

THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2006

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

VOLUME 108, NUMBER 15

what's inside



It's a wrap

The Phi checks out this year's Fancy Dress fashions and looks at the history of W&L's biggest party on page 4.

Mayock resigns

Associate Dean of the College Ellen Mayock is resigning her position effective June 30. The Phi finds our why on page 2.

In full swing

The tennis team continues its quest for another ODAC title. Full coverage on page 3.

corrections

In our Feb. 27 issue, the Phi committed a regrettable error.

The feature "Behind Bars," which appears on page 2, chronicles and pokes fun at student and community arrests from the week. The reporter treks to the police station a few times a week, copies out the arrest reports and then compiles the section.

On this particular week, a man named William Jeffery Moore was arrested and charged with being drunk in public and underage possession of alcohol. The man is 20 years old and a Lexington resident.

James William Moore, who attends Washington and Lee, is 19 years old and a Rockbridge County resident. He is a Phi Delta Theta pledge, and his family is well-known in the Rockbridge County area.

Unfortunately, the reporter who compiles the police reports knows Will Moore, and made an assumption that should not have been made.

The insult was compounded by the jocular nature of the feature, which has since been changed to model that of the "Rockbridge Advocate" and "Rockbridge Weekly."

Will Moore, who attends Washington and Lee, was never charged with any crime over the Washington break.

The Phi both apologizes to Will and his family, and retracts the statements released in our Feb. 27 edition.

Also in our Feb. 27 edition, Rachael Seidenschur was quoted saying that Kenneth Cribb did not always support The Spectator during his time at W&L. The Spectator was not in publication when Cribb was a student at W&L. The Phi regrets the error.

University may require Spring term absences

Possible proposals include early graduation for seniors or no Spring term for freshmen students

By Sarah Kientz
STAFF WRITER

Changes to the academic requirements of Spring term could be coming soon, and one potential proposal might change the number of Spring terms students spend on campus.

According to Provost Thomas Williams, changes will be proposed to alter the academic requirements of Spring term. Also, students will not be permitted to remain on campus for all four Spring terms.

Despite the rumors that administrators will be eliminating Spring term altogether, Williams said that after three years of discussion, only a few changes will be proposed.

One change is that students will be required to take a minimum of six credits. Currently students are only required to have a three-credit course load.

Dean Hank Dobin said the changes will be made in order to "preserve and enhance the flavor of Spring term" on an academic level.

"We're fully committed to keeping Spring term, but we want to enhance it and make it more academically rigorous," Dobin said. "There are proposals to require students to take six

credits instead of the current minimum of three."

With students taking more courses, Williams said that already overloaded faculty will need to teach more classes.

"We want to keep class size the same, and change the faculty teaching load to six courses, as it had been seven," Williams said.

Students taking more classes and professors teaching fewer classes present a problem, Williams said.

Twenty-one new undergraduate professors have already been hired to make up for the difference, Williams said.

However, another change that will be made in order to ensure students can take six credits each Spring term is that students will only be allowed to attend three out of their four Spring terms, Dobin said.

Williams said there are three options that administrators are still considering concerning this issue.

One is that freshmen will be asked to leave during their

Spring term. Another is that seniors will graduate in April, which, Williams said, "will be early for the Washington and Lee calendar, but near the same time as many other schools." The third option is to give students the choice.

Sophomore Lauren Ottaway does not find the proposed changes a positive idea.

"During the spring, courses require more work and class time," Ottaway said. "The option of one class should be available if one is taking a difficult class they want to be able to focus on more."

Ottaway also said that requiring students to leave campus for one of their Spring terms has more drawbacks than benefits.

"I think it would be a good idea to encourage more people to go abroad or do internships off campus during Spring term," Ottaway said, "but if you make people go abroad during the spring, it will discourage them from doing programs outside

of W&L, since our schedule is different, or going abroad for a full semester in the fall or winter."

Ottaway also questioned what effect the new policy would have on spring athletes, tuition and room and board, which are paid jointly for winter and spring.

Freshman Laura King also disagreed with the idea of leaving for one of her future Spring terms.

"If I'm going to be pre-med I can't go abroad during a Spring term," King said. "I don't understand what students would do if they didn't want to go abroad or if their major forced them to take classes during all four spring terms."

Ottaway said some students might just enjoy Spring term and not want to miss out on one.

"There are many people who don't want to leave campus for a term, and I don't think the school should force them to."

Williams also said that W&L's unique calendar is one reason administrators are trying to retain it. He said administrators have been discussing possible changes or even elimination of spring term for about three years.

"Faculty was nearly split

50/50 on retaining the 12-12-6 calendar and adopting a more traditional semester calendar," Williams said. "A slight majority preferred our current calendar over using semesters."

The unique opportunities that students have during Spring term are one reason why Williams said the faculty chose to keep it.

"The things that go on during Spring term, such as abroad programs and trips by departments to different locations around the world, cannot be done in the long term because you can't take students off campus when they have three other classes," Williams said. "Alumni that have graduated since 1971 [when the 12-12-6 calendar was adopted] have loved it and are large supporters of it."

King agreed that Spring term is a unique experience, and stressed that as the reason why some students might not want to leave during the spring.

"I'd rather go abroad or do internships during the summer than lose any time here," King said. "Spring term is so unique to this school that I don't think we should be forced to leave for it."

Dobin said the proposed changes are still being discussed by the Courses and Degrees committee and will go in front of the faculty in April.

"Spring term is so unique to this school that I don't think we should be forced to leave for it."

LAURA KING, Class of 2009

Core requirements cut back

Faculty approves reductions to literature, social sciences and humanities requirements without debate

By Jacob Geiger
NEWS EDITOR

The undergraduate faculty has approved significant changes to Washington and Lee's General Education requirements and has scheduled these changes to take effect in the fall of 2007.

The new requirements will require one fewer literature course, one fewer social sciences course—drawing from economics, politics, psychology and anthropology—and one fewer course from the humanities—history, religion, philosophy and fine arts.

Whereas the current system require two literature courses and four humanities courses, the new plan will require students to take one course each from literature, fine arts and the other humanities and then pick a fourth course from any of those three groups. The previous requirements had students take 18 hours of classes in literature and the humanities; the current system requires only 12 hours.

These changes come not long after a decision to reduce the number of hours needed for graduation from 121 to 115.

Though several faculty members were interested in discussing the proposal at the faculty meeting on Mon., Feb. 20, Mark Rush moved for an immediate vote and was supported by a sufficient majority to circumvent any debate and move straight to a decision.

"The proposal was approved, but the manner of approval was

unfortunate," said History Department Chairman Holt Merchant. "We assumed there would be a long debate but there was no debate whatsoever."

History professor Richard Bidlack, who opposed the proposal, argued that the reductions are too large.

"In the new curriculum, the number of credits for graduation has been cut by six credits, that is, from 121 to 115. If the cuts in Gen Ed were proportional, Gen Ed would be reduced by three credits because Gen Ed currently comprises somewhat less than half of the total curriculum. The Gen Ed requirement, however, was cut by nine credits."

Both Merchant and Bidlack speculated on how the changes would affect the school's liberal arts experience; Merchant said that nobody knows that the practical ramifications of the changes will be.

"Students could graduate from W&L without ever having taken a course in history, philosophy or religion," Bidlack said. "With such a weak humanities requirement, it is legitimate to ask whether we are really justified in calling W&L a liberal arts university."

Merchant said the new requirements would allow students to take more electives.

"Right now pre-meds have almost no wiggle room at all," he said.

Dean of the College Hank Dobin, who joined the administration this year from Princeton

University, said the proposed changes came from two faculty committees that were designated three years ago to make recommendations on the subject.

Dobin also said that most of the proposals were already formulated when they reached the Courses and Degrees committee for final review. He said that he does not think the changes will alter W&L's liberal arts experience.

"We require more courses than other schools, so I'm confident there is still a substantive liberal arts component to W&L."

ART GOLDSMITH
Economics Professor

"The decision to cut total credits is a complicated story," Dobin said. "It's a combination of reducing the teaching load for faculty combined with a decision three years ago to maintain the current academic calendar. The Board of Trustees has also approved the hiring of 21 new faculty."

Economics professor Art Goldsmith said the changes will not be dramatic, but he suggested other possible alternatives.

"The departments were also asked to look at the size of their majors so not all [of the] reductions would come out of Gen Ed, but that wasn't part of the proposal sent onto the faculty," Goldsmith said.

"It's unfortunate we didn't look at that issue more closely; smaller majors would have allowed, maybe, a freshman seminar, something that a lot of our peer institutions have tried with great success."

Bidlack suggested that offering minors might help reduce the course load crunch that many students face.

Since minors require fewer courses than a second major, students could still study in a second area of interest while still retaining the flexibility to take more elective classes.

Merchant said that he does not think the changes will hurt his department in the long run.

"We have lots of students now, and we'll have lots of students forever. People study history because they love it, not because of Gen Ed requirements."

Goldsmith, like Dean Dobin, said he thinks W&L's liberal arts identity will be largely unaffected.

"We require more courses than other schools, so I'm confident there is still a substantive liberal arts component to W&L," said Goldsmith.

Though he said that the new changes will not be dramatic, Goldsmith still wishes some of the other ideas could have been

CHANGES

The university approved the following changes to the General education requirements:

Literature credits
3 credits now required instead of 6 credits

Fine Arts credits
3 credits now required instead of no credits

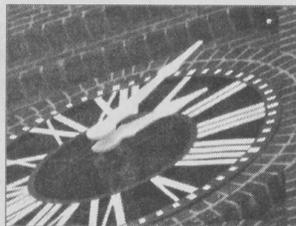
Social sciences 6
credits from 2 courses now required instead of 9 credits

discussed by the faculty.

"I would have liked to look at a freshman seminar and the English composition requirement—twelve weeks of that is a bit lean, and while those of us in other departments can work on students' writing skills we can't do it as well as our colleagues over in the English Department. It might have been useful to talk about these things before taking a vote."

MAR 07 2006

news



Mayock to resign early

Students plan protest as controversial associate dean plans resignation after two years in wake of political attacks

By Katherine Greene
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a wave of controversy, Associate Dean Ellen Mayock announced she would resign a year early.

According to the memo sent by Dean Hank Dobin to faculty and staff members on Tuesday, Feb. 28, Mayock decided to leave her position, "to return full-time to teaching and research."

The memo also suggested that some problems with Mayock's contract may have prompted the resignation.

"I was simply asking them to

put into writing what I understood to be the original terms of my contract," she said.

Dobin's memo said, "the University has agreed to honor all the terms of her compensation."

As Mayock had previously understood her contract, she said, the normal length of a term would be three years.

But she said that in the debate which lasted several weeks, there was some "turmoil."

"I was offered the flexibility to step down," she said.

Dobin declined to comment on the situation, and interim

President Beckley referred only to Dobin's memo.

One student said she found something wrong with the treatment of the only female academic dean.

Paton Hughes has begun a petition with her friends and other concerned students to show a protest of the treatment of women in the administration.

"We find it incredible that the administration can't find and maintain a woman," she said.

Hughes's group intends to meet Tuesday to discuss a possible "silence protest," which involves placing duct tape over

their mouths to demonstrate the idea that women on campus are being silenced.

Mayock said she has nothing to do with the women organizing the protest.

"I wouldn't directly encourage anyone to act on my behalf," she said.

Mayock also suggested that her teachings of "activism, as well as forthrightness, candor, and caring for other human beings," may have spurred the support from the students.

Hughes said, "She deals with a lot of issues that others don't."

Mayock has come under pub-

lic scrutiny in the past week with the release of The Spectator.

In two separate articles, she is accused of extreme liberalism in the classroom.

"She took a lot of hits from both alumni and students," Hughes said.

Mayock calls herself a political moderate, and said she is surprised at her role as a "beacon of the left."

Several rumors have circulated about campus that Mayock's controversial politics may have led to her resignation.

But Mayock points to the transitions in the university, not

controversy, as the source of her troubles.

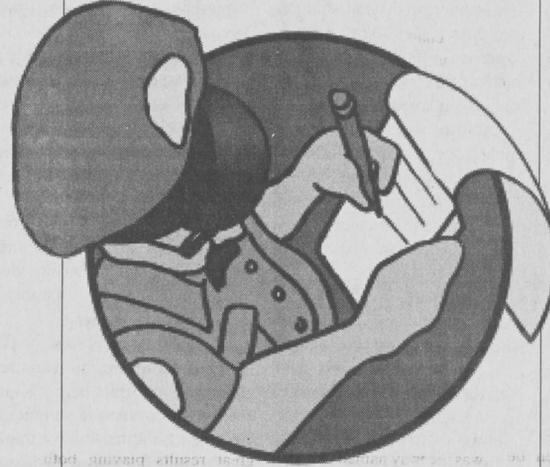
"In my nine years here, this institution has known very little stability," she said.

In her not-quite-two years as associate dean, she has had two bosses, and said this led to the confusion over the terms of her contract.

Dobin publicly thanked Mayock in his memo for her help in learning the ways of the school.

"Ellen has dedicated herself to the college," he wrote.

Her resignation is effective June 30.



BEHIND BARS

Back by popular demand! Here's the latest update on who ran afoul of the law during the last few weeks.

News editor Jacob Geiger took a peek at this week's police reports to see what you've been up to.

Campus visit goes awry

Brian McKelvey, an eighteen-year-old from East Islip, New York, was arrested and charged with being drunk in public. He was also charged with underage possession of alcohol. McKelvey, a senior in high school, was arrested on Sun., Feb. 26 shortly after 2 a.m.

Arrest parade continues

Taylor Gibson was also arrested on Feb. 26 around 2 a.m. Like McKelvey, the 21 year-old Gibson was charged with being drunk in public.

Couldn't match the visitor's spree

Judson Smith, a Lexington resident, was charged with breaking and entering and one count of grand larceny.

Smith was arrested on Feb. 8 at 2:30 p.m. His alleged larceny attempt came less than two weeks before Portsmouth native Gregory Coffey allegedly began a string of larcenies while in town for his grandmother's funeral.

Too feisty for his own good

Buena Vista native Michael Hickman was charged with reckless driving on Mon., Feb. 13. The ticket was issued around 1:30 p.m. The 19-year-old was also charged by the arresting officer with obstructing justice.

Assault and battery

Richard Lantz, age 42, was charged with a misdemeanor count of assault and battery. The Lexington resident was charged on Mon., Feb. 20 at 3:41 p.m.

Robbery spree comes to an end

Police arrest man visiting Lexington for funeral

By Jacob Geiger
NEWS EDITOR

Lexington police recently found a suspect in a short, intense string of robberies.

Gregory Coffey of Portsmouth, Virginia was arrested and charged after a five-day robbery spree that included numerous break-ins into both homes and vehicles.

Police Chief Bruce Beard says his department thinks Coffey was in town from about Sun., Feb. 19 until Thur., Feb. 23, when he was arrested by Sgt. Miller of the Lexington police force.

"We think he was here to attend his grandmother's funeral," Beard said.

As of Feb. 28, the city of Lexington was charging Coffey with six counts of grand larceny,

one count of burglary and a charge of possession of a firearm by a felon. Miller added that Coffey also faces four more felony charges in the county.

"I've got three more charges I could add on but haven't yet," Miller said. "He's already on probation from another felony so he's got an automatic five years for the gun charge."

According to Miller, the burglar's methods were simple yet smart.

"He'd go up and try a door, and if it was unlocked he'd just slip in. People saw him, but he would've just looked like another contractor doing work on a house," Miller said. "He did everything in broad daylight."

The burglar would also sit in people's cars while going through their belongings. Beard says

that the accused thief only had to break into two locked houses and one car; everything else, including, Beard said, the residence of a Washington and Lee law student, was already unlocked.

Miller stressed that students and other residents need to lock their doors.

"Please emphasize to the students how important it is to lock your door," Miller said.

Coffey's arrest came about in an unusual manner. According to Miller, W&L campus security saw Coffey cutting through campus on Feb. 23.

Obtaining a partial license plate number, the security officer called the police, who began searching Lexington for the car.

After failing to find a matching tag in the city, police expanded their search outside the city limits.

"Eventually," Miller said, "we found the truck at the Comfort Inn, and it was full of stuff. We weren't originally suspecting him of the robberies, but when we asked the owner of the truck - Coffey's mother - to come look at all the stuff she said she didn't know anything about it."

At that point, around 12:30 p.m., Miller arrested Coffey.

Though the police department is working to return the stolen items, most have already been returned. Miller is investigating whether Coffey was involved with other recent robberies that have not been solved. The total value of the items stolen is currently estimated at around \$8,000.

Vets feel unrecognized

Former troops receive little attention from fellow students, faculty and staff

A campus known for its long military tradition fails to recognize the service of alumni veterans and staff members now working for the school.

By Jessica Shaw
REPORTER

When Director of Public Safety Mike Young turned 21, it was no ordinary day.

He spent it in Vietnam.

When a Washington and Lee student turns 21, it is a big deal—a night at the Palms, a celebration with friends, a license to drink alcohol legally. This is a typical night for coming of age.

What many do not know, is that numerous faculty and staff at this school never experienced a celebration for their twenty-first birthday. Known or unknown, Vietnam and Korean War veterans reside among students on this campus. These heroes want desperately for students to attain an appreciation for their freedom.

"Students generally are into their own lives," Young said. "They forget the reason they have that life."

Young served in the military from 1966-1969. He now co-co-

ordinates Veteran's Day ceremonies with Vietnam veteran Tim Kolly to recognize and remember all who served. He said this also honors those who did not receive gratitude at the time.

"If you've studied any history about the Vietnam War, there was a lot of protest. A lot of people opted out of service by staying in school. A lot of people that I knew in the '50's and '60's were protesting the war while I was fighting it."

Because of the fierce opposition to the war, soldiers were treated poorly upon their return to America.

"They would treat you like you were less than dirt," Young said. "It got to the point where I wouldn't tell anyone I was a Vietnam veteran."

He emphasized that the soldiers representing this country must be respected.

So far, Veteran's Day ceremonies have been small, consisting only of a few law students, faculty and staff members. Young said they would love to see more participation.

According to EC President Charlie Yates, many students are unaware of alumni, faculty and staff involvement overseas.

"It's hard without being personally connected," he said. "We're so prosperous as a nation, that it's easy to lose sight of the sacrifices some people make."

There are currently ten W&L students involved in the ROTC program at Virginia Military Insti-

tute. According to freshman Sean McKinley, the level of awareness on this campus is minimal.

"There [are not] a lot of students that are in ROTC, so it's not a thing [students] have to deal with a lot," McKinley said. "It's not a normal part of Washington and Lee discussion. They are interested in their own lives and school, but students [need] to be more aware of what their peers outside of W&L are doing."

Yates suggested a plan to have veterans and alumni speak to the student body as a method to increase campus knowledge.

"A lot of W&L students would be interested to know what alums are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan," Yates said. "What you don't want to do is accuse people of being ignorant. Once they are aware, they will pay attention."

Young agreed that student awareness is a step in the right direction.

"I would like every student to know what this is all about so that they would have a gauge of what kids their age went through at the same time," he said. "It's alien to a lot of people here what service to this country means. The reason this country is the way it is, is because people have died and served."

"There [are not] a lot of students that are in ROTC, so it's not a thing [students] have to deal with a lot."

SEAN MCKINLEY
Class of 2009

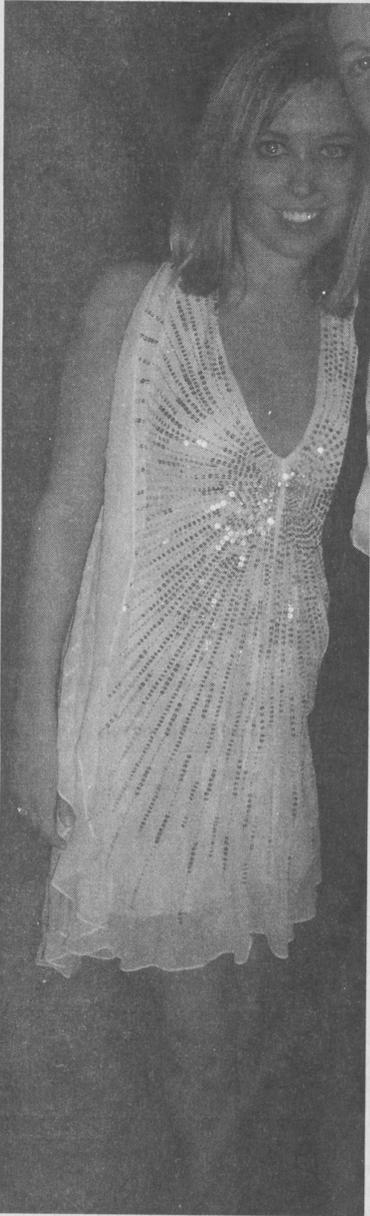
arts & life

Disco inferno

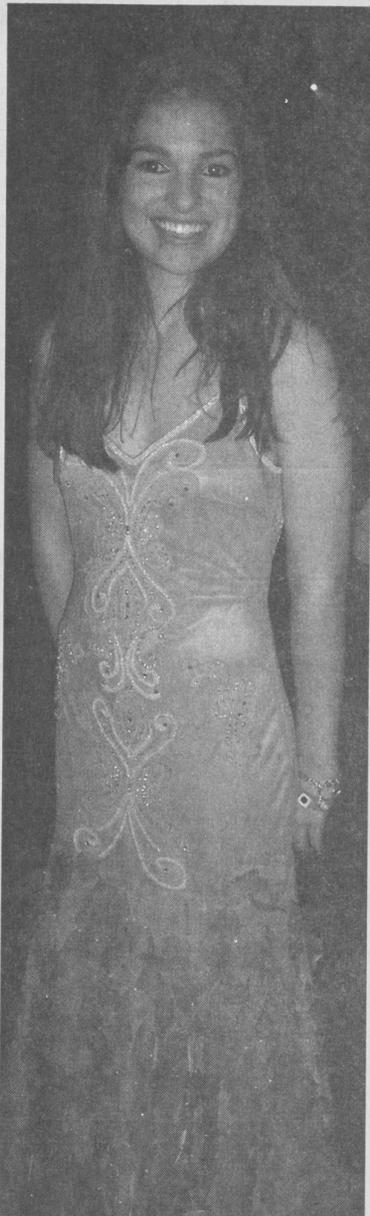
The lights, the music, the drama... Fancy Dress always promises to be a high-profile night. Here are some of the fashion highlights of the party of the year.

THE LOOK LIST

By Katherine Greene / Photos by Emily Hulén



Sequins and glitter seemed to be a common theme all night. Sophomore Polly Smith chose a beautiful '20s-inspired knee-length dress with splash sequins and sheer, dangling fabric accents. The low neckline is set off nicely with the thicker shoulder straps.



Everyone was talking about Diana Burgess's gorgeous champagne-colored floor-length gown by the end of the night. The sequin patterns accent her lovely figure and accentuate the neckline, and the petals on the bottom made it soft and feminine, with an almost Victorian feel.



Choosing a simple wrap pattern, Diana Dozier captured a little bit of the '70s feel with her gold sequins. The empire waist keeps the dress trendy, and she sets it off well with a delicate pair of shiny heels. The halter top of the dress makes it a little casual, but she wears it well.



One of the few bold ones to adhere to the "Studio 54" theme, junior Michele Theroux borrowed a dress that knows disco—her mother's prom dress from 1978.

99 YEARS IN THE MAKING

The evolution of Fancy Dress

By Kate Shellnutt
STAFF WRITER

Over the years, many questions have been asked about the school's Fancy Dress Ball.

One of them includes, "What would Stonewall Jackson think of the youth of Lexington dancing to licentious German or disgusting racket?" (asked by an early observer).

That's not the question this article is going to answer.

Because Fancy Dress' appeal comes from its over-the-top nature—the large budget, school-wide attendance, elaborate decorations, and flashy theme—this article will respond to the question: has Fancy Dress always been this way? Is the tradition of Fancy Dress one of extravagance?

According to the Ring-tum Phi, the first annual Fancy Dress Ball could only boast "30 couples and quite a number of stags,

all in fancy dress costumes" in attendance on Feb. 12, 1907.

Through the '80s, Fancy Dress was held on weekday nights. The first Fancy Dress Ball was held on a Tuesday.

Despite the small crowd and only \$42 budget, the acclaimed Fancy Dress founder librarian Annie Jo White hung evergreens, Japanese lanterns and mural draperies, threw confetti and hired the Virginia Military Institute orchestra to perform.

The next day, students in the whole state of Virginia were calling it "the most brilliant event of the season."

Once Fancy Dress became an established tradition in 1913, its attendance rose. Female students from neighboring schools would hope to get "the Bid" to come to Washington and Lee's midwinter dance.

W&L fraternities would have parties the weekends prior to find

dates, not unlike the Pink Palace parties of recent years.

When Fancy Dress was a figure dance, "Home Sweet Home" would be played at 2 a.m. to signal the dance's end. The song's lyrics remind listeners of what seems to be the opposite of Fancy Dress extravagance—the simple life.

A 1972 issue of the Phi warned readers of the problems caused by student drinking at the dance. It reads, "Anyone...seen at the ball with any kind of drink or bottle other than the beer being sold...will be removed from his bottle, removed from the dance or both."

Co-education brought women to the school for the 1986 Fancy Dress Ball, but instead of taking advantage of the 13:1 male to female ratio, most female students asked Hampton-Sydney or University of Virginia boys as dates.

That year, the budget reached

\$65,000.

As an aside—perhaps the \$35/couple tickets were a little pricey that year. An advertisement from White Front Grocery markets sale-priced Pabst Blue Ribbon, New York strip, Richfood soda and Pringles Cheez-Ums as their "Fancy Dress Special."

Attendance peaked with 3,500 ball-goers in both 1977 and 1991.

The event's planners have built the appeal of Fancy Dress with performers and decorations: camels, llamas, belly dancers, fortune tellers, carousel horses and authentic reenactments.

This year's "big element," according to Fancy Dress committee member Stephanie Jordon, was the light-up dance floor.

She said students can "expect a lot more" for next year's one hundredth Fancy Dress celebration.

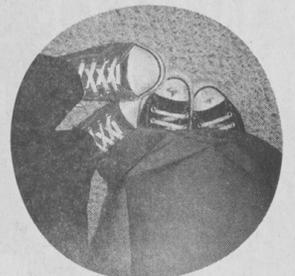
FLASHBACK

"My sophomore year, the theme was Willy Wonka. That was the first FD that my husband, Adam, and I had been dating, and it was the most fun I had ever had at a formal."

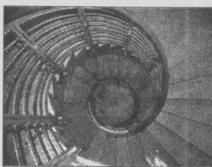
"The decorations were also really fun because people starting taking them apart and playing with them. Adam and I played mini kickball for a little while with a gumbop."

"We wore Chuck Taylors, which we both love."

ASHLEY MAYER,
Class of 2006



Opinions



to the editor

J-school responds to broadcast mailer

To the Editor:

We in the Journalism Department would like to respond to the campus-wide message sent out Wednesday criticizing a feature that has been running on page 2 of the *Ring-tum Phi* for several weeks now. The Department of Journalism and Mass Communications has no connection with the *Phi* nor with any student publication. Like our Honor system, these publications are run by students, and mainly for students, a W&L tradition that fits this university's deep commitment to individual responsibility and trust. But, while the journalism professors keep our distance, we think the message sent out to the entire community on Wednesday reflects several misunderstandings that need to be addressed.

First of all, the *Phi* does not have "the right to print whatever it pleases." Newspapers, even independent student newspapers, are bound by all sorts of constraints, from the role and responsibility of journalists as the information providers in a free society, to standards of accuracy and fairness, to legal constraints including libel law. Those constraints serve both to give journalists a template against which to measure their own performance and to ensure the free flow of information that is critical to empowering citizens.

That makes another assertion in the statement particularly curi-

ous — that a matter of public record and reader interest — police incident reports involving W&L students — ought to be withheld from a student newspaper because they cause unnecessary distress for the students who have been charged. Is W&L really this set apart? If there is to be any zone of "public life" on an otherwise insulated campus, we would think this would be it — arrest records. The names of arrested persons routinely appear in community newspapers across the nation. Is it a violation of W&L's standards of civility and respect for such information to appear as well in a campus newspaper? This, it seems to us, is suggesting that journalism itself is a violation of W&L's "keep it in the family" culture. It's an interesting point of view, but we disagree. If the *Phi* editors' primary criterion for deciding what should be reported is whether some might find the reporting uncivil, then the W&L community will be poorly served by its student media, and that community will ultimately suffer.

This is not to defend the way that the *Phi* has laced the police shorts with catty commentary. Such commentary would never appear in a mainstream newspaper. It is for the *Phi* to learn what is appropriate for student journalism. Certainly, cattiness is a feature of many a campus newspaper, but the combination

in "Behind Bars" perhaps needs revisiting. That is a matter for the student staff, not Reid Hall.

The *Phi* printed a noxious error this week, mistaking someone who had been arrested for a W&L student. Errors of fact ought to be acknowledged, apologized for and corrected, as the *Phi* has done. Errors and misjudgments are committed by all news outlets, including student media, but we don't believe that that justifies favoring a civil community over an informed one.

Brian Richardson
Department Head

Dayo Abah
Assistant Professor

Doug Cumming
Assistant Professor

Bob de Maria
Professor

Pam Luecke
Reynolds Professor
of Business Journalism

John X. Miller
Reynolds Distinguished
Visiting Professor

Hampden H. Smith III
Professor

Ed Wasserman
Knight Professor
of Journalism Ethics

Student questions Phi's intent

To the Editor:

I do not understand the point of the *Phi*'s section where you expose all the crimes that W&L students to the community and their parents. The current issue of you publicly accusing someone of falsely committing a crime aside, this section makes public very negative and sometimes sensitive information about our students and casts the paper and university in general in a bad light. Everyone makes mistakes, especially

in college, the consequences of which are more than visited upon them by the Lexington police. What are you really achieving by informing the entire student body and the alumni community about some of our student body's transgressions? I'm sure you have some justification, but I think you would be wise to consider how this section appears to the students, and the image it creates of the W&L community.

I think the paper and students

would be much better served by an intelligent editorial or otherwise informative article in the place of the police beat, which is essentially tattle-taling. Let the local newspapers spend their time chronicling all the little problems that our students get into, as the paper of a respected academic institution, spend your time writing substance of academic merit.

Tyler Van Leeuwen
Class of 2006

OBX Spring Break Trip!

April 9-14, Cost \$550

Deadline to sign up: March 12

Spend your break in the Outer Banks of North Carolina hang gliding, sea kayaking, and charter boat fishing.

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A Bachelor's degree is required, as is a valid driver's license. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and résumé, including two references, no later than Tuesday, March 21st. All materials should be sent to:

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last word

Pump that spirit up

Emphasizing players' looks and door prizes would revitalize lagging fan support

HE SAID

I was walking around the James Madison University campus, and their mascot approached me and tried to pick a fight.

Now, my first instinct was not, "how do you fight back against a student dressed like a dog?" Rather, it was, "does W&L have a mascot like this?" So that basically got me thinking about a whole myriad of other things relating to W&L and its sports scene.

Why don't our students paint their bodies blue and white on a daily basis? Does anyone know that we have All-American swimmers walking the colonnade with us? But most importantly, what can we do to change these perceptions. I have some pretty good ideas that I think the school should include in its ten-year evaluation plan.

I think that the sports teams should start doing things to reward its fans. For example, maybe there should be a door prize, like free tuition at all the games. Bring back tailgating and make a free keg a door prize for attending the football games.

I'd also like to propose adding wireless internet to the gym. I mean to be honest, I should be getting credits for my Facebooking skills. I spend a good two hours checking "Other Photos of..." and "Friends in Common with..." What if I could spend those two hours while also watching W&L play the sport of my choice? I suppose the audience participation would be less, but so what. Sometimes the bodies in the seats mean more than the noise they make.

For my next set of improvements, I would like to discuss cheerleaders. Why not have cheerleaders for every single sporting event at W&L? I am sure that I would be sure to come out and support the girl's soccer team if there were not only hot girls on the field but also on the sidelines. I know that is asking a lot of our

cheerleading squad, but I am sure they would be glad to help out the cause.

By the way, has anyone seen how good our cheerleaders have gotten this year? I would be proud to have them at all of our sporting events next year.

Have you seen the new facebook group "I Should Have Gone to a State School?" I am pretty jealous about all of those Cameron Craziess; in fact, I own a shirt just to support Duke.

Here is my big idea. Why not have Duke scrimmage W&L? I mean so what if we lose by a couple hundred points? I would pay for (or at least I would swipe home) front row tickets just to watch J.J. Redick sweat. So many people would come out to see the game, that maybe they would start coming to more of them.

The Facebook group also talks about how people can wear jerseys of sports stars at Division I schools. Maybe jerseys are not for everyone, but would it be possible for the bookstore to carry a better variety of hats? I would like to be able to wear a fitted hat without being assumed to be a member of the W&L baseball team.

In closing, I'd like to propose an idea to the W&L faculty. Y'all like to encourage us to see speakers as part of course requirements or for extra credit. I wonder how sports attendance would spike if professors offered extra credit for attending sporting events. Drop your lowest quiz grade if you see ten girls' basketball games. Increase your term average by two percentage points if you road trip to see the lacrosse team.

SHE SAID

Sometimes I wish I went to a state school. I would love to go to a football game in my school colors, face painted and actually cheer on my team for a full game. I like sports, but at this school I am just disinterested. It seems like everyone is. We care about our parties—both political and social, hair, clothes, bank account, GPA and BAC, but not really about the athletic prowess of our fellow students. Did we just run out of energy to care?

I doubt that. I have seen some of you on Friday night at 3 a.m. and then again on Saturday at 4 a.m.. If you can maintain those dance moves for that long and still be standing in those heels, then you can manage to sit through a full football, basketball, soccer or even lacrosse game.

So now that we have identified the problem we need to get you the games and then keep you there. Luckily for those in charge, I have a few ideas.

First off, there should be pamphlets available to the spectator. I am not talking about a program that I pay \$10 for and throw away after the game because I have lost all use for it. What I need is an instruction manual. For instance, what makes a foul ball a foul ball? Why do they kill each other in rugby? What is #29's phone number and is he single? How long are the halves/quarters? What does #3 look for in a girl? I have all of these questions, and I only annoy those around me by continuously asking them as they come into my head. These booklets will only peak my interest because now I feel personally connected to the players.

Also the little "C" that des-

ignates the captain needs to go. I can't see that. The athlete is constantly in motion so I bet the ref is struggling as well. I think captains should have to go shirtless. It would eliminate a lot of problems for the onlookers and those involved.

For that matter, the captain position should be rotated every week. I understand there are a lot of criteria that goes into a coach's choice like composure on the court/field, leadership, points scored, etc., but I just ask for a couple additions to the list. How about number of hook-ups the person had this weekend—a real winner makes out a lot. A captain should be able to set a good example on and off the court.

It is not like the people playing are not good looking. We all have Facebook and luckily for us the athletes have created their own groups. The athletic department website even has pictures to encourage and enhance our stalking abilities. We can browse through the roster without leaving our computer chair. Then, when we have found someone who has truly captured our imagination we can get up from the computer and head over to the field/court/track and watch so-and-so run around in their fabulous uniforms. There is nothing better than a man/woman in uniform.

I leave you with the most obvious of choices: bring back tailgating. I am only a sophomore, but I do hear the stories and tears fall for the loss of such a glorious pastime. It is only natural as students of this great institution that we long for it. We dream about it. We miss it. It is a scientific fact that our school spirit is directly correlated to our BAC. Do the athletes a favor and bring in the fans. Allow us to tailgate. We will be forever grateful, cheer louder and drink our team into champions no matter the score.



This week's Hot Topic was written by columnists Mike Fahey and Madeline Gent.



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