

# THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, NOV 14, 2005

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

VOLUME CIX, NUMBER 9

**WHAT'S INSIDE****Girl, Interrupted**

Life editor Kathryn Krall delves into the loss of feminism at this school on page 9.

**The Dean strikes back**

Debate and rebuttal over Dean Ellen Mayock's controversial interview in our Oct. 27 issue is revisited on page 6.

**A turn of the tide**

The swim team prepares for a new year and a new season with high hopes against the odds. See page 3.

**SPORTS BRIEFS****Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams both finish 4<sup>th</sup> in NCAA Regionals**

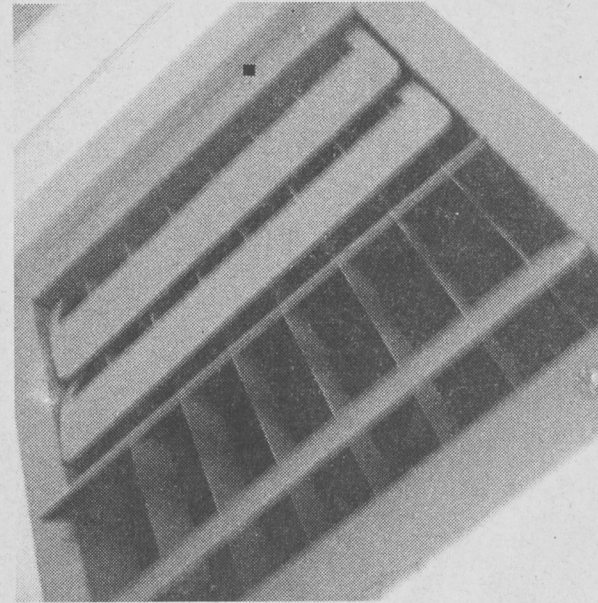
The men's team finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams in Conway, AR this weekend. Senior Nathan Johnson and Sophomore Alex Mahoney placed third and sixth overall, respectively, to lead the men's team. For the women, freshman Jackie Burns, senior Mary Christopher and sophomore Lindsay Erickson finished 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> respectively to earn all-region accolades while leading W&L to its best regional finish ever. The women finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 22 teams.

**Women's Soccer Falls to Moravian College, 2-1**

In the first round of the NCAA Women's Soccer Tournament, W&L lost to Moravian after going to double overtime. Freshman Anne Van Devender scored the first goal of the game at the 55:10 mark to give W&L a 1-0 lead but Moravian tied the game less than three minutes later. After one scoreless overtime, Moravian scored their second, and winning, goal 2:46 in to the second overtime.

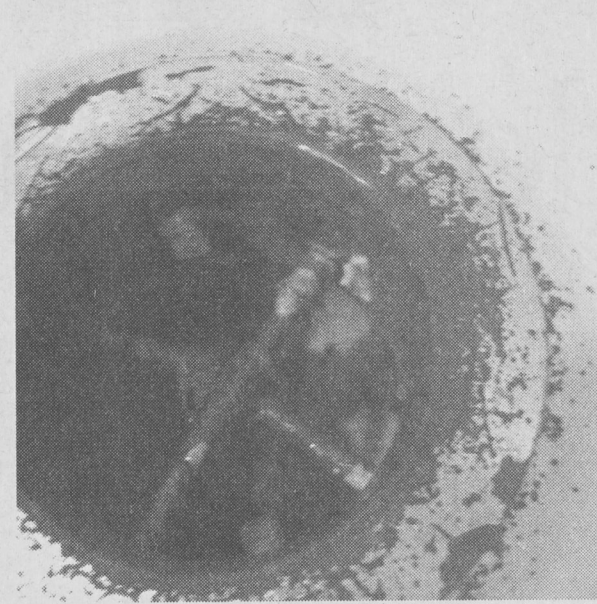
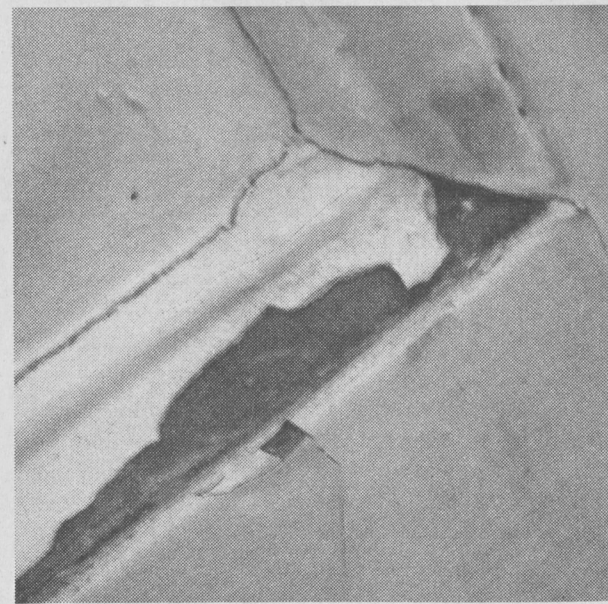
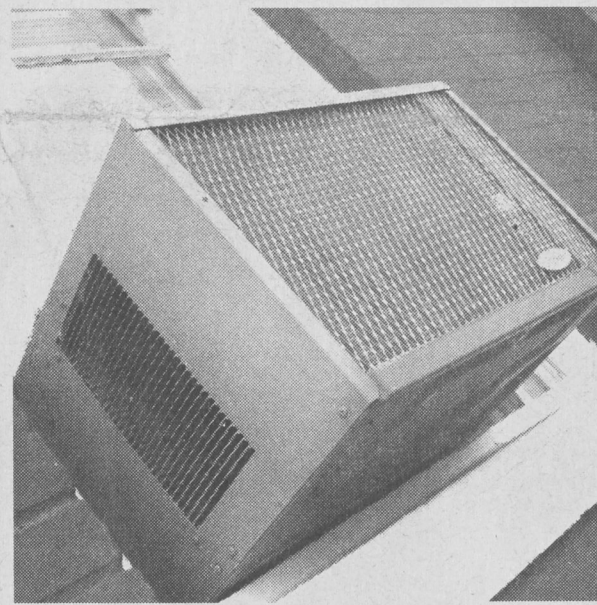
**W&L Volleyball Loses to Southwestern University, 3-0**

After winning the ODAC championship for the fourth consecutive year, W&L fell to Southwestern University in the first round of the NCAA tournament last Thursday at Emory University. Washington and Lee lost 30-24, 30-24, 30-24 to end the season 32-5 with a perfect 10-0 record in the ODAC. Senior setter Christine Gladysz was named Player of the Year for the second consecutive season, freshman Laura Maurer was named Freshman of the Year and Head Coach Bryan Snyder was named Coach of the Year for the fifth straight year.



# Face lift

University administration plans major renovations for school's iconic Colonnade



By Sarah Klientz  
REPORTER

When most people think about Washington and Lee University, they think about the Colonnade, and with good reason. It is the first thing one sees when driving onto campus, and upon arrival, the Colonnade's image is everywhere: on t-shirts, posters, and swipecards. Although it is the most historic and iconic part of campus, it is about to receive an update.

Because of the lack of technology and inadequate facilities of the classrooms, the buildings making up the Colonnade—Newcomb, Payne, Washington, Robinson and Tucker Halls—will undergo a major renovation in the coming years, Joe Grasso, Vice President of Administration and Campus Chair of the Space Planning Committee, said.

Grasso, although he is the overseer of the project, said it was not his idea to renovate the Colonnade.

"[Former president] Tom Burish, before he left, had quiet discussions about the need to renovate the Colonnade," Grasso said. "[Current acting president Harlan] Beckley came out with a list of eight goals he hopes to fulfill, or at least start, at W&L, and that's what's prompted us forward. Colonnade renovation is one of his key goals."

University architect Tom Contos said that faculty members with offices and classrooms in the Colonnade also expressed the need for an upgrade.

"There has been discussion over the past couple of years by faculty in these buildings expressing the desire to have the spaces renovated," Contos said. "After modernizing other parts of campus, such as the commons and the Lenfest center, we see there is a need to update these buildings."

Grasso agreed that the recent renovations of other buildings on campus has left the Colonnade's classrooms seemingly defunct.

See 'COLONNADE' on page 2

## Reaching coveted turf

Field hockey standout cites team support as key to success

By Katherine Greene  
MANAGING EDITOR

Field hockey is Kendall Korte's life.

Fighting through an injury to her groin for the majority of the season, Korte defied all odds, being named to the all-tournament and all-ODAC teams after the Generals won the ODACs two weeks ago.

"Going into the season, [the team's] goal was to win the ODACs, and we made it," she said.

During the summer, coach Wendy Orrison mailed each of

the teammates a card listing the goals of the team for the year.

The team surprised the school by meeting those goals and winning the ODACs, the first field hockey team in W&L history to do so.

"We had the mindset going into the season that we were going to win," said Korte. "We knew it was important to host, especially because we're definitely a turf team now."

She explained that playing field hockey on turf is a completely different game, saying that it is much faster-paced, with the added advantage

that only one other team in the division has a turf field.

"We only lost one game at home," Korte said, naming the turf as a contributing factor to the team's nearly-unbeatable status at home.

Field hockey remains a year-round activity to Korte, who spent the summer working with a trainer who helps out with the national women's field hockey team.

"I did all the same workouts as they did," she said, adding that the toughness of her regimen improved her athleticism.

Her better understanding of the game, however, came from coaching a youth team this summer.

"[Coaching] really breaks the game down into fundamentals and improves your understanding," she said.

In the course of the season, Korte performed very well, leading the team in assists, and ending up fourth in goals scored.

"Every game mattered," she said, "we really wanted to make this happen."

Goalie Elise Gelin said that a difference in the team this year which may have led to their immense success.

"For the first time as an athlete, I had complete trust in all of my other teammates on the field because of their outstanding athletic abilities," she said.

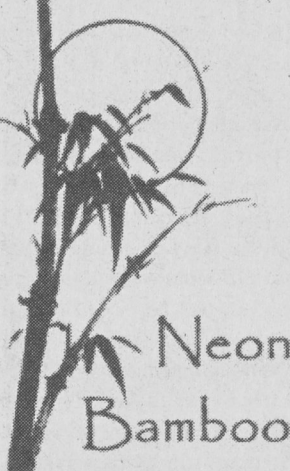
"We set every goal," Korte said, "and Wendy was really encouraging...she always made us feel more confident before games."

The confidence provided by Orrison was an influential contribution to the women.

Gelin said, "Before each game that we won, I had confidence that my teammates would play with tenacity and

See 'FIELD' on page 3

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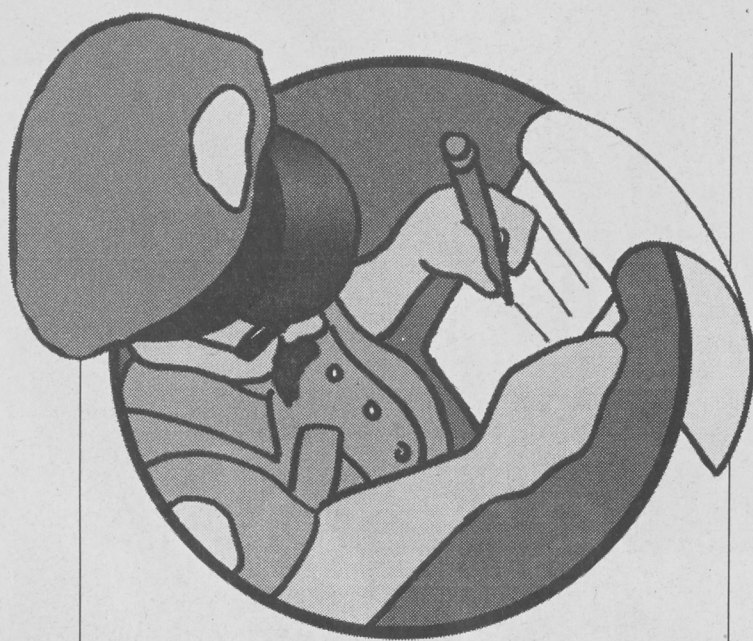
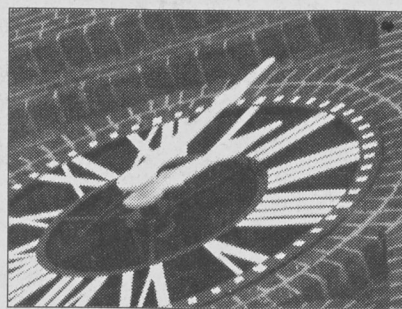
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# news



## BEHIND BARS

Here's to laughing at the expense of those who learned their lessons this weekend. News editor 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!

**Not twice as Nice**  
Police kindly informed SC of Kennet Square, PA that he cannot travel at nearly twice the speed limit. In Lexington, it appears 25 means 25, not 48. Mr. SC will be further reminded when he pays his speeding ticket. Bear that in mind next time you swing through town, please.

**Another good reason to obey the speed limit**  
At least 36-year-old PC of Richmond was only going 42 in the 25 zone. That, however, may turn out to be the least of his worries. While the officer would have let the speeding off with only a ticket, PC's refusal to cooperate, DUI, and Concealed Weapons charges all meant he finished his trip in the back seat of a squad car at 1:05 on a Sunday morning. Seeing as this is Lexington's second concealed weapons violation in a month, students may want to talk with the administration about their policy prohibiting firearms. Just for the safety of the students, of course.

**The neighbors were tired**  
Pi Phi may be known around campus for their weekend late nights, but by 3:06 AM

on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> the police had heard enough. And so, without further ado, they gave PH a ticket for "Loud Noise." Not 'noise violation' or 'failure to obtain a proper noise permit,' just "Loud Noise." I guess by 3 am the officers are too tired to come up with more precise descriptions on the tickets. Anyone interested in more information on loud noises can attend PH's traffic court hearing at 9 am on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Aloha!**  
Hawaiians love to party, but 22-year-old BK of Mililani, Hawaii learned that the Lexington Police would prefer he doesn't party all night long. They nabbed BF last month at 5:15 AM on a Saturday morning. Maybe it's a good thing, then, that Lambda's "Tropical" party broke up at a more reasonable hour but it's too bad, really. The early-morning breakfast places around town would have been opening up in about two or three hours.

**This might mean extra guard duty**  
Just when you thought Hawaiians and W&L students had a monopoly on DIP ar-

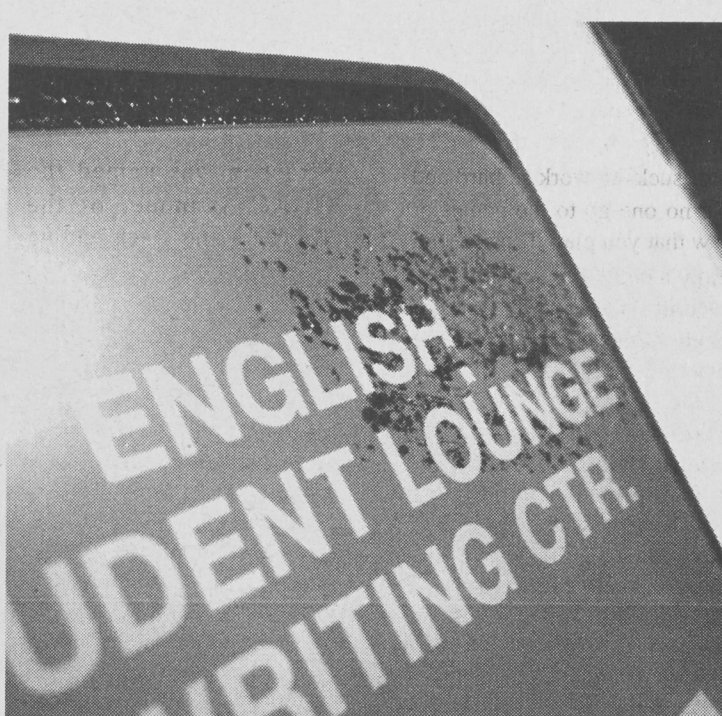
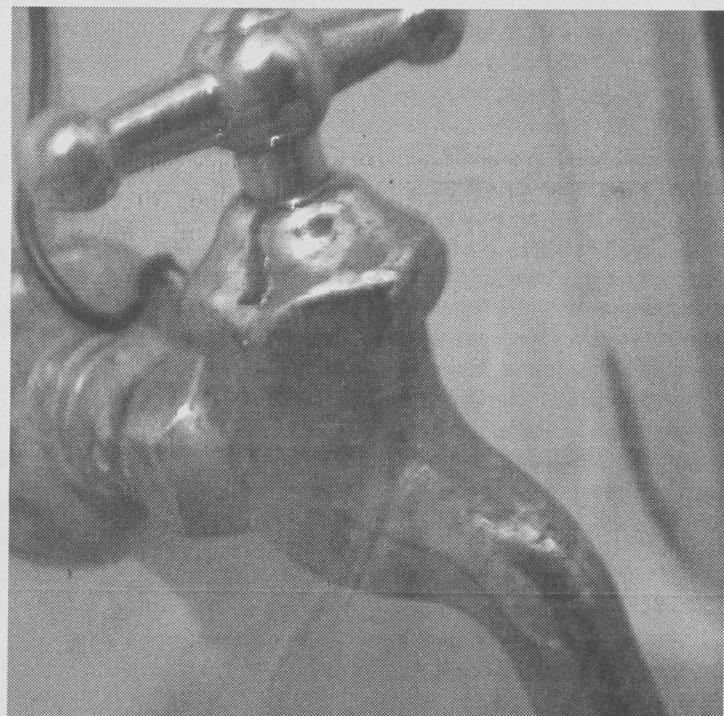
rests, VMI Keydet JN comes along. The fun loving resident of W&L's neighboring institution was arrested at 1:05 AM. Maybe he wanted to get the arrest over early so he could make it back for curfew. Perhaps this is also why VMI doesn't let the students out most nights. Whatever the case may be, *Behind Bars* suspects that the Commandant was not pleased.

**And now for something new**  
Finally, for the very first time, *Behind Bars* has a felony to report. BF, a 26-year-old female resident of Lexington, was arrested for welfare fraud and not one, not two, but four counts of perjury. So not only does BF try to cheat the government, she lies about her efforts. BF, cases like yours are what gets the W&L College Republicans so worked up about welfare. Anyone interested in learning more about BF may have to wait a bit; a court date has not yet been set.

**Drug Bust**  
Oh the felonies... apparently the changing leaves have brought changing crime patterns. JK of Goshen became Rockbridge County's latest offender when she was

charged with obtaining prescriptions by fraud. So next time you think it's a good idea to borrow your friend's Ritalin prescription to have a little fun, remember 26-year-old JK and just say no. At least if you get caught drunk you're just facing a misdemeanor; fraudulent prescriptions could ship you off to the Rockbridge Country Penitentiary.

**Hide the children**  
Finally, a big BOO from the Phi to GG of Clearwater, Florida. Ms. G, age 44, basically killed Lexington's Halloween spirit by getting arrested for public drunkenness at 9:50 pm. 9:50! Goodness gracious. Traveler hasn't even started running at 9:50. That's pathetic, GG, and shame on you for making a fool out of yourself in front of innocent children hoping for a safe, fun evening of trick-or-treating. Please return to Clearwater and never come back. At least W&L students have the decency not to get drunk in front of trick-or-treaters.



# Colonnade upgrade on horizon

Continued from page 1

"We have a beautiful new science facility, and are in the process of building more space for arts and music," Grasso said. "This is our chance to provide the humanities departments with modern teaching and learning facilities for both faculty and students."

Philosophy professor Lad Sessions teaches in Newcomb Hall and asserted that the colonnade is in desperate need of an update.

"The colonnade is W&L's signature, and it is in the worst shape of the entire school," Sessions said. "It projects an image of shabby gentility, not of cutting-edge education."

It is this "cutting-edge education" that the administration is striving to achieve through renovation of these historic buildings. However, their historical significance is an important factor in the renewal process, Contos said.

"Because the buildings are a national landmark, they will be resorted with great care," Contos said. "The colonnade will retain the same look on the exterior, except that the exterior air conditioning units will not be there."

Grasso added that other

necessary features will be added to the buildings in addition to air conditioning. The buildings will become code compliant for fire safety (a feature which the buildings are currently lacking), and will also become handicapped accessible—the installation of elevators is "very likely," Grasso said. Bathrooms will also be updated and will become handicapped accessible, as they are currently, as Grasso said, "atrocious."

Contos added that the colonnade buildings have not been renovated in about 70 years.

"The buildings have not been touched since 1936 when they were fireproofed," Contos said. "This project will preserve these buildings for another 80-100 years of more practical use."

Sessions added that the buildings are not currently equipped with enough space in which to teach.

"Newcomb Hall is twice as crowded in terms of square footage per faculty member as the Williams School, which has its own complaints," Sessions said.

Adequate electrical capacity is another important feature that will be added to the buildings, Grasso said, stressing that, "if we don't have the electrical capacities we need to charge the technologies available to us, it defeats the

academic purpose of the school."

Although there is much to be done to update the colonnade to match the quality of the rest of the school, Grasso said the renovation will be a long process, and the administration is still in the early planning stages.

One year ago, W&L received a \$150,000 grant from the Getty Foundation in order to begin the renovation process.

The Getty Foundation is an organization that sponsors, according to its website, "the research, documentation, and analysis necessary to the development of a comprehensive conservation plan ... [for] projects [which] focus on the historic structure and fabric of the building(s) and address conservation issues related to the building's setting."

Grasso said that W&L used the money to "measure and document how important the colonnade is in terms of historical architecture."

"It has given us a lot of good advice on how to maintain the historic look of the campus, and lays the groundwork on the rehabilitation of the colonnade," Grasso said.

Contos added that the money will assist the university in hiring a consultant who will create a preservation renovation plan.

"We want to modernize the

buildings," Contos said, "but also preserve them as they are national historical landmarks."

Currently the Space Planning Committee, comprised of faculty and staff, is interviewing nationally known architectural firms, Grasso said. This interview process will occur over the next few weeks.

With the help of the architect, the committee will conduct a feasibility study to determine what each building will house, in terms of the number of classrooms and offices. According to Grasso, this should be completed by the summer of 2006.

Then the project will enter the design phase, wherein the architects will start designing the interiors of each building.

"We have two options for renovating the interiors," Grasso said. "We can either gut each building, like we did to Reed Hall, and start from scratch, or keep the interior structure and work with it."

Grasso said that the committee prefers to keep the interior structure of each building and update so as not to "lose the historical appearance" of the buildings.

Once the design phase has completed, construction will begin. Grasso estimates that this should be during the late summer

or fall of 2007.

Contos said that because of the magnitude of the project, the architects will employ "stage construction," meaning one building will undergo renovation at a time. Grasso said Newcomb Hall will be the first building to undergo renovation, which leaves 35 faculty members without office space.

"Once the art and music departments move from Dupont Hall, it will serve to house those who are forced to move because of construction," Grasso said.

Right now neither Grasso nor Contos can say how long the construction will last, nor can they say how much the renovation will cost. The entire cost of the project, however, will not come from W&L alone, Contos said.

"We don't know how much the project will ultimately cost, though it will be a large dollar number," Contos said. "Tax credits are typically allowed for projects like these where historic properties are renovated."

In addition to hoping for help from the government, Grasso hopes that the school's alumni and other affiliates will donate to the cost of construction.

"The plan is to raise money for much of [the overall cost]," Grasso said. "The administration knows that these buildings are

iconic of the school and our goal is to rely on philanthropy."

Despite the cost of the project, Sessions sees the reconstruction as one that will improve the university's academics.

"The departments housed in its buildings deserve more and better space, and we have every assurance from the administration that help is on the way," Sessions said.

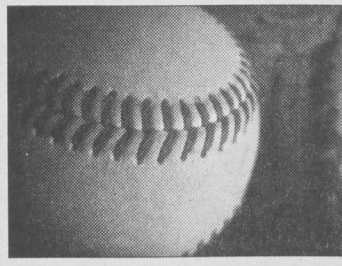
Grasso hopes the renovation will offer students and faculty more spaces to interact.

"We all hope the Colonnade will provide social and academic interaction between students and faculty," Grasso said. "For example, having lounge space where students and faculty can meet, rooms for conferences between students, and classrooms with air conditioning so you can hear what's being said. Those are the ways we hope the university will benefit from this renovation."

Although the exterior appearance and historical significance of the Colonnade will remain unchanged, the administration hopes that through renovation, alumni will return to campus and see the colonnade not only as a national landmark, but also as the center of their college education.



# sports



## Field hockey's first title

Continued from page 1

heart."

This confidence in one another led the team places they never thought they'd go, which is partly why they lost so quickly in the NCAA tournament, said Korte.

"It's kind of a weird feeling," she said, on winning the ODACs and then ending the season so quickly.

She said that the team didn't play up to their abilities in the NCAA tournament, and names intimidation as the culprit.

"I guess it's just sour grapes," she said, "but we didn't really know what to expect."

The success of several women's athletic teams has sparked an enthusiastic reaction from fans, several of whom created a facebook group in their honor. The group, called "Uber Fans" and started by senior Chris Lalli, claims to be "for those who are extremely dedicated to all female sports teams."

Lalli, along with friends and fellow fans Taylor McConnell, Dave Mackenzie, and Scott Gosselink, attended many if not all of the women's field hockey games this year.

Gosselink said, "The main reason that we support the field hockey team is because we can relate to them as athletes ourselves."

"It sucks to work so hard and have no one go to the games or know that you play. The girls are simply a delight."

Korte said, "I'm actually not friends with any of them, but the support is awesome."

Gelinas agreed that the support from the men is always helpful.

"[They] have always been sincere supporters of our team even when we were not breaking records. I really appreciate their support and it is comforting and encouraging to see these fans at every game," she said.

The impending graduation of several key players on the field hockey team threatens the repetition of this season's victories.

"I'm really going to miss the seniors," Korte said. "Not only as field hockey players and teammates, but I'm going to miss them more as friends."

Despite this, Korte said she fully intends to return to the NCAA tournament in the following years.

"I'm stoked that we've made it so far," she said. "Next time, we won't be fazed by it."

## Women's swim team starts off season on a roll despite skeptics' expectations

By Dima Slavin  
STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee women's swimming team, preseason favorites to win the ODAC regular-season championship for the 13<sup>th</sup> straight time, has started their title defense on a roll, bulldozing ODAC competition in victories over Sweet Briar, Randolph Macon Women's College, Hollins, Guilford and Emory & Henry.

The team was optimistic about this season, despite losing three seniors in the off-season.

Sophomore Jess Cobb said, "While we lost team leaders last spring, captains Beth Sauer, Kristina Holda and Keturah Akida have been great in stepping up to fill the gap that last year's seniors left. Their inspiration has helped the team in our first month of competition."

The addition of some key freshmen has also aided in the team's transition from last year.

Freshman Lindsey Strachan was named the ODAC Swimmer of the Week for the week ending October 24<sup>th</sup> after the Generals strong victory over Marymount in one of the first meets of the season.

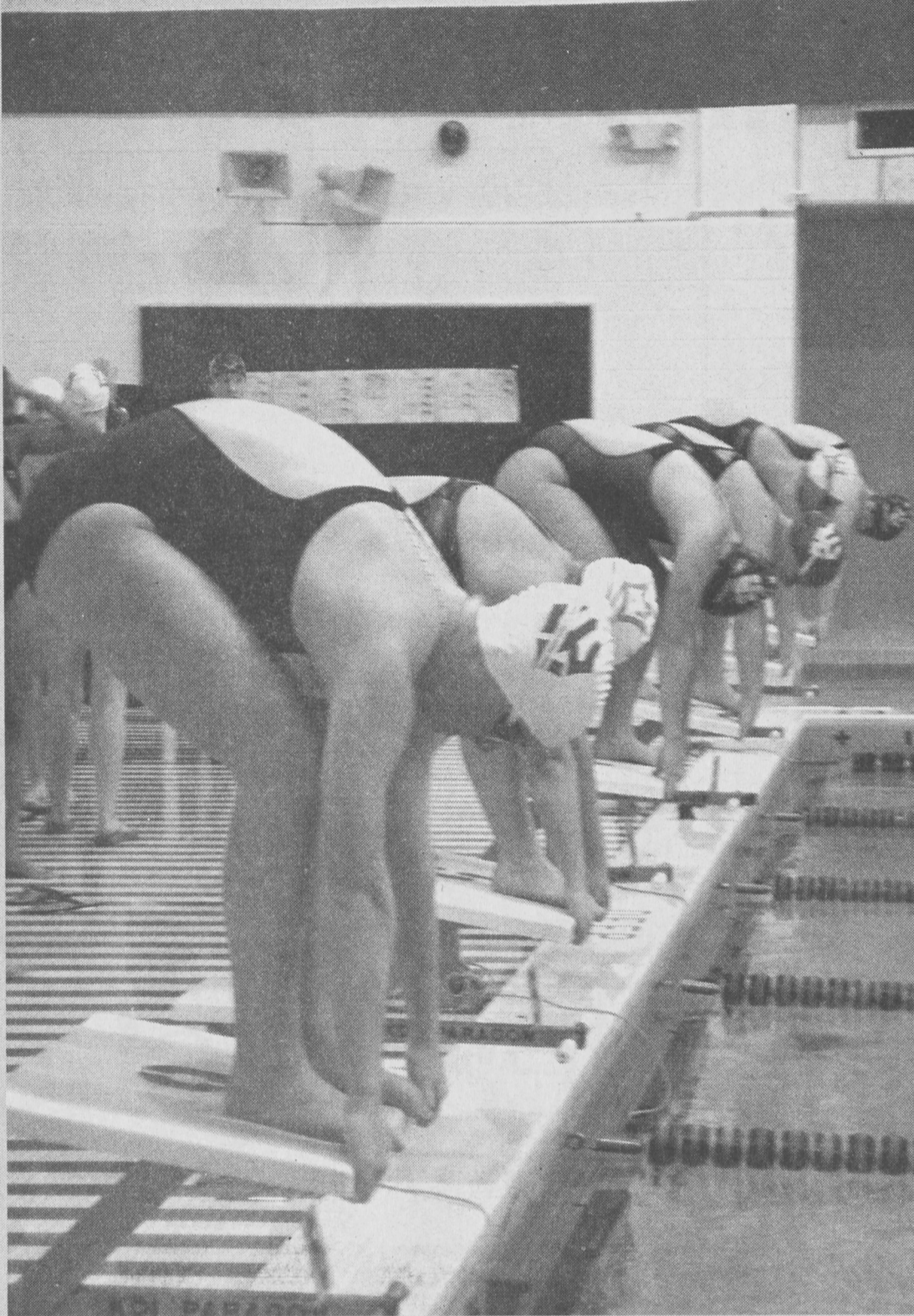
Freshman Julianne Miata says that the freshmen on the team "are absolutely amazing."

She also said that the best part about the freshman girls is that "there are so many kids that you can put in any event and they won't complain and they'll do well."

Cobb said that "the freshmen will help a great deal in defending last season's ODAC title" and have greatly contributed to "the team's being the strongest it has been in a considerable amount of time."

The Generals came into ODAC competition 2-0 after wins over Marymount (by a score of 119-86) and Transylvania (161-101).

Their first ODAC meets allowed them to kick off the



Swimmers prepare to take the plunge.

ELISA TURNER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Making waves

season at home, in the comfort of Twombly Pool.

Their first challenge came in a meet with Sweet Briar and Randolph Macon Women's College on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Generals met it in style beating the Sweet Briar Vixens 82-13 and the RMWC Wildcats 62-33.

The Generals then returned on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> to defeat the Guilford Quakers

167.5-70.5, the Emory & Henry Wasps 173-27 and Hollins 169-67.

The Generals' relay teams dominated both nights in the 200-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle events. The freestyle

*"While we lost team leaders last spring, captains Beth Sauer, Kristina Holda and Keturah Akida have been great in stepping up to fill the gap that last year's seniors left. Their inspiration has helped the team in our first month of competition."*

JESS COBB, SOPHOMORE

relay teams were lead by the team of senior Kristine Holda (who also met with individual success in the 1000 freestyle) and freshmen Lindsey Strachan, Julianne Miata and Melissa Ginder.

Medley relay events were won by the teams of Holda, Strachan, freshman Susan Mahoney and sophomore Amy Roberson on Wednesday and Holda, Mahoney, senior Beth Sauer and sophomore Jess Cobb.

W&L did well individually as well with wins by Holda (1000 freestyle), Mahoney (200 freestyle) and Ginder (50 freestyle) on Wednesday and Sauer (500 freestyle), Cobb (200 breaststroke), Mahoney (50 freestyle), junior Sarah Bloom (100 freestyle), and sophomore Danielle Cardone (200 freestyle) on Saturday.

The Generals were 7-0 overall and 5-0 in ODAC competition before heading to a non-ODAC meet at Gettysburg on Sunday, November 6.

The women's team suffered their first loss there with a score of 133-72, despite first place finishes by freshman Jessica Shaw in the 100 breaststroke, Strachan in the 100 backstroke and Shaw, Cobb, Roberson and Miata in the 200 medley relay.

This past weekend, the W&L's women's swimming team traveled to the University of Mary Washington on Saturday to compete in a dual meet with both the men's and women's teams of each school.

While the men were able to beat Mary Washington, 136-69, the women endured their second defeat of the season, losing by a score of 118-82.

Even though the team lost overall, Holda still placed first in the 200 free and helped Mahoney, Miata and Strachan take first in their 400 free relay with a time of 3:49.71.

Freshman Jessica Shaw also won the 200 breaststroke event with a time of 2:36.38.

The Generals next compete on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> when they travel to Dickinson for a 1:00 meet where they will compete against Dickinson College and Bryn Mawr University.

## Short by a goal

Third-seeded men's soccer team ends season in 2-1 loss to Eastern Mennonite University at ODAC tournament

By Doug Sweeney  
STAFF WRITER

The third-seeded Washington and Lee men's soccer team fell in the semifinals of the ODAC tournament to the seventh-seeded Eastern Mennonite Royals on Friday, November 4.

Eastern Mennonite's Benjamin Yoder opened the scoring at the 13:58 mark in the first half.

The Royals extended their lead to 2-0 when Junior Kamandua scored 15 minutes later on an assist from Yoder.

The Generals pulled to within one goal when junior Rhett

McCraw put a penalty kick in the back of EMU's net in the final minutes of the first half; it was the midfielder's third goal of the season.

The Generals were not able to score the equalizer in the second half. The score held and W&L's season was ended giving the squad a 9-6-2 overall (5-2-2 in the ODAC) record.

Sophomore goalkeeper Ted Sheedy had four saves while his EMU counterpart, Tim Koehn, notched five.

"It was disappointing," said senior midfielder Brett Strohsacker, "We played our

hearts out and that's all you can ask for."

Indeed it was a frustrating loss for the Generals, who possessed the ball for nearly 70% of the game according to the estimation of senior captain and defender Derrick Lott.

"We had our chances but we couldn't put them away," said Lott.

The loss ends a season that saw the Generals play in six double-overtime games and seven OT games overall.

The team was 3-2-2 in those games. One of those extra time wins came on October 18 against

Roanoke, a victory that Lott describes as "the best moment of the season."

The season was an up and down one for the Generals who had trouble building momentum because they never won more than two matches in a row. However they only dropped two straight games once.

Sophomore forward Jack Palmer ends the season as the team leader in both goals (11) and overall points (24).

Palmer is followed in points by sophomore Josh Dodds (15) and junior Kyle Garcia (13).

Ted Sheedy led the Generals

in virtually every goalkeeping statistic including wins (7), saves (46) and shutouts (2).

Lott, the senior captain, was quick to praise the team as a whole when asked about the season: "Our record is a testament to how well we played together."

Friday's loss ends the playing days of seven seniors, including Lott.

"After 17 years of playing soccer it's a big moment. I would have liked to go out on top but we left our hearts on the field and that's the best you can do," Lott said.

Next year's team must build

on that cohesion if they hope to capture their first conference title since 2000.

While none of the scoring leaders are graduating, the Generals will lose a great deal of veteran leadership with the departure of starting defenders Lott and Roger Morscheiser and starting midfielders Strohsacker, Matt Wallace and Ryan Light.

Despite the loss, the 2005 Washington and Lee men's soccer team still worked as one.

"We were a team above anything else," Lott said.



# opinions

## Paris Hilton politics

Despite an America For Dummies attitude of Blue v. Red, we're all really purple

By Mary Childs  
COLUMNIST

It's a given fact that this is a conservative school. I could make all the requisite jokes about, "Well, what do you expect, the name LEE is in the title," and "Good old boy" and "rich" and "Southern" and "white" and "frat" and all signs point to Bush. That's Jim Dandy and I understand that and I knew that when I came here, frying pan into the fire.

However, there has been a phenomenon as of late that must be nipped in the cradle. It is a terrible and democracy-threatening ideal. Even Bush would probably not advocate it. He may even go so far as to call it terrorism, because it does threaten our freedom and our ideals. It's the Paris Hilton and Sean "Puffy" Combs (excuse me, "Diddy") approach to politi-

cal. It's America for Dummies.

We are a land of sports lovers. We love our Andy Roddick and Astros and Kobe and everybody for the blood, sweat and tears we pay for. We thrive on adrenaline, testosterone — our high-powered business world loves to tell India what to do and Hollywood can pat itself on the back for its complete monopoly on movie land. And good for us. These are the fruits of our labor.

But what got us here? What made us so great? What is in our blood that makes us froth at the mouth a little any time a baseball flies near the stands? It's a basic part of our American genome — we're intensely competitive.

Competition is a relatively healthy thing; it makes us do our best, it pushes us when we want to be lazy, and sometimes we win. Fabulous. But a problem arises

when we try to mix work and play, baseball and Bush. What happens is we forget those magnificent many-syllabled words like "bipartisanship," and "antidisestablishmentarianism," "teamwork," "passing legislation," and "democracy," and we start thinking that this is a sports game, what's the score?

When Rehnquist died I announced it to some of my friends and noted that Bush would have another nomination to the Court. A friend of mine (who is slightly more liberal than your average bear here) (so like, moderate) and I explained to a completely Red friend the possible implications in terms of *Roe v. Wade*. This is dangerous for your uterus, we explained. We could be f-ed, in more ways than one. Red Friend apparently didn't follow. "Well, Great!" she said with enthusiasm. Awk-

ward pause. "Because if you're f-ed, then that means we're winning! ha-ha!!!"

Reread that.

This is the watered down political game that we're playing. We're playing Red v. Blue, Bush v. anyone, Righteous Right v. Bleeding Hearts. But much like Paris missed the registration deadline, we're missing the point. The point of the two-party system, of the more-than-one-party-system is more along the work-together-and-make-progress, checks-and-balances side of things. There is no scoreboard here. No one should "lose" this game. It's a bunch of blind people holding each other's hands and fumbling down the path of almost-righteousness as best we can. One nation. Indivisible. Don't let the slogans and Chihuahuas and baseball-managing confuse you; inside, we're all purple.

### UPS & DOWNS

Caley Anderson gives his take on the good, the bad, and the ugly.

#### White Book Review.

Come to the meetings that will work to change the White Book, every Thursday at 7:45pm in the University Commons. W&L students, faculty, and staff are welcome to propose and discuss possible changes with the Review Committee. This only happens once per three years- get involved!

#### La France.

The real causes of the riots are cultural. France demands politico-social conformity of its citizens, and politico-social conformity is not something that most Muslims are willing to get into. It's tough to say who's to blame, but one thing's for sure- the damage and deaths are good for no one.

#### The Hold 'Em Poker hand of Pocket Jacks.

In the recent IM poker tournament, EIGHT people were

sent packing on this hand, including yours ever-so-truly.

Thanksgiving Break. Could not have POSSIBLY come soon enough.

#### Winter Break.

It's STILL only two weeks? I've never met ANYONE who was against having a three-week long Winter Break. If the academic year runs to June 8 or 9, I'm sure very few people would care. If you live far away from campus (or in my case, on the opposite side of the country), the two week Winter Term is brutal.

#### The Law School Admissions Process.

Your extracurriculars won't help you now.

#### New Depeche Mode.

The 1980s are alive and healthy in 2005.

### HOT TOPIC

# The death of dating

RANDOM PLAY IS NOT OKAY

WHY WORK FOR WHAT IS FREE

By Ashley Brightwall  
COLUMNIST

It's Saturday night, and you know what that means.

Through the course of the week you've received various emails from frats (as well as notes stuck to your door) declaring what bands, DJs and alcoholic beverages will be featured this weekend.

Now, it's time to go to these parties, under the pretense of actually wanting to hear the bands, get drunk and find that special someone of the evening.

It will be incredibly romantic and meaningful of course: having deep conversations over Natty Lite, engaging in sketchy dancing in the middle of a crowded room that feels like it's about one hundred and ten degrees, and then finding a secluded room, or corner...or maybe just saying to hell with it and making out in the

middle of the dance floor, only to forget the person's name later.

Ah, young love. Here at W&L, hooking up is a perfectly normal part of any weekend. I'm not saying that this is always a bad thing.

Every so often people just need to be able to have fun without any strings attached or feeling any guilt later.

However, hooking up has completely replaced dating on this campus, to the point where the only time people really interact with the opposite sex is at frat parties.

Can anyone really find a meaningful connection with all the alcohol and loud music? Can you even find out the person's name?

It's just not healthy to limit relationships to hooking up on weekends, even if it's what some call "hooking up exclusively", where both individuals meet up every weekend and limit their in-

teractions to one another. Some consider this a relationship, but there are far too many problems involved.

In these situations, it is too easy for one party to become more involved than the other, ending in heartbreak when the trysts eventually end.

Then you ask yourself, if you really have a connection with this person, why do you never see each other outside of parties?

This sort of "relationship" just isn't healthy.

We need to work toward facilitating healthier and more stable interactions between the sexes, which means not limiting ourselves to random play.

If we don't allow ourselves to develop healthy relationship habits now, how will we ever function after college, in a world that doesn't center around frat parties and the ever present possibility of a random hookup?

By Justin McKeen  
COLUMNIST

What's the big deal with dating? Certain people (read, females) at W&L seem to regard this awkward and uncomfortable practice with some kind of irrational fondness. I say irrational because any sane person can see that dinner and a movie don't bring you any closer to someone than talking in the co-op or catching dinner in the d-hall, neither of which would qualify as dates where I come from. Not only that, but dating brings with it a whole host of problems: when is it time for the first kiss, who should call whom and where the heck am I going to find the 20 bucks to pay for her dinner.

Lets all be realistic here. The dating scene at W&L seems pretty non-existent, yet the world still seems to be spinning in much the same way it always has. The most

common complaint I hear on the subject (again, mostly from the ladies. Ahh, who are we kidding, entirely from the ladies), is that all everyone here wants to do is "hook up." Is this a surprise to you? Have at least eighteen years on this earth taught you nothing about the male psyche? You're pretty, we like that, A follows B, etc, etc. Hopefully you see where I'm going here.

The most important point though is that this lack of dating ISN'T bad. In fact it's great. Girls, when that annoying/ugly/non-polo wearing guy (take your pick) bothers you, and you, for some totally non-alcohol related reason choose to hook up with him, THERE ARE NO STRINGS ATTACHED! It's brilliant. He's not going to facebook you and awkwardly call you up for a date (although he might still facebook you. Welcome to the modern age of stalking.). Sure, you don't get those

free dinners, but you wouldn't want to pass up the fro-yo in the d-hall anyway, right?

So now that I've completely destroyed any chances of ever getting a date myself, let's be serious for a moment. Unless dating has been a completely different experience for everyone else, I think on the whole, we can agree that it isn't really that great. There are tons of other ways to get to know members of the opposite sex than "dating" per se, and most of them are more fun anyway. So the next time you want to get to know a guy (because I know guys aren't going to change) don't wait for him to ask you out. It isn't coming. Try something creative. And if all else fails, hook up with him. It's foolproof.

All angry e-mails should be sent to mckeenj@wlu.edu where they will be carefully read, shared with my friends if they're really funny, and promptly deleted.



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SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

# International perspective

## Student laments loss of freedom

By Bhaskar Banerjee  
COLUMNIST

Times are strange. Freedom is being enforced at gunpoint, reality is being pre-packaged into 24 minute episodes shown on TV, and everywhere everything is for sale.

So, with Jim Morrison crooning "strange days have found us" over my old speakers I was seized with a sudden and frantic urge to write stuff down, and give my opinion on the world and culture and the way things are going.

Why not? I thought, college brochures are always talking about diversity of thought, about everyone benefiting from listening to different opinions, and similar stuff which makes us feel all warm and fuzzy and democratic.

I'm an international student, with different views on a lot of things, I thought, and so of course the good people will benefit from my eloquently penned socio-political rants.

And so here I am, contemplating the strange going-on's in this weird and ruthless new century. Everything's peachy, the suits on top tell us with their smug grins, the light of freedom and truth and all that's good is being delivered to grateful desert savages, and the policeman is your friend.

But of course, the grim and twisted realities of this foul year are another story, and it is impossible for anyone to deny this without retreating into heavy sedation. Even if you are one of those who thinks that a war in which one side armed with big tanks and big guns blasts an essentially deprived citizenry into a new era of truth and justice is right, things are bad.

Veterans are speaking out, families who have seen, up close and personal, the cold hy-

pocrisy of the war machine. 300,000 protestors gathered at the White House last month, I read, and many veterans spoke about the many atrocities, on both sides, committed during the fraudulent war in the desert lands.

And then I heard Bush giving another speech on freedom, democracy, and I was suddenly in the grip of a cold and desolate fear. Holy Jesus, I thought, clutching a whiskey-soaked cigarette packet to my heart, how much longer will this thing last?

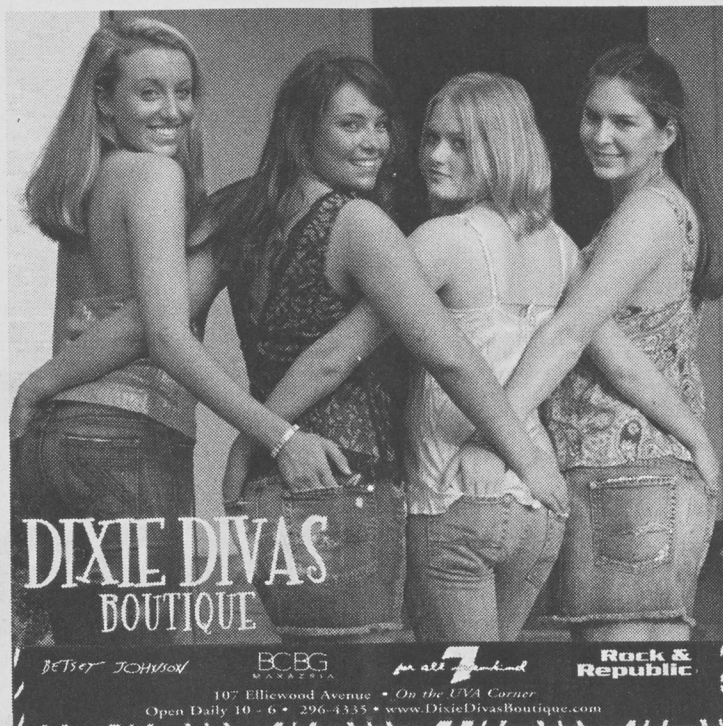
Freedom? Ha. Today freedom is merely having 600 channels on the TV to choose from. We are all so scared of losing our home theater systems, our clever little designer furniture, and all those other gadgets and widgets which define men in this age of the holy consumer, that we aren't free to do anything with our lives any more.

And on top of that, our leaders scare us even more, and you'd think you couldn't walk the streets anymore without being croaked by some savage foreigner.

Even people like journalists and lobbyists who want to make a difference quickly realize that the worlds political structure has been so hijacked by corporate barons and greasy sheikhs that they don't have any chance of bringing about change.

Fear hit me when I submitted this little opinion piece to the paper: what if some goon in some nazi law enforcement agency saw these decidedly dissenting opinion pieces in print, written by a foreigner, no less.

They'd come right after my pinko tree-hugger ass, shotguns blazing. And if, like me, you are a 165 pound Indian with long greasy hair, usually loaded on cheap booze, there are few places to hide in Lexington.



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To My Compatriots,  
It's been a great year. Thanks for everything and best of luck in the future.

"A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures." - JFK and Γ P's JFK



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Alum blasts dean's meddling

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Marshall Rule's article "Dean Swings Left" in the October 27<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Phi*.

I am incensed by Dean Mayock's blatant violation of W&L's unique system of student governance.

Those of you who know me are probably not surprised by my reaction considering my personal political views and the fact that I was a member of the Contact Committee.

Ignore my views, and ignore yours for a moment. Look at the more fundamental problem that Dean Mayock's request to bring a "politically liberal" speaker poses.

Meddling by the administration into activities solely governed by student organizations with student tuition dollars intended for student academic programming chips away at an invaluable learning experience for the leaders of those organizations.

While I certainly learned a lot in the classrooms of the C-School, I learned even more in the Commons cubicles, sorority house chapter room, and co-op lunch meetings through my leadership and involvement in student organizations.

One of the many special aspects of W&L is the enormous opportunity afforded to students to take charge and make a discernable impact as a leader.

W&L's heritage promotes student governance.

Student governance is precisely why the Honor System is able to exist so strongly today. The EC allocates tuition dollars to student organizations to provide a more well-rounded educational experience for the members of those groups and for the student body as a whole.

When the administration steps in attempting to regulate and limit that experience, it deprives those student leaders from learning in their capacity and applying their own judgment.

If the student leadership makes a poor decision, they should be afforded that opportunity. Mistake and controversy are also all vital parts of the learning experience.

As a former participant in those late-night meetings and heated deliberations, I am fully confident in the intelligence and maturity of the students making such decisions. Who better than students to determine what other students will respond to?

As a law student in a very different environment than W&L, I have had the opportunity to get to know my new classmates who come from a broad array of undergraduate experiences. Every single one is amazed when I tell them about W&L, particularly the student organizations. They can't believe that we have an effective

Honor System run solely by students.

They think I'm over-exaggerating when I tell them that over 90 percent of the student body takes an active role in our Mock Convention with negligible faculty input. They are shocked by the budget given to the Fancy Dress Committee and the overwhelming task of putting on one of the best parties in the south.

The students rule the roost at W&L. That is why we graduate with much more than honors in a particular subject matter. We gain insight in balancing the increasingly diverse interests of the student body, in knowing our administrators and working WITH them (not for them), and in attending to the Lexington community at large.

Student leaders work for one group: the students. They are the future graduates, alumni, benefactors and trustees of the University. Their interests will remain in Lexington through changes in the administration.

The students have earned the right to go to W&L and are capable to perform the responsibilities that go in hand with being Washington and Lee student.

Dean Mayock, let them have the full and complete education W&L has afforded so many students before them.

Celia E. Landgren  
Class of 2005

# Dean paints fuller picture

To the Editor:

I write to correct the many mistakes and the misquote in last week's article entitled "Dean swings left." The subtitle, "Mayock, Contact go three rounds in debate over speakers, student funds and political agenda," is misleading at best. Please allow me to set the record straight.

I chair the 23-person Celebrating Women Planning Committee. Our committee is interested in bringing more women speakers to campus and in sponsoring and co-sponsoring events that serve to advance discussion of women's issues on campus. In my role as chair, I guide the committee's planning process for the year-long celebration, promote the events that we sponsor and co-sponsor, and speak to University organizations, alumni/ae, and news media about the theme year.

David Kronenfeld and I met early in September to discuss potential collaborations between Contact and the Celebrating Women Planning Committee. I gave to Kronenfeld the same message that I have been giving all along: that the Celebrating Women Planning Committee was interested in collaborating with many different organizations to bring (1) more women speakers to campus and (2) more events in general that focus on advancing women's issues. I did say that I believed that the committee would be interested in women who had established their own careers, rather than in women who had gained fame through family members.

It was only through the *Phi* article that I learned that Kronenfeld was dissatisfied with the prospect of collaborating with the Celebrating Women Committee to invite speakers this year. What I had viewed as a conversation that might lead to fruitful collaboration, I now understand is one that was viewed as coercive. I wrote a letter in support of Contact for

its budget interview with the EC. I would have assumed that Kronenfeld would not have picked up the letter of support that I wrote for Contact if he had not felt satisfied with our conversation and/or that he would have asked for a follow-up conversation. Therefore, I didn't even know that I had gone "one round" with Contact and certainly never had a chance at two additional rounds.

The only invitations to campus initiated by our committee to date have been to W&L alumnae (many of whom have already visited, and many more of whom will join us throughout the year), to Justices O'Connor and Ginsberg (neither of whom accepted), and to Senator Clinton (response pending). We are interested in collaborating with Contact but do not at all want that organization, or any other, to feel pressured to do so.

Marshall Rule, the *Phi* reporter who visited my office two weeks ago, insisted that he was doing so to discuss the Celebrating Women year. He never asked about any events that we have realized to date or any that we are planning. He only focused on the invitation to Hillary Clinton to speak here and the one to Barbara Ehrenreich (my committee did not invite Ehrenreich; the Politics Department did, and we support this invitation). He was not interested in finding out exactly why having Clinton and Ehrenreich visit our campus might be both edifying and in line with the mission of Celebrating Women. He didn't allow me to speak long enough to find out that our planning committee had put forward a list of names for potential honorary degree recipients that included Condoleezza Rice and Sandra Day O'Connor.

Had Rule asked, I would have been delighted to speak about the many positive things the Committee has achieved in only a short time this year—a forum by and on women athletes

from the early years of co-education (with the Athletics Department), a presentation at Homecoming on the evolution of women's athletics (with the Athletics Department), co-sponsorship of the Tucker Lecture at the Law School, co-organization of the weekly WLUR women's issues radio program ("She Speaks"), co-sponsorship of the Writers Harvest (with Shenandoah, Glasgow, and Women's Studies), which featured W&L student and faculty women poets and raised over \$1200 to combat area hunger, co-sponsorship of a visit by an environmental artist from rural Arkansas (with Environmental Studies), and co-sponsorship of a talk on parental influence and children's vocational aspirations (with Women's Studies). Many more events are in the works. These include an alumnae art exhibit in the DuPont Gallery (with the Art Department), the presentation of an all-female cast in Lorca's "The House of Bernarda Alba" (with the Theater Department), a talk on women and honor at Washington and Lee (by Susan Somers, '05), and retrospective exhibits on women at W&L at the two libraries (Leyburn and Law).

I have always loved working with students at W&L because I have found them to be intelligent and hardworking, and creative when encouraged to be so. I would like to see these same traits manifested in the arena of student media. I urge the reporters and editors of the *Ring-tum Phi* to make clear the purpose of interviews from the outset, to do thorough fact-finding before drafting an article, and to consider representing always a plurality of points of view.

Ellen Mayock  
Associate Professor,  
Romance Languages  
Associate Dean of the College  
Chair, Celebrating Women  
Planning Committee

# Prof questions intent of article

Colleague defends Mayock from student accusations

To the Editor:

If an academic Associate Dean does his or her job well, he or she gets little praise or credit—the university just seems to be running smoothly.

I can't fault students for not understanding this. The title does not confer a great deal of power and influence, but instead demands an ethic of service: professors like Ellen Mayock, who came to academe because they love and excel at teaching, research, and writing, put their chosen work on the back burner for three years in order to administer the complex academic support systems most of us would rather not worry about.

On top of this job and its very long hours, Dean Mayock, because she is so exceptional in her desire to serve the university community, has been working incredibly hard on this year of Celebrating Women at Washington and Lee. So, you haven't noticed that her e-mails come late at night, when most parents of young children try to grab a little sleep? I suspect she doesn't mind the general obliviousness because the work

has value and integrity.

I do blame the *Phi* and Marshall Rule, however, for their misleading front-page article and the dishonest tactics used in "researching" it. Ellen Mayock is not only unusually generous and service-minded, but scrupulously honest. If Marshall Rule or David Kronenfeld had described their misapprehension to her "that the [Contact] speaker must come from the left," she would have clarified it (and, not incidentally, there wouldn't have been much of a story). If Mr. Rule were concerned with accuracy, he would have found out that Professor Mark Rush initiated Barbara Ehrenreich's visit, not the Celebrating Women Committee. And if he were at all committed to our supposed culture of civility, the tone of the article would have been vastly different.

If Mr. Rule meant to suggest that many professors and administrators are to the left of many students, well, duh—we're well-educated, moderately-paid professionals in a service field. The demographic implications are obvious. What "liberal" means to most of us in this

professional context, though, is uncensored exchange of information and opinions in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I don't want my students to think exactly as I do; I just want them to think.

If Mr. Rule, however, meant to single out one of the only women serving in academic administration and let her know she's not welcome by distorting her views in a splashy headline published for Parents' Weekend, that's more significant news. Sure, we all know that some people in our community do not like to see women in positions of authority, but I did not truly understand that the discomfort would result in such tactics from students, or that such unbalanced and incredible allegations would be implicitly endorsed by the influential women and men who run the *Phi*. As a woman professor who has experienced occasional rash fervor to bring the university community together in a positive way, I appreciate the warning.

Lesley Wheeler  
Associate Professor of English

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# White book tips

To the Editor:

The letters page of the Phi has seen an exchange about the White Book procedures concerning students withdrawing from the University. In Ireland we have a saying: "Is this a private fight, or can anybody join in?" I would like to enter the lists.

On page 11, Section III, "Executive Committee Hearing", Part P, "Announcement of Verdict", section 3, of the White Book, it says, concerning a guilty verdict by the EC of a closed hearing:

"If the verdict is guilty, the accused shall decide whether to withdraw from the University or to appeal the verdict to a Student Body Hearing. The accused shall provide written notice of this decision to the President of the Executive Committee within seventy-two hours of the time of the verdict. Upon written request, the President of the Executive Committee may grant an extension of this time."

It is important to note here that the White Book asks the student to make a decision, before asking the student to provide evidence of that decision. What is this decision? Apparently, it is to withdraw from the University, or to appeal the verdict of the closed hearing.

On page 12, Section IV,

"Following the Executive Committee Hearing", Part C, "Withdrawal", section 3, of the White Book, it says, concerning a guilty verdict by the EC of a closed hearing:

"If the student fails to provide written notice of the student's decision to withdraw or to proceed to the Student Body Hearing, this failure shall be construed as a decision to withdraw. "Withdrew" shall be noted on the student's official University transcript. The administration shall then be responsible for the prompt removal of the student from the University."

That is, if a student provides no evidence of a decision to withdraw or appeal, the student is deemed to have decided to withdraw from the University, and the student is withdrawn from the University. So there is no difference between a student who provides written notice that she is withdrawing from the University, and a student who provides no such notice. Under the eyes of the White Book, they are both students who have decided to withdraw, and who are withdrawn.

But there is a problem with this procedure.

The decision to withdraw or not from the University is distinct from the decision to appeal, and it must be made under the threat

of dismissal by the University, and not under the threat of being withdrawn.

This fact is obscured, I think, by the presence of an option to appeal to a Student Body Hearing. Remove the option to appeal, and the problem, which has always been present, becomes clear: the student is asked to withdraw or not, and if she does not withdraw, she is withdrawn.

Imagine, by comparison, that I am told to resign my job, or appeal to X. And imagine that I refuse to resign or appeal to X. According to this procedure, it turns out that I have resigned my job. And then a couple of people wearing uniforms come along and "help me resign". But at no point, it seems, am I fired.

Either of the following procedures would remove this problem:

(1) If the student is found guilty, the student may appeal the verdict. If the student does not appeal the verdict, the student is deemed to have withdrawn from the University.

(2) If the student is found guilty, he student may appeal the verdict or withdraw from the University. If the student does neither, the student is dismissed from the University.

I would prefer (2). For others among you, I suspect that (1) is

True to the Intention of the Framers, who wanted to avoid having to note on transcripts that students were "Dismissed" from the University if at all possible. I happen to consider this to be disingenuous, however. The student is being dismissed. They just don't want to say that.

However, what the White Book has right now, it seems, is the following procedure:

(3) If the student is found guilty, the student may appeal the verdict or withdraw from the University. If the student does neither, the student is deemed to have withdrawn from the University.

As I said, this incorporates the following:

(3\*) If the student is found guilty, the student may withdraw from the University. If the student does not, the student is deemed to have withdrawn from the University.

The problem may be, in the end, a problem with the verb "withdraw". I can withdraw myself, or I can be withdrawn by others. Under the White Book, it seems, I always withdraw myself. Even when others withdraw me.

Prof. J. E. Mahon  
Department of Philosophy

## Posters mislead

By Jonathan Cochran  
GUEST COLUMNIST

I would like to know who has been hanging the yaf.org posters on various campus billboards. Youth for America, from what I can gather from their website, is a conservative youth organization fetishistically obsessed with president Reagan, and their posters are both unnecessary and misleading. I don't mind the typical conservative posters around campus. For example, the pro-2<sup>nd</sup> amendment fliers featuring Charlton Heston as Moses proposing an eleventh commandment are amusing. They suggest that the people behind the poster take themselves with a grain of salt, and more importantly, they advertise a genuine campus activity.

The YAF posters, on the other hand, are sheer propaganda. Unlike the rest of the posters on our message boards, they don't advertise a social function or a guest speaker or even a skeet shoot. Moreover, they are in exceedingly bad taste. If you haven't run across one yet, most of these posters feature a pile of skulls, with a caption suggesting that mass murder is a typical result of "leftist ideas" - whatever that might mean. This doesn't strike me as a particularly thought-provoking or fair association. The implication seems to be that voting for a more liberal candidate - let's say Kerry over Bush - is the first step on

the long slide down to genocide, dictatorship, and famine. That, of course, is propaganda of the least intelligent variety.

Conservative extremism, one might point out, is not in possession of the finest track record either. Hitler was an extreme conservative, as were the men who carried out the inquisition and modern-day jihadists flying planes into buildings. Youth for America - nicely titled, aren't they? The rest of us must be Youth Against America - might be reminded also that their much beloved president Reagan did gamble the lives of everyone on earth by heating up the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union. Fortunately for all of us, the ideological liberals on the other side were not so crazy as to kill everyone, but he certainly put the ball in their court.

So, if we are going to have unnecessary political posters, why don't we have posters against political extremism generally or against dictatorship or genocide. On the other hand, if the people behind the posters really do believe that liberal values broadly defined are the first step to mass murder, I would like to suggest that we celebrate our liberty by holding an informal debate. Poster people, wherever you are, consider yourselves challenged to a debate at any time or place you see fit - public or private, Lee Chapel or the Palms.

Back it up, or take it down.



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# arts & life

## Night on the town

By Kate Shellnutt  
STAFF WRITER

The Gender Relations Committee claimed "Dating is Back!" as it promoted its second Date Night on Thursday, November 10. The GRC sold far fewer vouchers for dinners at local favorites the Sheridan Livery, Wilson Walker House, and Sweet Things, despite the event's success during Spring Term, when over many more people participated.

"It seemed like everybody went last year," said sophomore Jessica Hopper. "I don't know anyone who went this time. I didn't even hear about it until this week."

Though the organization put up "lots of advertising around campus and around town," according to junior GRC member Jean Rose Clawwater, their publicity was not enough to convince students to ditch the books for a date.

"It was kinda a busy night. People have work and don't really plan on going out on a Thursday," said sophomore Jenny Sproul.

Courtney Fitzgerald, senior and GRC co-chair, planned the event to make casual dating and sober interactions between men and women more prevalent on campus. She saw Date Night as providing the opportunity for W&L students to go out "on an old-fashioned date."

"The dating scene here, and at most other colleges, is very different from what our parents and grandparents experienced. We wanted to bring back dating so that students would realize that there are other ways to hang out with someone of the opposite sex other than at a party," said Fitzgerald.

In addition to the ten-dollar dinner vouchers the GRC sold by cash, check or swipe, last week's event included a free acoustic concert in the candlelit Commons living room, music courtesy of senior Wheeler Sparks, junior Blair Crunk, and senior Chris Kimmel.

"We should have more stuff like this," said sophomore Emily Wolff, who caught the acoustic concert by accident.

Unfortunately, few took advantage of the dinner vouchers or the concert opportunity.

"I was planning on going, but I didn't get a date," said sophomore Abinav Kapur. "A bunch of people I talked to were

# wheeling & dealing

## Casino Night draws students willing to risk it all

While students are rarely roused from the comfort of the frat basement, SAO's Casino Night featuring an IM Texas Hold'em Tournament appealed to the gamblers on campus.

Daring students were willing to try their luck and show off their skills.

By Jessica Shaw  
STAFF WRITER

Victory cries filled the Marketplace on Wednesday evening as competitors huddled together, cards in hand. Disguised cafeteria tables were draped with green poker cloths, and music serenaded students as they munched on chips and sipped sodas. Together, the Intramural committee and the Student Activities Organization hosted the first combined Casino Night and Texas Hold'em tournament.

Though this event was an attempt to unite IM and SAO, the Hold'em tournament had a much larger draw. Casino dealer freshman Jeremy Wainwright said he thought the Casino Night would have been much more popular had it not major competition from the tournament. Also,

there were many fraternity parties occurring at the same time.

"We have many frat guys that show up," assistant casino coordinator senior Ian Dickinson said. "We wish we had more. It's all a factor of time, when in the term it is, and how well it is advertised."

According to SAO recreation chair and casino coordinator H.J. Lee, these organizations aim to provide students with a sober environment to socialize and compete in. Instead of making the tiring trek to the country, this event was located conveniently on campus, easily accessible to everyone.

"I enjoy it because I get to see

freshmen and meet new people," Lee said. "It's another way of meeting people without alcohol."

SAO sent out a campus notice advertising spots for poker dealers. It offered a wage of \$40 for three hours, and divided the students into black jack and roulette dealers. The four dealers present were freshman Jeremy Wainwright, senior Christina Snowden, freshman Chris Rucker, and freshman Mike Yan. No previous experience was required, but a basic knowledge of the rules was necessary.

Rucker, Wainwright, and Yan said their motivation was the generous paycheck. But, Rucker claimed he would have participated regardless of his dealer position.

"I have friends in SAO," he said. "I like to eat, drink, and converse in brotherly fellowship."

SAO operates from a budget from the Executive Committee and membership fees. This money was split for pay for the dealers and the DJ, rent for the supplies, refreshments, and prizes. The committee buys the chips too, even though the students don't use real money to play. The SAO officers have weekly meetings to plan the student events. So far, attendance has been fluctuating.

"It really varies," Dickinson said. "We're still trying to figure out what is the best combination. We have some things that a lot of people come to, and some things where there are just a couple of friends. We start to see more each time which is a positive trend."

Some students attend because of convenience, and others for the quality entertainment.

"In comparison, this is hands down better than frat parties," freshman Liza Njuguna said.

*"I enjoy it because I get to see freshman and meet new people. It's another way of meeting people without alcohol."*

JUNIOR H.J. LEE, SAO RECREATION CHAIR



## Lex hosts international directors

Filmmakers from all over the world come to Lexington to debut their films

By Audrey Fell  
STAFF WRITER

WorldFest once again visits Lexington, giving students the opportunity to learn more about the film industry. Hosting 16 different directors over the weekend of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, WorldFest sought to give students a different perspective on film production and screenwriting.

Based out of Houston, Texas, WorldFest is led by Hunter Todd, the Chairman and Founding Director. It is the third oldest international film festival in the county and has discovered famous directors such as Steven Spielberg, Ang Lee, the Cohen brothers, and Ridley Scott.

"This film festival is an honors film festival. That means only the best of the best are here," said Todd. The genres of film vary greatly, from art house thrillers to conservative documentaries regarding the Iraq war.

This past weekend, the film festival was hosted in Lexington, under the personal sponsorship of John Dean, a Washington and Lee alumni from the class of 1976.

After seeing the Beatles' movie "Help", Dean's eyes were open to an entirely different genre of film. From that point on, Dean aspired to take part in the film industry.

The 16 film directors come from all parts of the world, including 8 different countries. The directors also vary in age and experience in film creation. The director's inspirations for creating the films vary with some based on personal experience, some dance, and others on visual aspects of the landscape portrayed in the film.

On writing his screenplay, Flaman found it difficult to find sufficient help to critique his work. "You can't have family or friends critique your work, you have to find someone that doesn't care at all about what you

are writing to get the best review."

The scenery in Juliet McKoen's film "Frozen" was the center for the plot. She based her script around a lake, which stood as a symbol throughout the film. "My film is thematically inspecting the boundaries between perception and reality."

Short films were also a very big feature at Worldfest-Lexington. Each of the short films focused on different types of cinematography; some were cartoons and others short dramas.

Liz Milwe's short film, "The Wedding" captures the wedding between two people through two different types of dance. "I wanted to capture my work on film, because stories and actions continue to move on through film, rather than being lost forever in a theater production." Having worked as a choreographer, the film gave Milwe the opportunity to share her art to more people than would in the theater.

"Cat's Bad Hair Day" was another short film by Debby Wolfe, a recent graduate of University of Central Florida Film Program. She used this film as her graduation film at the university. "The story is a coming-of-age story which is based on my personal experiences. It realistically shows how young girls deal with their changes." In order to find the sets for this film, Wolfe took over a middle school in Orlando as well as went door to door asking people permission to use their houses.

The films presented gave students a large feel for the different ways to use their creativity in new ways. Before kicking off the festival, John Dean shared his underlying motive for the film festival. "Through the film festival, I hope to show students that there are other ways to become successful aside from being investment bankers or lawyers. Finding success is something you are passionate with is the greatest way to live your life."

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

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# Showing off their stuff

## Showcase provides opportunity to exhibit talents

By Nadja Wolfe  
 STAFF WRITER

W&L's Student Showcase 2005 packed the house its first night Friday, and no one was disappointed that they came.

The fourteen act show delighted and engaged from beginning to end.

Junior Bree Melton's lovely voice sang out fifties' style "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" by Cole Porter, and while it may have been a little below her range at parts, her subtly humorous tone accented the sugar daddy theme wonderfully.

Sophomore Libby Moore and senior Jon Sturtz played off each other well as (very big and sometimes a bit too limber) newborns discovering the world in "Boy Meets Girl," a hilarious piece that plays off societal expectations.

More serious musical performances came from juniors Sheryl Silvers and Eka Akpakip, with "Someone Like You" from *Jekyll and Hyde* and "There are Worse Things I Could Do" from *Grease*, respectively.

Silvers' expressive rendition of love unrequited and Akpakip's emotive, although a little too classical, performance about the darker side of love later in the show complemented each other.

Seniors Kristin Evans, junior Christie Lee, and sophomore Julia Pleasants, who also choreographed, danced to Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's "Mr. Pinstripe Suit" with verve, drawing in the audience with some great tap.

Jessica Miller, Theatre Department costumer, was the embodiment of grace in her self-choreographed dance to "Hopeless" by Phillip Wiedemann.

Newcomer freshman Tabitha King's brilliant adaptation from Shakespeare's *As You Like It* began the showcase.

She brought to life the oft-repeated "All the world's a stage" monologue with wit and humor. We certainly hope to see her acting and writing talents take center stage again.

Likewise, Silvers' second performance, a monologue from *The Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe*, had the audience in stitches with her magnificently played openly crazy bag lady.

Should the department ever perform the play, they've already got at least that role cast.

Following Silvers was another freshman, Mackenzie Brown, with a great musical performance from *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Brown's exceptional expression and projection with her lovely voice took the audience right back to the Roarin' Twenties.

Junior Alejandro Selin wrote and performed his original sonnet "Aida," with sophomore Mary Childs playing opposite him.

The piece was beautifully written and performed, working well as conversation between the two well-known lovers.

Paired with this was the song "Written in the Stars" from the musical on which Selin's poem is based.

Senior Kristine Holda and sophomore Mark Howell sang a touchingly emotive duet as the two lovers Aida and Radames.

Moore's second performance of the evening, from "Laundry and Bourbon," by James McLure, as a woman sadly reminiscing about first love, was exceptional.

Moore was so in role it was hard to believe it was an actor and not a real person.

The showcase ended with two more serious performances.

Junior Michael Wagoner captured the embittered and plotting Richard, Duke of Gloucester. This selection came from Shakespeare's *Richard III*. He immediately drew the audience into his story.

Closing the night was another freshman, Matt Amling, whose gorgeous voice and expression singing "Mi Mancera," a song inspired by *Il Postino*, made understanding the Italian completely unnecessary.

The evening also featured "fresh-somethings" (a point of contention in their hosting) Sarah Kim and Ashley Brightwell as the classy and charming Mistresses of Ceremonies for the showcase.

An honorable mention also goes to the acting director of the Lenfest Center, Rob Mish '76, for his contagious and spirited laughter at all the right parts.

The technical aspects met the challenge of staging a great show.

Director Tom Anderson, also Technical Director of the W&L Theatre, cleverly paired a few acts, such as the two Aidas, and organized the show exceptionally well.

Professor Owen Collins' lighting design really hit the mark, especially with the city lights during Silvers' monologue.

Senior Mary Guy also deserves a mention; her stage managing made everything concerted everything into a great evening.

The only thing missing was more chairs for the overflowing audience.

# Here's to the ladies

## Students concerned with feminism's negative connotation turn out to discuss ways to improve its perception at W&L

By Kathryn Krall  
 ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

College years hold big decisions for everyone, but for W&L women, these decisions are especially difficult and life-changing. Every woman on this campus is capable of making her own way in the world and engaging in a lucrative and prestigious career.

Yet many are torn. The tug of maternal instincts and the tick of the biological clock contend with the pull of success and the pressure to make money.

As difficult as this decision is, what women really want is the ability to make that choice for themselves and for society to respect and support them in whatever path they decide to pursue. At the most basic level, feminism stands for choice and respect.

In order to increase awareness and begin productive dialogue, sophomore Jessica Hopper organized a Feminist Forum to discuss topics relevant to the W&L community. Hopper worked this summer as an intern at the Rockbridge chapter of the National Organization for Women.

"This was necessary to do because of the gender relations problem and because thought here is so homogeneous," she said.

The forum was attended by

more than fifty people. Those in attendance included representatives from all sectors of the Lexington community, including professors, fraternity men, VMI students, and people from the town. The discussion was moderated by Dean Ellen Mayock.

At the beginning, Dean Mayock asked everyone who considered themselves to be feminists to raise their hands. Many did, but some did not.

People felt hesitant to raise their hands since feminism has a negative connotation, especially on this campus. Freshman Grace Andrews said, "You feel that if you call yourself a feminist, you have to fit the mold- you have to be angry and belligerent."

Others refused to identify themselves with what they felt was just another label. Sophomore Yvonne Coker said "I don't call myself a feminist, because feminism is another label, and it becomes a cookie cutter. It is an approach, an outlook on life, I don't use a word."

*"Feminism is all about choice. You can be a feminist homemaker. You can be a feminist CEO.*

*You can choose where you put your talents."*

ANDREW ROTHEY, SOPHOMORE

Some feel that another word describes their views better. "People accept the word equalitarian more readily," said sophomore Dominique Lamb.

Professor Robin LeBlanc expressed disappointment that the word should have to be used at all. "I shouldn't have to use a special word for the rights everyone should have regardless of whether or not they have a penis," she said.

The difficulty with deciding whether or not to label oneself a feminist stems from an ambivalent definition of the word. Although feminism literally means advocacy for rights for women, the word often has a negative

connotation, especially on this campus. Those who espouse feminist thought are sometimes viewed as militant and man-hating.

The forum addressed what feminism really meant. Sophomore Andrew Rothey said, "Feminism is all about choice. You can be a feminist homemaker. You can be a feminist CEO. You can choose where you put your talents."

Professor Domnica Radulescu believed that feminism had a stricter definition. "You cannot call yourself a feminist if you deny women her right to choose. It is a characteristic of dictatorial societies to deny

women their reproductive rights," she said.

This point was heavily debated, since many of the people present considered themselves to be supporters of women's rights, while opposing abortion.

The forum then progressed to a discussion of feminism at Washington and Lee. The group agreed that women found it more difficult to champion the equality of women here.

Senior Jessica Good said, "For me, feminism had a positive connotation, until I came to W&L. It meant women who were activists and who weren't satisfied with the status quo."

Professor Robin LeBlanc said that she had embraced the feminist movement less before she came here. "W&L has radicalized me, hell yeah," she said.

One of the reasons that feminists tend to get a bad rap is that gender relations on campus are poor.

"Men and women are almost entirely separate. Their only interaction is on the dance floor or at a party where alcohol is involved and men are literally trawling for women. Students are forced to objectify members of the opposite sex," said sophomore Dane Boston.

Another related issue is the double standard used to mea-

sure the reputation of male and female students within the Greek system. Senior Sarah Strassel pointed out that a promiscuous man would be revered and referred to as a "frat-daddy" or "frat-lord," while a woman who engaged in similar behavior would be stigmatized and called a "sorstitute" or a "sororiwhore."

While this forum was valuable to point out and address problems on our campus, there is much work still to be done.

Jessica Hopper said, "I thought this forum was successful. We got to hear viewpoint from all segments of the W&L community."

### Is feminism dying?

The New York Times reported that a Harvard economics professor, Claudia Goldin, did a study in 2004 about the percentage of college-educated women who kept their maiden names.

1980: 44% kept their maiden names  
 1990: 32% kept their maiden names  
 2000: 17% kept their maiden names

### Do you feel that feminism has a negative connotation at W&L?

82%	18%	91%	9%	86%	14%
OF W&L MEN INTERVIEWED SAID YES	OF W&L MEN INTERVIEWED SAID NO	OF W&L WOMEN INTERVIEWED SAID YES	OF W&L WOMEN INTERVIEWED SAID NO	OF W&L STUDENTS INTERVIEWED SAID YES	OF W&L STUDENTS INTERVIEWED SAID NO

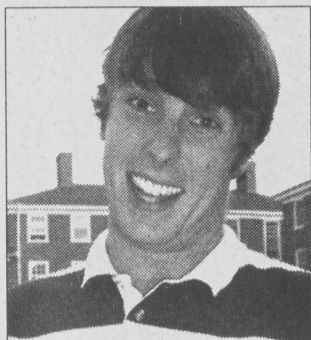
44 students surveyed, 22 males, 22 females.



# last word

## TALKBACKS

Do you think that the upcoming Colonnade renovations are warranted?



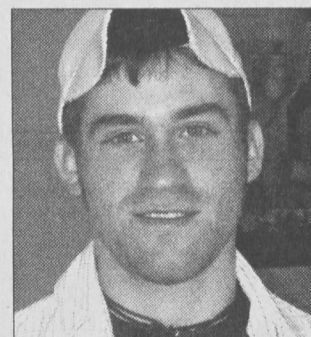
Tim Smith, alumna '04

"The buildings should, at some point, be gutted and completely modernized for the sake of keeping up with technology. But as for the façade, it should never be touched."



C.J. Joseph-Guevara, freshman

"The colonnade does need to be accessible to the handicapped, and when a student gets injured it is a pretty big hassle to climb four flights of stairs to get to class. Overall, I do agree it is something that needs to be done."



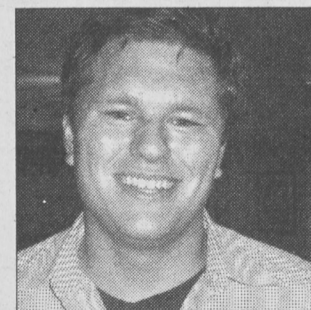
Craig Malkmes, freshman

"No, we should not renovate the Colonnade. Not only is it a national landmark, the Colonnade defines W&L. It is so unique and it really captures the character of the school."



Kate Norby, senior

"I think that the only renovations that should be done are to preserve, like painting or fixing the foundation. If there were to be any cosmetic renovations, or a complete overhaul of a particular building, I can assure you that that will not go over well with alumna or current students."



Adam Kowalsky, junior

"I really like the fact that all the buildings look alike on the outside but are vastly different on the inside. It makes them look uniform but still gives them personality. I can see that the buildings need some work, but if renovations do take place I think it would be very important to maintain that element of each building's uniqueness and individuality."

This week's Talkbacks was conducted by Ashley Cooning.

By Tim Livingston  
COLUMNIST

I have no problem with relationships, in fact, I am much happier with my life when involved with a special someone.

However, the prospect of finding an awesome chick that digs me at our school is a frightening scenario.

Ideally I would like to push marriage until my late 20's so I can let my hormones settle before I am forced to only have sex with one person for the rest of my life.

I know that if I marry within the next five years, the marriage will last about as long as Gigli did in theatres.

Recently I attended a meeting on feminism in order to gain a broader and less narrow-minded perspective on the women in our school, and women in general.

Actually, I said that to make myself sound like a caring person.

I attended because I find it extremely entertaining when women talk about their intense hatred for men.

I expected to walk into a scene of crazed activists complaining about the degradation they routinely face due to the evil stereotypical male.

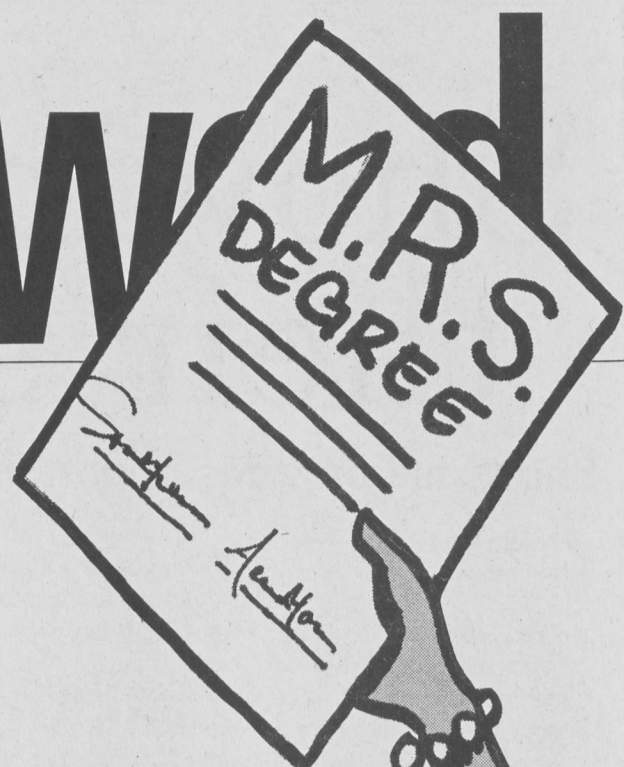
In spite of the previous sarcasm, I will admit that I was enlightened and my definition of feminism changed dramatically.

Apparently the modern feminist does not concern themselves with hating men (I admit I was a tad disappointed).

Feminism has evolved to long for more than equality with the opposite sex.

The contemporary feminist, as I comprehended after listening to the consensus of opinions, desires the right to choose their path.

I'd delve more into the intricacies of feminism, but that would be comparable to attempting to describe the details of Wilt Chamberlain's love life (he slept with an estimated 20,000 women).



## MAJORING IN MARRIAGE

Women who would rather wed than work are on to something

The modern woman at W&L should strive for high-paying jobs, but the appeal of the M.R.S. Degree still seems appealing to many girls at our school.

Although I planned to write an article talking about how this sacred degree has led to a loss of feminism on campus, I will choose not to insult or critique the conformists.

In other words, I consider the people that frown upon the M.R.S. Degree naïve to the modern definition of feminism.

Personally, if I meet a motivated woman that revealed signs of wanting to marry me, proved that her dad would provide her with a stellar job, and guaranteed that I could relax at home all day and play with the kids I would definitely take the M.R. Degree.

That opportunity looks doubtful so I will continue with the attempt to deceive a fine damsel into believing that I have a career in something promising.

Contemporary feminists would love to see more women enter the workforce and pursue wages equal to those of men.

However, they also respect the women that choose to raise children at home.

The only problem is that a majority of the W&L girls who receive a M.R.S. Degree with a minor in Business Administration will neglect to take an active role in the feminist movement.

If the M.R.S. Degree were an actual major at our school, the classes would be the Elliptical 101, Stationary Bike 230, and How to Avoid the Fro-Yo 347.

Although the hallowed degree is measured in carats as opposed to GPA, this conformity only leads to loss of individuality (different from loss in feminism) which is routine at this school.

Feminists should embrace the M.R.S. Degree. Besides, any guy stupid enough to marry at 23 will be too oblivious to ask his fiancée to sign a pre-nup.

Ladies, I encourage you marry the right guy because the M.R.S. Degree can bring the riches for which you spent hours studying.

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