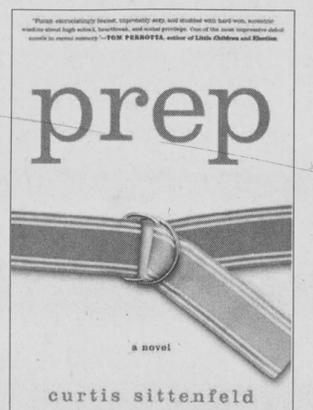
Consequently, Lee's real tragedy is that she lets these facts get in the way of her enjoyment of both the wonderful resources the school has to offer and the friendships she could be making.

When Lee finally begins a relationship with a boy she really loves, she ruins it for herself by projecting her low self-image onto him. The novel is touching and almost painful to read because anyone who has been through the adolescent years can identify with Lee's inner absorption and outer, protective stances.

The story deals with the tendency of adolescents to embrace destructive self-images instead of merely opening up and reaching out to each other.

Lately, novels about adolescence and girlhood have become so bad and so meaningless that they even encourage destructive behavior. I'm thinking about works like *Gossip Girls* and *Pledged*. Curtis Sittenfeld's novel is a triumph, not only because the writing is good, but because her depictions of young people are accurate and informative.

Any adult reading this novel can better understand the teenage psyche at its most confusing, and adolescents can both empathize and learn from example.



Too bad Jeanne-Claude looked better in orange than the Park did.

## Need a break? Try The Buena Vista Social Club

By Elyse Moody  
BEYONDHOLLYWOOD

Sometimes, winter just starts to drag on. After a 90 degree February Break, the snowstorm last week was almost too much for me to handle. Instead of buying myself a one-way ticket back to Nicaragua, I decided to take a less drastic stance against the miserable conditions here in Lex.

In honor of the passing of Hunter S. Thompson (his fabulous novel *The Rum Diaries* is set nearby in Puerto Rico) and warmer weather elsewhere, I rented *The Buena Vista Social Club*. Everything is sunnier and more colorful in Cuba. As I hoped, it made me miss tropical weather, but it made me feel just a little bit better.

For those of you who love *The Last Waltz* (it is a staple on car trips in my family), *The Buena Vista Social Club* is a similar documentary of the last concert series of a group of legendary Cuban musicians. These musicians were brought together by Ry Cooder, a very talented American recording artist; his album *Paradise and Lunch* is definitely

worth checking out.

After recording a phenomenally successful album with contributors such as Ibrahim Ferrer, Ruben Gonzalez, Manuel "Puntillita" Licea, Pio Leyva, Barbarito Torres, Compay Segundo and Omara Portuondo in 1997, Cooder returned to Havana with his son Joachim in 1998 to compile a documentary of the album's production.

Along with footage from studio recordings, director Wim Wenders combines musicians' accounts of their lives with clips of concerts at La Carre in Amsterdam and Carnegie Hall in New York to capture the spirit of the Cuban music scene.

*The Buena Vista Social Club* is a fascinating insight into the world of traditional Cuban music, tinged with hints of the repercussions of Fidel Castro's dictatorship of life in Cuba.

Tragically, many of these figures were forgotten for over a decade. Ibrahim Ferrer found work shining shoes, and Ruben Gonzalez, who is quite possibly one of the most inspired and talented pianists of our time, lacked access to a piano for several years before

the album was produced.

The soundtrack captures these musicians' devotion to their craft and the joy with which they approach their work. This joy is contagious—the soundtrack is perfect for dancing.

One aspect of the movie that I found remarkable is the accessibility of the musicians. The phenomenon of celebrity is something that has always fascinated me; as Walker Percy describes in *The Moviegoer*, we tend to place movie stars and musicians on another plane, elevating them and their experiences above our own.

These musicians walk down the streets of Havana just like everyone else and they approach their work with a sense of devotion and humility that is astonishing.

At one point, Ibrahim Ferrer offers a hand to two men who are moving furniture onto a truck while he recounts his experiences as a boy outside Havana. Another memorable scene shows Ruben Gonzalez playing the piano for a group of young ballerinas who are jumping up and down, laughing to the music.

In addition to the characters' charisma, the music is absolutely

phenomenal. I am buying the soundtrack immediately. Ibrahim Ferrer has a singular voice which floats over the instruments with effortless richness and dexterity. Also, he is a fabulous dancer for an octogenarian; if this man can still meringue, anyone can. His duet with Omara Portuondo, "Veinte Anos," has to be one of the sexiest songs I've ever heard.

The movie celebrates Cuban music, and it presents it in such a way that will have you dancing and laughing along with the musicians. It simply reflects their attitude towards music: the movie captures their passion and liveliness—their love of life and art.

In *The Buena Vista Social Club*, Wim Wenders familiarizes his audiences with the lives of a group of legendary Cuban musicians, and, in doing so, he makes the triumph of their recognition toward the end of the 1990s an even greater cause for celebrating their achievements.

It is the perfect movie for a cold and boring day, and the music will have you dancing until Spring Term finally gets here.

## Chi-O and PIKA freshmen provide entertainment for local retirement home

By Sonia Siu and Tye Haeberle  
STAFF WRITERS

Though many freshman girls were anticipating who their big sister may be and numerous guys were struggling through the final (and best?) few weeks of pledgship, the freshman classes of Pi Kappa Alpha and Chi Omega somehow managed to find time to add a little variety to some local elders' lives. The "Valentine's Day Dance" was recently held at Kendal, a local retirement home, and the aforementioned pledge classes were the guests of honor.

"The Valentine's Dance at Kendal is a lot of fun, and really makes the residents happy," said Melissa Clarke, Chi Omega's pledge educator. "It was just a really fun way to do some community service" added Lana Kang.

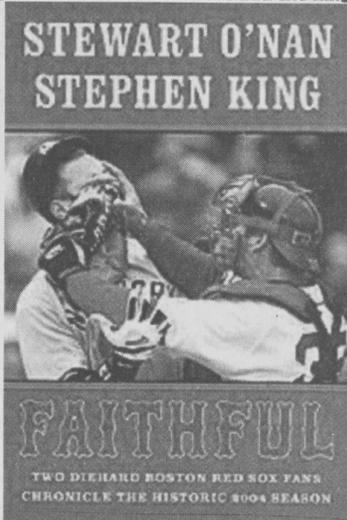
Card exchanges let each side know just how happy the other was to be there. "They were really excited about the Valentine's cards; one woman came up to me several times thanking me for mine," said Kang. Such small acts of kindness on the part of the Washington and Lee students surely meant a great deal to the residents, who probably missed earlier Valentine's days when they could really cut the rug. But not all had been lost

apparently. Noted Clarke, "[Those in attendance] performed several dances—the Electric Slide, the Chicken Dance, and the ever popular YMCA, and had a 'dance off.'" Clarke however did not report who was victorious in the dance-off, leaving this observer only to think that Kendal definitely brought its A game. Could the residents have pulled off an upset or was it simply a case of experience conquering youth?

Either way, the satisfaction of the evening was shared by both sides. Ms. Kang explained, "It also made me feel really good because the residents were telling us that they never had events like this and that they really appreciated our efforts and that they wished they would do more things like this."

Commendations are definitely in line for Chi-O and PIKA. When most of us were probably stressing over midterms, they took the time to give back to an often neglected community. Though the cliché "giving back to the community" definitely deserves its title, this is just what the two organizations did. We salute the organizations for letting those in Lexington know, and even reminding a few of us on campus, just how great a resource the Washington and Lee student body can be in "giving back."

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



To celebrate the beginning of Spring Training, this week's book is *Faithful*, a flawingly detailed account of the historic 2004 Red Sox season written by two of today's most popular fiction writers (and both huge Sox fans) Stephen King and Stewart O'Nan. The book chronicles every day, from Spring Training to the post-World-Series bliss.

"*Faithful* is funny, smart and masterfully well-written. This combination of events you couldn't make up -- and great writers who love the game, make this book a must for all readers."  
~ Publisher's Weekly

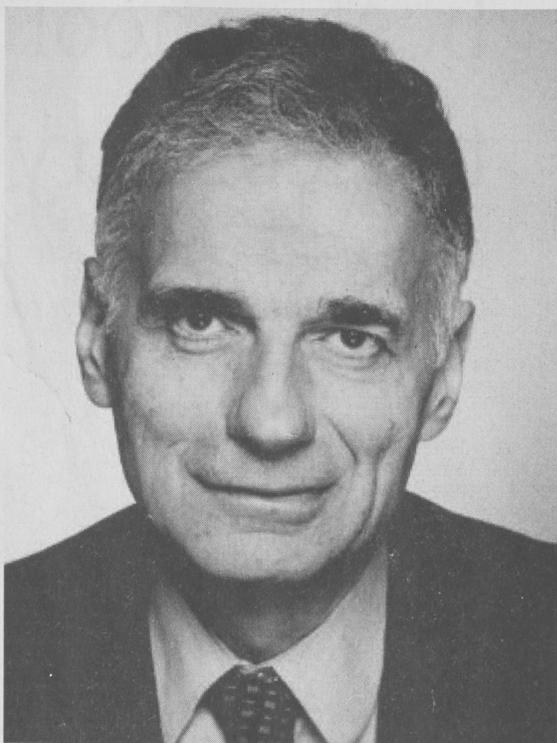
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## Ralph Nader

*May 5<sup>th</sup>, Lee Chapel, 7:30 pm*

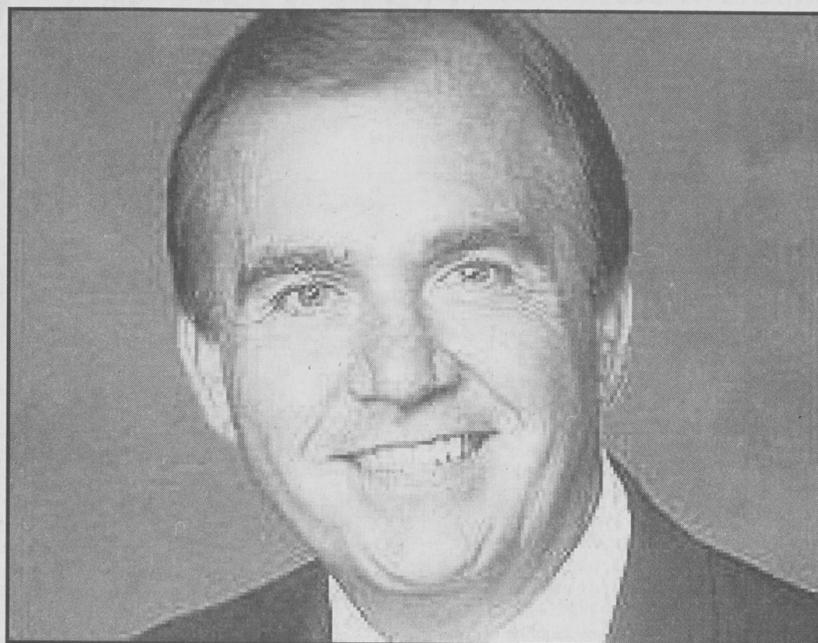
Ralph Nader is a consumer advocate, lawyer, author, and two-time presidential candidate. Come hear him speak about his political ideology and views about corporate America and our current political system on May 5<sup>th</sup>.



## Stephen M. Duncan

*March 17<sup>th</sup>, Commons Theater, 7:30 pm*

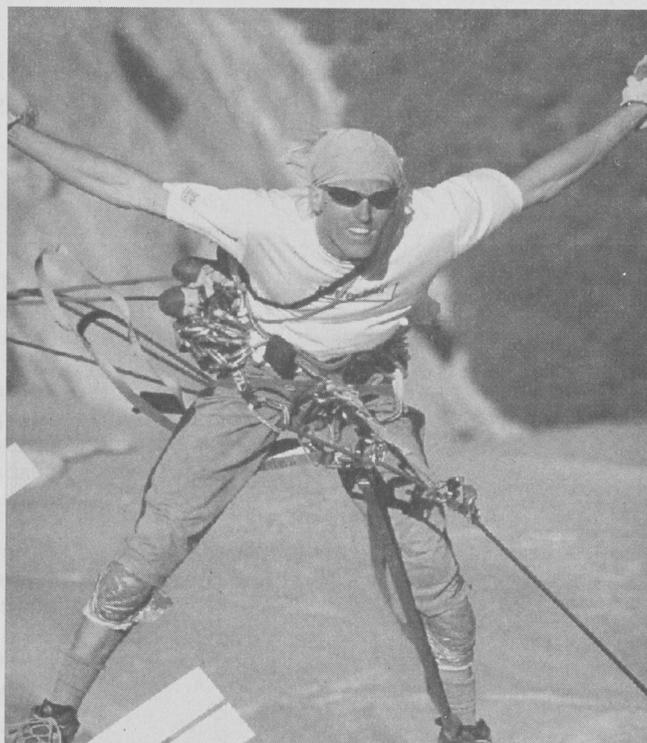
Stephen M. Duncan is the Director of the Institute for Homeland Security Studies at the National Defense University in Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. He is the author of *A War of a Different Kind: Military Force and America's Search for Homeland Security*. Come here him speak about the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup> and how homeland security policies have changed since that time.



## John Douglas

*March 17<sup>th</sup>, Commons Theater, 7:30 pm*

John Douglas is a former FBI criminal profiler and was the model for the Scott Glenn character in *The Silence of the Lambs*. He has hunted some of the most notorious and sadistic criminals of our time: the Trailside Killer in San Francisco, the Atlanta child murderer, the Tylenol poisoner, the man who hunted prostitutes for sport in the woods of Alaska, and Seattle's Green River killer, the case that nearly ended his own life.



## Hans Florine

*April 19<sup>th</sup>, Commons Theater, 7:30 pm*

Hans Florine won the first 16 speed climbing events that he entered. He has been the U.S. National Speed Climbing Champion eight times in the past fifteen years, won the first World Speed Climbing Championship in 1991, and won gold in speed at the first three ESPN X-Games. Come climb with Florine and hear his story on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

# opinions



## STAFF EDITORIAL

### Allow frats to Open Hell Week

Despite University efforts to ensure a safe pledgship, or new member education period, for freshmen this year, *The Ring-tum Phi* remains concerned about Hell Week.

While no one advocates "hazing" we are realistic enough to know that pledges (new members?) will be engaging in "bonding" activities this week. We just want the danger and risks to be minimized.

It's not called Hell Week for nothing, and listening to conversations in the Commons (or a frat house, or anywhere that frat boys are gathered) will prove that plans for Hell Week are alive and well, and have changed dramatically in the last two years.

Open Hell Week. Two years ago Dean Howison played basketball with pledges. A pledge made ham sandwiches outside Leyburn. There was a homeless guy outside the coop and a kissing booth at the srat bridge. These were all harmless and humorous activities. Best of all, these harmless activities consumed the vast majority of the pledges' time during Hell Week. Because they were out making fools of themselves playing army men in the D-hall and on the front lawn, they could not be in the country doing God-knows-what.

There are different degrees of hazing. Forcing pledges to drink, branding them, and beating are all horrible examples of hazing. Forcing guys to rap outside of the coop is a much less strenuous and dangerous form of hazing, if it is hazing at all.

An open Hell Week, in which we acknowledge the fraternity activities, would go a long way to ensuring safety.

## UPS & DOWNS

**Editors-in-Chief Erin and Chris give you their take on what rose and fell this week at W&L and around the world.**

### Cub Scouts.

The BTK serial killer is a Cub Scout leader. Enough said.

### Dessert and alcohol industries.

It's Lent. All those pious Catholics and Episcopalians are abstaining.

### Feb. Break

Though it's difficult explaining to people that we get a week off for Washington's birthday, Feb break is definitely one of the most enjoyable aspects of W&L.

### Greek Life

(see front page story). Filling your house with upperclassmen? Country parties will be no more.

### Registration

They still haven't taken our advice about registering for sections. They (the MAN) need to listen to us. We're wise.

### Lexington

Some weekends, it's just a good idea to hop in the car and drive to a real college town. I recommend Charlottesville.

### Monticello Road

So good they're worth 4 hours of driving in one weekend (or maybe some of us just need to get a life). Kudos to SAE for bringing them here March 5.

### Contact Committee

Yay, Ralph Nader. We've actually heard of him.

### Sororities

Nothing says love like all the goodies srat girls give to their littles during Little Sis week.

### Don Tequilas

Cheap margaritas on Wednesday nights. That's all I have to say.

## Gay marriage ban bad for VA

*Rights should be given, not take away*

By Anne Finel  
THEBIGPICTURE

I love Virginia. I was born in Richmond (though lived in Texas most of my life) and think it is a beautiful place. But, at the moment, I'm annoyed with the state that I currently call home.

It has finally happened. It won't enter the state constitution unless it is ratified by voters in the 2006 general election, but a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage recently won near landslide approval in the General Assembly, 79-17 in the House of Delegates and 30-10 in the Senate.

So, even though gay marriage in the state is already illegal, they want to make it so that gay marriage could never be legalized by the courts without yet another amendment to the constitution.

What happened to letting things change with the times? Why must a state actively work to restrict the rights of a group of its citizens? Which leads me to my greatest question, something that has confused me for years: what are people so afraid of? For the gay marriage ban clearly relates to fear.

I understand that many people in the United States, probably the majority, are against gay marriage. Often, this has a religious basis, for I hear again and again that God ordained marriage to be between "one man and one woman."

From watching the news, you'd think it must be one of George W. Bush's favorite phrases. Yet, under the separation of church and state, religious conviction should have nothing to do with legislation.

Everyone is free to their opinion. You do not have to believe that marriage between same-sex partners should be legalized.

But the idea of a constitutional amendment is abhorrent to me. Gay couples probably take it as a slap in the

face, and with good reason. It is saying that how they wish to live their life is so aberrant and dangerous that their legally recognized union must be prevented at all costs.

So what is so dangerous about the idea of two people that love each other wanting to make a lifelong commitment that is granted the same rights and amenities as heterosexual married couples?

Try as I might, I cannot see the threat. Some cite lofty, vague ideas like it endangering family values or making the very institution of matrimony vulnerable. But as James Carville recognized in his Mock Convention Speech last year on our campus, no threat is posed to his or any other strong marriage by gays being allowed to marry. Honestly, I cannot even see the connection.

And as for family values, I don't know of any studies that have conclusively (or even remotely) shown that children of gay parents are in any way harmed. Quite to the contrary, they are no less likely to be heterosexually-oriented but are benefited by less rigid expectations of gender roles.

And while there are plenty of children of heterosexual couples who are parented disinterestedly, since homosexual couples must go to special lengths to have or receive a child, it is likely they will be concerned and well-educated parents.

I can only hope that the voters will put their biases aside and refuse to support such an amendment. If the day is going to come when same sex couples are allowed to marry, then it should be allowed to progress to that point naturally.

Exploited classes in our country have enough working against them already without the addition of insurmountable obstacles.

Our country should be going forward, not backwards. Rights should be given, not taken away!

## W&L is the best school in the country

*Pickle challenges anyone to prove that any other school is better*

By Trent Pickle  
PICKLEMAN

Last weekend, some friends and I took a trip all around Virginia and North Carolina. During our tour, we visited Mary Baldwin College, University of Richmond, College of William and Mary, North Carolina State University, Elon University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro, and UNC-High Point. All of these schools are different and unique in their own way.

But in my humble opinion, what I took from this trip, was an appreciation for how blessed I am to go to Washington and Lee University.

On Friday afternoon, our first stop was Mary Baldwin. What struck us the most odd was that it was Friday afternoon and there was almost no one outside! We went through the center of campus and only saw one group of girls.

They seemed pretty cool, but it was five o'clock (cocktail hour) on a warm, sunny Friday, and everyone else was in their dorms or in the library! Their environment is such that it encourages good academics, but discourages an active, open community.

After driving and some dinner, we arrived at the University of Richmond at about 10:00. We drove around the campus, which isn't very big, for a long time until we finally found what resembled a party.

It was bunch of senior sorority girls sitting in one girl's dorm room. They were very sociable and invited us right in, but we could not help but wonder why it was Friday and no one was outside. As we were getting ready to leave, we thanked them and asked, "Are there any big parties going on tonight?" They laughed and said almost all of these parties are like this, ten to twenty people, with either almost all girls or almost all guys.

The student body lacks a school-wide community, so they divide themselves into tiny clicks and limit themselves to that one group of friends.

At William and Mary, there was one big party. It had potential to be a good time, but university security was everywhere because fraternities and sororities don't have houses; they just live near each other in the dorms! The party was so regimented that it was

almost impossible to have any fun. I actually met one guy who asked me, "Why would you guys visit this school. It sucks! All the university lets us do is study."

Granted, they were all smart, but what is the point of being smart if you are a part of a closed community, which does not understand how to share ideas in an open and productive forum.

At NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill, it was the exact opposite. At both schools, on Saturday afternoon, everyone was out and about. The people seemed cool and interesting.

But neither school had a sense of community. My friends say that they can walk around their giant campuses all day and not see anyone they know.

We reached Elon on Saturday night. From my experience, it would be the closest school socially to W&L. The student body is smaller and with more of a sense of community. They have active social lives, a lot of which stems from Greek organizations.

But to them, academics are a joke. Something they do after they're done partying if they feel like it.

On Saturday night, I saw my greatest fear of a college experienced realized. At UNC-Greensboro and UNC-High Point, everyone was in their dorms. The boys were in their fraternity houses or dorms, and the girls were in their sorority houses or dorms. And no one really seemed like they were having fun being at school. These should be the best years of our lives, and they are wasting their time in dorm rooms!

This trip reminds me how blessed I am to have the privilege to go to Washington and Lee. We have a community which is tight-knit and supportive of each other, but also open to new people, experiences, and ideas. Our student body maintains a balance which is unprecedented at other schools.

We work hard in and out of class; we are gifted athletically and artistically; we conduct ourselves with honor; and we know how to relax and be sociable. This combination of community, individual achievement, and fun leads me to believe that Washington and Lee University is the best institution for higher learning in the country.

And I challenge anyone to try to prove me wrong.

*On Saturday night, I saw my greatest fear of a college experienced realized. At UNC-Greensboro and UNC-High Point, everyone was in their dorms. The boys were in their fraternity houses or dorms, and the girls were in their sorority houses or dorms. And no one really seemed like they were having fun being at school.*

## Opinionated? Write for the Phi!

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write about politics, social issues, W&L or college life.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

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*"If you want to work professionally, you have to be able to drop the accent when it's required."*

— QUOTE OF THE WEEK Martin Childers, who's leading a project to teach rural Appalachian kids to lose their accents.

## US should lift ban on drug imports

*Leaders have not delivered on promises to reduce the costs of prescription drugs over the past five years*

By Caley Anderson  
OPINION EDITOR

Gov. Brian Schweitzer of Montana, a moderate Democrat who continues to be elected in a heavily Republican state, spoke out last week against the Federal ban on importation of Canadian prescription drugs, an issue which his largely conservative state supports him on.

The Federal government "has had the ability to lower the prescription drug cost for every person in America by as much as 50 percent. In five years, they've not delivered. Since they continue to sit on the sidelines, states have no choice but to do it for themselves," he said.

The governor has a serious point. As most Americans (and certainly all insurance companies) know, costs for prescription drugs have gone through the roof in recent years, mostly due to protectionist policies of American drug developers and manufacturers.

The Bush administration has continued this policy, even to the point of actually banning the importation of prescription drugs from abroad. The claim is made that prescription drugs imported from Canada, for instance, are unsafe, a gentle slap in the face of Canada's equivalent of the FDA. The implication made by the administration is that only drugs approved by America's experts are truly safe.

Of course, this is nonsense; an equal or greater proportion of drugs manufactured in foreign lands (especially quasi-socialist countries like Canada) are

*"Congress's impartial budget experts have repeatedly tried to make their voices heard over the political clamor, saying that not only are Canadian drugs safe, legalization of their importation would have the net effect of cutting U.S. prescription drug prices roughly in half"*

completely safe compared to the same proportion in America. Of course, this quasi-socialist system has some eerie disadvantages, and I do not want America to adopt it, I am just noting that we should probably not question the safety of such drugs.

And indeed, we do not. Congress's impartial budget experts have repeatedly tried to make their voices heard over the political clamor, saying that not only are Canadian drugs safe, legalization of their importation would have the net effect of cutting U.S. prescription drug prices roughly in half. This legalization would be a major break for U.S. citizens in need of them, particularly our senior citizens, who are having a rough time with social security as it is.

The real issue here, of course, is the profit margin of U.S. drug companies, who have a very strong lobbying presence in Washington. Neither Congress nor the White House has seen fit to alter policy, and doubtless many of importation's greatest opponents have seen healthy contributions from domestic drug company lobbies.

Yet, while it is important to acknowledge that this semi-patronage system has its place, it is not working for us on this issue. As it is, northern states are actually bussing citizens across the border for the express purpose of purchasing prescription drugs at a price two-thirds lower than U.S. drugs.

This is abysmally wasteful and inefficient—state tax money is going straight from earners' pockets to a policy which benefits mostly seniors, becoming in effect a supplementary social security tax. For states that do not share a border with Canada, the problem is even worse.

But all this waste and these needlessly high prices could be solved with the stroke of a pen. It would cost nothing to taxpayers to legalize importation of prescription drugs and, in fact, it would probably end up saving them money.

Hospital maintenance costs would go down, working seniors would be more easily able to remain healthy and thus productive, and if you yourself needed to go to the local pharmacy to pick up something your doctor prescribed, it would be a permanent 50% off sale.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Drinking story reflects bad journalism

Dear Editor,

Being the former Editor in Chief of The Trident, I've seen more bad journalism than good journalism from both publications over the years. But Whitney Duffy's news story titled, "Underage drinking debate continues," took bad to a new level. It is the worst piece of journalism I have seen published in my four years, and to be clear, I hold the editors more responsible than the writer. Aside from spotty punctuation, an irrelevant lede, and enough conjunctions to overwhelm William Faulkner, the article is riddled with inaccuracies and lazy reporting.

First, the sourcing is lazy. The article uses a grand total of eight sources—four freshmen (two anonymous), two sophomores (both anonymous), an EC representative (anonymous), and President Burish's December 2004 letter. Again, this is a simple story about underage drinking and potential honor violations. The writer was asking for qualitative comments on lying to get wristbands. And yet she could only find one EC member willing to comment (anonymously) and two people both female freshmen to comment for the record. No administration members, seniors, juniors, males, or for that matter, members of fraternities those who supply the alcohol and wrist bands. So please, instead of ending with, "President Burish and the Executive Committee were contacted to provide comment for this article but were unable to do so before our deadline," just write, "I wrote this three hours before deadline." As one who has written many stories, I can assertively

say these people are not hard to contact.

Second, there exist widespread inaccuracies. The idea of consequences related to the Honor System is not "new"—it's been debated since the policy's adoption. Example? The Trident's cover story of January 12, 2005, entitled "Honorable Misrepresentation: Do fake IDs contradict the Honor System?" Next, I'm disappointed that the EC member cited extensively declined to provide their name not because they are supposed to be the community's paradigm of virtue, but instead so I can't target all my energies to ensure their defeat next month. You see, this EC member is incompetent and/or a liar. Check out this quote: "Underage drinking has been an area that the Executive Committee has traditionally found to be irrelevant to the question of honor." What?! I would love to see Marie Trimble or Thomas Worthy, or better yet, a senior KA on the record saying that. Why? Because within this student generation, the EC made it very clear they consider underage means of acquiring alcohol relevant to "the question of honor."

Although I'm sure you'll receive a letter from the EC informing you of their position—not an inexperienced, anonymous (and clearly underclassman) member's opinion—it doesn't change that this article did damage. It should never have been published, and for this I place full blame on the editors. The article was profoundly flawed, and you know it.

Sincerely,  
Philip Walotsky '05

**The Ring-tum Phi welcomes all responsible submissions and letters. All submissions must be e-mailed to [phi@wlu.edu](mailto:phi@wlu.edu) or in the University Center mailbox by 5 p.m. Friday to appear in the following week's edition.**

## Promoting BRAVE Day of Beauty and fashion show

By Carissa Shipley  
IN THE PONS

This is the time when I shamelessly get to use my column for self-promotion. Ok, maybe it's not exactly self-promotion, but it is the promotion of something that I'm involved in. And now for the promoting...

Just in case you haven't seen the posters that are all over campus, Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> is the BRAVE Day of Beauty, followed by the black-tie fashion show. This project has been a collaboration of many undergrad students, law students and members of our community.

I have truly been surprised by how

many people have donated their time and money to this project. BRAVE is a local organization which is working in collaboration with Washington and Lee and W&L Law to organize the two events. There are students working on committees for every part of the day of beauty, which includes everything from fitness sessions to spa-type treatments and will be held at the sorority houses.

The black tie fashion show will be held in Zvan's dining hall. Stores in Charlottesville, Staunton, and Lexington have all donated the clothes. Lexington's donors are Papagallos, Pumpkinseeds, Alvin Dennis, Intimate U and Sunday's Child.

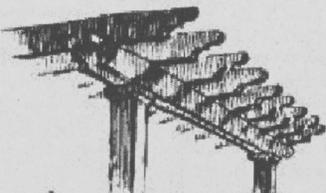
I really encourage everyone from Washington and Lee and the community to attend these events. The proceeds go to ending domestic violence in our community, so not only will you get to have fun, but you'll also be able to help and contribute.

After all the work that organizers, donors and our fellow students have put into these events since long before Christmas, any type of attendance would be greatly appreciated.

However, the more people that take a few minutes to attend even a couple of the events would make all that time worthwhile and, even better, helping the community.

**BRAVE**  
(Beauty Revue Against Violent Encounters)  
**fashion show**  
6:30 to 10:30  
Saturday, March 5.  
  
Evans Dining Hall  
Black Tie  
\$20 for area residents  
\$15 with a W&L ID  
\$25/\$20 at the door

  
Creating solutions, changing lives.  
**SUMMER CAMP JOBS**  
Looking for the best summer of your life? Easter Seals Virginia can help you find it. We are committed to helping people with disabilities gain greater independence. Join our dedicated team this summer at Camp Easter Seals Virginia in Craig County. We have job openings for camp counselors and program leaders (aquatics, horseback riding, music, nature, sports and more). Room, board and salary provided. For information, contact Deborah Duerk at [dduerk@va.easterseals.com](mailto:dduerk@va.easterseals.com) or at (540) 864-5750. Visit our website to learn how you can make a difference. [www.va.easterseals.com](http://www.va.easterseals.com)

  
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# last word



## QUICK HITS

■ There's nothing like watching a movie about prostitution with your parents over Valentine's Day Weekend.

■ The sorority houses were pretty empty over Feb break...so you may want to watch where you sit...

■ It's surprising the number of students who stayed in Lex - so wild. Hey, I saw you hanging out in the commons.

■ Don't ever go north for a Feb break trip. The cold sucked.

■ Want to hear a wild and crazy Feb break story? I got an e-mail from the school saying that my graduation might be at VMI! That is the stupidest idea ever!

■ It was nice to eat something I could recognize over break.

■ It was a great week to join the Colonnade Club!

■ Did any other frat have a security guard glued to their television set?

■ I worked like crazy over Feb break, does that count?

■ I was so glad to get back. I really missed the quality time I spend with my pledges.

■ Mexico. What more can I say?

■ No one else was home. The craziest thing I decided to do was put extra marshmallows in my hot chocolate.

■ Spring athletes don't get a Feb break. I spent mine running.

■ What happens in Atlanta, stays in Atlanta.

■ Why is everyone in Daytona Beach better looking?

**Nexttime's topic:**  
**Hell Week**  
**suggestions**

## This one's for the girls

By Marshall Rule  
POTATOMAN

The other day, someone asked me why I write a weekly article. I thought about it for a while, and then I just told him I didn't know. They then proceeded to tell me how they really enjoy my article, and that I am much funnier as the Potato Man than as Marshall.

It is not the first time I have heard this comment. In fact, I hear it quite often. I have been told "Oh, you're the Potato Man. I thought you'd be a lot cooler." And "Some of my friends think your article's funny, but I just don't see it, but you are definitely funnier in real life." The one thing I have yet to hear is, "You are exactly as funny and cool as I thought you would be."

So I thought about why I spend time each week going through the writing process. That's when I realized I don't do it for me. I have much better things I could be doing with my Sunday morning...like dreaming of Ashley Judd in a pool of chocolate pudding wrestling an overweight midget. Rather, I write this article for the ladies.

And I don't just mean W&L ladies either. I also mean W&L moms. As it turns out, I have quite a following among student's moms that receive the Phi by subscription.

On Parent's Weekend, I was bombarded by moms telling me how much they like my articles, and how I am so adorable in person.

The look of the freshman girl when their mom tells me that I am such an intellectually and physically attractive man and should start dating her daughter is worth all the agony that goes into a weekly column. That added to the irony that me and the freshman have probably already hooked up, and if that mom knew the details of that experience she would probably slap me just before pressing charges.

Speaking of mothers, my own mother is a main reason that I write this column. I think she takes solace in the fact that for at least one day a week I am up before noon doing something productive.

Since my only other extra curricular activity is known as "frat stuff," my mom

likes that I am doing something beneficial to the school and community. I won't tell her that my column is nowhere close to being beneficial to the school, and, as for the community of Rockbridge County, most of them are illiterate.

This brings me to the last group of people that I write for: normal college girls (well normal is a reach, but let's just say normal W&L girls).

I recently found out the many girls on the campus think I am a chauvinist pig that just likes to bash women in his articles. I won't argue. Luckily for my social life, not all girls are so keen to the truth. The main reason I write this article is for the conversation starter.

Like Adam Sandler says in *Big Daddy*, "initiating the conversation is half the battle." A typical talk with a girl I had never met used to sound like this before I started writing.

Me: Hey baby, I am having a tough time fighting off the urge to make you the happiest woman on earth right now.

Girl: Get away from me creep.  
Me: Ah, come on. Be unique and different and say yes.

Girl: How about I'll be unique and different by kneeling you in the junk.

Me: Oh that wouldn't be unique, the last two girls have done that.

Not too smooth, I know. But ever since I started writing the column, the conversation goes like this:

Girl: Don't I know you from somewhere?

Me: I doubt it, I don't like talking to brunettes usually.

Girl: No, I do, aren't you Marshall that writes the article? Oh, I just love your article. You are so hot right now. Do you want to go back to my place, my friend from Sweden is in my room right now, and we do everything together.

Ok, that last part doesn't usually happen, its usually something like:

Girl: Aren't you Marshall that writes the article. Your article's alright. Nice meeting you, I should probably get back to my boyfriend.

But, hey, it's a step in the right direction.

## Red bull...heroin for the sleep deprived

By Hugh Trout  
THE FISHERMAN

Throughout all our lives, there comes a time when we have about 72 hours worth of things that need to be done and only 24 hours to do them in. Sadly enough, you can't get that paper in, take that exam, do all the super-secret stuff your pledge master told you to do, and chat up that cute girl by the Beirut table. In the words of philosopher and Fisherman relative (I think he was an in-law...distant) Tupac Shakur, "Like a pimp trying to pull a nun, ain't nuttin happening." So what is a young man or woman to do when they find themselves in such a position? Don't try and be a hero, ask for help. And not the kind of help you get from a loyal friend who wants to help you get through tough times. I'm talking about the help you get from substance abuse. And what exactly is this miracle drug? It's not a drug because the Fisherman believes you have better ways to blow (pun intended) your cash. It's Red Bull, and its here to help you out. Here is how it applies to you.

If you are a girl, Red Bull is absolutely clutch in fitting in all of those things into your day and still being able to go out that night and not look like a tired wreck. Even if you don't have a lot of things to do that day, a very cool and trendy

*Managing looking hot and still getting all of your things done is a hard job (I know...I can't believe how good I look and how much I get accomplished), and with Red Bull, there is help now.*

look for W&L girls at the gym is a Red Bull and of course, pearls (any W&L girl who wears pearls to the gym and can keep a straight face is automatically my friend). Managing looking hot and still getting all of your things done is a hard job (I know...I can't believe how good I look and how much I get accomplished), and with Red Bull, there is help now.

If you are a freshman guy, Red Bull is the only way you are going to make it. Life sucks right now, and since all of your friends are going through same thing, they can't take too much time to help you out. Except Red Bull. Red Bull is always there for you, much like reruns of *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. For me, I would have failed out of this school long ago (last term's finals to be specific) if it weren't for this miracle drink. Trying to get through pledgehip without Red Bull is basically lying to yourself, and that's an

HV, and you certainly don't want that to add to your life. It's sold right there in the commons, and it's cheap so you have no excuses not too.

If you are an upperclassman guy, I'm sure there are reasons why you would need Red Bull. If you ever run out of creative ways to order your pledges around...drink a Red Bull and something will come to mind. If you are trying to get your GPA up so you can get into grad school, this is your solution.

In conclusion, there are times when you are exhausted and really can't make it on your own (such as the current condition I am in while writing this). It takes a strong man to try and make it without any help...but as I've learned, it also takes a stupid man. So make friends with Red Bull because two hours of sleep really sucks unless you also have drank three Red Bulls.

## Palms boycott resumed by Keydets



Jonathan Proctor  
THE GUYNEXTDOOR

The Keydet boycott of the Palms is back with a vengeance, dear readers. We stayed away for a few weeks at the beginning of the semester, but last night I thought that I would give our relationship another try after hearing tales of new ownership and increased hospitality. Bad idea. I am a simple man: give me some music, some drinks and a chair and I will be perfectly content for the entire night. Apparently, this is too much to ask. The Palms' waitresses are nice enough (though impossible to track down) but my contention is with the

vicious manager. She treats cadets like dirt and I am sick and tired of it, frankly. It would be one thing if she was indifferent or even a little rude when the place is packed, but her open and unadulterated hostility has driven me over the edge.

Last night we decided that, after dinner and good times at the always enjoyable City Subs, it was time to imbibe something with a little more bite. To the Palms we went. I will preface my remarks by stating that, in the manager's defense, we may have been a little loud and some might say even a little obnoxious. But I have a newsflash for you: it's a freakin' BAR. If you don't want loud and obnoxious people hanging around, open a bed and breakfast.

So there we were, singing along to the jukebox, occasionally tapping the table with our gold paperweights a bit too

forcefully, when Satan-incarnate showed up. Mind you, we are paying customers in a BAR. She informs us in no uncertain terms that we need to keep it down. Being the polite gentlemen that we are, we proceeded to kick it up a notch. Nothing inappropriate or rude, just typical BAR behavior. However, our version of appropriate social conduct and hers differed greatly.

We were not kicked out or even asked to leave (because this would infringe upon their probable 200% profit margin) but, once again, we were treated with utter disdain. I felt like the relative that everyone tolerates at Thanksgiving dinner and talks about when he leaves. Was I surprised? No. But you can bet that this Keydet has stepped into the Palms for the last time. Well, at least until I decide to give it one more last chance.

## Grown up world a scary place in Lex

*Who wants to pick up Veemies over a \$3 Miller anyway?*

By Kristine Early  
MILKANDCHEESEGIRL

I'm a sophomore and that means that in a few short, errr long, weeks I have to officially declare my major. That scares me to death. It's one of those "Uh, oh. There really is a world outside Lexington, and I really do have to venture out into it sometime" type of things.

See, I am the female version of Peter Pan. Petra Pan, perhaps? (Yes, that's a real name. And yes, that is some kick ass alliteration.) I don't want to grow up. I like being nineteen.

Sure, it has its disadvantages, but they are few and far between. Who wants to go to The Palms anyway? I, for one, do not want to pick up a VMI over three dollar bottles of Miller. But that could just be me...

The grown up world is scary. You have to pay bills and file tax returns. You have to worry about things like health insurance and 401K's.

I would rather focus on deciding whether to pay thirty dollars for a sweater or springing an extra hundred for a sweater that looks exactly the same. (We all know by now where I stand on that one.)

Mono is just an example of the bad aspects of being a grown up. You didn't see Peter Pan swapping spit with the mermaids, right?

It feels good to feel alive, *truly* alive. For the first time in weeks I have energy. I don't need twelve hours of sleep and a cup of coffee to make it through classes. And I have the energy to shop for that sweater!

Finally, I am starting to be myself again. For a while there, I felt like a zombie. And with my naturally pale

complexion, I'm sure I looked like one too. (The little melanin I have bands together to form freckles rather than evenly distributing itself. But hey, freckles are hott. So, that means, by proxy, I am too, right?)

There was one thing I missed most during my month or so of illness: exercise. (Bet that surprises you, huh?) Yes, I am that much of an endorphin junkie. See, I've been working out five or six times a week for years. Obviously it's an essential part of my life. In fact, when I'm on the elliptical, I may just be at my most euphoric state, especially when Eminem is on the radio and Law & Order is on the TV.

I love the Fitness Center. Having to walk by it on the way to my sorority house was pure torture. I would look longingly through those giant windowpanes at the svelte runners and the intent bikers, the testosterone pumped studs lifting weights and the flexible yoga masters contorted in strange and embarrassing positions, and I would wish desperately to switch places with any one of them.

I was actually jealous. Yes, I know, I'm a regular green-eyed monster. Or blue eyed monster. You get the point. My first trip to the gym last week was seriously one of the highlights of my life. Of course, I thought I was going to die for the first ten minutes, but you know the saying: no pain, no gain.

I also missed seeing people. I realize that it's pretty sad when you list the gym as a priority over contact with other human beings, but that's pretty much the way it goes. Just kidding. Or am I?

But seriously, I spent way too much time in my room reading for class, watching chick flicks and napping. There were literally times when I found the

interior of Newcomb hall exciting. And let's face it, when that happens, you know you're in big trouble. I literally went days without stepping inside the Marketplace, because it took up too much energy to maneuver a tray among the congestion. Of course, I can't say I suffered too much from eating in my room. Spaghetti-O's have the d-hall beat.

Now that I am feeling better, I'm starting to get back into my old routine. I still need a bit more sleep and downtime than usual. For example, it's 10:19 pm and I just yawned. That could be because this article is *extremely* boring. And for that, I apologize. Go ahead and yawn too. See if I care!

However, despite the fact that I can't keep you entertained (Thanks for bursting my bubble and hurting my feelings!), more and more I am reverting to my old habits...like that of insomnia. For example, I have returned to waking up at six in the morning to eat breakfast. Yes, I am *that* weird.

Also, I am actually starting to enjoy other's company once again. If I can't carry out my end of a conversation with you, I don't have mono to blame for it anymore. It's probably just that I find you uninteresting. Just kidding again. Well, maybe not...

I'm glad that my good ol' immune system has finally decided to buck up and fight those nasty germs. Being sick was getting old. Of course, there's one thing I'll miss about mono: I can't let myself have that extra bowl of ice cream as a consolation for feeling like crap anymore. However, now that I'm going to the gym again...

Also, if anyone has a major suggestion, be sure to let me know. I can't be Petra Pan forever.