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THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2005

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

VOLUME CVII, NUMBER 23

WHAT'S INSIDE



Okay to go!

VACO takes the stage in Charlottesville. Find out more information about how to hear the popular band in concert on page 4.

Kolly's Creative Comeback

University vice president reacts to Ian Dickinson's poem from last week's issue. See page 5.

Fast food

Still looking for a place to eat before Fancy Dress? See page 4 for our opinion on where to go and what to avoid!

HOT TICKET



Party like the Pharaohs

After much anticipation, the long-awaited Fancy Dress will be held on Sat., March 19, from 9 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. at the Warner Center under loads of Egyptian decorations.

Rae of sunlight

Lexington's favorite local singer Arum Rae will be playing her soothing music at the Jordan House on Fri., March 18, from 8-10 p.m.

Pretty in Pink

The trippy "Pink Floyd: The Wall" will be running in the Commons theater on Mon. March 14, at 7 p.m. and Tues. March 15, Thurs. March 17, and Fri. March 18, at 9:30 p.m.

SIMPLE LIFE

Reclaim your life

Whether you're still catching up from pledgeship or starting to drown in work as the term begins its final stretch, it's time to buckle down and get caught up with work. But don't let Fancy Dress be your last chance for a good time this term! Here are some ideas to start the feelings of spring term that can still facilitate the workload of this term:

■ Gorgeous day and you get out of class a little early? Use that extra time to lay those books aside for some pink lemonade on the colonnade.

■ It's Thursday night and you've got work to do? The Blue Heron Café has live music every Thursday night that usually falls into the folksy or mellow genre. Take your books and laptop, order a cup of hot tea, and let the artsy environment feed your motivation to focus.

■ On that same note, The Lexington Coffee Shop has an open music forum on Wednesday mornings starting at 8:00 a.m. Grab a latte and a muffin for breakfast, huddle down with your last minute homework, and cram for your exam to some laid-back tunes.

■ It's late at night. You've been in your room working all day and you've finally gone stir-crazy. Get in the car and hit the highway. Blare the music, sing out loud if you must, and see the Blue Ridge Parkway when you can truly appreciate the peace and solitude.

■ Sometimes, the best thing you can do to recharge your batteries is just go to sleep. Sounds simple, but closing out of instant messenger and the Facebook isn't as easy as it sounds.

Campus mourns Gorman

Students remember Lenfest Center Director; memorial scholarship planned

By Erin Julius
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tragedy struck during Wednesday in the Lenfest Center. Lighting and Design students working in the Johnson Theater were alerted to an emergency when technical assistant for the Lenfest Center Stephanie Diggins ran to the class and explained that Lenfest Director Michael Gorman had fallen in the larger Keller Theater, and asked students to call 911.

Students Lisa Miller, '05 and Kristine Holda, '06 ran to Gorman's side in an attempt to administer first aid while Lee Shubert, '07 called 911.

Though no official cause of death has been released, the students who saw Gorman believe they know what happened. "Mike was climbing the back of an orchestra shell, which he wouldn't do in front of a student," said Miller. "He had been preparing for Saturday night's

Mike was Lenfest. That's the best way to put it. Every day, every event, every thing Mike was a part of it in one way or another

concert."

Gorman served as the director of Washington and Lee University's Lenfest Center for the Performing Arts since 1991, when the Center opened.

"Mike was Lenfest. That's the best way to put it. Every day, every event, every thing Mike was a part of it in one way or another," said Shubert. "No event will ever be the same now that he is no longer around. Every event will seem a little less bright, a little less complete, because of his absence."

Gorman also served as faculty

advisor for the Washington and Lee Dance Ensemble. "It is not an exaggeration to say that without Michael's support, dance would never have survived its fledgling years on this campus," said Professor Joseph Martinez, associate professor and chair of the W&L theater department.

"Mike was a mentor and friend to many of us," said Nicole Risey, '05. "We worked on shows together, he helped me through the insanity of my thesis, and he tried to help me decide what I wanted to do with my life."

More than one student said that

Gorman had been influential in their career choice. "He really was mostly a friend to all of us, an unofficial advisor of sorts," said Miller.

"I wish I had had the time to get to know him better," said Malinda Smith, '07. "In the limited interactions I had with him, he always brought a smile to my face," she said.

Gorman leaves behind a wife, daughter and son. His memorial mass will be said Tuesday, March 15 at 1 p.m. in St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be donated to the Michael K and Linda Gorman Scholarship to support W&L theater students.

The One-Act plays this spring will be dedicated to Gorman.

FOR RELATED ARTICLES
See REMEMBERING on page 6

University plans facelift for Leyburn

W&L investigates other examples of successful information supercenters

By Chris Lauderman
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Washington and Lee believes that it is time to renovate Leyburn Library. Despite being one of the youngest buildings on campus, the library built to be a modern interpretation of the Colonnade is showing its age.

The University plans on making the library an "Information Commons" where the library and computing merge their services. Dean Larry Peppers headed the Strategic Plan task force that dealt with this issue.

The task force report suggested that University Computing and the library should not join operations, but instead proposed that Computing and the library

restructure so that the student side of University Computing—including the HelpDesk—would be located in Leyburn. The large computing equipment will most likely remain in the basement of Tucker Hall.

Provost Thomas Williams pointed out the many models W&L observed. Brown, Wellesley, Connecticut College, Wheaton, Dickenson, and Wesleyan all have some form of an info commons.

But Merrily Taylor, Professor of Library, emphasized less the notion of an information commons and more of the transformation of the building into a welcoming place for students.

"Where the Commons is the University's living room, the library would be the University's study," Taylor said. "All kinds of exciting things could

happen."

New plans for the library include a café and coffee shop along with wireless connection in the whole building. Currently, there is not much room for faculty and student group work sites.

The provost acknowledged that no food or drinks in college libraries has become unrealistic.

"Most [college libraries] have snack bars or coffee bars now," Williams said.

The heating, cooling and ventilation system will also be completely overhauled. W&L will hire a consultant to come in and decide the best way to handle the renovation.

By moving portions of University Computing to the library, space becomes more problematic than in the past. Building onto Leyburn is one possible

solution, but another option is changing the way W&L currently stores its books.

Williams said that the library volume could be tripled by using mechanical compact storage by compressing all of the shelves into tracks pushed together. When students need a book, they will press a button and the shelves will part where the book is located. Taylor also suggested moving less-read books to a different location on campus.

The digital revolution, according to Taylor, will also influence the amount of space needed in the future. W&L is increasingly getting journals and reference books in digital form.

"As we go into this we will be looking into student and faculty input," Taylor said. "We want to make the library special and unique to W&L."

Winning band climbs ladder to the mainstream

Four bandmembers come together to make Jacob's Ladder a recent success

By Sarah Murray
NEWS EDITOR

When Jacob's Ladder took the stage at Battle of the Bands a week ago, the atmosphere changed just a little. The audience stopped chatting, turned towards the stage, began paying attention. The scene turned into a party environment to a real concert.

The difference was noticeable to the band members, too. "People were really listening and really responding to everything we played," said Wheeler Sparks '06.

Over the past year, Sparks and his bandmates have consistently turned heads with its performances, which attract a loyal student fan base. But Buffalo Creek, scheduled for this May, could be one of the last times that the group performs with its original members: Sparks as lead vocalist and guitarist, Pete Jones '06 on bass, guitarist Jared Meyer '07, and drummer Dan Fassio '05.

In the months that Jacob's Ladder has been on W&L's music scene, it has established itself as one of the few student bands that places an emphasis on original music and thoughtful performances, playing the Elrod Commons and the Jordan House as well as sweaty fraternity basements.

"I would much rather play a small coffeehouse show for 3 people and have them legitimately listen to my music than for 100 people who could care less," Sparks said.

The story of Jacob's Ladder is not one of good friends or cousins who decided to form a band. It was a progression of chance encounters, of "I know a guy who knows a guy." The result: a varied pool of musical talent, taste, and experience coming together to form "a cross between jazz and a rock/pop sort of sound," as Sparks characterizes it.

Meyer and Sparks began it by idly

picking up their guitars one day last year. What started as a way to pass the time became the origin of Jacob's Ladder.

"We jammed together for about two hours and knew we wanted to start a band," Meyer said.

They needed a drummer. Meyer knew that Fassio was a talented drummer who was looking for someone to play with. Someone would have to play bass. Sparks had heard of Jones' bass experience in the Jazz Ensemble.

It was all pretty easy, really.

Their first experience together convinced the band members that they were on the right track. Sparks brought a melody, Fassio increased the tempo to give it a rock sound, and Meyer and Jones pieced together parts of their own. The end result was good enough to surprise them all.

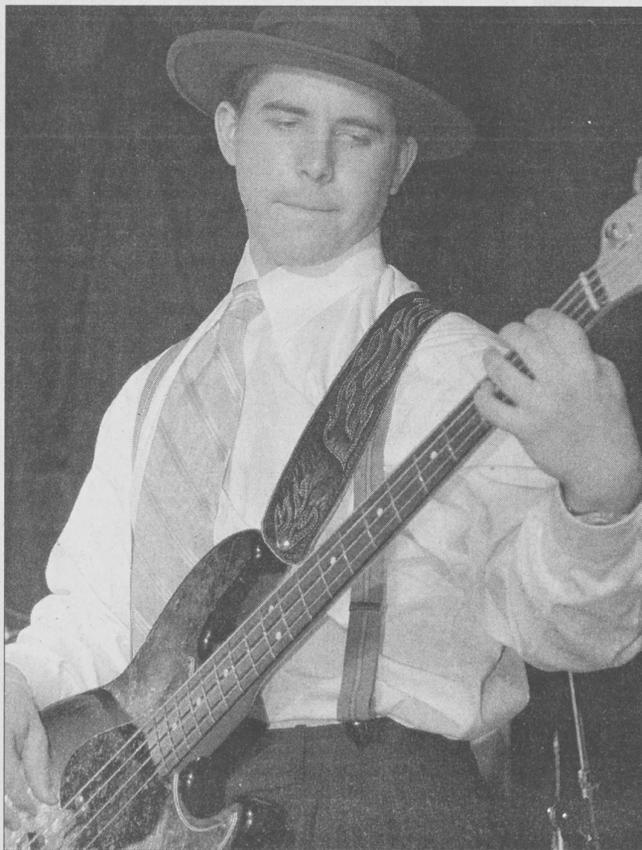
"I think we finished it in like half an hour maximum," Fassio said. "It's still one of our best songs."

That first achievement earned the song the nickname "Confidence Booster." From then on, the band members didn't hesitate to use their bring-your-own-skills approach to craft their music.

The diversity of their musical backgrounds is what makes that approach daunting, yet effective. Sparks is a music composition and economics double major whose acoustic preferences blend well with Jones' jazz-influenced style. Meyer, though trained in classical guitar, learned lead guitar the same way Fassio taught himself to handle a drummer's part—by playing along with CD's and records.

"I wasn't sure how it was going to turn out," Fassio admitted. "The good news was [that] we did appreciate everyone else's tastes, and we were willing to work with them."

With Fassio planning to pursue a graduate degree in religion next fall, the future of Jacob's Ladder is uncertain. The musicians left behind have already spoken with some possible replacements, and



STEVEN MARINOS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pete Jones, '06, performs with his band at Battle of the Bands on March 4.

plans have been made to record a CD before graduation.

"It won't be as good, clearly," Fassio cracked. "We're taking it as it comes...and trying to have fun with it."

"We're definitely hoping to continue playing together—if for no other reason, because it's a good break and release from stress," Sparks said.

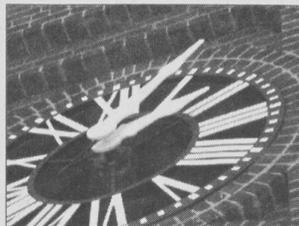
Whatever happens next year, the

band members are resolved to retain their musical integrity.

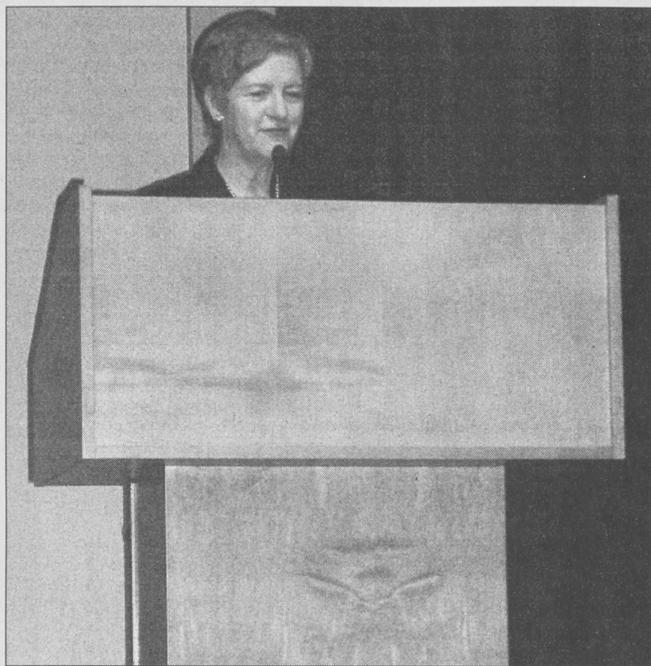
"To a larger degree, popular music has fallen off as being educated and being complex and being, at the same time, enjoyable to listen to," Sparks said. "In my own mind, I try to bridge the gap between well-written, studied music and something that's fun to listen to."

MAR 18 2005

news



Henriques speaks on corporate crime



Diana Henriques spoke on corporate crime and media malfunction in her speech in the University Commons last week. Henriques is a business reporter with the *New York Times*. She is a native of Texas who grew up in Roanoke, Va.

By Sarah Murray
NEWS EDITOR

New York Times business reporter Diana Henriques criticized the media's coverage of white-collar crime last Thursday in a lecture entitled "Bad Business: Corporate Crime and Media Malfunction." In her Elrod Theater appearance, Henriques discussed the recent attention given to corporate fraud and its implication that journalists have for too long accepted the words of business executives at face value.

"If they can't explain it to you and me, they probably don't understand it themselves," Henriques said.

Henriques's theory suggests that the terrorism attacks of September 11, 2001 drew additional attention to, among other things, the business world. The idea of the common man facing real danger in the workplace threw the work climate into a new light.

"Suddenly, it seemed that the simple act of going to work and doing your job had a special significance," Henriques said.

Charitable institutions and corporations found themselves under the scrutiny of the public to a degree yet unknown. Since 9/11, an unprecedented number of corporate crimes have appeared

in headlines and sound bites.

It's not that there is *more* corporate crime than before, Henriques said. The fault lies with the journalists who didn't dig deep enough to find the truth behind the corporations' numbers and public statements. For decades, "journalism existed not to police business, but to serve it," especially in times of prosperity.

"The early muckrakers had a deep sense of mission," Henriques said. "But commitment to that mission has been a roller-coaster ride from gullibility to cynicism ever since."

Henriques expressed concern at the popularity of television outlets, saying, "TV news has consistently done a terrible, terrible job of covering business and economics. Yet it is the primary news source for most Americans."

What's more dangerous, Henriques said, is the Internet's new power over the news industry. The risk of inaccurate or uninformed coverage is as great as the opportunity for spreading news.

"Somehow we've got to figure out how to harness the good and defeat the bad, or it will defeat us," Henriques said.

Henriques, a native of Bryan, Texas, grew up in Roanoke, Va. She received a degree in International Affairs from George Washington University and has written three books on corporate fraud.

Four new alumns to join Board of Trustees

By Sarah Murray
NEWS EDITOR

The Board of Trustees elected four new members to its number, the News Office reported Wednesday. All four elected members are alumni and hold positions of respect in their own communities.

Andrew N. Baur '66, a resident of St. Louis, Mo., was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity, an officer on the Inter-Fraternity Council, and a member of the *Ring-Tum Phi* staff, along with other prestigious positions.

Baur has also drawn fire from the National Council of Women's Organizations, who attacked the members of the Augusta Golf Club as representative of sexist attitudes in the corporate world. Their website, augustadiscriminates.org, targeted "corporate leaders with Augusta National memberships and the companies they work for", according to the *St. Petersburg Times*. Their concern is that the "No Girls Allowed" attitude on the part of corporate leadership "possibly translates into pay discrimination, glass ceilings, and sexual harassment up and down the line."

The president of the American Bar Association, Robert J. Grey Jr. '76L, was elected as well. Grey is a member of the Honorary Order of the Coif and was the Law School commencement speaker in 2003.

Bernard Grigsby II '72 lives in Surrey, England and will soon retire from a successful career as an economist. A former Kappa Sigma, he is heavily involved with alumni activities and has received honorary Omicron Delta Kappa membership.

The last new member, John Vardaman '62, attended Harvard Law School and is an acclaimed trial lawyer who has appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court. During his time at W&L, he participated in a slew of campus activities and was the captain

Harlem Gospel Choir to sing at W&L

GAB sponsoring event March 22

By Chris Lauderman
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Evans Hall will be rocking to the Harlem Gospel Choir next week. The General Activities Board is sponsoring the event that will be held Tuesday, March 22 at 8 p.m.

"I think it's something everyone should attend," Dan Fassio, Public Relations chair for GAB, said.

The idea for the gospel choir coming to campus stemmed from various campus organizations such as Onyx.

"We wanted to do something a little different," Fassio said.

GAB has never brought in a Gospel choir before and thought that this would be an appropriate time with Easter being so close.

The concert is free and open to the Washington and Lee community. Attire is not formal. It's on a Tuesday night, so

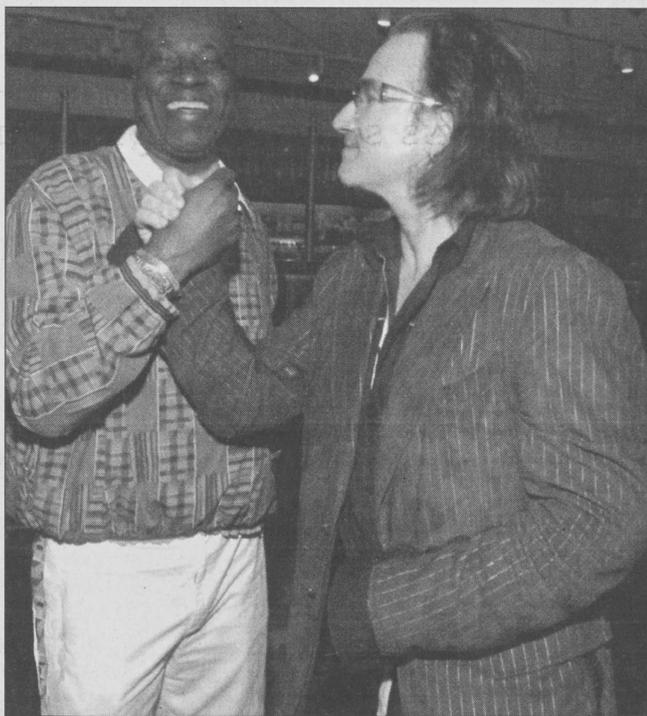
GAB knew that students would use it as a study break.

According to the choir's website, the theme of their performances is bringing people and nations together and giving something back. The 2005 tour theme is "God Bless the Children." They are currently traveling the world trying to raise money for various children's charities.

The Harlem Gospel Choir was founded in 1986 by Allen Bailey. The world-renowned choir has been traveling the globe since then performing for countless audiences. They have performed with celebrities from U2 to Whoopi Goldberg and have performed for people such as Pope John Paul II and Nelson Mandela.

To preview their music, CDs and DVDs are available on the choir's website for \$18.

Fassio said that the Harlem Gospel Choir has a lot of fun when they perform and that they are "really, really good."



Founder of the Harlem Gospel Choir, Allen Bailey, is pictured with Bono of U2. Bailey founded the choir in 1986. Since then, the choir has become world renowned and played with various artists including Lyle Lovett.

"I think it's something everyone should attend. ... We wanted to do something a little different"

A message from campus security

Dear Students,

As we approach this year's Fancy Dress Ball on Saturday, March 19, 2005 in Warner Center/Doremus Gym complex there are some things to keep in mind when you attend the ball. In the past we have had attendees show up without their tickets, so please make sure that you have them with you when you arrive. You will be asked to present them at the door. If you do not have your tickets with you, you will not be granted access to the event. Make sure you have your tickets!

Anyone who is found to be intoxicated will not be allowed to enter the facility. If you are found attempting to enter with alcohol, it will be confiscated and not returned to you. You will also be escorted from the event and not allowed to return. You will also not be allowed to carry any type of beverage or container into the event. It will be required that you discard any item of this nature at the door.

We want everyone who attends this event to enjoy themselves and have a good time. We also expect everyone to obey the Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and exhibit your best behavior. Be safe and have a good time. If you *do* drink, do so responsibly and don't drive.

Thank you,
Michael L. Young
Director, University Security

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sports

THIS WEEK

MONDAY, MARCH 14

- Golf at L-R Invitational TBA
- Women's Tennis at RMC 3:30
- Men's Tennis at RMC 3:30

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

- Golf L-R Invitational TBA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

- Baseball vs Roanoke 3:00
- Men's LAX vs. G'Boro 3:30
- Women's Tennis at JMU 3:45
- Women's LAX at Guilford 4:00

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

- Women's Tennis at RMWC 3:30
- Men's Tennis at EMU 4:00
- Women's Tennis vs. Roanoke 4:30
- Men's Swimming at NCAA TBA

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

- Women's Tennis at B'water 3:30
- Track at VCU 4:00
- Women's Tennis vs. EMU 4:30
- Golf at Golden Isle TBA
- Men's Swimming at NCAA TBA

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

- Track at Roanoke 10:00
- Baseball at EMU 12:00
- Men's LAX at Mary Wash 1:00
- Women's LAX at Mary Wash 2:00
- Men's Swimming at NCAA TBA
- Golf at Golden Isle TBA

SPORTS BRIEFS

W&L Men's Lacrosse Defeats F&M, 7-6, in OT (3/12)

Senior attackman Jack Murray (Earlsville, Va./Albemarle) scored off an assist from senior attackman Gavin Molinelli (Northport, N.Y./Northport) with 1:49 remaining in overtime to lift fourth-ranked Washington and Lee to a 7-6 win over Franklin & Marshall in men's lacrosse action on Saturday evening at the W&L Turf Field.

W&L Outdoor Track Opens Season at W&L Invitational (3/12)

The Washington and Lee outdoor track and field teams opened their 2005 season at the W&L Invitational on Saturday afternoon at the Wilson Field Track. The men placed fifth out of nine teams, while the women also finished fifth among nine teams.

W&L Women's Lacrosse Defeats Catholic, 6-5 (3/12)

The 16th-ranked Washington and Lee women's lacrosse team jumped out to a 5-2 halftime lead and held on for a 6-5 victory over Catholic University on Saturday afternoon in Washington D.C.

W&L Women's Tennis Defeats Guilford, 9-0 (3/12)

The third-ranked Washington and Lee women's tennis team improved to 7-0 overall and 5-0 in the ODAC with a 9-0 win over Guilford on Saturday afternoon in Lexington, Va.

Lalli focused on team goals

By Sarah Bloom
SENIORSPORTSWRITER



WALKER WILLIAMS
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
-Chris Lalli

It all started with backyard games for Washington and Lee lacrosse goalie Chris Lalli. "I remember playing outside with my dad and brother when I was a little kid," said Lalli.

Backyard games didn't last long for Lalli, however. He soon joined a competitive team in 4th grade that his mom and dad started and has been playing competitively ever since.

Lacrosse took a more serious note when he attended Princeton High School. Lalli started three of his four years and was named Princeton's best all-around athlete as a senior. He became team captain and was named defensive MVP by his teammates. A decorated high school

athlete, Lalli brought his talent a step higher when he came to the Washington and Lee field.

"Coach contacted me and I liked the idea of a small school," commented Lalli on his decision. As a freshman, he played in four games, allowing just three goals

by opponents.

This year Lalli starts for the Generals as goalie. He had a tough position to fill after the graduation of star goalie Ansel Sanders, but Lalli was more than ready to take the position. "Chris got a season to learn under Ansel,"

"We have a collective goal as a team to win ODACs this year. It's way in the future, but we've all got a goal of playing in Nationals and bringing home a title in mind."

commented Coach Mike Cerino in his pre-season press release. Lalli has performed indeed, protecting the goal at each game to ensure a win.

Unwilling to comment on himself, Lalli placed the focus on his team, saying "We have a collective goal as a team to win ODACs this year. It's way in the future, but we've all got a goal of playing in Nationals and bringing home a title in mind."

To do this, Lalli realizes that each game is important. He enters the locker room two hours before a game to talk with his fellow defensive men about the upcoming game. "We try to devise a game plan, to develop a mindset," said Lalli.

After four one-point wins this season, the team is now focused on an upcoming game against Greensboro. "The game went into overtime last year to win and we're looking to step it up this year."



COBBIN BLACKFORD / PHOTO EDITOR

Men's tennis shuts out Lynchburg, Denison

By John Bovay
SPORTSWRITER

The Washington & Lee men's tennis team played three matches last week, and emerged victorious on every court. The team improved its record to 8-4, and remains ranked tenth nationally among Division-III schools.

On Wednesday, the team took on Lynchburg College at home and dominated, winning every set. Lynchburg was playing its first match of the year, and

was unable to mount much of a challenge. Paul McClure, David Shay, and Jon Malooly took the first three courts.

On Saturday, the men faced a harder challenge against Denison College, but still managed to win every set of every match.

McClure led the team again, defeating his opponent 6-2, 6-2; Shay took the second court with a 6-3, 7-6 (6) victory. Denison, like the other teams, was playing its first match of the season.

McClure, ranked 25th in the nation, improved his singles record this season to

10-7, and Shay, ranked 20th, improved to 11-7. The Shay-McClure doubles team improved to 9-6 overall.

Sophomore Jon Malooly, who ranks third on the team, described the weekend matches as "domination." On the team's prospects for the rest of the season, he remained upbeat, commenting, "I go day-by-day."

The team faces two ODAC opponents this week, first playing at Randolph-Macon on Monday, and then traveling to Eastern Mennonite in Harrisonburg on Thursday.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME



COBBIN BLACKFORD / PHOTO EDITOR

The Washington and Lee Baseball team improved to 16-2 (4-0) after sweeping a double header Saturday against Randolph Macon. The wins extended the General's winning streak to 14 games. First baseman Taylor McConnell hit a grand slam and sophomore pitcher Clayton Edwards won his fourth game. The Generals return to action Wednesday against Roanoke.

Generals track finishes fifth at Invitational

Sports Release
SPORTSINFORMATION

The Washington and Lee outdoor track and field teams opened their 2005 season at the W&L Invitational on Saturday afternoon at the Wilson Field Track. The men placed fifth out of nine teams, while the women also finished fifth among nine teams.

In the men's meet, the Generals had three first-place finishes, seven top-five finishes and set a new school record. Senior Nathan Johnson, who was named the Athlete of the Meet, won both the 800 meters and the 1500 meters. Sophomore Andrew Fischer won the javelin with a throw of 145'8".

Senior Steve Chambers placed fifth in the 1500 meters and sixth in the 800 meters. Sophomore Walker Duncan placed third in the hammer throw with a school-record toss of 136', while senior Chris Walker finished fourth in the hammer throw with a heave of 107'7".

The 4x400 relay team of senior Norman Senior, Chambers, freshman Steve Rivoir and Johnson placed fifth in a time of 3:42.02.

In the women's meet, W&L had eight top-five finishes. Senior Meredith Walker won the long jump and was fifth in the 200 meters. Senior Emily Barker placed second in the javelin and third in the shot put.

The 4x400 meter relay team of Ratzel, Christopher, junior Liz Twentymann and Haws placed fourth with a time of 4:37.18.



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arts & life



VACO to perform in Charlottesville

By Kate Shellnutt
STAFF WRITER

Listen up for guitar strumming, bongo rhythms, and Casio sound clips... you may be able to hear the bumpin' fresh tunes from here.

Virginia Coalition, remembered for their high-energy shows at campus fraternity houses, visits Charlottesville, Virginia Friday, March 18.

The band will perform at the Satellite Ballroom, attached to Plan 9 music on the UVA Corner. The \$12 show begins at 8 with college country/pop/rock bands Monticello Road and Sparky's Flaw, then VACO takes the stage to get live at 10.

The show, a part of Virginia Coalition's "Ok to Go" tour, includes music off their latest CD of the same name. Produced by Matt Wallace (known for his work with Maroon 5 and Train), the new CD fine-tunes both VACO's melodic, acoustic, and heartfelt side and what lead singer Andy Poliakoff calls their "ass-

kickin' rock-n-roll side."

Since last visiting W & L, the band has gone from five members to four, but VACO 2.0 remains true to its roots: humor, crowd interaction, and musical variety.

After releasing four CDs, Virginia Coalition presents a playlist of their classic songs, funkified classics, brand spankin' new beats, and the occasional eighties/hip-hop cover.

Because they will be weekend headliners so close to the University of Virginia campus, fans can expect a pretty packed show Friday.

VACO certainly follows the motto, "the bigger the crowd, the bigger the party," and after spending the nearly the last three months touring outside of their home state, the guys will be ready to party on with Virginia pride.

For more about how to be a part of the party, or just more VACO info, check out the band's website: www.virginiacoalition.com.

WHO'S VACO



KATE SHELLNUTT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Virginia Coalition, or VACO, is a band based in Northern-Virginia. Their recordings reveal a layered music style—rock, soul, funk, hip-hop, go-go, and bluegrass, created by their expressive lyrics and occasional banjo, keyboard, cowbell, bongo, or washboard jam sessions. Their live shows intensify all the best things about their CD, extending their musical energy to the audience via chants and commands to dance, jump, and just "get live." The band has performed with favorites like The Roots, Dave Matthews Band, Pat McGee Band, Counting Crows, O.A.R., Ben Folds Five, and Guster, and was voted the Washington Post's Best DC Band in 2003.

Jordan House hosts local musicians

By Elyse Moody
STAFF WRITER

I didn't know the Jordan House existed until last Friday. Most of you probably have no idea where it is either—but you should.

Located across from the Mirage on Nelson Street, you have probably passed by this little building without giving it a second thought. Narrow, brick, and unassuming, the Jordan house blends in with every other building downtown.

If you want to hear some interesting student and professional music, however, it is worth checking out. The concerts are a great way to start off a Friday night.

The Jordan House has been renovated to accommodate musical performances, and it seats about 60 people comfortably in the main room.

The intimacy of the setting is perfect for the kinds of musicians the Jordan House attracts: local talent and student musicians.

It provides an excellent atmosphere for a low-key night of music with your friends or in support of your friends. It is a similar experience to seeing someone your age on VH1's *Storytellers*—except the background stories are a lot more entertaining.

Last Friday, Common Grounds hosted a night of acoustic music featuring student musician Chris Kimmel '06. If you like acoustic music and casual, student-run events, it was a lot of fun.

Wheeler Sparks '06 set the tone for the evening with a selection of original songs and covers. He and Blair Crunk '07 performed a rendition of Ryan Adam's "Sweet Carolina" just before Kimmel came onstage. Kimmel also played mostly original music, but he also worked in

covers of Jack Johnson, Sublime, etc...along with audience requests.

These guys are really talented. You should come the next time they play.

Next week, the Jordan House presents local musician Arum Rae from 8-10 PM. A mixture of urban jazz and blues, her work has been described as classic, with a twist of Bonnie Raitt.

Others say she falls somewhere between Erykah Badu and Patsy Cline. Clearly, Rae is a unique musician who falls into her own category and sets herself apart from the contemporary music scene.

She performs both jazz standards, and original music, and she is known for her eclecticism and wit. Sounds good to me.

I didn't know the Jordan House existed until last Friday. Most of you probably have no idea where it is either—but you should.

Hell month beginning

By Kristine Early
THE MILK AND CHEESE GIRL

Hell week is over. For freshman. For me, hell month is just beginning to rear its ugly head. In three and a half weeks I have a total of seven papers due. SEVEN. Yes. SEVEN.

You may have been poked with a cattle prod, forced to get up at five in the morning to run six miles and been at the beck and call of your brothers 24/7, but clearly, I have it worse. Anything that requires spending time in Leyburn qualifies as torture.

Despite the fact that deadlines are looming, I have done little more than gather my resources together. Why? Call it lack of motivation.

Let's list today's accomplishments:

- 1) Waking up.
- 2) Getting out of bed.
- 3) Brushing my teeth.
- 4) Showering.
- 5) Eating.
- 6) Watching baseball.

(Though that did require walking to Captain Dick Smith field, which is clearly a large expenditure of energy on my part.)

7) Sitting and writing this article. And did I mention that it's

way past its deadline? (Sorry, Erin and Chris!)

Let's list my plans for the rest of the day:

- 1) Eat dinner.
- 2) Take a nap. (Clearly, I'm worn out from being a loyal General's fan.)
- 3) Write paper number one: due Tuesday.

I have a feeling I won't be getting to number three. Once I get under the covers, there is a big chance I'll remain curled up like a Cheshire cat until my alarm clock rings at 9:05 a.m. It's just a guess, though.

I take solace in the fact that spring break is only twenty-five days away. I've already planned out how I'll spend my seven days of freedom. Sleeping. Eating. Watching Lifetime movies and Law and Order (Special Victims Unit, clearly). Shopping. Visiting friends. Spending time with my dog. Celebrating my big 2-0. Sounds nice, doesn't it?

All of my friends back home are on break right now. And they enjoy

rubbing it in my face incessantly. Instant message conversations go as follows:

Me: Hey, how are you? (I am the only person in the entire world that actually uses proper punctuation and capitalization on AIM. I'm just that cool.)

Friend: i'm great how are u?

Me: I'm OK. I have a lot of work though.

Friend: oh sorry i'm on break i didn't even get up until 2 today then i went shopping and i went to the movies with a couple of friends my mom made me my favorite meal life is so good right now

Me: Wow! I'm jealous.

Friend: i know while you're stuck in classes all day I am lying around watching tv and eating popcorn of course occasionally I have to get up to go to the bathroom or something like that it's a hard life

Me: Yeah. I feel for you.

Ergh! One more month to go, ladies and gents. Hang in there. And may teachers take mercy on our souls.

I take solace in the fact that spring break is only twenty-five days away. I've already planned out how I'll spend my seven days of freedom.

Lex offers large array of dining options

By Emily Edwards
ARTS AND LIFE EDITOR

Fancy Dress is on Saturday. You're probably sick of hearing about it. To beat this dead horse, the *Ring-tum Phi* offers you a list of restaurant options from which you can choose before the big dance. That is, if you are capable of eating a meal by the time 6pm rolls around on Saturday.

Café Michel

This restaurant has quickly become a favorite of students since it opened over the summer. Appetizers range from \$6.95 to \$7.95 while entrees range from \$19.95-\$23.95. The entrée price includes a house salad, a side of vegetables, and a choice of rice, potato, or pasta. In true W&L fashion, they do serve wine, beer, and liquor. Hours: 5-10pm. (540)464-4119.

Southern Inn

A staple of Main Street, the Southern Inn offers a wide array of classic entrée options. Appetizers range from \$3.75-\$11.95, and entrees range from \$10.95-\$15.95. Specialty entrees (nightly specials) change daily and range

from \$19.95-\$35. Check out their fantastic drink menu, with a plethora of different martinis and wines from California to Spain.

Wilson-Walker House

We love this place for their \$5 lunch specials, so their dinner is bound to be just as good. Appetizers range from \$3.95-\$6.50 while entrees range from \$11.95-\$24.50. Each meal comes with their marvelous homemade rolls. (540)463-3020.

Sheridan-Livery Inn

Across from the Wilson-Walker House is another dining option for you. Appetizers range from \$6-9.50, salads from \$5.50-\$10, sandwiches from \$6-\$8. Entrees range from \$18 for chicken piccata to \$29 for a surf-and-turf. They also offer an extensive wine list, ranging from \$23.95-\$35.95 per bottle. (540)464-1887.

The Bistro on Main

Do not overlook this gem on Main Street. Occupying what was once Caroline's Bakery, the Bistro offers a diverse selection of entrees, including their amazing crabcakes. Appetizers range from \$4.95-\$5.95 and entrees



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE CAPELLO

Café Michel, like the other fine eateries in Lexington, offers divine cuisine and a large wine selection.

from \$9.95-\$19.95.

If you're looking for sushi, the sushi bar at the International Foods market is closed on Saturdays. As for Il Palazzo? It's closed for renovations at the moment and will reopen soon as the Tuscany Restaurant.

PLEDESHIP OF OLD...



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCISCO MEJIA

Pledgeship as we once knew it returned to Washington and Lee University, if only for a day. Phi Psi pledges littered the Hill posing as mimes, making PB&J sandwiches, and playing golf. They were also spotted acting as gargoyles and just being motherly. Above is Mark Howell '08 performing yoga on the front lawn. For the *Ring-tum Phi's* opinion, read this week's staff editorial on page 6.

"Life is just a mirror, and what you see out there, you must first see inside of you."

— Wally "Famous" Amos

Ode to Snow Cancellations

A Reply to Last Week's Poem by Dickinson (Ian, not Emily).

By Tim Kolly
VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Who says the Administration doesn't know how to take a joke? Tim Kolly sent the Phi a humorous response to Ian Dickinson's poem that ran last week. Read and enjoy. If only all of our administrators had such a sense of humor.

Imagine my sigh
As I picked up the Phi
And read the poem on page five.
It told of the plight
Of students who fight
The elements to just stay alive.

The scourge here is snow,
It's slippery, you know,
And students get killed all the time.
Their cars run in ditches
Or tumble off bridges
Willy-nilly, without reason or rhyme.

I've heard it spoken
Of the bones that are broken
Merely trying to get to their classes.
That doesn't even count
The injuries that mount
When they slip and fall on their "behinds."

But Ian's poem seemed to say
In a roundabout way
That when snow flakes in profusion do fall
That no classes, late classes
Or regular time classes
It really is Tim Kolly's call.

That's all news to me
I'm in bed, you see
When my phone rings at six in the morn
It's the voice of the provost
That calls me to my post
Snow Alert! you students I warn.

I know how you feel
I'm a cog in the wheel
When it comes to a decision on snow.
I say what I'm told
Whether snow, ice, or cold
You're shooting the messenger, fellow.

My voice and my words
Are those read and heard
But I say this ever so humbly
While I relish the fame
You've got the wrong name
The decision is Williams' and Beebe's.

"Dating Doctor" to speak on Thursday

David Coleman cleverly offers fresh insight into relationships

By Emily Edwards
ARTS AND LIFE EDITOR

DATING DOCTOR 411



Man: "How do you like your eggs in the morning"
Woman: "Unfertilized"

Does your boyfriend have the attention span of an ant? Is your girlfriend more needy than a six-week old lab puppy? Are you yearning to add more pick up lines to your frat-speak repertoire? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, come hear David Coleman speak on Thursday night at 7:30.

Coleman, known to many college students as "The Dating Doctor," will be giving a presentation entitled, "Making Relationships Work."

A nine-time national Speaker of the Year, Coleman actively engages his audience through the use of Powerpoint presentations and his lively diction.

For those of you who have had the pleasure of hearing the real-life Hitch, you may recall his pick up line challenge, in which Coleman essentially dares you to out-do him with crazy pickup lines.

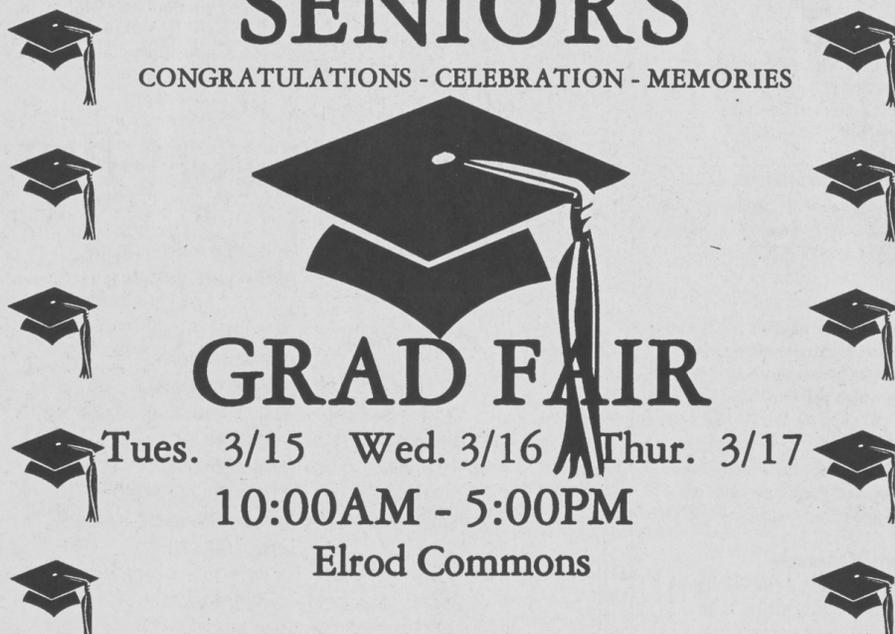
Man: "I'm here to fulfill your every sexual fantasy"
Woman: "You mean you've got both a donkey and a Great Dane?"



CONTENT COURTESY OF DATINGDOCTOR.COM

You give him the first half of a pickup line, and chances are, he'll know the last half. He'll even give you his Top 10 worst pickup lines ever.

The presentation is sponsored by multiple campus organizations, including the Gender Relations committee, LIFE, and Panhellenic.



SENIORS

CONGRATULATIONS - CELEBRATION - MEMORIES



GRAD FAIR

Tues. 3/15 Wed. 3/16 Thur. 3/17
10:00AM - 5:00PM
Elrod Commons

ORDER YOUR CAPS AND GOWNS *

PURCHASE YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduation from college is one of the most important achievements in a person's life, a milestone that family and friends want to share.

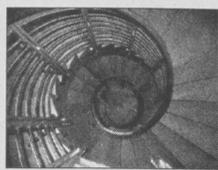
RESERVE YOUR DIPLOMA FRAME
(5% Discount on Grad Fair Orders)

SELECT YOUR RING

REGISTER FOR MP3 PLAYER DRAWING

*Caps and gowns must be ordered during this three day event.
Orders after 3/17 will incur a \$25 late fee.

opinions



STAFF EDITORIAL

Kudos to Phi Psi for open Hell Week

Last week, during the last stretch of pledgship, upperclassmen were excited to briefly see remnants of the old Hell Week activities. Pledges golfed on the front lawn, posed as a gargoyle near the Commons, and apparently set up a toll booth on the sorority bridge. How did this happen?

The IFC sent out an email inviting fraternity members to submit proposals if there were any planned activities they were unsure about. Phi Kappa Psi submitted a proposal for skits on the Hill and the IFC gave them its go-ahead.

Security, however, stopped the Phi Kappa Psi potential new member who had set up the toll booth on the sorority bridge. Dean Dawn Watkins also received a complaint regarding the pledgship activities.

Phi Kappa Psi stopped the pledgship activities when they realized complaints were being registered.

The question is: Why did these activities generate complaints?

These funny, harmless, creative – and emphasis on the word harmless – activities should not be garnering this negative attention.

The Ring-tum Phi applauds Phi Kappa Psi for opening their Hell Week activities.

We are not criticizing security, the IFC or the Administration. We simply think that the witch-hunt for “hazing” has gone too far.

UPS & DOWNS

Opinions Editor Caley Anderson has finished sucking up to his profs to give you his take on what rose and fell this week at W&L and around the world.

History Dept.

According to student feedback on ratemyprofessor.com, the best department on campus, with psychology a close second.

Library Sketchiness

I don't know who the couple was, but people, take heed- hooking up in the stacks is FORBIDDEN.

Congress

10 points for our nation's legislators for hauling MLB into the light, kicking and screaming. Still, I just want to watch/play baseball.

Judges

Mortality rates for my hopeful future profession are alarmingly high in recent weeks.

Garry Kasparov

Regarded by many as the best chess player in history, he retires from professional chess to concentrate on putting the democracy in Russia's “liberal democracy.” Yes, I am a COMPLETE nerd for knowing about this, but if you didn't know that, where the hell have you been?

Mike Gorman

If you are a theatre major, or if you know one, you know that this man was loved and respected.

IRA

Leaders can't enforce cease-fire, associated political party distancing itself, IRA members dribbling away, the organization is dying a slow death. Good riddance, I say.

Star Wars Ep. III

Trailers look good, but by god will I be pissed if this one turns out to suck as much as the last two.

Ten Commandments Case

Even the Rehnquist Court won't pass this, especially if the Chief himself isn't back to influence the case.

Fade away- W&L of two years past only a distant memory

By Caley Anderson
MODERATESMUSINGS

When I first came here as a prospective (almost exactly three years ago), I was taken by my kindly Honor Scholar hosts (some of whom are still here, waiting to graduate in June) to Salerno's. I remember being awed by the social interconnectivity of the place; everyone seemed to know everyone else. W&L managed to set itself apart, in my mind, from the other five institutions I had been accepted to. It wasn't just the friendliness of the place, though, everyone there seemed to have a kind of weird, unique vibe. My host, a pledge undergoing hell week when I visited, came back on alternate days with a nearly-frozen, purplish-colored hand, and then a sling around his arm, which, unexplainably, seemed not to be injured at all.

Then came my freshman year and everything seemed to come into focus. W&L was indeed different. Other schools have greek systems, other schools use alcohol (and in abundance), but no school that I know of had the odd culture that W&L had. I was never a part of this culture because I wasn't really all that into alcohol, or fraternal bonds, for that matter. Neither did I dislike the system- it's always been a peculiarly fascinating thing to me, and certainly it provides both benefits and negatives to the campus.

I think the primary reason this culture is here is because there's little else to do in the fine city of Lexington, Virginia, which frankly hasn't been the same since Dave Hunter burned it down back in the day. The campus is not unlike a desert island of 2000 people, detached from the rest of the world. It's a difficult way to live, because we really don't have all that much here. There is, of course, the cadre of academics who pressure our minds until they either break or become accustomed and adapted to the stress. Other than that, though, all we really have is each other. In time, we come to be closer to a lot of people here than we ever were with most of everyone we knew back home.

Of course, much like a desert island, things are fraught with intrigue, paranoia, hierarchy and hatred. Gossip, rumor and

social climbing dominate the minds of a surprising number of students at this school, even above academics. There is a very subtle order to things here- to the value ranking of individuals as well as groups. It can all be quite stressful, and not surprisingly, the answer for most students is the liberal consumption of alcohol, which is the centerpiece of W&L social life.

This culture, like it or not, is on the retreat at W&L. It's only necessary for the sake of clarity to recite the evidence that it is; the system's supporters have grown hoarse from screaming it. For instance, there is the reduction of pledgship from the trying, even painful and injurious process that it once to the barely-tangible ritual of “new member education” that is has become. It's harder to get into some facebook groups than it is to get into most greek organizations.

There is the slow but steady clamp-down on alcohol. The drinking age is 21, they say, and the time has come to put meaning into the drinking age law. I, of course, along with most sane people on this campus, including the administrators, think a 21-year old drinking age is ridiculous, and rightly so. But the law is the law, they say, so wristbands and IDs rule the day. In two years, I predict it will be no easier to get underage alcohol at W&L than anywhere else.

There are the little things. The construction of the Commons has changed things. The speaking tradition is dying a slow, dragged-out, painful death. This is a campus that hardly changed at all for nearly fifty years, and in the space of only two years of my time here, it feels like a completely different place.

Good riddance, you might say. There are many who feel that the old W&L was destructive to students, offered them the wrong lessons about life and about how to treat others.

Or, on the other hand, you might cry for the preservation of tradition, for defending the old W&L to the last.

Do the administrators really have a master plan for changing the school's character? Is this change a good or a bad thing? What are we losing, what are we gaining? None of these question can really be answered, but put on the Bob-Dylan, because the times, they are a-changin'.

Just do it- success in lies in gaining experience

By Anne Finley
THEBIGPICTURE

I've been thinking a lot lately about what I want to do after college. Yes, it's only my sophomore year, but I've never been one to procrastinate. (Except for, apparently, in writing my twice-monthly column, where my personal trend has gone from turning it in at the beginning of the week to dangerously close to press time). But seriously, I'm starting to understand why there are so many movies about twenty-somethings trying to figure out what to do with their lives.

In my case, coming up with ideas has never been hard. In fact, my problem has always been that there are a million things I would love to do. Growing up, my career dreams have included, (but not been limited to), ballet dancer, archaeologist, poet, lawyer, Broadway singer, and psychiatrist. It was the same story with academics. I had to give up on my plan for a double major because I couldn't narrow it down and didn't want to limit the kinds of classes I could take.

But I think I've found a good philosophy. To borrow from Nike, just do it. It seems obvious, but it is really much more difficult than it sounds. Knowing what you plan on doing is one

thing, but making it a reality is quite another. When I went to a roundtable discussion with the directors that came to the Worldfest Lexington Film Festival this fall, they asked me to introduce myself and why I came. I said that I wanted to be a writer. One of the screenwriters interrupted me. “You are a writer. Just say you're a writer.” But sitting there, I still felt that saying that would make me a phony.

After that, I was determined to take steps in the right direction. I'm currently in a creative writing class, painstakingly making my first attempts at writing short stories. It is stressful because I feel like, more than ever, have a lot at stake in my success or failure in a course. It is challenging, but it is also rewarding. And more importantly, I know that I am actually doing what I have mostly just talked about.

The more I think about it, the more I am sure that experience is the key. In taking classes which correspond to your intended career and challenge you, or finding a summer internship which does the same, you are forcing yourself to step up and look your future in the face. You are also able to get a realistic idea of what a profession, or a life, could be like. We've definitely all heard stories of pre-law or pre-meds coming back from summer internships that convinced them they were in the wrong career path. But it should go for everything. If you don't want a surprise after graduation, better explore your options now.

Graffiti takes its rightful place as artistic style

By Carissa Shipley
NTHETROUS

With Fancy Dress weekend coming up, it's my guess that our campus will soon be covered with the traditional sign of the Cadavers. The addition of a new secret society on campus is sure to bring about interesting speculation. Will they also mark the buildings with a cryptic reminder of their existence? Even though the Cadavers' favorite media is chalk and brick, could it be considered graffiti?

The episode of “The Apprentice” that aired a couple weeks ago featured the contestants creating an ad for Sony's new “Gran Turismo” game. Each team hired a graffiti artist to help them design an ad to place on the side of a building in Brooklyn. The artists that they interviewed had huge portfolios of all their work, and some of the pieces were truly amazing. Graffiti, in this instance, has become high art.

I was looking up quotes online

the other day when I came across a page devoted to graffiti. Each quote was referenced to the place it was found, weather sprayed on a wall, scratched into a desk, or written in a random bathroom. Among the quotes were observations about the world, interesting bits of advice and random thoughts. However crude or humorous they were, each had a little bit of truth to it. From “knowledge pursues me but I'm faster” to “cancer cures smoking,” the Cadaver's symbol to murals, graffiti's image has been revolutionized. While I don't particularly enjoy seeing bright orange paint spelling out vulgar words as I'm driving under bridges, I can't help but think that it each bit is art, wisdom, or even the tiniest reflection of someone's identity.

Of course, one anonymous writer truly had it right when he ironically scratched, “what kind of person goes out of their way, gets a permanent pen, and goes into a stinky bathroom just to scribble nonsense on the wall so others can read it?”

Maybe it's art but maybe it's nonsense, I guess it's just in the eye of the beholder, and in the meantime, chalk can be appreciated by everyone.

Remembering the life of Lenfest's Mike Gorman

By Lisa Miller and Nicole Risey
16THETHEATREMAJORS

Mike Gorman was a special man to many in the Washington and Lee community. Those of us in his theater family here decided to remember him in the way that he lived- with laughter. We gathered at Big T's cabin for a wake in honor of our dear friend. For the non-initiated, Big T is Tom Anderson, the technical director for the theater department. Alumni from far and wide came to celebrate a dynamic life. Florida plates could be seen in the drive and a '96 alum joined us to talk about anything and everything, both that which related to Mike and that which was somewhere out in left field. The significant presence was proof that Mike will be sorely missed.

Mike had a booming laugh that could be heard in all parts of the Lenfest Center every time it rang out.

He laughed easily and often, making anyone who recognized that sound smile. Everyone who knew him can tell you that he never went without a kind word and a smile and was always willing to help with any project, even if he was already overwhelmed with his own tasks. He always had time to talk. Even if he was stressed, he ensured that you wouldn't be.

Mike was involved with every aspect of pretty much every event the Lenfest hosted. He hung lights for almost every show. He ensured that the stage was perfect for each dance recital. He listened to theater students and guided us through troubled times. He gave us direction and lent his passion for the theater to each of us that were blessed enough to know him.

The One Acts this year have been dedicated to Mike's memory. This is a fitting, even if inadequate, memorial to him. He was the glue that held them together in years past. Mike was our mentor, our teacher, our savior, and, most importantly, our friend. Just so that he knows, we'll be making some magic. This one is for you, Mike.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

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"If you go to Vegas and bet a dollar on the Royals making the playoffs, your potential payout is 100% of the money there is in the entire world."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK Jon Bois of humor website ProgressiveBoink.com

Free your mind from the OC and prime time's television schedules

By Becky LeMoine
THE LIBERAL VIEW

It is always the same, each Thursday from eight to nine 'o' clock some of my friends mysteriously disappear.

No, they are kidnapped.

While I am out either being productive or avoiding productivity by actually enjoying life, they are wasting away in front of a television screen, immersed in the lives of non-existent people that they wish they could be.

Yes, the OC mercilessly kidnaps my friends, each and every week, and I am powerless to stop it.

This would not be too annoying, if it weren't for the fact that they are also kidnapped weekly by Desperate Housewives, One Tree Hill, Alias, ER, and Extreme Makeover, among others. Religiously watching TV seems to have

become a central part of W&L life, and that is unfortunate.

You might argue that TV is relaxing, and I won't disagree there. Mindless entertainment that transports you from reality is indeed relaxing, and I have no problem with people who choose TV as a means of escaping the drudgery and intensity of classes.

However, I am disgusted by people who center their lives on whether or not Marissa is a lesbian or if Seth and Summer will get back together.

When TV shows begin interfering with daily activities, in essence *real life*, then TV is no longer a relaxation technique, it is simply an obsession.

Another argument is that TV creates bonding among TV watchers, since most of the time at W&L people gather in large groups to enjoy an episode of their favorite TV show.

How do a few laughs and gossip about what the next episode has in store represent real bonding in any way at all? A bond, as defined by dictionary.com, is "a close personal relationship."

If all you are doing is staring at a screen, laughing at the impossible situations that unrealistic characters experience, how are you able to form a close and personal relationship with the person sitting next to you?

Friendship involves more than regarding flickering images on a TV screen. TV is not a means of bonding; rather, it is a means of avoiding reality, and thus a way to avoid real bonding with those around you.

People also seem to have this misconceived notion that they can actually relate to the characters.

Maybe they can relate to the common feelings of love or hate, but, in

context, how can they relate to characters that are never in real-life situations?

For example, how many times have you kissed or been kissed in the "Spiderman" position?

To examine a TV show with long-standing popularity, look at Friends.

Five twenty-something year olds with low-paying jobs, such as waiting tables and acting, living together in relatively nice, spacious apartments in New York City... how realistic is that?

Not very.

While it may be convenient and agreeable to our consciences to believe that most people have carefree and easy lives like that, it would be a stretch to say that, in reality, life would run so smoothly.

Even at W&L, despite popular belief, most of the students don't lead lives as glamorous as the characters on the OC do.

So, if you honestly feel like your life or love life is a mirror of the OC, then congratulations, you have never had to deal with reality.

I am not asking for, and do not expect a dramatic anti-television movement.

I simply hope that at least one religiously devoted TV watcher will step back and realize the folly of his or her ways, and make an attempt not to fall further into the trap of corporate media.

Missing one episode for a change will not kill you; it will only make you stronger.

So, when given the choice to experience real life or to hide from it,

I hope you will make the right decision. However, if, despite your best intentions, you can't possibly survive without the OC, I suggest investing in a VCR.

Prof. DeLaney supports academic freedom for University speakers

Dear Editor,

Student organizations have brought an amazing variety of speakers to campus this year, and for that they should be complimented. In past years I have not always been happy with the line-up of speakers because they almost always represented one political perspective, and a university must be a place where all ideologies and topics are open to full discussion and debate. Intellectually curious students should have exposure to a full array of speakers, and those speakers should never be censored because of ideology or radicalism.

Just a couple of weeks prior to the presidential election, Students for Life brought Jesse Lee Peterson to campus, an ultra-conservative black minister who is hyper-critical of the black community, and

no one condemned that choice more than me. The title of his lecture was highly inflammatory and prejudicial; yet in retrospect I am glad Reverend Peterson came to Washington and Lee. His talk was controversial enough to generate a conversation within the student body that has led to the variety of speakers that we have seen.

No speaker, however, has generated greater controversy than Angela Davis, and that debate has persisted for nearly two months. As a professor who teaches African American history, I was delighted to have her here for two reasons. First, the "black power" movement and "black nationalism" are two themes I cover in my classes, and she represents both. Second, there is a fundamental difference between the views of black and white

Americans, and the black community has great admiration for Angela Davis. More important, her presence seemed to demonstrate that the student body has discovered the importance of diversity of opinion and academic freedom. The flap over her visit has caused me to rethink my own commitment to academic freedom.

More than forty years ago, a student religious group at W and L took the initiative to invite Dr. Martin Luther King to campus. Washington and Lee was a segregated institution at the time, and the Board of Trustees quickly rescinded King's invitation. University President Fred Cole and an outraged faculty defended the students' choice and asserted the importance of academic freedom. Dr. King never spoke at here, and no one learned more about the folly of censoring

speakers than the student religious group and the faculty. The trustees were wrong!

If this university is to occupy a place among the highly ranked universities in this nation, it cannot and must not censor speakers, no matter how outrageous. We must commit ourselves to academic freedom and free speech. Intellectually curious students and faculty members must always have the opportunity to hear a wide array of speakers. I doubt whether either Jesse Lee Peterson or Angela Davis converted anyone to their views while on campus, but the campus is much richer because we dared to provide a forum for both of them. Washington and Lee students are bright, not gullible. They are not easily impressionable. More important, both students and faculty were able to hear

those speakers and discuss or debate their merits. The only regrettable part of the debate is that some of us said they were inappropriate choices. And I confess to having said as much about Peterson. I will never do that again. But I will argue for variety, for diversity of opinion, and I will support the right of students to bring anyone to campus. My hope is that we continue to hear both the right and the left and everything between.

Sincerely,

Theodore C. DeLaney '85
Associate Professor of History

Project horizon President praises BRAVE abuse benefit, makes Phi corrections

Dear Editors,

I congratulate and thank Heather Owens and all the Washington and Lee students who organized and participated in the recent Beauty Revue Against Violent Encounters (BRAVE) events. Your efforts to combat domestic violence in our community are vital. By all accounts, the events were a resounding success.

I would like to correct a couple of errors in Katherine Greene's story in the March 17 *Phi*, in statements attributed to Ms. Owens:

"[Victims of domestic abuse] had no place to turn," said Owens, who accuses

both the community and authorities in Lexington of denying the problem and refusing to help victims of domestic violence.... "[T]he law in this town won't help." Since 1985, Project Horizon has served local victims of domestic and dating violence and sexual abuse.

Our staff of 12 provides services including safe shelter at Lisa's House for up to 30 days, professional counseling, guidance through the legal system and resources to help clients make decisions about their future. Last year, we served 286 local clients, including 81 women and children sheltered in Lisa's House, which

averaged four clients a night. In addition, Project Horizon staff provided 460 educational programs to 3,200 community residents.

Local law enforcement officials have proven deeply sensitive to the needs of Project Horizon's clients. Our relationship with police and sheriff's deputies is excellent.

Our clients have solid allies and advocates in their ranks. Representatives of our local Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices and the local courts sit on our volunteer board of directors. A former police officer is on Project Horizon's staff.

Ms. Owens is further quoted: "W&L has been such a great help to my cause, in a community that has the attitude that abuse doesn't happen here."

Last year, more than 85 volunteers - including Washington and Lee students - gave nearly 4,000 hours of their time to Project Horizon. Among other duties, they answered 726 calls on our 24-hour hotline (463-2594).

Six years ago, hundreds of local volunteers joined us in building Lisa's House, demonstrating that this community cares deeply about serving the victims of domestic violence.

Again, congratulations and thanks to those of you who made BRAVE a success.

And to the Phi editors, I am always happy to provide your reporters with facts about this community's support for Project Horizon and its clients.

Cheers,

Brian Richardson
Journalism Department Head
President, Project Horizon Board of Directors



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QUICK HITS

- Hmm...does my opinion really matter?
- Why, again was I not invited to be on a task force?
- I think the students should stop whining. If you really cared about the strategic plan, you would have gone to the information sessions earlier in the year.
- Let's strategically plan to get rid of the Colonnade. The only thing it does is remind us that we're not Swarthmore or Davidson.
- I love anything that requires plans...The school planning ten years ahead...now that's cool.
- As long as the school plans for a Starbucks somewhere on campus, I'll be happy.
- Don't strategic plans cost a lot of money? I guess my mother is going to have to take up a second job to pay for my rising tuition costs.
- What's the strategic plan?
- The strategic plan is going to kill the Greek System and no one cares.
- It can be summed up in one word...Strateregy.
- For being such a Republican school, you would think more people would care about tuition and room and board prices increasing. I mean, it's like the same thing as your taxes going up.
- Clearly everyone in the administration is a genius. We should just blindly follow their lead and shake our heads in agreement.
- Strategic planning is a good thing. How else would we function as a university if we didn't set goals?

Nexttime's topic: Fancy Dress and party stories

Selling out feels so good

Lex-town needs Starbucks, Chipotle

By Hugh Trout
The Fisherman

The title of this week's article is appropriate for several reasons. First, I feel I am morally obligated to inform my readers how quickly I sold out, and how great it felt. As some of my more consistent readers may remember, I wrote an article espousing the wonders of Red Bull and how great an asset it can be in times of stress. Well, the good people at Red Bull (I don't know how they read the article) were nice enough to give me a bunch of free Red Bull and some other stuff, which needless to say helped me get through hell week. In all honesty, I had no idea such a thing could happen, but hey, I'm not complaining. So, in case you're wondering, this will be the basis for future articles I am planning: "Rolex: What else is there?" and "TiVo is for cool people." Keep your fingers crossed.

But beyond my personal sell-out, there is another case in which selling out is badly needed. Specifically, the historic town of Lexington needs to sell out harder than Cuba Gooding Jr. did after *Jerry McGuire*. While there can be a persuasive argument made for maintaining the integrity of a town steeped in tradition and rich historical background, there also can be a pretty damn good argument for selling out.

While coming from D.C. it is nice to not worry about crime and traffic, there are things that I miss every day while in Lex-town. For example, those who are lucky enough to come from an area with a Chipotle know that Lexington needs such an amazing burrito shop. I have also talked with several friends of mine who discussed their hope for a Starbucks. While that isn't nearly as much on my radar as the Chipotle, I enjoy hearing others desire for such franchises. But why, you might ask, should Lexington sell its soul to a bunch of franchises that can be found everywhere else?

Once Wal-Mart has moved in, big corporate America is already there and there is no going back, so you might as well enjoy.

Because it feels good, and Lexington needs to realize it can maintain its integrity as a historic site while serving fast-food. Besides, a town with a Wal-Mart five minutes away, keeping out Chipotle (I am not sure that an attempt has been made to keep Chipotle out, but I hear that a Starbucks was indeed blocked) in order to maintain its mom-and-pop shop feel is like Michael Jackson hanging a baby out a window and then refusing to do interviews because the media makes him look strange. Once Wal-Mart has moved in, big corporate America is already there and there is no going back, so you might as well enjoy.

It's fine to sell out every once in a while, but then there are those who take it too far. These include the Backstreet Boys (I was a fan of them until they became so image-obsessed and went all commercial...they forgot it's about the music), whoever provides my cable (thanks for changing all the channels on me in the middle of Hell Week, that was really convenient) and the NHL (not the owners, not the players, but every single person involved). These people are not the cool, commercial-friendly people, like wonderful Hilary Duff, they are more like trashy reality TV stars. They don't know where to draw the line.

So go out and enjoy selling out a little bit. It's safe and good fun for everyone, just don't take it too far, because its one thing to get a bunch of free Red Bull, but it's another to end up with a bunch of bad tasting Coors Lite. After all, why would you drink that horrible stuff when you could enjoy the cool, refreshing taste of Bud Lite with its superior taste and higher quality? In an unrelated note, all packages containing beverages should be directed to The Fisherman at P.O. Box 4493 of the Lexington Post Office. (Can't blame me for trying).

Do FD the right way

Breka gives advice from finding a date to flowers

By Eka Akpakip and Bree Melton
Beka

We're Breka (pronounced break-uh); you may have heard it muttered in awe and admiration on the Beirut tables. But it has come to be so much more than a team name. It's two single girls that take W&L's social scene by storm. We know it all, we've seen it all and now we're gonna share it all! Well maybe not what happened last weekend, but everything else.

This brings us to the topic of this week's column: Fancy Dress—what to do, what not to do and how to score (maybe?). "Like build her a cake or something." First off, who should you ask? Well, unlike the majority of this campus, we feel you should ask someone that goes to this school. Exceptions to this rule include, and only include: actual facebook official significant others (this does not include your best friend from 4th grade, you can see them in the summer), friends with terminal diseases, and people that pay you large amounts of money, but even that's a little shabby. I mean really people, with a campus that's almost 50/50 there's just no excuse. Well, maybe there is one acceptable excuse: to cop-out and instead of taking a chance for some sketchy dance floor action, you take a road trip. Oh no wait, YOU'RE GOING, end of story. FD weekend is not the time to bond with your brothers, visit family or friends (see above), or get a hair cut (lamest excuse ever!).

So now it's decided, you're going; we're all going—with each other. But who on campus do you ask? When is the appropriate time? Well, if you hadn't noticed, your time is up. The dance is on Saturday, the dresses have been bought (well, at least ours have), now all you need to do is step it up. Prime time would have been this past weekend, *did you ask someone? Do you remember asking them?* Helpful hint from Breka: leave yourself a voicemail, note on your mirror, or even sharpie across the forehead; these are all tried and true methods to remind yourself of drunken nights past. But if you're still in doubt, you could always ask a friend. Going with a non-romantic interest has a number of benefits. And boys, not every

girl thinks an invite to a date function means anything more than...you invited her to a date function. It's really just that simple. But that goes for you ladies too, don't take it too seriously. But let's face it, guys are idiots and you might just not have a date. Going stag isn't bad, you're hot, so are your friends, and you might just pick up some potential dates in the process. Of course, you could always ask him yourself, but at least offer to split the cost.

However, for those "friends" that may end up as more than just friends (only for the night, of course) Breka has three words for you: boutonniere equals booty. Start the night out right and maybe you'll end it right too.

"Do you like strawberries or blueberries?"

"Why do you ask?"

"Cause I wanna know how to make your pancakes in the morning."

Smooth. Real smooth. Speaking of food, please don't pass out in your dinner. It's not cool and just plain sloppy. FD is all about pacing. Afternoon cocktail parties are awesome as long as you know your limits. We suggest picking a drinking partner of equal size and gender. Maybe you're concerned about fitting into your dress, this does not mean skip dinner, it means eat something, anything. A home cooked meal, an affordable alternative to Wilson-Walker house. But if you do happen to go a little over your limit ladies, remember this: body tape, body tape, body tape. Paris Hilton-esque exposure is not so cool on our ultra-conservative campus. Boys on the other hand, well, just ask Breka first.

By now, you've hopefully made it to the dance. Decorations are awesome, music is fabulous—and your date is gone. FD ditching has become an increasing problem over the years, mysteriously correlated to our intake of alcohol. First off, remember what your date is wearing or at least her hair color. We also suggest exchanging cell phone numbers and keeping them handy, having a central location to meet if you get separated, or strapping yourselves together with either rope or handcuffs (kinky but sometimes appropriate). Speaking of kinky, mid-formal nooky is definitely a no-no. No matter how well you think you've fixed your hair, everyone can tell. Once you leave the dance, it's suggested you stay home. And if that's what you're planning on, have a change clothes or at least a different pair of shoes. You may pull off the "Sunday morning jogger" in gym shorts and an oversized t-shirt, but the stilettos will give you away every time. But no worries, if you forget the shoes, we'll be set up in the quad with snacks and "leftover beverages" to laugh with you on your way home.

To sum up,
Splitting the cost of FD with a friend: \$50
Going the "extra mile" with the boutonniere from Jeffersons: \$8
WaHo trip at 10:30 the next morning (either with your girls or your date): \$10
Doing FD the Breka way, the right way: Priceless

Potato Man tries to grasp the concept of marriage

By Marshall Rule
Potato Man

This week was my grandparent's 50th anniversary. Fifty years with one person. It is truly mind-boggling when you think that two people can be together for that long.

They were together when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. They were together when we landed on the moon and when the Berlin Wall fell. They were together when Nixon resigned and when Mike Tyson bit a man's ear off.

In a time when we only hear about the marriages that go bad, it's nice to hear about the ones that survive.

For fifty years my grandma has read romance novels and cooked amazing Thanksgiving meals, and for fifty years, my grandpa has worked the farm and plumbing business and come home to his trusty recliner and Western movies.

For fifty years they have fished, camped and watched high school football games. Like all marriages, there were times of trouble, yet they were able to overcome them.

I have trouble spending fifty seconds with a girl without getting bored out of my mind, yet day after day for over 18,000 days, they have been together.

They have been married for five times longer than my parents were, who only made it ten years before they decided to hire lawyers.

This enormous event got me to

think about marriage and how it counters all human emotions and desires.

The idea that someone would want to sacrifice nearly all of their individual freedom in order to get a curfew and never be able to look at another girl again (or at least until the inevitable divorce) is ridiculous.

The human body and mind was not designed to be with one girl. Some people say that a purely monogamous relationship that lasts the rest of your life is much more satisfying than the dating scene. While I obviously don't know about marriage, or a serious relationship over a few months (and by a few, I mean two), I can't imagine that it is that fulfilling.

Think about all of the obligations that come with a serious relationship. Calling on your way home from the strip club...er...I mean, working late. The in-laws birthday parties that always happen to fall on the worst possible days. No more getting wasted. Every purchase you ever make is questioned, especially the \$340

spent on a 900 number.

When something breaks, you actually have to fix it right, rather than just using duck tape to fix the problem. The fight for the remote control is a brutal battle, and you will always inevitably lose.

Any time that you fight, she will always bring up something you did wrong in the past, and you will sleep on the couch. Any sense of your manhood is gone, and your single friends begin to fade into the distance and new married ones begin to be your friends.

No longer are there beer bongs and Beirut, but rather board games and a glass or two of wine. Ten o'clock at night is late, and so too is ten in the morning.

Yet, for some reason, my grandparents decided to get married. And for some reason they have stayed together for fifty years and never once complained about it. They actually like it.

I guess in their old age they have become senile.

The idea that someone would want to sacrifice nearly all of their individual freedom in order to get a curfew and never be able to look at another girl again (or at least until the inevitable divorce) is ridiculous.