

Arch
#378-755
K552
v.108
no.7
C-2

2005 Parents' Weekend Issue

THE PHI WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL W&L PARENTS WITH OUR SPECIAL THURSDAY EDITION

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

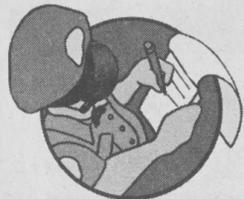
THE RING-TUM PHI.

THURSDAY, OCT 27, 2005

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

VOLUME 108, NUMBER 8

WHAT'S INSIDE



Jailhouse talk

Did you spend your night in cuffs with someone in uniform? Find out who did in our newest feature--Behind Bars. See page 2.

Hats off...

To our newest columnist, Tim Livingston! Topping off his list--your attire. Check him out on the back page.

In living color

Mallory Ruyman takes on the diversity of our school...or lack thereof. Details on page 7.

HOT TICKET

The world comes to Lex

The Elrod Commons welcomes the WorldFest film festival beginning Nov. 3. Featured will be 16 films from 8 countries. This is the second annual Worldfest in Lexington.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Football Falls to Guilford in Final Three Seconds

Despite a loss, Greg Twardy is now tied with the school record for single season touchdown passes (16) while Jack Martin set a new single season receiving yards record with 1,028 yards, with the previous record of 1,010 yards having stood since 1989. The Generals play next on Saturday, October 29 vs. Bridgewater at Wilson Field at 1:00 p.m.

Shoot-out Goal Proves to Be Game-Winner in Field Hockey Victory

In Saturday's game against Juanita College, Kate Lester scored a last-minute goal leading to overtime. Jane Beall's game-winner came after two penalty periods.

Men's Soccer Falls to Virginia Wesleyan 1-0

With a goal in the first two minutes of the game, the Virginia Wesleyan Marlins beat the Generals (7-5-2, 4-2-2 in the ODAC) on Saturday in Virginia Beach. The Marlins then held W&L scoreless throughout the entire game to insure a victory. Both teams were tied with shots with eight apiece while W&L made more penalty kicks, 4-3.

QUICK HITS

Thinking lastword needs a little pizzazz? Add your own flavor! If you miss Quick Hits, send 'em in, and we'll run 'em.

CORRECTIONS

Because of an editing error, an article about the growing C-School in our Oct. 3 issue misattributed several quotes, including those of Prof. Holt Merchant, Registrar Scott Dittman, Prof. James Warren and Dean Larry Peppers.

A front-page article on Oct. 3 misstated the identity of the drunk man as Larry Stewart. The man's name is McCellan, and Stewart is the security officer.

Dean swings left

Mayock, Contact go three rounds in debate over speakers, student funds and political agenda

By Marshall Rule
REPORTER

Contact Committee's Vice-Chair for Finance, David Kronenfeld, is frustrated with the Celebrating Women Committee.

According to Kronenfeld, Contact was asked to provide a speaker for the Celebrating Women keynote speaker.

But Kronenfeld's frustration comes from the mandates that were requested by Dean Mayock, Chair of Planning for the Celebrating Women Committee.

Kronenfeld was asked to choose a keynote speaker who is

politically liberal.

"Dean Mayock said that the speaker must come from the left, and that anything else would be a Republican woman's mouth speaking men's ideas.

"I was so surprised to hear something like that from her, he said."

In a personal interview this Tuesday, Dean Mayock explained her reasoning.

"I wouldn't welcome a woman who has made backwards steps for women," Mayock said.

Mayock gave the example of Laura Bush as someone who might fit that category.

According to Mayock, Laura Bush is a person who is famous through her husband, compared to Hillary Clinton, who has raised important issues regarding welfare as a Senator since being First Lady.

Kronenfeld agrees with Mayock that no woman should be brought in who hasn't accomplished things on her own. But Kronenfeld would like to be able to choose the speaker based on merit, rather than political affiliation.

He would have liked to get Peggy Noonan, but Kronenfeld says Mayock did not respond well

to the idea.

Kronenfeld said, "I am more than happy to provide a speaker for the Celebrating Women Committee.

"I just don't think that we should be asked to provide a speaker whose views don't reflect the student body's."

Ultimately the choice was up to Contact Committee, who has decided to bring in Barbara Ehrenreich to speak.

Ehrenreich is a political essayist and social critic who is involved in a broad range of social issues. Her recent book, *Nickle and Dime*, described her attempt

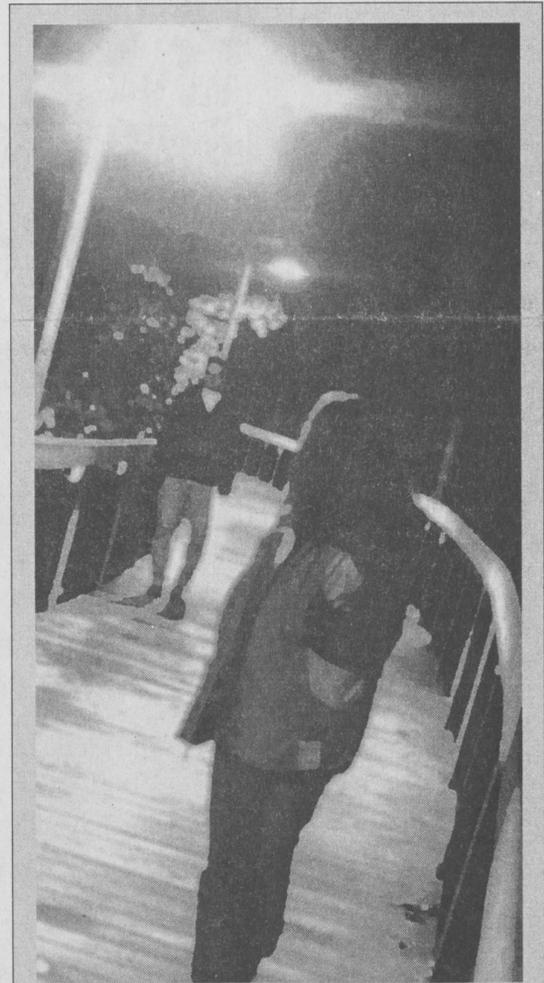
to live on low-wage jobs sold over a million copies.

Both Mayock and Kronenfeld are satisfied with the choice of speaker.

Kronenfeld is just not happy with the administration pressuring Contact to use student funds in a certain way.

"There are two major issues here," Kronenfeld said.

"The first is the administration's desire to use student funds. The second is that we were given a political mandate by the administration to pick a speaker of a certain political persuasion."



Is Lex safe?

Citizens lock up as crime rates increase

By Jacob Geiger
REPORTER

When people - be they prospective students, potential residents, or tourists - visit Lexington, everyone in town loves to talk about how quiet and safe this small city is.

Recently, however, some members of the W&L community have begun to question if their collegiate home is really as safe as advertised.

A growing string of disturbing crimes - from armed trespassers in Davidson Park, thefts at frat houses, to a mysterious stalker who has followed several women home from the library - has caused various campus groups to evaluate security and safety on the campus.

Are these crimes indicators of a disturbing pattern, or are

they temporary blips that fail to indicate a larger trend? The Lexington Police Department's 2004 Annual Report reported 308 crimes were committed in Lexington last year, a 20% increase from the 238 reported in 2003.

Violent crime, however, remained almost unchanged, with the FBI reporting only 9 violent crimes (murder, rape, assault, or armed robbery) in Lexington during 2003.

The violent crime rating for 2003 was 1.3, well below the national average of 4.7 violent crimes per 1,000 residents.

Before the up-tick in 2004, crime rates had remained almost unchanged during the previous three years.

Though crime increased in Lexington during 2004, Police Chief Bruce Beard cautioned against reading too much into

See 'SAFETY' on page 2

Minority report

Admissions seeks new ingredients for the salad bowl

By Sarah Kientz
REPORTER

While the admissions department looks at all aspects of an prospective student's application, minority status is often a large factor.

Though many believe that minority students are favored in the admissions process, the admissions department is only striving to expose minority students to W&L in order to diversify our campus, Admissions Counselor Charlie Boisky said.

Boisky said the admissions department looks for "high-achieving students" with good statistics such as a class rank in the top 10% of their classes, outstanding SAT and ACT scores, but also students who are "big fish in a small pond-type kids."

"We like to see students with lots of leadership experience who are very passionate about something, whatever it is, that will contribute to the W&L environment," Boisky said.

He added that ethnic diversity is also important in contributing to the "W&L environment."

"In class it's not so much the person standing in front of you, it's the person next to you that you learn from," Boisky said. He added that when he was a student at W&L, his classmates believed W&L students were "living in a bubble."

"We want the student body to be more reflective of the world outside this campus," Boisky said. So are minority students favored in the admissions process? Boisky made it seem like the answer was yes and no.

Boisky said the admissions department gives minority students many incentives to visit the campus and to apply.

For example, the admissions department offers overnight campus visits for any ethnic minority, in which they will pay for the student's airfare or other means of travel if necessary.

In addition, the Heinz Scholarship is a large draw for minority students, Erin Hutchinson, Assistant Director of Admissions and Coordinator of Minority Recruitment, said.

The scholarship, established by the H.J. Heinz Company Foundation, provides for all academic and living expenses for four years.

Scholarship winners are given paid internships with the H.J.

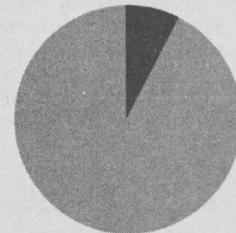
Heinz company each summer, with a strong possibility of employment with Heinz once students have graduated from W&L. Three to five Heinz scholarships are awarded each year.

Hutchinson said that Heinz and W&L work together through the scholarship in order to increase diversity both in the company and on campus.

"The scholarship is aimed at students with disadvantaged backgrounds, which is typically minority students," Hutchinson said.

Through campus visits and the Heinz scholarship, Hutchinson said the admissions department is attempting to draw minority students to consider W&L.

"A lot of minority students, for



Only 10% of the Class of 2009 (49 students) are ethnically diverse

AFRICAN AMERICAN

ASIAN AMERICAN

HISPANIC

MULTI / OTHER

NATIVE AMERICAN

example, African American students, might be turned off by a school named after Robert E. Lee," Hutchinson said. "Most students who come to visit fall in love with the place, but we need to expose them first and make them see that we are not still fighting the civil war."

Although minority students may receive some advantages while visiting campus, everyone is on equal ground when it comes to applying to W&L.

Each application is looked at individually, and no students are accepted based on ethnicity, Boisky said, adding that "minority students are every bit as qualified as everyone else."

Hutchinson said that minority status often comes into play when the department is "separating equals," or making decisions between two students who are equally as qualified.

"We want a well-rounded class with people from different areas, backgrounds, and experiences," Hutchinson said.

"Anybody that has something that we're lacking has an advantage," she said, adding that this "something" could be anything from ethnicity and socio-economic status to a unique passion or activity.

Hutchinson said the freshman class has 49 students of American Ethnic/Racial Minorities, making up 10% of the class: 20 African-American, 1 Native American, 16 Asian American, 6 Hispanic and 6 Multicultural or other ethnic group.

Overall, Hutchinson added that the most important aspect in the admissions department is to select students they feel will be comfortable and contribute to W&L.

"We're not trying to bring anybody here who's not going to succeed or enjoy their time," Hutchinson said. "Over-night visits are to expose students to the campus, not to force people here."

Freshman Shreya Durvasula, a student of Indian descent, found out about W&L through her high school college counselor and was not given any benefits while visiting campus.

Although she does not see W&L as a diverse campus, she saw life here as a unique opportunity.

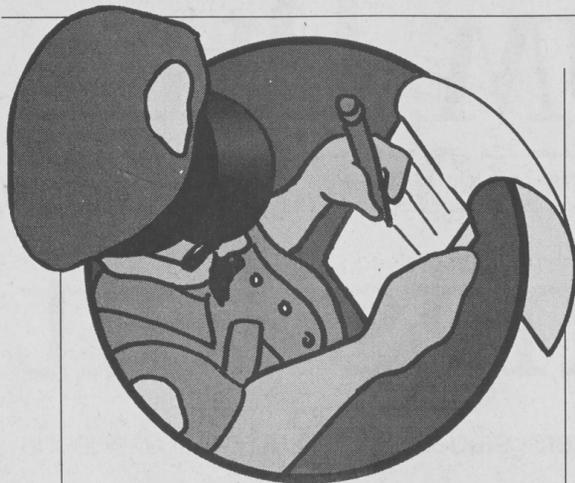
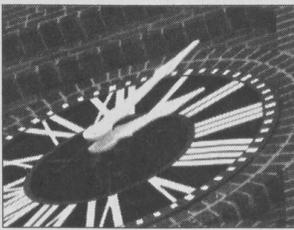
"I wasn't going to go here because there was such a lack of diversity, but I saw it as a chance to teach others about my culture," Durvasula said. "It was an opportunity for me to take a chance and be tolerant, too."

David Leonard, the Dean of Freshmen, said it is important to focus on diversity in order to prepare for life after college.

"Increased ethnic diversity in the United States is an important reality that governments, communities, organizations, companies and college campuses are facing," Leonard said.

"I strongly believe that a diverse student body, faculty and staff at W&L will greatly enhance teaching and learning both in and beyond the classroom and prepare our students for life beyond Washington and Lee."

news



BEHIND BARS

Here's to laughing at the expense of those who learned their lessons this weekend. Reporter Jacob Geiger took a peek at this week's police reports to see what you've been up to...don't worry, we only used your initials!

Minors offending

DC, a junior resident of one of Tucker Street's favorite houses, was ticketed last Monday at 1:40 AM for underage possession of alcohol. Three 19-year-olds from Oklahoma, none of whom attend W&L, were ticketed at the same time. No word on whether these fine chaps were some of the Sigma Nu pledges visiting from Oklahoma State. Wherever they're from, the three left Lexington with a souvenir of their visit.

What LIFE posters are made of

EB and AB, two fun-loving freshmen from the BDG Quad, found out that Nelson St. can be quite perilous at 4:23 AM. Though EB doesn't remember what happened and AB says "if you don't remember what happened I'm not going to tell you," the police apparently do know what happened. Stumble around drunk at 4:15 and you're liable to "wake up in a room with no windows and a locked door," as EB so eloquently put it. Punishment (after making a deal with the prosecutor): 7 months probation. If the probation is broken, a \$2500 fine and up to a year in jail could result.

Unclean getaway

Too tired to clean up the debris from your latest party before passing out? You may want to reconsider that decision. Lex Po cracked down this month on littering, issuing tickets to CW and CQ in separate incidents. Both tickets were issued on a Sunday morning for "litter on property." CW's ticket was issued at the un-holy hour of 8:43 AM, long before most reasonable students would even consider climbing out of bed to pick up plastic cups. Besides, isn't that what pledges are for?

Laws of physics

This week's list includes a W&L male who was pulled over while sober driving. The police clocked him at 40 mph in a 25 zone. When asked in court why he was driving so fast, the driver replied, "Well, I didn't even have my foot on the accelerator, I think. I guess the car's momentum was just too strong and I let it get away from me. I was just trying to do what was right and get everyone back." Though the judge didn't seem to buy the whole "momentum theory," the driver got off with just 10 hours of community service and a driver improvement course.

Safety becomes issue

Continued from the cover the numbers.

"Part of the reason the '04 numbers were up is that we had a string of burglaries and larcenies in the downtown business district last summer, and that drove things up.

"We made an arrest eventually and broke up the ring," he said.

When asked about the recent run of crimes around W&L, Beard responded that he "hopes these recent events are just an isolated spike in crime. Hopefully it's not a sign of a long term trend.

"We'd like to get some leads in those fraternity crimes [thefts from the Phi Psi Fraternity House, 7 Tucker, a PIKA off-campus house, and other residences over Homecoming Weekend], but larceny and vandalism are two of the hardest crimes to solve unless we can catch someone in the act or find a witness who is 100% sure they know who did it."

Michael Young, W&L's Director of Campus Security, agreed with Chief Beard's analysis.

"I'm absolutely convinced," he reported, "that these aren't evidence of some larger trend.

"In fact, I think the pictures that were taken from the frat houses were probably stolen by a frat that's not here at W&L. Really, when you think about it, fraternity composites, paintings of Lee, and pictures of the Colonnade would be trophies for a frat at some other school."

Perhaps most disturbing of all is the still anonymous man who has, on at least four instances, followed a female student out of the library and back to either the residence halls or sorority houses.

On at least two occasions the man asked the woman out on a date, even though neither woman had met him before.

None of the women involved

wanted to speak on the record to the Phi, but several of the girls have told their friends about seeing the man around campus.

While Young reported that the security office had been contacted about the stalker, he expressed frustration with the students' failure to promptly inform his staff about the problem.

While W&L students are all busy thinking about their own safety, local residents must also consider crimes committed by these students.

The FBI's 2003 report documented 72 cases of drunk driving and another 74 cases of public drunkenness.

Toss in the 28 liquor law violations and 25 drug crimes and you discover that 60% of the 330 tickets issued by the Lexington Police Department were related to either drugs or alcohol.

Though the Phi was unable to determine exactly how many of

these crimes were committed by W&L students, a cursory glance at the police station's docking book indicates that W&L students are responsible for a significant portion of all arrests and an even larger proportion of arrests for public drunkenness.

The 238 crimes mentioned earlier reflect the number of actual guilty convictions, not number of tickets issued.

"We've had one call about it, he said, "and even then the person waited until a week after the incident before calling us.

"So if this has happened more than once, nobody's called us to tell us about it.

"If somebody sees that guy they need to report him as soon as possible; by acting quickly we can try to get the guy before he leaves campus.

"We can't do much without a timely call from the student who's being followed."

MOUNTAIN MAMA
A Unique & Full Service Caterer

Mirabai McLeod, Owner

Phone | 540.463.1760
Email | mirabai888@yahoo.com

Can cater such events as:

Business Meeting, Breakfasts, Luncheons, Dinners, Parties, Sporting Events, Weddings, Conferences, Seminars

HALLO SCREAM

AT NATURAL BRIDGE
OCT. 20-22 & 28-31
7-10 PM

COUPON
\$2.00 OFF
ADMISSION
For each person in your group

SPONSORED BY:
WAL-MART 3WZ FM (540) 464-2253
Kroger GRAND Home Furnishings WWW.NATURALBRIDGEVA.COM

FLOWERS & THINGS

"Full Service Florist & Gift Shop"

Specializing in gift and candy baskets, gourmet baskets!

Beautiful flowers and balloons for all occasions-We deliver!

1-800-872-6156
540-261-6300

Teleflora wire service
Shop 24/7 at our website
www.buenavistafloresandthings.com
All credit cards accepted!

The Jefferson florist @ garden

Welcome to Lexington
Eager Young Minds!

Don't worry Mom and Dad...
We'll be here when you can't

Flowers, plants and gifts for any special occasion

6118 Sam Snead Highway Hot Springs 540.839.2050 thejefferson@tds.net
603 North Lee Highway Lexington 540.463.9841 thejefferson@adelphia.net
www.thejeffersonfloristandgarden.com

CITY SUBS

\$1.00 Off Your Next Order

ONE DOLLAR OFF

Catering Available for Fraternity, Sorority and Other Campus Events
~Sub Trays, Three Foot Subs, Hot Wing Platters, Chicken Tender Platters~

Now Serving Grab N' Go Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Free Delivery!!!
(\$10 min order)
Call 464-SUBS

Open Mon-Thurs til 8 p.m., Fri-Sat til 9 p.m.

sports



Ladies sprint to Guilford

Women's XC team runs for parents in ODACs

By Sarah Bloom
STAFF WRITER

The women's cross country team has special plans for Parents Weekend this year. Scheduled to compete in the ODAC race Saturday morning at Guilford College, the team will forego the traditional on-campus Parents' Weekend celebration.

Rather, the women will spend the weekend racing in Greensboro, North Carolina—chasing a season's worth of dreams.

"This is definitely going to be our most important race of the season," said sophomore Jessica Buckingham. "We've been working toward ODACs all season and our team goal is to get out there and defend our championship title from last year."

With extra supportive parents in attendance at the race, the women hope to run fast enough to again qualify for the regional competition, which is to be held in Arkansas this year.

Returning national qualifier sophomore Lindsay Erickson will be counted on to team up with fresh talent freshman Jackie Burns to lead the team to a championship title and a trip to Regionals.

Burns and Erickson have led the team in scoring meet after meet this year and both women have a solid chance to qualify for nationals based on regional performances.

"I'm just hoping to help my team out at ODACs and Regionals this season," said Erickson. "If I qualify for nationals again that's great...I just hope our team is able to achieve its goals."

Having been to nationals, Erickson is eager to see what her teammate, Burns, is capable of in her first college championships.

"I definitely think we should keep our eye on freshman Jackie Burns," said Erickson.

"She has been leading the team this year, finishing first for our team in each of her races...she's got a shot at going to nationals."

This past weekend, Burns got a

chance to show off her speed when the team traveled to Rock Hill, S.C. to compete at the Winthrop Invitational.

The only division III team in attendance, the women secured a seventh place finish out of 15 teams.

Despite the unusually short 4k distance, Burns led the Generals to a strong finish, placing 15th out of 122 runners.

Behind Burns, fellow freshman Becca Taylor finished 38th and senior Mary Christopher rounded out the scorers for the Generals with a 41st place finish.

"I think that it was good for our team to compete at that level and to challenge ourselves by running against schools that we have never faced before," said Buckingham.

"We proved that we were capable of success at a higher level."

With growing confidence from the Winthrop Invitational and the championship race in sight, the team is "feeling strong and prepared", according to Erickson.

"We're focused solely on ODACs now, and our goal is to win."

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Hometown hero

Lexington native Nathan Johnson leads cross-country team to victory

By Dima Slavin
STAFF WRITER

Those who see Nathan Johnson run would never imagine that he did not start running cross-country competitively until January of 2004.

The homegrown senior, who attended Rockbridge High School and then William and Mary before returning to Lexington in 2004 to attend Washington and Lee, played tennis in high school. "I did not think I would end up at W&L," says Johnson, "and out of all sports I did not think I would be running."

Johnson's love for running did not begin at either William and Mary or W&L but in Budapest, Hungary.

There he would run through the parks, enjoying both the amazing scenery and the sport. When he returned home, he knew he wanted to run and joined the W&L Cross Country team, and it's a lucky thing that he did.

Johnson has been extremely

successful running cross country for W&L. Last year, he won the NCAA South/Southeast Regional, a feat he considers his top achievement, and competed in the NCAA Division III National Championships, a feat he hopes to repeat this year. He has also led his team to success with an ODAC Championship, along the way winning both ODAC Runner of the Year and O D A C Men's Cross Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year accolades.

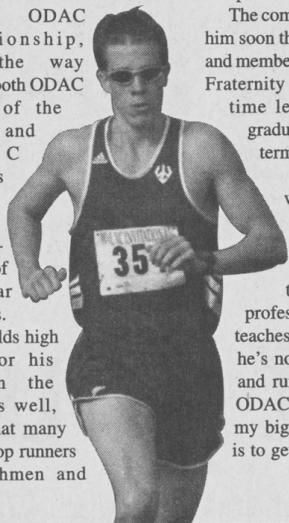
He holds high hopes for his team in the future as well, noting that many of their top runners are freshmen and

sophomores. He considers the team "favorites to repeat as ODAC Champions and a good shot at top three at Regionals."

It has meant a lot to Johnson to be able to run for his hometown college. "I really enjoy it, people are really supportive, both on campus and in the community."

The community is going to lose him soon though. The math major and member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity does not have much time left at W&L as he is graduating at the end of fall term.

He hopes to continue with graduate school in the winter or next fall to study math or economics and is thinking of becoming a professor like his father, who teaches at the law school. But he's not yet done with W&L and running. "I want to win ODAC again," he says, "but my biggest goal for this year is to get All-American."



MORGAN HARRIS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Facing third and short

By Doug Sweeney
STAFF WRITER

The W&L football team is currently having one of the best seasons in recent memory. The Generals are 5-2 (3-1 in the ODAC) and have a shot to win their first Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) title since 1985.

Despite losing a heartbreaking game on Saturday to Guilford, the Generals could win the conference title with wins against Bridgewater College on Saturday and at Emory and Henry College on November 5.

The season opened on September 10 with a 36-22 win against Alfred University. It was the first time the Generals started the season with a win in five years.

The Generals made some history again when they traveled to Randolph-Macon, defeating the Yellow Jackets 44-7. The win marked the first time that W&L had won at R-M since 1989. Freshman running back Stuart Sitterson also

returned a punt for a touchdown, with the last time that happened being in 1979.

The next week, the Generals came back from a 14-3 halftime deficit to defeat Catholic University of America 27-24. W&L's final touchdown came with just five seconds left in the game when senior quarterback Greg Tweardy found sophomore receiver Jack Martin in the back of the end zone.

The Generals' streak ended this past Saturday when they lost to the Guilford Quakers 28-26.

Defensive coordinator Brian Newberry described the loss as "frustrating and emotionally draining" but added that he and the team would be ready for their upcoming game against Bridgewater.

While the team is glad that it has put itself in a position to win the conference, they know their effort will be wasted if they can't beat Bridgewater this Saturday. This task may be hard coming off last week's tough loss. However, senior safety and Captain Stuart Swann doesn't

think the last Saturday's game will hurt the Generals: "This team will rebound. This loss will not affect our season."

Bridgewater is the strongest opponent that the Generals have faced so far. The Eagles are leading the conference in scoring and rushing offense. They are ranked in the top ten nationally in both categories.

The Eagles' strong running game sharply contrasts with the pass-happy offenses of the ODAC. However, Newberry and his defense are ready for the challenge.

"It will be refreshing to play a team that doesn't pass 55 times a game," said senior linebacker and captain Brian Gallagher, referring to the number of pass attempts the Generals have seen in recent weeks.

Indeed, their ODAC opponents have been throwing the ball an average of nearly 48 times a game.

The team is excited to play for a championship but is not content with their season so far.

"We have the confidence that we can win this game," said Swann.



LEXINGTON ART GALLERY
CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY

13 W. Nelson St.

www.lexingtonartgallery.com

Tues - Sat 11-5

540-464-8080

Featuring works by Jack Spencer



What can a Masters of Accounting do for you?

mac

Master of Accounting
College of William and Mary

Information Session and Reception

Saturday October 29th
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

James Room
University Center
College of William & Mary

- Meet MAC faculty members
- Talk with current MAC students
- Learn about our innovative curriculum for accounting and non-accounting majors
- Take a tour of our beautiful, historic campus

For more information or to RSVP,
call 757-221-2875 or e-mail
MAC@business.wm.edu

NICK'S ITALIAN KITCHEN

(540) 261-7992
Fax: (540) 261-1634

1314 Magnolia Avenue
Buena Vista, Virginia 24416

Open 6 Days A Week!

Hours:

Closed Sunday

Monday - Thursday: 11am - 10pm

Friday and Saturday: 11am - 11pm

A.B.C. on Premises - wine

Most Credit Cards Accepted

Catering Available For Any Occasion!

We Serve the Finest Italian Food in Rockbridge County
Appetizers, Oven Baked Dishes, Seafood, Ribeye
Chicken Dishes, Pasta Dishes with our Famous
Marinara Sauce or Alfredo Sauce, Pizzas, Subs

Only 6 miles east of Lexington

arts&life



Stepping it up an octave

After years of mediocrity, campus choral groups stage a comeback

By Jessica Shaw
STAFF WRITER

It was difficult to find a seat on the balcony of the Lexington Presbyterian Church last week as students, professors and community members packed in to listen to the music performed by W&L choral groups. These talented vocalists took the stage for over an hour captivating their audience with a wide variety of music.

The University Chamber Singers started the night off with four beautiful pieces ranging from Ubi Caritas et Amor to a tango selection.

They plan to perform similar tango pieces when they travel to Argentina over spring break.

"I feel like we needed just a little more time to tweak some things, and our Parents' Weekend concert will be a lot better," sophomore alto Emma Axt said.

"We had a lot of songs and not very much time to learn them. Now that we have performed, we can identify the rough spots and work on them."

This prestigious group is led by Professor Gordon Spice who has directed choral activities since 1973.

He's very open-minded if we have any suggestions about any of

the pieces," Axt said. "He's very good at what he does; he can be low key and still take it seriously and be a very good leader."

General Admission, JubiLee, and Southern Comfort Singers then stunned spectators with contemporary selections like Breakfast at Tiffany's clad in bright colors and decorative accessories.

Solos were performed by freshman Wes Haydon and juniors Sam Wilmoth and Taylor Walle.

The 65-member University Chorus then charmed the crowd with their 'Season of the Classics' theme incorporating Hadyn, Mozart and Brahms. Chorus Director Jerry Myers is in his seventh

year at W&L. With his arrival, he has shaped the choir from a student activity into a prestigious vocal unit.

"In my first couple of years, it was hard not being able to do music beyond a high school level," Myers said. "Now with auditions, we started to build the choir back up. Then, we were able to do more challenging music. More challenging music is very rewarding."

The chorus meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30-6pm. They perform four concerts each year, this one being their first. For the fall concert, the chorus gathered for a mere 10 rehearsals. Pro-

fessor Myers said the first rehearsal is always the most fun for him.

"I don't know the group; that's when I really get to play," he said. "[I get to] see what they can do; see what they're capable of; see what I can expect. This year I can expect a lot."

Despite the rigorous practice schedule, students only earn one credit for University Chorus.

"I want it to be fun; something they can do on top of an academic schedule," Myers said.

With new auditions and strategies to focus on each singer's voice, students say Myers has made a huge impact on the program.

"It's definitely made me a better musician," senior Kristine

Holda said. "I played an instrument in high school, and I new music some, but the voice takes so much more control. You're more self-aware than you are with an instrument."

Myers said he enjoys being accessible to his students. He wants them to feel they can approach him with anything from their difficulty with classes to their life issues.

"He's so committed to what he does," Holda said. "I've heard him make someone who couldn't carry a tune sing. He's a great teacher. The choir is Jerry Myers."

The choir will be performing in Lee Chapel this Friday for Parents Weekend from 8-9pm. There will also be an A Capella concert on Saturday from 6-8pm.

Not your typical love story

Controversial and profound, *The Shape of Things* provokes students to question and evaluate their beliefs

By Nadja Wolfe
STAFF WRITER

"I don't believe in good and bad people," said playwright Neil LaBute Friday at an open Q&A. "I believe in people who do good and bad things." *The Shape of Things*, playing through Monday at the Johnson Theatre in the Lenfest Center, challenges audiences to see beyond the characters to why and what they believe.

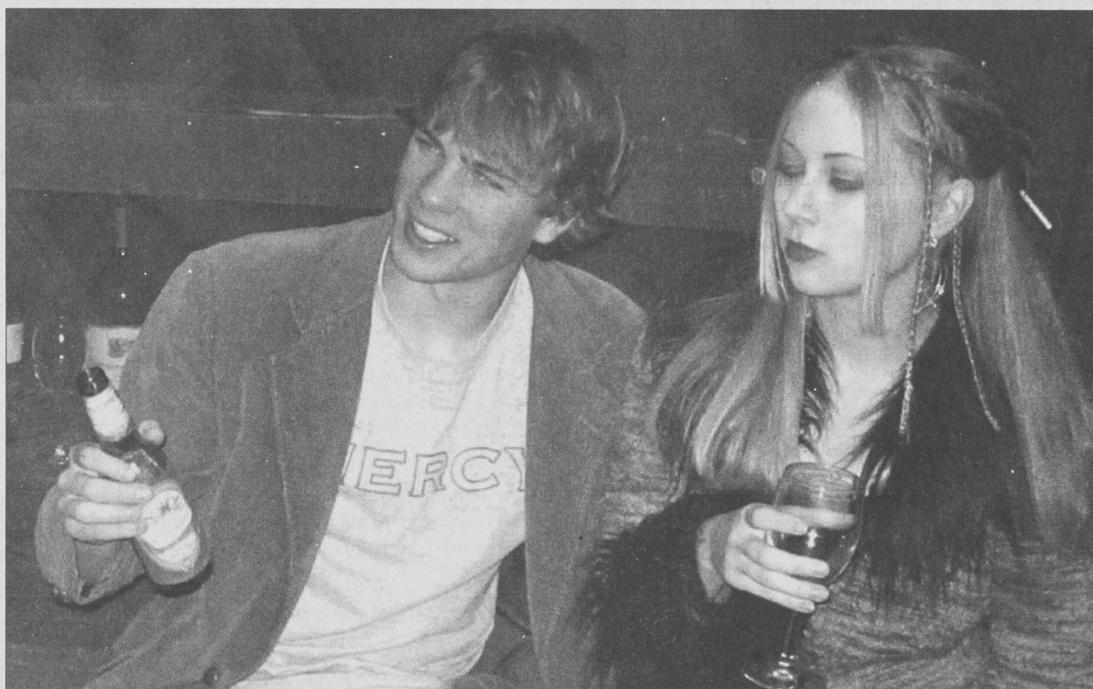
Evelyn (sophomore Paten Hughes) and Adam (junior Charles Barbour), sans garden, meet at the museum where he works—and she's planning to deface a statue.

She's a self-confident and determined grad student, he's a shy and homely indebted undergrad, and the audience is ready for a typical girl-turns-guy-into-a-stud happily ever after story including some soaps-worthy drama.

But LaBute's play doesn't traverse along to a fairytale ending, instead exploring the nature of art within a highly controversial framework.

At Evelyn's encouragement and manipulation, Adam begins to change. He exercises and eats healthily, although he says he hates it, replaces his unfashionable glasses with contacts, even gives away a jacket he's worn every day for years.

His engaged friends Phillip (Joshua Nettinga '07L) and Jenny (sophomore Lisa Reppell) note



GREG ZIMMERMAN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paten Hughes and Charles Barbour in LaBute's play about the concessions we make to social standards

the changes with approval—and Evelyn with distrust and confusion.

The cast performed marvelously in challenging roles. Hughes' Evelyn was remarkable, showing the audience what she thinks with when her actions could potentially be very distracting.

Playing Adam, Barbour cap-

tures the character so well one isn't sure he doesn't actually exist. Nettinga gives a strong performance as Phillip down to great body language. And Reppell is completely believable as the almost too sweet, lonely Jenny somewhat overpowered by Phillip's personality.

W&L professor Tom Ziegler succeeds as a director in bring-

ing out the full dimensionality of the characters, and organizes their interactions on stage very naturally.

The set, designed by W&L Theater professor Owen Collins and technical director Tom Anderson, is amazing in its versatility and function, serving as a museum, an apartment, a bedroom, a playground (with

swings), and a display of all Evelyn's art. Changes of scene are covered by edgy music and sound design by alum Josh Harvey and Jennifer Anderson, Lenfest technical director, and include original compositions by Harvey.

The music complements the costume designs of T. Anderson, of which particularly Evelyn's

wonderfully highlights her character.

The Shape of Things provokes audiences to see beyond the surface of people, art, society, and the play, which can itself be understood on several levels.

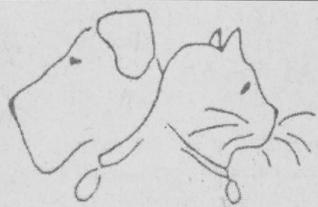
Audiences will likely find Evelyn's actions reprehensible at the least; however, they should appreciate her message, and see how what society does regularly is no different or better than her project.

Art is controversial and complex, as LaBute shows through the feelings he evokes in the audience and writes in his characters.

When the play is done, one must wonder at which is worse, "sculpting" another human being through manipulation, or changing oneself solely because of what another person says or thinks.

This different view of morality and art causes the audience to reevaluate what they think and believe. But whatever result, indifference, the cardinal sin of the play, will not be the result.

"Difference is good...Only indifference is suspect," says Evelyn, recalling words of LaBute from Friday afternoon: the beauty of art is that people can look at the exact same thing and have completely different opinions. *The Shape of Things* is a play well-made in every aspect that shouldn't be missed.



ANIMAL CLINIC OF ROCKBRIDGE

Helping People by Helping Pets

SMALL ANIMAL PET CARE
medicine/Surgery/Dentistry/Boarding/Grooming
your pet alone while you are at classes or sports?

Bring your pet to our daycare!

We love the Generals' pets!

10% OFF FIRST VISIT WITH THIS COUPON
Route 11 North, 1/4 mile beyond Wal-mart & Lowes
463-2015

WE PRINT & EMBROIDER ON T-SHIRTS POLO SHIRTS HATS SWEATS & JACKETS

A&S

SCREEN PRINTING

&
EMBROIDERY
464-9042
637 Waddell St.
Lexington Va.

Llewellyn Lodge

603 S. Main Street
Lexington, VA
540-463-3235

www.LLodge.com

Serving W&L Parents for over 20 Years
Best Breakfast in Town, Expert Outdoor Advice

Guided Trout Fishing Trips
Introductory Classes
Gift Certificates

Parents have become so convinced that educators know what is best for their children that they forget that they themselves are really the experts."

RIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

TOP GIRLS

Great expectations

Tammy Futrell serves the student body as dean, advisor, mentor and friend

Steph Wiechmann
STAFF WRITER

Walk by Dean Tammy Futrell's office on any given weekday, and you will find that she is never alone. Surrounding her most of the time are students that take time out of their schedules to hang out in her office – students that have found a mentor in Futrell. "She's the only woman of her kind in higher administration," said Yvonne Coker, '08. "I look at Dean Tammy as a role model. She's caring and supportive to others. We feel comfortable talking to her about certain issues." Dominique Lamb, '08, echoes Coker's sentiments. "She's my surrogate mother when we're in college." It's remarkable that a woman who has rounded all the time by students that adore her grew up in Newport News, Virginia, as an only child. But she wasn't alone. She has 10 cousins to keep her company. "They are more like my brothers and sisters," she said about her cousins. Having a close family urged Futrell on to a career where she could be immersed in the company of others. Futrell attended Virginia Commonwealth University as an undergraduate, intending to become Dr. Futrell, M.D., before her school years were through. "Then, I was introduced to chemistry," she said as she smiled to laugh. "I decided [the medical profession] was probably not my calling." Futrell chose instead to major in psychology. In graduate school at Longwood College (now University) in Farmville, Va, she chose a concentration of Com-



"I am hard on students because I have high expectations of them. I see potential in them."

TAMARA FUTRELL, Assistant Dean of Students and Multicultural Affairs

munity and College Counseling to go with her Masters of Science in Education. The concentration got her ready to counsel college kids – which is a skill that Washington and Lee students are glad she has. After graduation, she headed to Hollins University to the Office of Housing and Residence Life. Before long, Futrell was working directly with students in the Office of First Year – the equivalent of our Dean Leonard. Soon, the university had added a Sophomore Programs to the office. "We realized that the students leaving our institution were doing so at the beginning or at the end of their sophomore year," said Futrell. Administrators began to give the same amount of attention to the sophomores as they were giving the freshman. This was an easy task, as all four class years at Hollins have to live on campus. "It was very easy to organize things in the residence halls," said Futrell. How did Washington and Lee find her? Well, said Futrell, she

kind of found W&L. "I met Dawn Watkins two years prior to coming to Washington and Lee," she said. She worked with Watkins at conferences and programs, and they worked together very well. Visiting W&L and Watkins, Futrell once met her predecessor. After being introduced to him, she announced "I want your job." When he left, she applied for the position. Futrell is excited to be working with her friend, Watkins. "She's brilliant and such a forward-thinker. She's really progressive." Futrell serves as the Assistant Dean of Students and Multicultural Affairs. Various jobs fall to her, including advising and working with various multicultural student organizations, something she has a passion for. Futrell serves as the faculty advisor to eight different organizations, including MSA and Joyful Noise. In addition, she often works with five other organizations that fall under the multicultural office, including GSA and PAACE. "My role as faculty advisor

differs with every organization," Futrell said. "It depends on who the executive counsel is and what role they want me to play." Futrell makes sure to use the term "multicultural" instead of the more commonly used term "minority." "There are so many negative connotations" of the word, Futrell said. "It has a sense of superiority and inferiority in it." Futrell uses "multicultural" because "it emphasizes the fact that this person is different – in a good way." She also assists in training the Residence Life Staff, something she has been doing since her Hollins days. Washington and Lee's philosophy to training, said Futrell, is to "help students be good mentors to other students." In all the ways Futrell works with students, there is one thing that remains the same. "She's blatantly honest with you," admits E'Lon Cohen, '07, something she thinks is the reason that Futrell is well-liked and a trusted mentor among students. Futrell agrees. "I am hard on students because I have high expectations of them," she said simply. "I see potential in them."



\$24 STUDENT SPECIAL

Includes green and cart fees and a bucket of range balls

Available daily at 12:00 pm

Call 540.261.GOLF for more details

Valid through December 31, 2005. Not valid with other offers or promotions

www.thevistalinks.com

Wonder what it is like to Teach?
Teach disadvantaged children?
Teach children from diverse backgrounds?
Learn about the Sarah G. Ball Teaching Award!

Bring your Parents

You have two opportunities to ASK Nan Partlett and Claiborne Taylor on Parents Weekend

Come for refreshments and conversation at the Teacher Education Open House 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at Hill House 218 W. Washington Street Friday, October 28th

AND/OR,

Sign up for an individual fifteen-minute appointment with the Director of Teacher Education, Nan Partlett and Claiborne Taylor, Instructor 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at Hill House Friday, October 28th

by calling 458-8722

Join America's #1 Student Tour Operator
CANCUN, ACAPULCO, JAMAICA, BAHAMAS, FLORIDA
Sell Trips, Earn Cash, Go Free!
Now Hiring On-campus Reps
Call for group discounts
STIS STUDENT TRAVEL SERVICES
www.ststravel.com
1-800-648-4849 / www.ststravel.com

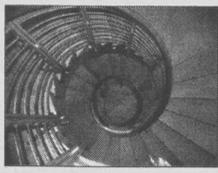
"Welcome to Your New Addiction"
MILLENIUM TATTOO BODY PIERCING & ARCADE
2077 Magnolia Ave., Buena Vista, VA 24416
540-261-SKIN (7546)
New location in Buena Vista
Over 5 years experience
Thousands of designs to choose from or we can design that one of a kind piece just for you.
Tons of body jewelry including over 2,000 navel and tongue rings.
Also an arcade while you wait including pool tables and tournaments on Saturday.
Group discounts available
10% off with Student ID
10 minutes from campus
Call for directions

Lexington Animal Hospital
Welcomes You and Your Pet!!
20% off your first visit with this ad.
New clients only/limit one per visit. Expires 08/31/2006
Dr. Sheryl H. Carls Dr. Martha L. Tubman
28 Bones Place Lexington, VA 540-463-2715

Queen Victoria
FINE ENGLISH ANTIQUES AND AMERICAN COUNTRY
603 N. Lee Highway
Lexington, VA 24450
W&L Appreciation Weekend
Fri. & Sat., Oct. 28th & 29th
Bring this card and receive a 10% discount on all purchases and ask about our offer for a FREE one night stay at Harmony House Bed and Breakfast
Main Showroom on Rt. 11 in Lexington Mon.-Sat. 10-5; Sun. 1-4
Brownsburg Warehouse Showroom (540) 464-3737
maps available at: www.queenvicantiques.com

Original Italian Restaurant
2055 Magnolia Ave
Buena Vista, VA 24416
264-0029
FREE DELIVERY
with \$10 min order
Stromboli-Pizza-Subs-Pasta-Etc.
Open Monday thru Thursday:
11AM-10PM
Friday & Saturday:
11AM-11PM
Sunday:
12PM-10PM

opinions



UPS & DOWNS

Caley Anderson and Katherine Greene give their takes on the good, the bad, and the ugly.

▲ **Girls' V-Ball.** Domination as usual in the W&L Classic.

▲ **Senate.** Doing their best to override limitation on stem cell research, but the vote had to be postponed until early next year.

▲ **Midterms.** Seemed a bit lighter than usual this year, at least for me.

▼ **Midterms.** Pretty much kicked everyone else's ass.

▲ **Wal-Mart/Kroger's.** All hail the cheap candy sales.

▲ **World Series.** White Sox over the Astros in 7. Lots of emotional drama on both sides.

▼ **Atlanta Braves.** How could you get rid of Mazzone? Now who will rock violently in the dugout

during high-intensity games?

▲ **Crystal Garden.** Easily the best of the Chinese places in town.

▼ **CIA Leak Investigation.** Whatever happens this week, it isn't going to be good for the Bush administration.

▼ **San Diego Chargers.** Lose what should have been a won game on a blocked field goal that was returned for a touchdown, plus a blown fumble call that prevented a last-minute comeback.

▼ **Administration.** Try and keep your political agendas--and particularly feminazi-ism--out of the budget with which our conservative parents supply you. Thanks.

Woman on top

The times are a-changin'... and so should the trend for male Presidents

By Ashley Brightwell
COLUMNIST

As Washington and Lee celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of the presence of women at the University this year, it's hard to comprehend how women can be kept from positions of power within the University itself.

In spite of equally qualified women applying for higher positions, the jobs of President, Provost and deans more often go to men.

In fact, in the over 250 years since this school was established, there have only been a

handful of female deans, such as Dawn Watkins, the current Dean of Students.

The University needs to understand that without varying perspectives, we can only exist in a state of stagnation. The integration of new viewpoints into positions of power is vital for growth and change.

After over 250 years of male Presidents at Washington and Lee, isn't it about time we had some change?

There is nothing about women that make them any less capable of performing the job of President of the University than men, and in fact, the change from a male to

female President might actually help the University to modernize and move past certain outdated patriarchal values and traditions that have dictated the way of life at our University since the eighteenth century.

When the school became co-ed, the core value of the school, "be a gentleman", simply became "be a gentleman (or gentlewoman)" and it often feels as though the rules of conduct are thus geared toward men, with women just tacked on and not really considered.

After all, it seems a little sketchy that while cheating is considered an honor violation,

rape is not.

A female president would be able to work toward changing the values of the University to really include women.

It is high time that Washington and Lee embraced the twenty-first century view of equality and allowed a woman into a position of power that has so long been a male-occupied role.

The presence of a woman as president of the University is crucial to finally completing the integration of women into Washington and Lee.

After all, this is a time to celebrate the presence of women in the University, isn't it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Little white book

Honor violations not defined in book--and that's how it should be, alleges reader

To the Editor:

I must respectfully disagree with Caley Anderson's conclusion that the Honor System needs to be reevaluated (*Ring-tum Phi*, October 10, 2005). Mr. Anderson and I have both worked at the sharp edge of the Honor System as Honor Advocates, but I cannot agree with his arguments.

Mr. Anderson begins by saying that the White Book specifically outlines lying, cheating and stealing as clear Honor Violations.

The relevant text reads, "Although dishonorable conduct cannot be codified, lying, cheating and stealing are clear examples of breaches of the Honor System." This would be troublesome on its own, but in the context of the Philosophy section of the White Book, the passage fits nicely, especially with its preceding sentence: "The Honor System condemns only acts that the current student generation views as breaches of the community's trust." Taken alone, Mr. Anderson's example is problematic. Read in context, however, it fulfills its purpose, advising readers that students alone determine what constitutes dishonorable be-

havior.

My critics will argue that the mere act of offering examples of possible honor violations constitutes a codification of honor, but I firmly believe that students need some sort of example in order to understand Honor Violations. Mr. Anderson's hypothetical of lying to an arsonist to protect the C-School nicely illustrates a case that no EC would prosecute, but without the current text, how are we to explain our Honor System to freshmen each year? Arriving at W&L is chaotic enough, and freshmen especially need some sort of guideline to understand dishonorable behavior. Without those words, EC members would be faced with telling incoming freshmen every year simply that they know dishonorable behavior when they see it. If that standard didn't work for the Supreme Court in dealing with obscenity cases, I don't see how it can work for our Honor System.

Mr. Anderson's second proposal, to amend the White Book to classify all convicted students as "withdrawn," even if found guilty in an Open Hearing, hinges on the argument that the "dis-

missed" notation is a powerful disincentive for students to appeal to an Open Hearing. That much is true, but Mr. Anderson ignores the reasoning for that disincentive at his peril.

At an Open Hearing, the EC itself is tried along with the accused student. The EC must present its case and its reasoning, while the accused student must convince the jury that the EC is mistaken.

An honorable student, wrongfully convicted by the EC, will have no problem proving such a case. The disincentive is to prevent every single Closed Hearing giving way to an Open Hearing because the Honor System trusts the EC to know their fellow students and to judge accordingly.

An Open Hearing after every case would betray that trust, and students would eventually grow tired of seeing every case re-argued in Lee Chapel, to the detriment of any legitimate appeals that might come before a student jury. The Open Hearing is there as a final appeal for those students who are wrongfully convicted by the EC, not as yet another burden for convicted students to undertake before withdrawing.

Fundamentally, we must trust the EC to carry out its duties. I have known and worked with EC President Charlie Yates since his freshman year, and I have complete confidence in the Committee and him to weigh each case carefully and in accordance with the students' conception of honor. Students elect the EC specifically

because the student body as a whole cannot oversee every single case. Their input into the Honor System consists of electing those representatives, and though candidates do not run on platforms outlining to their conceptions of honor, those elected are trusted by their peers. If any student does not share my confidence in the Committee, I ask him or her: did you run for office, or take an active role in encouraging someone you trust to do so?

If not, reconsider your doubts. I lost the EC President election during the winter of my junior year by a wide margin, and while my pride suffered somewhat, I continued defending accused students to the best of my ability. I am pleased to call that my contribution to the Honor System. What is yours?

I commend Mr. Anderson and the *Ring-tum Phi* for his article, and W&L students would do well to heed his call to take an active interest in the Honor System. It has become fashionable to criticize the EC and the Honor System over the past few years, especially since the infamous Gabe Katz case, but I urge students to consider that the Honor System and its institutions are in place for a reason. They may not be perfect, but they are the culmination of more than one hundred years of trial and error at enforcing honorable behavior, and the student body would do well to remember that before changing them.

Michael Lee, '05
Vienna, VA
Oct. 18, 2005

Students take note

Intellectual opportunities available on campus

To the Editor:

I agree with your columnist, Thomas Gift, that W & L "falls short of being an excellent intellectual school." However, I do not know that "this is especially true regarding the student body's treatment of political issues." I think that the problem is a general one.

The columnist's advice to students to take more courses in politics so that they can become more involved in politics and "learn the values of civic virtue and community participation" strikes me as symptomatic of this problem.

The problem is one of seeing intellectual culture as a mere means to an end, and not as both an end in itself and a means to an end (see Bk. II of Plato's "Republic" for this distinction).

My advice to students would be different. It would be to attend at least one public lecture by an academic every week, regardless of what discipline the academic is in (they could start with a

superstar like Cornel West, but they would have to go to talks by lesser entities eventually); to watch a film at the W & L Film Society every weekend without fail; to go to every major theatrical production at W & L (this term alone, for example, there is Neil LaBute's "The Shape of Things" and Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit") and to go to at least some musical productions; to subscribe to a daily newspaper (the special subscription rate in the Bookstore for the NY Times is wonderful); to go to the library and read at least one publication that reviews books every week (such as the New York Review of Books or the Times Literary Supplement); and to read some literature every term.

This would be a mere start, of course. But it would be a start. And it would not even require leaving campus.

J. E. Mahon
Dept. of Philosophy
Oct. 10, 2005

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MANAGING EDITOR

EMILY HULEN
KATHERINE GREENE

ARTS&LIFE EDITOR
OPINIONS EDITOR
SPORTS EDITOR

KATHRYN KRALL
SHANE WILSON
AMANDA THOLKE

BUSINESS MANAGER
DISTRIBUTION DIRECTORS
CIRCULATION DIRECTORS

DAVID SEIFERT
JOEY CONVERSE
CLAYTON EDWARDS
TED WILLIAMS
DAVIN HUNT
DAVID GRAHAM
KYLE WICHSER

DESIGNERS
COPY EDITOR

JESSICA RAMOS
JOHN SCULLY
VANESSA ARNESS

The *Ring-tum Phi* is published Mondays during the undergraduate school year at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. The *Ring-tum Phi* is a member of The Media Board, which can be reached at mediaboard@wlu.edu, but is otherwise independent.

The *Ring-tum Phi* welcomes all responsible submissions and letters. All submissions must be e-mailed to phi@wlu.edu or in the University Center mailbox by 5 p.m. Friday to appear in the following week's edition. The *Ring-tum Phi* reserves the right to edit submissions for content and length. Letters and columns do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The *Ring-tum Phi* Editorial Board. Advertising does not reflect the opinions of The *Ring-tum Phi* or its staff. This newspaper observes current court definitions of libel and obscenity.

The *Ring-tum Phi*
University Commons Room, 341
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia 24450
Telephone: (540) 458-4090
Fax: (540) 458-4059
Email: phi@wlu.edu
Subscription rate \$40

Timber Ridge Auto Center

1619 Valley Pike
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 464-1997



ASE CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS

Foreign and Domestic Repairs
Oil change and Lube, A/C, Computer Diagnostics,
Minor and Major Engine Repair, Brakes,
Fuel Injection Service, Transmission Service,
Coolant Flush, Minor and Major Tune-ups.

We can provide factory authorized maintenance without voiding your manufacture's warranty.

Major Credit Cards Accepted



Pappagallo

Welcome
Parents!

Ladies' Shoes, Clothing and Accessories

23 N. Main St.
Lexington, VA 24450
(540) 463-5988

"I watch the ripples change in size
but never leave the stream of warm
impermanence..."

DAVID BOWIE

Conservative inevitable

Media not doing candidates justice in looking at wrong credentials

By Justin McKeen
COLUMNIST

A month ago I bet there weren't 200 people on this campus who could have told you who Harriet Miers was. Now she's a nominee for one of the most prestigious appointments our nation can bestow. A lot more people know her name now, but is that enough?

Appointments to the Supreme Court are always a matter for deep discussion. After all, those justices are the people who have the final say over the constitutionality of legislation. Not only that, they're justices for life, subject to good behavior. Can anyone picture, let alone remember, a supreme court justice involved in a major scandal? A few have been caught during their confirmation, which only goes to show why that process is so important.

The last few months have brought two successive appointments to the Supreme Court,

which is two more than I've ever paid attention to before. What's struck me throughout both processes has not been the intensive questioning of the candidates, not the journalistic search to provide insight into the nominee's character and abilities, but rather the amazing ability of Washington and the media to focus on exactly the wrong things.

Harriet Miers is vanilla. This woman must be the utility infielder on the firm's softball team. Honestly, I know George Bush likes her, I know she passed the bar, and that's about it. Most people reading this are now expecting the usual plea for more information, and you'd be right, that's exactly what I want, but not

because I want to endorse or reject her candidacy. Instead, I want to know that whoever is sitting on the highest court in the land is a judge. I don't need a dispassionate observer. I want someone who is intelligent enough to hold opinions, analyze the law, and make an argument. If Harriet Miers gets her seat and casts the deciding vote to repeal Roe v. Wade, I'll be happy. Not because I want Roe v. Wade repealed but because at least I'll know that someone was thinking about the issue and making a study of the Constitution. That's their job after all. We have to trust that the Court, and that trust derives itself from the people that make it up.

The Republican party is in power right now. They hold the presidency, they hold congress, and, whatever democrats may claim, I'd say that's a pretty clear sign that they have the mandate of the people. How long that may last is another question, but why, if they now have that mandate, shouldn't George Bush appoint a conservative judge?

I'm not a Republican. I'm not even a Democrat. But stripping all the party politics out of it, I want someone on the Supreme Court who is qualified to interpret the law. Their politics should be looked at, but political infighting shouldn't reduce us to the point that we're searching out longtime pool-boys for the Court because they're nice people and have no paper trail. Whatever happens with Miers, I hope the next appointee to the Court is smart, opinionated, and last and definitely least, shares my political views.

At least I'll know that someone was thinking about the issue and making a study of the Constitution. That's their job, after all.

THE RING-TUM PHI.

The whole campus is reading it.
You should be, too.

Contact David Seifert at phi-business@wlu.edu today.

★ CHICKEN CAPITAL USA ★

HOME OF KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN



Try our *All You Can Eat Lunch Buffet!*

• Hot Vegetables • Cold Salads • Desserts • Bread
• the Colonel's™ Original Recipe® and • Extra Crispy™ Chicken

We Do Catering!

Call Donna for ALL your catering needs!

100 Walker Street • Lexington, VA • 540-463-9622

The Bookery

Over 40,000 Books
New, Used, and Rare

Come Celebrate a Book Signing with
"The Happy Cook" Columnist for
The News-Gazette, Radio Host at WREL and
Restaurant Reviewer for The Roanoke Times

Dolores Kostelni

The Potluck Cookbook

Saturday, Oct. 29 11am - 1pm

New Releases:

Rockbridge A Photographic Essay
by Bruce Young & Jennifer Law Young
(Foreword by Willard Scott)

Sally Mann's *Deep South*
John Leland's
Aliens in the Backyard

540-464-3377

107 W. Nelson St.
(almost beside Cocoa
Mill Chocolate)

Open 7 days a week
at 9am



School intimidates minorities

Lack of minorities symptomatic of larger problem: students' need to diversify rather than unify

By Mallory Ruymann
COLUMNIST

Everyone at Washington and Lee agrees that there are not many problems with the school; the grounds are meticulously maintained, it's one of the best educations in the country, and social life is fabulous.

However if you look around, more often than not, all you will see is white faces. Although the school has done a good job of injecting some 'flavor' into the campus in recent years, W&L is still considered one of the least-diverse schools in the nation.

Why is this so? Does our reputation precede us, or are we not actively recruiting a large number of minorities?

Many minorities are intimidated to come to a school where there is not a large base of minority students.

Without a large support-system, many feel a heightened awareness of their differences due to the largely white population, and are also generally singled out for being a minority; be it in the classroom, student organizations, or the admissions process

The admissions process here at W&L, as I understand it, does take

into account the race/ethnicity of a prospective, but only in the category of differences of life experience.

This policy results in the admittance of minorities who are just as qualified as any other person to be here.

However, the amount of minority students admitted is obviously not a large number. This may be due to the fact that not many apply; however, the numbers speak for themselves and should not be as low as they are.

In order to increase the number of minority students on campus, we must start with transform-

ing the stereotype of a W&L student. W&L must demonstrate to the world that not every single student who goes here is white; and all students need to commit to tolerating and befriending different types of people.

Who each of us is will never change, nor can anyone look past it; however, we must all embrace each other for our individual uniqueness. Once we start actively altering our attitudes towards each other to create a more welcoming environment, minority prospectives will take notice and hopefully W&L will be filled with many different flavors.

TOYOTA

\$400 OFF ANY NEW TOYOTA OF YOUR CHOICE*
AS A COLLEGE GRAD, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE!

*NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY. CUSTOMERS RECEIVE \$400 FROM TOYOTA TOWARDS LEASING OR FINANCING THE PURCHASE OF NEW UNTITLED TOYOTA MODELS THROUGH PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALERS AND TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. COLLEGE GRADUATE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR TERMINATION AT ANY TIME.

TOYOTA

COROLLA S

buytoyota.com

STANDARD FEATURES:

MACPHERSON STRUT FRONT SUSPENSION

+ AM/FM/CD WITH 6 SPEAKERS

+ 1.8-LITER 170 HP ENGINE

+ SIDE ROCKER PANELS

+ 38 MPG HWY[†]

= **YOUR NEW CAR**

AS SHOWN **\$17,360^{††}**



TOYOTA
moving forward

[†]EPA ESTIMATED MPG FOR 2005 COROLLA S MODEL 1812 4 SPEED AUTO. ACTUAL MILEAGE MAY VARY. ^{††}MSRP FOR 2006 SPORT MODEL 1812 EXCLUDING TAX, TAGS AND LICENSE FEES. DEALER SETS FINAL PRICE

The road stops here

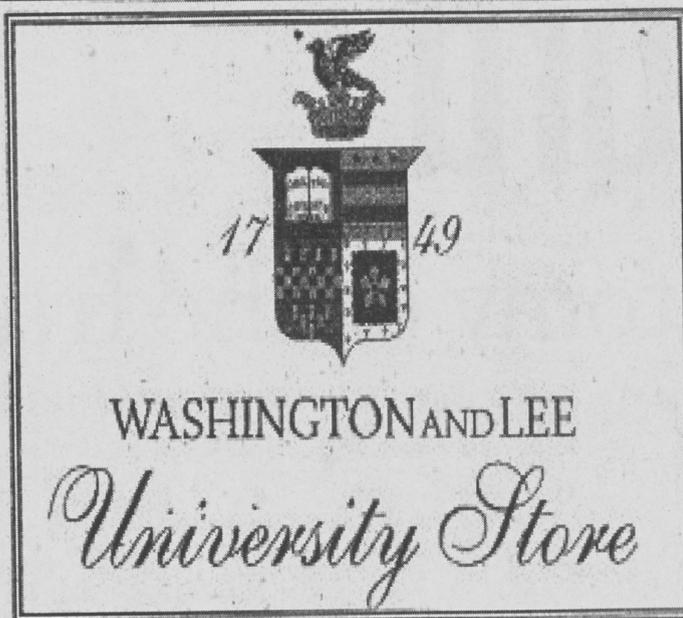


but the views are
just starting.



Just 2 miles from Exit 205 • Private homesites from \$69,900 • 2 to 14 acres

Call (540) 294-2020 or (540) 294-0818 to arrange a personal tour



Enjoy PARENTS' WEEKEND!

*new arrivals
in time for the coming gift giving holidays from*



*browse among the many unique insignia items
find that unique item
your store will gift wrap any purchase*

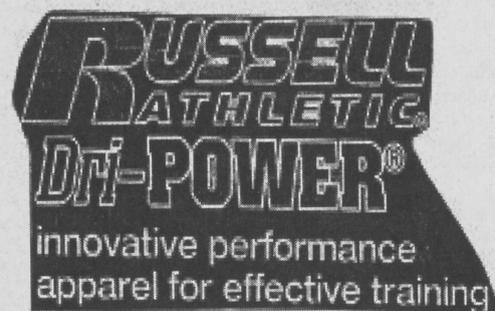
**A TRADITION
A CELEBRATION
A RECOGNITION**



Reserved exclusively for juniors, seniors and graduates of the University.

*The Official Class Ring of
Washington and Lee
University*

Visit with the ring representative
over Parents' Weekend
Thur., Oct. 27, Fri., Oct. 28 & Sat., Oct. 29
from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 30 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
at your University Store



Thank you for supporting the University by using your University Store!

All Store profits go toward University scholarships, salaries and the W & L operating budget.

special "Parents' Weekend" store hours

Thursday & Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

you may shop online at bookstore.wlu.edu



lastword

TALKBACKS

What are you going to be for Halloween?



Kristin del Padre, freshman:
I'd be a renaissance lady.



Mary Childs, sophomore:
I can't tell you, it's a secret.



Neil Sheaffer, sophomore:
I'm going to be Gilligan.



Julian Ledford, senior:
I would choose a banana.

This week's Talkbacks was conducted by Abri Nelson.

Anatomy of the frat hat

With all the effort to dress just right, why is the filthy hat such a fashion necessity?

By Tim Livingston
COLUMNIST

I dwell on one mystery for at least fifteen minutes a day. What is the fascination with dirty hats?

Men at our fine institution thoroughly enjoy telling the W&L community they are members of a prestigious fraternity through their apparel. I have no problem with this aspect of our school.

However, I am perplexed why filthy hats fit into a style that includes ridiculously over-priced shirts, pants, and shoes.

The first thing you learn when you join many fraternities is how to dress.

There is a five hour class that several frat's make their pledges sit through in order to learn the subtle intricacies of dressing like a proper W&L Fratty McFrat boy.

Sadly, I'm sure that half of the people who read that last sentence instantly believed that there is a class that perpetuates the homogeneity at our school.

There is not, but the point is that if there was one, there would be a weighty portion devoted to how to wear your filthy hats.

The first step involves buying a \$15 college hat (South Carolina, Vanderbilt, Alabama are popular) and then tying that cap to a wooden stick (about 8-9 feet) and then driving through a dirt field while dragging the hat along.

By the end of this arduous process, the once pristine item should obtain a brownish tint that needs to be mixed with about a pint of sweat for the concoction to work and be fratty enough for daily use.

Obviously wearing a clean hat is totally out of the question. When a guy sports his dirty hat backwards with his conditioned locks of frat hair oozing out of the front while representing a southern school from his home state...the feeling can only be described as bliss.

My only dilemma is that I have neither a southern state to be a symbol of, nor adequate hair for the previously illustrated oozing out effect that is required for the appropriate look.

Another problem arises when I realize that I lack the dorky sunglasses with the band to keep the super fratty shades across my neck at all times.

Perhaps the absence of these essentials is why I feel obligated to question the queerest style at our school. When I say queer, I of course mean odd, and when I say odd I mean terrible.

After over a year at this place I have found many holes in our institution; for
e x -

ample, the administration refuses to respect the student body.

However, in spite of these harrowing aspects of our school, my main problem remains these absurd hats.

My first question will be proposed to the select ladies in the audience who are enthralled by this primitive form of headwear.

What is intriguing about the filth? Do you enjoy rubbing your hands against the oily hair which can only accumulate with hours of pressing against what is in essence dirt? Do you take off your man's hat and smell his manly musk in order to achieve some type of sensual experience?

Do the women at our school not understand that they can easily eradicate something ridiculous like the dirty hats by simply saying to a man, "Clayton (or other ge-

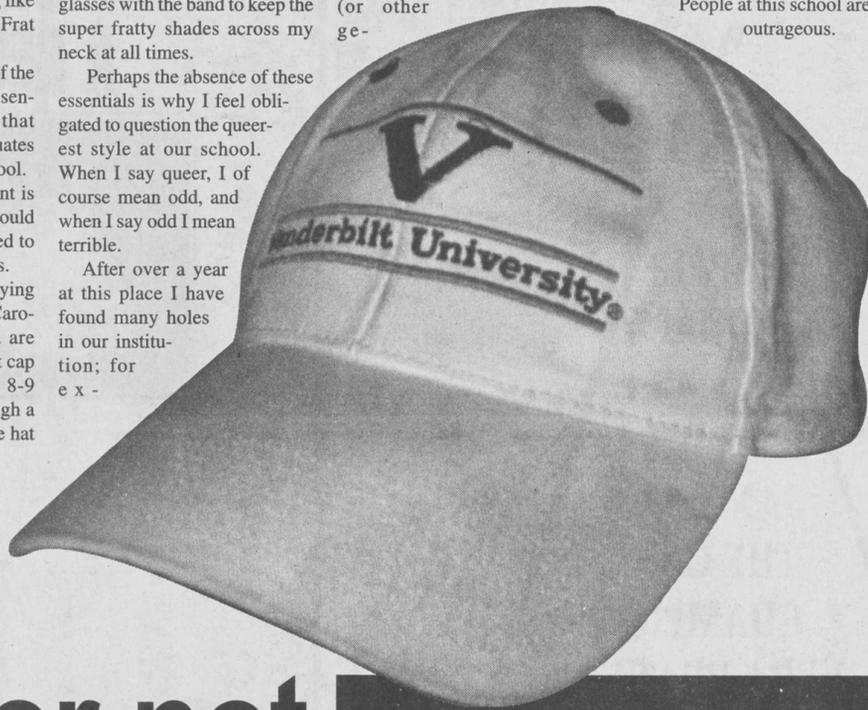
neric W&L male name), you are an attractive male without that stupid hat, and because my hands are greasier than freshly cooked bacon after we hook up, I'd appreciate if you stopped the whole dirty hat thing."

If one girl speaks these words to her significant other the dirty hat fad would dissolve faster than pogs in fifth grade.

I have only one question for the guys who buy into the filthy hat phenomenon. Who was the genius who thought it would be cool to ditch clean hats and only wear dirty ones?

Who woke up in the morning and said, "I'm sick of wearing all clean clothing, so I'll wear all spotless attire combined with that old LSU hat I was dragging on my 9 foot wooden pole through the dirt field yesterday?"

People at this school are outrageous.



Weather or not

There is only one explanation for Mother Nature's moodiness: PMS

By Hugh Trout
COLUMNIST

Man, Mother Nature rolls harder than Suge Knight these days.

These hurricanes are becoming as frustratingly repetitious as a Gwen Stefani song. Between Lexington fluctuating by 40 degrees everyday and some states wondering if they are going to exist this time next week, Mother Nature is trying to tell us something, and I think it is high time we start to figure out what the hell that something is.

I know what all of you are thinking: Hugh, its plain to see that Mother Nature just doesn't like this whole Ashlee Simpson comeback and is venting her frustration. Good point reader and I agree that even though it is by far the most obvious reason, it is also the most probable.

Lets face it, Ashlee Simpson isn't talented and should leave the singing to her more talented sister (same thing goes for Hillary Duff's sister: I don't know who you are, but please get out of the way so your talented sister can entertain me).

But here at the Phi we don't just speculate and barely scratch the surface, not at all. What we do is speculate, barely scratch the surface and are inflammatory enough to incite some reader to write an equally over-the-top response to something all other readers forgot about five minutes

after they read it.

So, in keeping with that tradition let me list a few of my theories as to what is up with the weather. And remember, this is not something you should actually take seriously (sort of like how everyone treats the speaking tradition) and if you find yourself getting frustrated just picture watching someone walk into a glass door and them trying to find a way to make it look not awkwardly hilarious.

If you are still angry after that, you are living your life in a joyless manner that will only lead to high blood pressure and thinning hair and for that I apologize and suggest that maybe you should have gone to Davidson.

While Burger King is rocking our socks off with their King commercials that convey an overwhelming sense of awkwardness but also reassurance and comfort, McDonald's is doing a very poor job of competing. "I'm lovin' it?"

Well, Mother Nature is not. What McDonald's needs to do is make fast food sexy again. The Paris Hilton commercials were good so McDonald's needs to show Hardies how they rock it: Jessica Alba, anyone? Damn I'm good. Or if not sexy, dangerous.

I know if I saw 50 Cent and the Hamburglar bust some faces up and then cruise through the drive-through to pick up some McShakes, I would be at McDonald's in a heart beat

showing people that I'm as cool as they are. Right now, if people say they are going to the drive through I'm thinking the idea is McAwful and walk on over to Donny T's.

Or maybe Mother Nature is just upset at the new O.C. season. And not to be a hater, but it really has gone down hill. They are already recycling plot lines, the new characters are as surprising as another allegation of misconduct against Tom DeLay.

First big let down of the season: crazy lady is a scam artist and not an obsessed lesbian. I'm not very happy about that, and am seriously consider writing a stern letter reflecting my frustration. But then again, Mother Nature seems a lot more pissed off than I am.

I think another likely possibility is the state of professional sports.

My guess is Mother Nature agrees with me on several points: I have no problem with baseball players doing all the steroids they want, I want my NBA players to wear whatever the hell they want, and the more players assaulting drunk fans in the stands the better. If T.O. wants to have a fireworks show in the end zone, bring it on.

I'm even fine easing rules against drug use during the play of the game. You have to admit it would be pretty sick to watch Lavar Arrington on speed lay out some kicker.

Subscribe to THE RING-TUM PHI.

The whole campus is reading it. You should be, too.

Contact David Seifert at phi-business@wlu.edu today.

October is...
Virginia Wine Month

CELEBRATE WITH US!
TASTE WINES AND FOODS FROM
CHATEAU MORRISSETTE WINERY
OCTOBER 29TH 2-4 P.M.
Virginia — First in Wine since 1608

16 W. Washington St.
Lexington, Virginia 24450
(540) 463-1832

vabombred@rockbridge.net



3. West Nelson

Wings

with a variety of sauces,
Hog Wild Wings,
Grilled Chicken Tenders,
Hamburgers,
B-B-Q Sandwiches,
and tasty Cajun and
Southwestern style
side dishes

Great food
Reasonable prices

464-1003

Tailgate Packages &
Party Platters Available
Advance notice required



of Historic Lexington, VA

Friday, October 28th
Saturday, October 29th
Monday, October 31st

TOURS BEGIN AT 8:30
EVERY NIGHT

★★★★★★★★★
7:00pm Tours Also
on Friday 28th
and on Saturday 29th
★★★★★★★★★

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
540.464.2250

Open to visitors:
Tuesday-Saturday
11 am until 5 pm



Original Art
Chinese Furniture
Unusual Asian objects

20 West Washington
(540) 464-6366
skk@rockbridge.net



The Holidays are
Coming...

Gift Certificates
Make it Easy

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

"semper ubi sub ubi"