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2006 Alumni Weekend Issue

THE PHI WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR ALUMNI WITH OUR SPECIAL THURSDAY EDITION

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897 VOLUME CIX, NUMBER 19

what'sinside

The inbox is full

Students, professors and administrators respond to last week's letter to the editor which questioned Washington and Lee's admissions standards for minority students. Pages 4-5.

Special coverage for special visitors

Wondering where your favorite alumni will be hanging out this weekend? Check inside for full coverage of Alumni Weekend, including a schedule of important events and student reactions to the influx of visitors. Page 6.

Cops crack down at Foxfields

Foxfields has come and gone, and police officers from around the state followed through on their promises to crack down on the event's rampant underage drinking. Check inside for full coverage of the event's dining, racing and more. Page 2.

hotticket

Tickets are not actually required for this event, but the women's tennis team, currently ranked first in the NCAA's Division III, takes on Mary Washington University on Saturday, May 6. The Generals' match begins at 10:00 a.m., and No. 12 Carnegie Mellon takes on No. 18 Swarthmore at 2:00 p.m. The winners from Saturday's matches will play on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If the team wins on both Saturday and Sunday, it would advance to the NCAA National Championships at the University of California-Santa Cruz.

goingson

UVa saga continues

The 17 students who were arrested after their sit-in at UVa's administration building, Madison Hall, appeared before the University Judiciary Committee on Monday, May 1. According to The Cavalier Daily, the students were ordered to write letters apologizing to and thanking several groups on campus. They were convicted by the committee on three counts of violating the committee's standards. The charges are: unauthorized entry into or occupation of UVa facilities, intentional disruption of UVa activities and failing to follow directions of UVa officials acting to enforce any of the other standards of conduct. The students must write to the University police department, the university administration and several employees whose schedules were disrupted by the sit-in.

to our readers

The Phi will return to newsstands on Monday, May 15 with our penultimate issue of the 2005-2006 school year.

Teen drowns in Maury

Drowning is fourth death in four years near the low rise dam at Jordan's Point

By Jacob Geiger
NEWS EDITOR

Lexington resident and certified scuba diver Charles Volpe drowned at Jordan's Point last week. He is the fourth person to drown at that spot on the Maury River since 2003.

Volpe, a 16-year-old sophomore at Rockbridge County High School, was swimming upriver of the dam around 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 23 when he and Bryce Talley, a friend who was with him, were both swept over the dam. Talley was able to escape the dam's undercurrent, but Volpe was pinned under the surface by the force of the water.

Lt. Steve Crowder of the Lexington Police Department refuted rumors that the boys had been playing on the top of the dam.

"After speaking with witnesses who were on the scene, I'm adamantly convinced they were swimming upstream and were washed over the dam."

Crowder, who coordinates disaster management for the Lexington police, was called just after 4 p.m. and told Volpe had drowned. The officer immediately called Virginia's Department of Emergency Management, which provides logistical support — divers, helicopters, Red Cross assistance — to local departments.

"The local divers were there pretty fast," Crowder said. "The State Police called and couldn't initially provide support, but they worked out some details and were able to come with a helicopter in about 35 minutes, which is excellent response time."

The Rockbridge County Sheriff's office has two divers, and there is a Swift Water Rescue group based in Buena Vista. Crowder also said divers from WestVaCo, a paper company, came over from Covington, Va. to assist the search teams.

Volpe's body was discovered



JACOB GEIGER / News Editor

Family and friends of Charles Volpe gathered at Jordan's Point for a memorial service on Sunday, April 30. The Rockbridge County High School jazz band, in which Volpe had played tenor saxophone, performed at the service.

just below the dam by a cadaver dog from the Blue and Gray Search Dog Company. The group works with the state's emergency management department. Divers from the Augusta County Sheriff's Department were then able to find the body underwater. The search took nearly 24 hours.

According to his obituary, Volpe was a member of the high school's jazz band and tennis team. He also held seven certifications from the National Association of Underwater Instructors, a

group that certifies scuba divers.

At 4 p.m. on Sunday the Maury River was moving past the U.S. Geological Service's stream flow gage at 1,630 cubic feet per second. The average stream flow during this week of April fluctuates between 600-700 cubic feet per second. The nearest gage is located in Buena Vista.

There are hundreds of dams like the one at Jordan's Point scattered across the country. Most were originally designed to provide electrical power for small

towns or factory complexes, but many do not fill those functions any longer.

"The dam serves no purpose that I know of," City Manager Tim Ellestad said. "There are a lot of dams on the Maury. They dammed the river to allow barges to go up river. Jordan's Point used to be Lexington's industrial center."

Low rise dams can be as tall as 25 feet or as small as six inches, according to the Miami (Ohio) Conservatory District. The dams,

because of their low height, appear harmless, but dangerous currents below the dam can easily trap swimmers.

"The area below the dam is particularly difficult to deal with because of cascading, swirling water," Ellestad said.

Ellestad and Crowder both said the area has sufficient resources to deal with disasters of this nature.

"In a rural area it's particularly

See "UNDERCURRENT" on page 3

School names women deans

Female students and faculty say school must still do more

By Jessica Shaw
STAFF WRITER

On July 1, newly appointed Deans Janet Ikeda and Elizabeth Knapp will join an all-male administration in Washington Hall.

The announced resignation of Dean Ellen Mayock on Feb. 28 marked the departure of the only female member of the academic administration. In the controversy surrounding her resignation, many faculty members and students have taken a stand in clear contention with the lack of diversity in the administration.

"I think it's subtle. It teaches male and female students that there's something unusual about women who want to be in charge," Associate Professor of Politics Robin Leblanc said. "It can often cast a negative light on ambitious women on any level."

Leblanc is only one of the faculty members challenging this situation.

In the 24 hours following Mayock's announced resignation, junior Paten Hughes compiled a petition containing 311 signatures protesting the lack of women in the academic administration.

"I didn't know what else do,

and I wanted there to be a way to voice my concern, my friends' concern, other students' concern," Hughes said.

Even with the addition of Ikeda and Knapp, the school's efforts to reach gender equilibrium among students since 1985 are not reflected in the diversity of its academic administrators. Many faculty and students view this as a problem on several levels.

"I feel like it's hard as a woman on this campus to feel like I can be successful where I don't see women being promoted, and I don't see their successes being honored," Hughes said. "Without women in these positions, how can we feel like we belong in those positions?"

There are other concerns with the shortage of women in positions of power. According to Mayock, many young women seek her out for advice regarding sexual abuse and other private matters. She said that being the sole female this year was tough because there was no other outlet for guidance.

Mayock also added that as the solitary female voice in meetings and decision-making, it was easy for her expression to be muffled.

"It has become very clear to me that if you have only one or two [women], the voice is not heard," she said. "You need more women at the table. I do not believe that our administration purposefully ignores women, [but] if it's only one woman, it's a tough road."

Functioning in the academic administration for two full years, Mayock said she noticed some subtleties in male behavior. She said men tended to ask about her children repeatedly, offer hugs instead of handshakes and undermine her decisions carried out with the proper authority.

"For every behavior, I understand the genesis of the behavior, and I truly believe that it's out of a desire for human contact. However, the reality of this type of behavior creates a huge obstacle for women."

Because the presence of men is so dominant, Leblanc said they are not forced to interact with women regularly, and therefore lack some of the skills necessary to maintain a professional relationship.

"Professional women have to work with men. They learn to

See "CAMPUS WOMEN" on page 2

New trustees join board

Two alumni bring variety of experiences to new position

By Jacob Geiger
NEWS EDITOR

On March 31 Washington and Lee named two new members to the Board of Trustees. The two men were chosen at a February meeting, and their terms begin this month.

Robert Balentine and Benjamin Gambill are both graduates of the university. Balentine graduated in 1979 and Gambill in 1967.

Philip Norwood, Rector of the Board of Trustees, said the board is always on the lookout for new members.

"We sort of keep a roster of people we're interested in based on their geography, background, vocation, interest and ability to advance the agenda of Washington and Lee University," Nor-

wood said.

A subcommittee of the board, the Trusteeship Committee, nominates new members when openings occur. Several administrators, including the university president, serve on the subcommittee in a non-voting role.

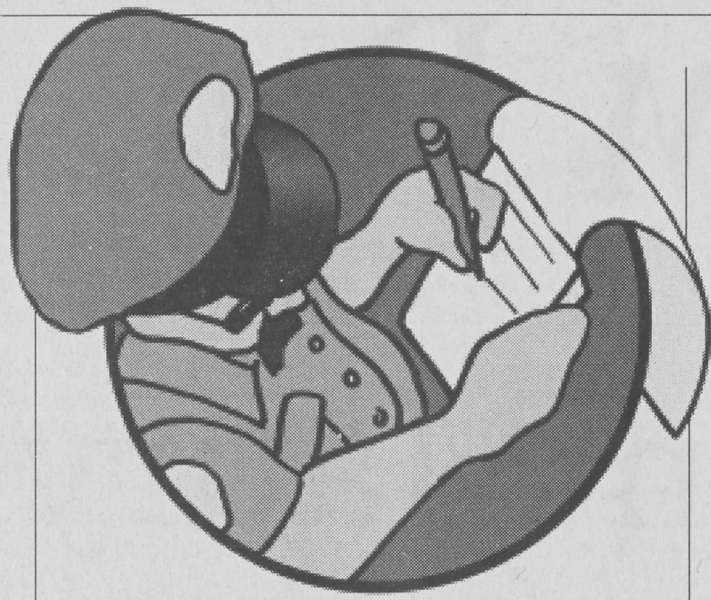
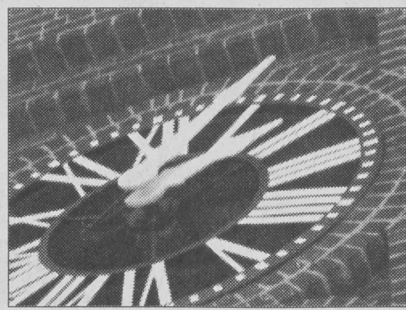
Norwood also said both of the new trustees bring valuable experiences to the board.

"Both have terrific experience in business and leadership in non-profit organizations," he said. "Ben Gambill especially brings experience in education, since he served on the board of a private school in Nashville."

Gambill, a resident of Nashville, has served on the

See "BOARD" on page 3

news



BEHIND BARS

Here's the latest update on who ran afoul of the law during the last few weeks. We took a peek at this week's police reports to see what you've been up to...

Pit bulls run amok

Local resident Thomas Sloan, Jr. was charged with allowing a pit bull to run at large. The charge was issued at 8:25 a.m. on Friday, April 14. He was also charged with not having a rabies vaccine for the dog or a city dog license.

Yet another DUI

Joseph West, a resident of

Midlothian, Virginia, was charged with a DUI on Thursday, April 20. He was stopped at 1 a.m. and also charged with failure to obey a highway sign.

Do the cops have a quota or something?

Michael Trani was arrested on Sunday, April 9 and charged with public drunkenness. Trani, a Covington, Virginia resident, was arrested around 11:15 p.m.

Wild and reckless

Caroline Beda was charged with a variety of traffic offenses on April 24. When stopped around 9:30 p.m., she was charged with failure to maintain control of her vehicle, reckless endangerment and traveling the wrong way on a one way street.

The high brought low

On April 21 Max Sandler was formally charged with possession of marijuana. Sandler originally ran into trouble on Jan. 7, when Lexington Police officers entered a room he was in around 1:20 a.m. The officers had been advised of a complaint that people were smoking marijuana in the room, and, after informing W&L security officers of the complaint, the police entered the room. Police Chief Bruce Beard said three bongos were in plain sight on a table. The three month delay in filing charges occurred because the bongos were sent to a crime lab for testing.

Jefferson Street jaunt

Natalie Mackie, age 47, was arrested on April 18 and

charged with being drunk in public. Officer Fred Smith saw Mackie, a native of Smithfield, Virginia, walking on Jefferson Street. The officer said Mackie was showing signs of public intoxication.

Don't make them visit twice

Adam Thomas Lotts was charged with simple assault on April 19. Officers reported to 525 Maury Street after a woman called and said Lotts had grabbed her around the neck and forced her arm behind her back, dragging her towards the house. The woman also complained that Lotts was drunk. The officers left the scene and went to obtain a warrant, but shortly after they left the woman called to say Lotts had become violent again. The officers returned to the house after the woman's second call.

Police prowl Foxfields

Officers crack down on underage drinking as college students turn out in droves

By Sarah Kientz
STAFF WRITER

Increased security at the Foxfield horse races on Saturday resulted in a more controlled event, police said.

Lieutenant John Teixeira of the Albemarle County Police Department said the department's goal was to "create a safer atmosphere" at Foxfield.

The police increased their ranks from 50 to 250 officers present at the event, Teixeira said.

"In the past several years we have not been on the inside, but this year we took over the interior ground," Teixeira said, referring to the area within the circular horse track where most students spend time.

Teixeira estimated that there were 20,000 people at Foxfield, 70 percent of which were college students.

The increased security measures were intended to keep students in line.

"In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the amount of disorderly conduct, fights and indecent exposure," Teixeira said. "It was really getting out of hand and that's why we increased the number of officers."

Before the event, the Albemarle County Police and Virginia State Police distributed green fliers throughout Washington and Lee's campus, warning that "police will be observing patrons upon their arrival by chartered buses and in their personal vehicles. Patrons entering the race will be monitored for intoxication and legal age requirements, and those found to be violating the law while entering the event will not gain admittance."

Sophomore Kathy Garman said she saw those threats in action upon arriving at the field.

"Within the first 20 minutes of being at Foxfields I saw at least four people being taken away by cops right as we walked in," Garman said. "There were bike cops riding through traffic looking for open containers and security at the gate when you walked in was checking bags."

Although over 100 arrests were made at the event, Teixeira said he felt the heightened security achieved its goal.

"The number of fights and disorderly conduct dropped dramatically," Teixeira said. "A majority of students had a good time and acted appropriately, but unfortunately there was still that minority who thinks it's a place to get drunk and get out of hand."

Teixeira added that only one



Photo courtesy of Sarah Kientz

Students drink and socialize during the Foxfield races.

W&L student was arrested at Foxfields and charged with underage possession of alcohol.

The student was released on summons.

The arrested student did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Freshman Tommy Pignatelli said he was upset that the W&L student was arrested though behaving responsibly.

Pignatelli said there was more outrageous behavior throughout the event.

"A lot of people didn't really watch the horses. Most people just sat around, ate and drank," Pignatelli said. "There were a lot of drunk people making out with each other and throwing up."

Meanwhile, Garman, who attended the event last year as well, said she felt students acted more appropriately this year at Foxfield

because of the increased number of police.

"In some respects people toned it down from last year," Garman said. "People were still drinking, but it was in moderation. There were less people being belligerent and falling down drunk."

Garman also said she had more fun at this event because there was less drinking than the year before.

She said, "I had more fun this year because people were not quite as ridiculous and you didn't have to worry about taking care of people as much."

Pignatelli, however, said that he felt the event was only fun for those who were drinking.

"I thought it was boring," he said, "but that could have been because I was a sober driver."

Junior Kelly Price said the behavior seen at past events war-

ranted increased security and that the added officials will make the event safer in the future.

"They've had problems in the past with underage drinking, and having more security at the event is a good idea," Price said. "Having more police there will make it safer."

Heightened security will decrease drinking at Foxfield next year, Price said, "because inevitably people are going to be getting in trouble."

Teixeira also said he hoped that this year's law enforcement at Foxfield will set an example and act as a warning for students in years to come.

A change in behavior, Price said, "depends on whether or not people take the threat of increased security seriously and realize there is a real chance that people drinking underage will be arrested."

Campus women call for change in W&L culture

Continued from page 1

think men are like them. But some men, especially the senior men at this institution, have not been forced in the same way to experience women as like them," she said.

Leblanc said W&L often runs into difficulties recruiting women in part due to its geographic location. Lexington may not offer an appealing environment for single women or those trying to raise children. It also may not provide decent jobs for both spouses in a marriage situation.

"Recruiting single males or females can present a challenge to a small, rural community," Acting President Harlan Beckley said.

Much of this year was dedicated to celebrating women for their 20-year legacy on this campus.

Mayock, as the sole female academic dean, played a large role in organizing these events, planning speakers and designing a calendar.

"The positive feedback has come from men in older classes, some of whom didn't favor the concept of co-education, but have been pleased by the positive results."

Such events took months of planning and dedication. As a woman in the administration, Mayock could devote a lot of her time to issues that may be overlooked by her male counterparts.

Because of the image she upheld, many faculty members were greatly affected by her resignation.

LeBlanc said, "When Mayock was 'encouraged' to step down, it just made me feel lesser."

LeBlanc said that she had a day when she was embarrassed in front of her students, because she said they had seen "that the women were in leadership roles and they could be thrust aside with ease. I thought my students would see me as a second-rate member of the faculty."

Sometime this month, Hughes will present a revised

version of her petition to the Board of Trustees.

"I think the biggest problem with regard to gender relations on our campus is that we don't view it as a problem," she said.

Alumnus Chris Wood ('89) has been in correspondence with the administration concerning his displeasure with the hype of Celebrating Women.

In his letter, however, Wood claims he certainly embraces the presence of women. He merely disapproves of their isolation by means of celebration, and said that many alumni agree.

"In my opinion, it is much more important to have the right people in the position, whatever [race or sex] they may be," he said.

Ikeda said she feels more confident having women predecessors who have paved the road for her.

As associate dean, she said a huge role she will be fulfilling is that of a listener.

"What is important to me is not only bringing the perspectives of women to the table, but also to tap into more diverse viewpoints represented on campus for men and women," she said.

Despite the controversy, Mayock said she is pleased with the overall progress of W&L through the nine years she has been on campus.

"I have seen a lot of progress. I've been here a full nine years. I credit hiring more women, the women's studies program and bringing the enrollment of men and women to parity."

Beckley is optimistic in terms of increasing women in the administration.

"It's my belief that the W&L administration, as it seeks a new Provost and new deans within the next few years will do everything [it] can to recruit qualified females and do everything [it] can to make them feel welcome," he said.

"I anticipate we will have a woman in one or more of these positions in four to five years or earlier."

Serving up controversy

Bizarre Kathekon interviews raise questions about alumni intent

By Jacob Geiger and Jessica Shaw
NEWS EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER

Students are raising questions about the tactics used in Kathekon interviews.

According to several students who went through the process a few weeks ago, these were not ordinary interviews.

"It's people that come into a room, and you get asked some goofy questions," Kathekon member Walker Williams said. "Some questions are geared towards how you would act around alumni, how much you know about the school and how much you care about the school."

Some applicants said they knew that these interviews would be unusual while others said they were caught off guard.

"It's not testing what you think you're going to be interviewed about," a new member said.

One applicant, who asked to remain anonymous, described her interview.

"I was standing on a stool dancing, and I had to seduce a copy machine. I wasn't uncomfortable, but I could see how it would make others uncomfortable."

The applicant said the interview was designed to be intimidating.

"This guy pretended to be a drunk alum, and I had to sit in his lap, and I had to say how I would make him happy."

Tripp Onnen, advisor to Kathekon, said the the interviews are designed to measure a candidate's ability to handle tough questions from alumni.

"You get the odd question about co-education or the speaking tradition," Onnen said. "You get questions from people who haven't been back in five years or haven't been back in 20 years and say 'show me what's new.'"

When asked about the anonymous students' statements, Onnen said he found the applicants' statements "a little surprising."

"I can't speak to that," he said. "I did my best to monitor those interviews."

Kathekon President Olivia Mansfield said she tailored her questions to each individual.

"I'd only ask silly questions to someone I knew," she said. "I wouldn't ask people if I didn't know them or what they were comfortable with; it comes back to the all important situations you find yourself in. You have to be diplomatic and responsible."

Many new members declined to answer any questions about the process.

"They told us we weren't al-

lowed to answer questions about the interviews," new member Kelly Harvey said. "Tripp [Onnen] said to refer all questions to him."

Harvey said these instructions were delivered at a meeting after the interview process was complete.

Mansfield said Kathekon was like most organizations on campus wanting to maintain confidentiality with its interviews. However, she said that members were not forbidden from talking about their interview.

"No one has ever been told 'don't say anything ever, don't talk about Kathekon,' she said. "We've been on a big PR campaign this year to educate people on what Kathekon is. We had Speak Day in the fall and are having another one this spring."

Mansfield, Onnen and other members stressed that the interviews try to gauge how students would react in awkward situations with alumni.

"I do think that the interview process is telling of how a candidate would perform under certain circumstances during Alumni Weekend or Homecoming," new

member Ted Williams said.

Though some of the applicants were uncomfortable with the process, most of them agreed that Kathekon is different from

"This guy pretended to be a drunk alum, and I had to sit in his lap, and I had to say how I would make him happy."

ANONYMOUS, Kathekon applicant

most other campus organizations.

"I would have never been put in any of those situations with an alum, but to some extent, it's necessary," sophomore applicant Betsy Chaplin said. "A regular sit-down interview talking about why you want to be in Kathekon is not enough."

Chaplin said she was prepared for the interview and nothing made her uncomfortable.

One student said she wondered if the situations presented in interviews are realistic.

"I would be a little scandalized if W&L alums were expecting the behavior that was asked of the applicants in their interviews," she said.

Board prepares to tackle big issues

Continued from page 1

board of Montgomery Bell Academy since 1982 and was chairman of that board from 1997 until 2005.

Both Gambill and Balentine have plenty of business experience as well.

Gambill was the CEO and president of Baird Electric Company for 32 years.

"They have good business acumen," Norwood said, "and the financial side of the school is really a big part of our responsibility. A business background is a plus but not a requirement for board members."

Balentine was chairman and CEO of an investment consulting company that he helped co-found. The firm, which began in 1987, was acquired by another company in 2002.

"Balentine built and ran a large business," he said.

Balentine, who served as a co-chair of the Mock Convention Planning Committee and was a member of Phi Delta Theta while at W&L, addressed what he said were some of the issues facing the board.

"One thing is completion of the strategic plan that we've been looking at the last few years," he said.

Balentine said he thinks new President Ken Ruscio will be heavily involved in the implementation of the plan.

"As the finishing touches are put on, Ken will have his fingerprints on [the plan]," Balentine said.

Balentine also addressed the role of the Greek system at W&L the university.

"The Greek system has certainly been an integral part of W&L... it will evolve and change with the times."

The majority of the members of the board are alumni, Norwood said, although it is not a requirement.

"W&L has a wonderful alumni network that shares a common bond and culture" Balentine said. "The friendships and business relationships that are formed are very important. The fact that Ken is an alum, and that alumni are so passionate will strengthen for the school."

When asked to recall a favorite memory of the school, Balentine picked one appropriate for this time of year.

"Well I met my wife, who was at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, while I was here," he said, "and we spent a lot of time at Goshen. Spring term at

Undercurrent traps Volpe under dam

Continued from page 1

difficult to have resources there quickly," Ellestad said.

"In a normal situation with the river we have some good local resources, but none of that mattered in this situation," he said.

"If there was a rescue squad five minutes away it wouldn't have mattered because the boy was dead just a few minutes after he went over the dam."

In July of 2003 a local fisherman also drowned in the Maury River near Jordan's Point.

Two local children drowned upstream of the dam in August of 2004 after jumping out of a tree into the river.

Despite these incidents, there are no signs around Jordan's Point warning swimmers of the danger the dam poses.

Crowder estimated the current was flowing at 12 knots when the boys jumped into the water.

He also estimated that the water was as much as ten feet deep directly underneath the dam.

"The only signs up," Lt. Crowder said, "are what the city put up to prohibit people from jumping out of that tree the two kids jumped out of."

Crowder said the tree the two boys jumped out of in 2004 is located on the river's north bank.

The tree has branches that extend out over the river.

The park and playing fields at Jordan's Point are located on the south bank.

"Water's a wonderful recreational resource," Lexington Vice Mayor Tim Golden said. "If you have water people are going to get into it." Golden said he thought the City Council would discuss the idea of putting up signs.

"No, we don't have any signs up there," Ellestad said. "I'd anticipate this will be a point of discussion."

Enjoy wine and cheese amidst Louise Herreshoff's paintings.

Cheese Louise!

A Wine and Cheese Tasting in the Reeves Center

Friday, May 12, 2006
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Free for all students, but tickets required. Pick up tickets at the Reeves Center. Must present valid ID. Nonalcoholic drinks will also be served.

Limited number of tickets, so come and pick up yours at the Reeves Center today!

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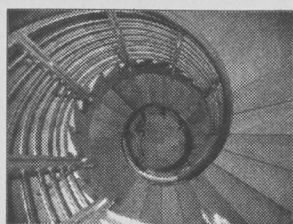
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opinions



The April 24 issue of the Phi included a letter from a "Concerned Parent" that raised some questions about Washington and Lee admissions policies. In his letter, the parent attacked plans to increase funding for minority recruitment programs. He said that these programs help one group of people "by hurting another." The letter did not appear in its entirety due to its extensive length. Responses to the letter follow. Neither the original letter, nor the responses, necessarily reflect the opinion of the Phi.

to the editor

Admissions dean clarifies statements

To the Editor:

Ordinarily I would not write to address statements made by an anonymous author.

I will in this case, however, because the author, the Concerned Parent, is known to me and has apparently misunderstood my previous correspondence with him on the topic of Washington and Lee's admission practices with respect to legacies, athletes, minority students and, indeed, all students. If I was not misunderstood, then I have been misrepresented. Either way, I feel it important to comment.

This winter the Concerned Parent wrote me to question W&L's admission practices as they relate to minority students. His query included statements reflecting his belief that minority students admitted to W&L are less qualified than other students who gain admission.

Further, he tried to bolster this mistaken belief by citing a brief conversation we had earlier that fall, the same one he cites in the Phi.

Whether he misunderstood our conversation or sought to mis-

characterize my comments in his query, I do not know, but his letter to the Phi last week contains the same inaccurate account of our exchange.

This bothers me greatly, because I wrote him a personal letter setting the record straight about what I did and did not say and illustrating that all students admitted to W&L are qualified for that distinction.

It appears my letter was too subtle. Now that the innuendo-laden statement, "it is the only way we can get them in," has been incorrectly attributed to me a second time (and this time publicly), I feel I must be more explicit: I never said that, nor did I imply it.

Further, I did not use the word "preference" to describe our treatment of any segment of W&L's applicant pool. That is his word, not mine. Instead, I described that our admission staff weighs a variety of academic and personal qualities to decide which students, among a large group of well-qualified applicants, will gain admission.

It appears the Concerned Par-

ent wishes to concentrate on SAT scores, yet no college I know of relies on scores as heavily as he suggests W&L should.

Such an approach would certainly guarantee higher test scores in our student body, among all demographics, but it would also ensure myriad unfulfilled enrollment priorities and, most likely, a dismal social environment lacking the characteristic richness that has made W&L a life-changing experience for generations of students.

Strong as W&L is, in my view there is still room to improve it. Each of us has a role to play in that pursuit.

My own is to continue working to attract and enroll an ever broader student population, one that contains as wide a range of talents, perspectives and aspirations as possible. Every single member of the W&L family has a mark to leave, and every single student admitted to W&L was chosen because of their potential to do so.

Jonathan A. Webster
Associate Dean of Admissions

Professor against unfairness of letter

Skin color is irrelevant in the classroom, W&L grad says

To the Editor:

The letter from the Concerned Parent that appeared in the April 24 edition of the Ring-tum Phi troubles me deeply because it implies that our African-American and Hispanic students are unqualified.

Additionally, the writer demands evidence that will prove his point. The African-American student population is both hurt and insulted by the letter as well they should be. This attack on their academic ability is unfair and unwarranted.

The letter is also unfair to Washington and Lee administrators and admissions officers because it contends that they are both unfair and devious. More important, the letter tends to drive a wedge into our community in an attempt to raise the contentious issue of affirmative action as it casts aspersions on both school policy and students.

I cannot pretend to have inside information on W&L admissions policies because I do not.

Yet, no one knows any better than me how slowly racial progress came to southern colleges in general and W&L in particular.

My earliest affiliation with this university was in 1963 when I was a few months shy of my twentieth birthday. The only places for African-Americans at W&L in 1963 were dining services and janitorial work. The university did not recruit and accept its first black student (since John Chavis) until August 1966. After one year he transferred to a historically black college. Forty years later we have only 78 black students in the undergraduate population.

How can the writer allege that their presence implies unfair

No one knows any better than me how slowly racial progress came to southern colleges in general and Washington and Lee in particular.

treatment for white students?

Frankly, I find very little difference between the ability of the white and black students I teach. I have strong students and poor students who belong to both races.

Allow me to share a little of my own academic history.

I became a full time W&L student in 1983 at age 40. I had graduated from a segregated high school in 1961, and my SAT scores were very old when I entered. They were also irrelevant because I had been a part time W&L student for three years beginning in 1980, and used those courses to prove my ability.

I graduated in 1985 with a GPA of 3.375 for which I make no apologies.

During those years I was husband, father, PTA president, treasurer of the Rockbridge Regional Library, secretary of the Board of Elections, a member of the Rockbridge Mental Health Clinic Board, a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church pastoral council and a member of a host of other organizations. Community service was dear to my heart, and I studied hard.

W&L took a chance on me, and I refuse to believe that my own admission kept a single more deserving white student out of the college. Today I have a Ph.D. and am a member of the faculty.

I feel strongly about the

worthiness of every potential student to earn a W&L degree. And guess what! W&L has never limited admission to SAT scores and grade point averages—not even during the Jim Crow Era. Would you want to be a student at this university if everyone was a study "geek?" If W&L ever limits admissions to academic achievement only, social life will drastically change. Think about it!

I am also troubled that the Ring-tum Phi does not share the same policy as most professional newspapers—not to publish anonymous letters.

I have the moral courage to own everything I write, and others should do the same or refrain from entering public forums. Unfortunately, the editors also bear responsibility for anonymous letters and readers can rightly assume that the Concerned Parent's views reflect those of the Ring-tum Phi—as much as I hope that is not true. It is a university newspaper for all members of the W&L community including Hispanic and African American students.

Theodore C. DeLaney
Class of 1985
Associate Professor of History
Director of African American
Studies

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Student responds to parent

Senior says admissions department should continue to look beyond test scores

To the Editor:

I am very concerned about Washington and Lee University.

After four years of being a student here, I am confident we have made strides in the right direction when it comes to diversity, multiculturalism and gender relations, but it worries and saddens me to read letters like the one sent by a Concerned Parent to the Phi last week.

Among other things, the parent in question seems to believe it is unfair that the Admissions Office encourages minority students to apply by offering them exclusive incentives that are not offered to majority candidates.

In my opinion, if there has been a historical disparity in the proportion of applications received from particular groups (as measured against their share of the general population, or as measured against application numbers at other comparable institutions) then there is a presumption that the school has not been marketing itself to those groups. The Admissions Office, therefore, is simply making efforts to correct that historical error. Please note that this is a marketing effort; it is not the same as actually admitting a student simply because he or she is a minority.

In fact, the parent her/himself quoted several admissions officers as saying that minority students at W&L are as academically qualified as their major-

ity counterparts, and that race is only considered when "separating equals," much like athletic ability or legacy status would give an applicant an edge only when he or she is as academically qualified as the other students seeking admission.

Now, this parent seems to believe that minority students cannot possibly be as academically qualified as their counterparts because, statistically, their SAT scores are likely to be lower than majority students' scores. He or she thinks that the admissions office cannot possibly be "separating equals" when it is likely that SAT scores for black students are more than 100 points below SAT scores for whites.

Sir or Madam, I hope you understand that SAT scores and even GPAs are not the definitive yardstick by which we hope to measure prospective students' ability. Some students from disadvantaged backgrounds, from marginalized communities or from difficult home circumstances have overcome obstacles that students from more comfortable backgrounds may never even have imagined.

A reasonable case can be made that a student who has come a long way, overcoming numerous obstacles and disadvantages, but with slightly lower numbers, is of equal or greater merit than another student who has led an entirely privileged life. A reason-

able case could similarly be made that the disadvantaged student has an equal or greater potential to succeed at the school than a privileged applicant with otherwise slightly higher numbers. Judgments of this sort are hard to make, require great care and benefit from the lessons of experience.

The admissions process should be holistic, looking at the entire candidate's file in the context of the incoming class as a whole. It is an art; otherwise, machines would do it.

It is the Admissions Office's responsibility to admit an interesting, thoughtful, diverse and academically qualified incoming class that will bring credit to the school by its commitment to learning, and, later, by its accomplishments in as wide a variety of fields, endeavors and locales as is possible. The class should be as diverse as possible in every way—along class, ethnic, racial, national and geographic lines, as well as in terms of the disciplinary and extracurricular interests that they are likely to bring to the school.

By doing this, the Admissions Office not only creates a more interesting and educational environment for current students, but also increases the value of students' diplomas (if you want the economic argument) by creating future networking opportunities and enhancing the school's repu-

tation. There is another reason why minority recruitment "is necessary to enrich the educational experience of all."

W&L is both an academic institution and a community. The greater the diversity of our student body, the richer the environment in which students will find themselves as they grow into adulthood.

For many, this will be the first time they encounter people very much like themselves in some ways (academic aptitude, commitment to learning), but very different from them in others, whether it be in terms of ethnic, national, cultural or religious backgrounds, or of disciplinary or extracurricular interests.

I realize that this letter could go on for pages, so I will stop now and just say this: to suggest that there should be an end to the promotion of diversity at W&L, to suggest that the careful considerations of merit and promise of each and every candidate be cast aside, and that the growth in geographic, social and disciplinary reach of W&L's reputation be stunted—all for the sake of a few index numbers—is shortsighted, extreme and certainly not in the best interests of the school, its student body or your son or daughter.

Ligia Abreu
Class of 2006

arts&life

Remembrance of things past

An event-filled weekend awaits alumni who make the journey back to their alma mater

Alumni from across the country return to W&L to reunite with friends, reminisce about the past and attend events and parties. While changes have taken place since they left, they plan to revisit favorite places and people.

By **Stacey Grijalva**
STAFF WRITER

It is that time of year when the green lawn invites people to lie on it and alumni swarm the campus for one glorious weekend to relive old memories.

Honoring the graduates of 1951 to 2001, the weekend officially starts today with activities planned for the Class of 1971.

For some, the trip will be mixing business with pleasure. The spring meeting of the Alumni Board of Directors will continue through the weekend.

Special tours will be given to highlight the changes the campus has undergone, especially the introduction of women to Washington and Lee.

One female alumna said she was grateful for the school's recognition of the choice to go co-ed.

"As a woman at W&L in the early to mid 1990s, I didn't feel

a part of a minority in any way," said Shelley Milligan, co-chair for the Class of 1996.

Any strain felt by the female students then came not from their male counterparts but from the women previously bussed in.

"There was still a bit of tension between W&L women and those from neighboring women's colleges who would visit Lexington during the weekends," said Milligan, who worked at W&L after graduating.

"I think that the influence of women from nearby places was pretty much gone from W&L by the early 2000s. Sure, some still visited, but not in the masses that they came during my freshman year, for example."

A presentation in Lee Chapel on Friday will be about the history of coeducation. At the presentation will be John Delane Wilson, the president of W&L from 1983-1995, who oversaw

the integration of women.

Also in attendance will be Jenny Stratton, the first female president of the Alumni Board of Directors and a member of the first class of women.

Alumni can roam the campus, participate in any of the college's many open houses, or even learn a foreign language in mini, 20-minute classes.

For those who arrive late, a barbeque bash at Zollman's for the six most recent reunion classes will be the first chance to catch up on life changes. The party will continue as the band Right On provides entertainment.

"For some reason, no matter how far removed we get from W&L, Zollman's is always a draw," said Milligan.

For those who awake early, Acting President Harlan Beckley will be at a breakfast in Evans Dining Hall. The new president, Ken Ruscio, who is also celebrating his thirtieth reunion, will be the breakfast's special guest.

Following the breakfast, Milligan and Margaret "Kippie" Griffin will receive the school's Distinguished Young Alumna Award.

Given to alumni who have shown service and loyalty to the school and community, the award was meant to recognize

the extraordinary young alumni for their achievements.

Many of the people traveling to W&L this weekend are not only coming for their memories but because of their commitment to the school.

"The people coming are all the people that I would have expected to come," said Townes Pressler, co-chair for the Class of 1986. "Most were very involved with the school when we were there and stay involved."

Over the years, classmates have spread out all over the nation, but Pressler said the distance will not make a difference in the numbers attending.

"The ones that were committed when we were in school are still committed," he said. "I do not think that a three-hour flight is much different than a three-hour drive for the others."

Milligan agreed that other life factors would be why some alumni would not come back.

"It's a busy season for many of us, some with young children, demanding jobs, etc.," she said. "Most everyone I've talked to wants to come back, but for some it's just not feasible at this point."

The draw may be seeing friends for some alumni, but for others, it is the school and the

memories it holds.

"I think what I remember most fondly is the way W&L fosters community," said Milligan. "I loved faculty who declared that their spring term class met on the Colonnade under a certain tree, and if it was raining, no class. I loved midnight breakfast breaks in the D-hall during exam week. . . I loved special events like Fancy Dress, Mock Convention and all the great speakers that would come."

"In general, I look back on those four years so fondly and hope that today's students are enjoying all that W&L offers."

Where the boys [and girls] are:

Thurs. 8:30 p.m., Reunion 2006: Opening Assembly Lee Chapel – Come early and browse, Lee Chapel Museum opens at 7:30 p.m.
ODK Spring Initiation and Keynote address by Executive Director of Alumni Affairs Waller T. Dudley '74, '79L.

Fri. 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Alumni Luncheon Cannon Green: All alumni, students, faculty and guests invited. Rain plan – Doremus Gymnasium/Warner Center

Fri. 4 p.m. Special Campus Tour: Alumni House Tour will showcase the impact women have had on W&L since coeducation, including tours of the sorority houses

Sat. 9 – 10:15 a.m. Green Eggs & Ham with

the President: All Alumni Breakfast Evans Dining Hall. You're invited to shake off the morning cobwebs and enjoy a hearty breakfast with remarks by Acting President Harlan Beckley and our special guest, President-elect Kenneth P. Ruscio '76.

Sat. 6 – 11 p.m. Reunion 2006: Alumni Celebration! Front Lawn: A festive evening of merriment, music and dining! Enjoy an array of music from our own W&L community, including W&L's student a cappella groups General Admission, Jubilee and Southern Comfort. Dinner served from 6:50 – 8:45 p.m. Information from alumniapps.wlu.edu

The writing and fighting Irish

English professor accomplished in martial arts has black belt and surprising skills

By **Jill Morris**
STAFF WRITER

With both an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Princeton University, there is no question that Professor Marc Conner is a force to be reckoned with in the classroom.

He is a force to be reckoned with in the realm of martial arts as well.

Professor Conner has been involved in different forms of martial arts for the past 15 years.

He has obtained two first-degree black belts and one sec-

"It is nice to study the Eastern arts because my teaching is focused on the Western world."

MARC CONNER, Professor of English

ond degree black belt.

Master H. David Clements, Conner's Karate Master at an Amherst, Va. karate school, reported that only one in 1,000 Karate students move on to achieve the black belt, according to a Washington and Lee press release.

Conner's accomplishments are not easy to achieve. In Master Clements' career he has only awarded about 20 second-degree black belts.

Conner asserted that the challenge of receiving his black belt was made easier for him by his love of learning.

Seven years ago, Professor Conner began his karate career.

Karate is his favorite of the martial arts forms he has

mastered because of the philosophy behind it and the discipline it requires.

"It is nice to study the Eastern arts because my teaching is focused on the Western world," said Conner.

He is accomplished with many weapons including bow staffs, nunchucks, knives and swords.

Self-defense is also a part of the martial arts.

Professor Conner is capable of defending himself against attackers who come at him by hand, with knives and even with guns.

His skills are demonstrated in exhibitions and competitions.

Karate is also a hobby that Conner shares with his family. He has three sons, two of which are already involved in karate.

When he is no longer physically able to practice karate, he sees himself returning to his previous hobbies of carpentry and fly-fishing.

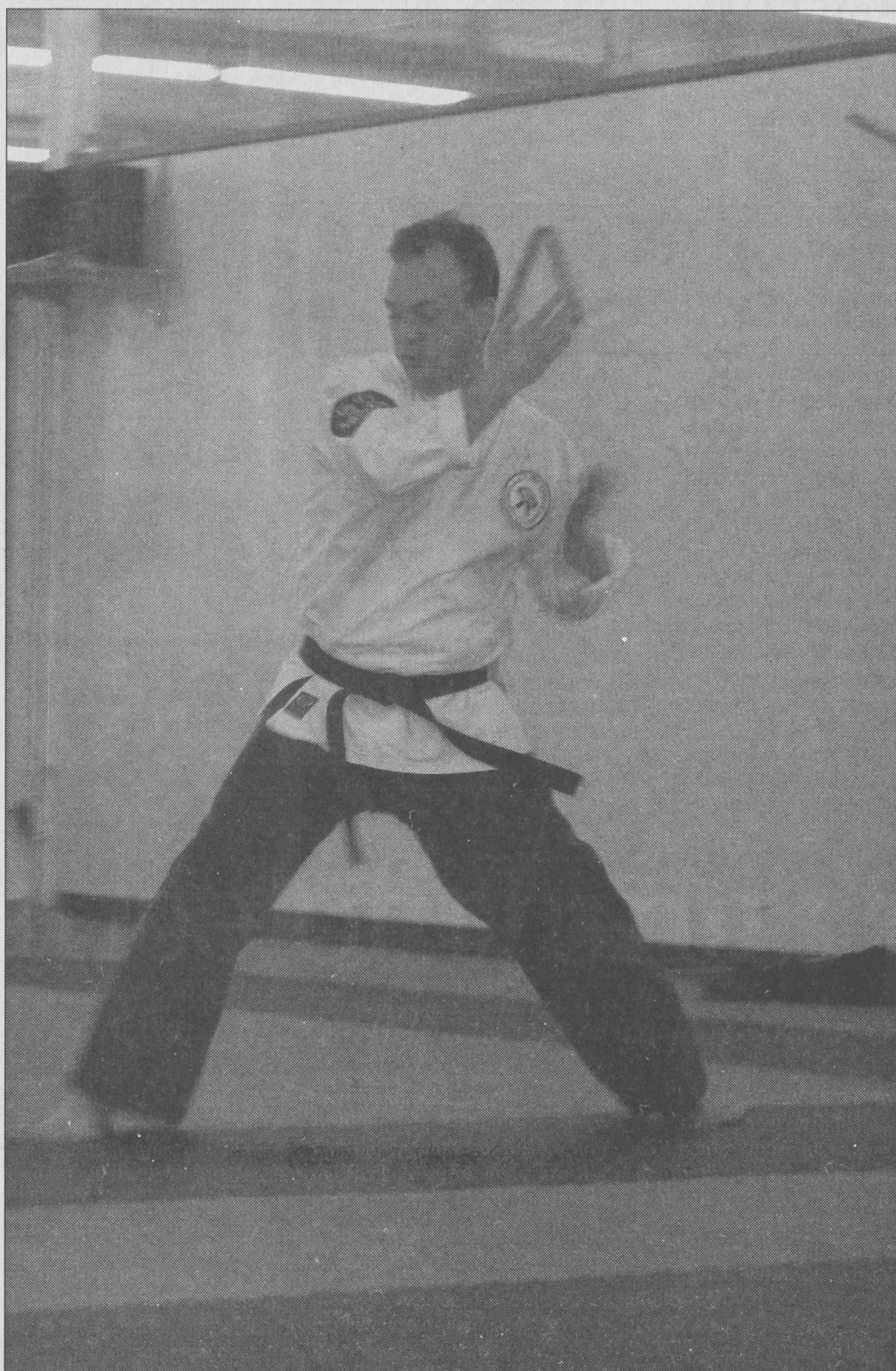
Conner said, "As I became more involved with martial arts, I gave up my other hobbies because I knew martial arts would be a hobby I could do with my children."

Now Professor Conner is also a karate instructor, which allows him to spend even more time with his sons.

Since he is an easygoing professor, most students would not guess that Conner has the ability to break boards or wield nunchucks.

Teaching English to college students and teaching karate to younger students has its similarities and its differences.

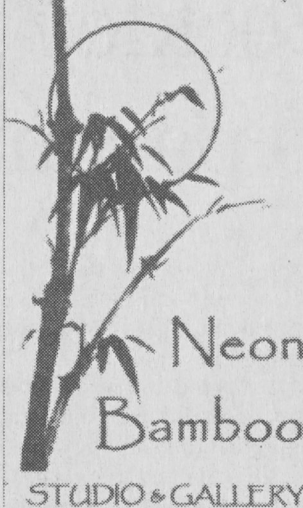
Conner said, "There is a good distinction between the two. Teaching here is definitely my passion, even though I can't make English students do push-ups."



Conner demonstrates the skills that enabled him to test for and acquire his second-degree karate black belt this past January.

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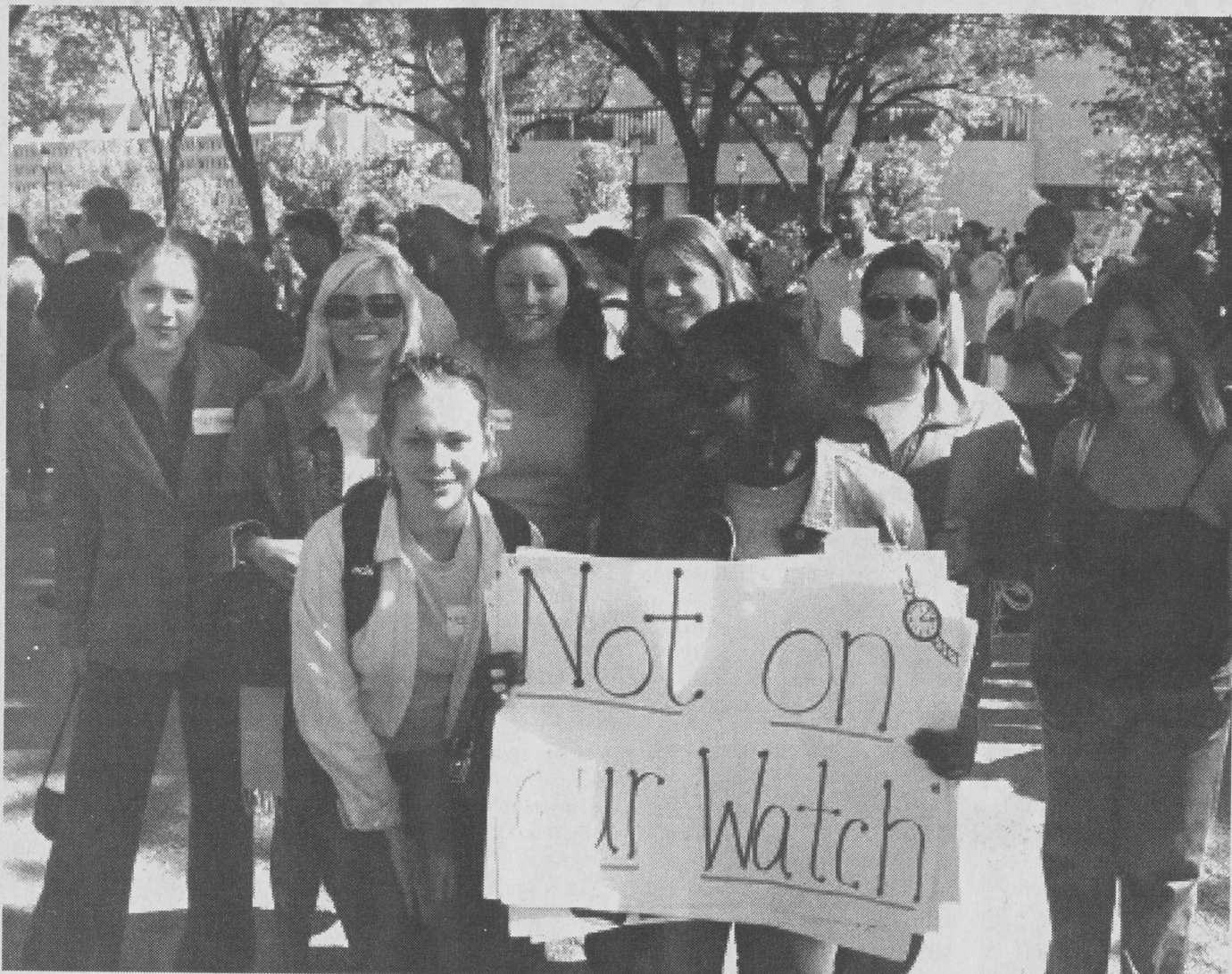


Photo courtesy of Chrissie Bortner

Students rally against genocide

On Sunday a group of Washington and Lee students attended the Rally to Stop Genocide in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the rally was to encourage the government to take steps to improve the situation in Darfur and to express concern over the human rights violations occurring in the Sudan.

This area has been a region of turmoil for years, but in 2003, the situation grew dire. Rebel groups began to fight against the government-backed militia. The militia has invaded civilian areas, killing, raping and looting.

Over 400,000 people have died in Darfur thus far, and 2.5 million nationals have been displaced.

"Seeing so many people come out to support this cause was so energizing and has given me more hope to

ward the horrible situation in Sudan. Hopefully President Bush, Congress and the UN will be pushed to take more action, and fast," said sophomore Katie Carmody who organized the group of students who attended the rally.

Although this problem takes place thousands of miles from campus, students believe that it is our problem as well.

Carmody said, "I'd like to see our campus participate in more activist activities. We are in the prime years to make a difference locally, nationally and internationally, and it is the results of the actions we take now that will ultimately help shape our own futures and the future of our children."

Information taken from www.savedarfur.org

Dance draws variety of women

W&L dancers perform with local high school students and alumnae

While the varied interests of dance troupe members make scheduling rehearsals difficult, the diversity of the dancers adds variety to their performances.

By Julie Petersen
STAFF WRITER

The lights go out. The techno beat starts to pound. Suddenly a whirlwind of black lights, glow sticks and tap shoes attacks the audience as the dance begins.

And that's just one of the acts. Last weekend, the Washington and Lee Dance Companies thrilled audiences with their annual Spring Concert.

The decade-themed production featured pieces from many areas of music, drawing on many musical styles including classical, modern, techno, Broadway and oldies.

The show featured both professional and student choreographed pieces from all genres of dance.

Senior Mary Christopher and sophomore Julia Pleasants even managed to choreograph one dance with two alumnae via e-mail and video, not actually rehearsing the dance together until a few days before the show.

This year's concert has presented some unique challenges for the dancers due to a change in the performance location. With the Lenfest Center's Keller Theater reserved for another production, the dancers were forced to move the concert to the smaller Johnson Theater, sometimes called the "black-box theater."

Though the smaller stage required some choreography adjustments, the girls have been able to cope with the changes and utilize the theater's unique style to their advantage.

"The Johnson Theater is a lot more interactive," Christopher said. "It's a lot more fun, a lot more playful and you really can feed off the audience a lot more because you're on the same level with them."

The company also chose to have more performances to compensate for a smaller audience seating area.

Because the W&L Ballet Company rehearses with Shenandoah Dance Academy, a local dance studio, these dancers get the unique experience of working with local high school students as well as their college friends.

Several of the concert's ballet pieces featured area high school seniors along with the W&L company.

Sophomore Alice Shih sees these local students as an asset to the program.

"I think first of all it's great for W&L because W&L students don't tend to reach out much to the community or be part of the community as much," Shih said. "But this really allows us to get to know people outside of W&L. It's a great way to get to know other people, especially younger kids."

Though switching theaters created some confusion, the greatest obstacle the show faced was sim-

ply coordinating everyone's busy schedules.

The dancers are involved in a myriad of clubs, sororities, and projects, not to mention their diverse academic interests, and this diversity leads to a scheduling nightmare.

With four years of schedule juggling under her belt, senior Elizabeth Little knows about last-minute rehearsals, saying, "It's hard to get everybody together to rehearse. I didn't think we were going to have everybody until the show."

While the differing interests of the women make scheduling for rehearsals problematic, this difficulty is also the strength of the dance program.

The vast diversity of women in the program is perhaps its greatest asset.

For sophomore Blaire Monroe, dance has been a unifying activity, bringing together a wide array of students.

"It's not a set type of girl," Monroe said. "That's what I enjoy about it. It's different from being in a sorority or a club."

We're all interested in dance, but it brings together a variety of different ages and backgrounds."

The variety of the dancers' past

"It's not a set type of girl. That's what I enjoy about [dance]. It's different from being in a sorority or a club. We're all interested in dance, but it brings together a variety of different ages and backgrounds."

BLAIRE MONROE,
Class of 2008

training also lends to the uniqueness of the company.

Students come from a wide array of dance backgrounds, ranging from no previous experience to a lifetime of training.

Pleasants was even raised in an artist colony in nearby Amherst, Va.

"It's really fun to have these girls who are strictly hip-hop dancers dancing with girls who are classically ballet and girls who are Broadway-style tap dancers," says Christopher. "We have this one girl this year who belly dances."

The dancers emphasize the group's welcoming atmosphere and encourage any interested persons to attend a rehearsal, advising any potential members to watch campus notices for practice times and locations.

"It's very open. It's very relaxed. It's not an intimidating setting at all," Pleasants said. "We want people."

The rich variety of dance styles, colors, music and lights in this weekend's performances was just another way in which W&L Dance cultivates diversity on our campus.

The energy and passion of the dancers made the concert an event to be remembered.

"You know what?" Pleasants said. "We've got spirit!"

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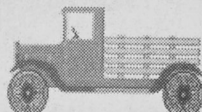
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arts&life

Alums return to former exploits

Returning to W&L means returning to the parties, hook-ups and general debauchery of yesteryear

SHE SAID

Spring term is really just one event, weekend, and party after another.

Classes are there to break up the monotony.

On that note, now that all my professors are cursing the day I entered their classroom, it's time to tackle yet another "she says" article.

The topic this time around? Alumni weekend.

All of our favorite alumni, plus a bunch we would rather not see again due to sketchy "you're a senior and I won't have to see you everyday next year" hook ups, return to lurk around campus and play student all over again.

So now that they are returning, what do we, as the lovely ladies actually attending class here, do about it?

Do we hook up with the alums?

There are many things you have to take into consideration before you tackle this question.

For instance, is he married? Yeah, that would not be cool.

How about this one: did he graduate with my dad?

Does he have pictures of his grandkids in his wallet? Gross. I don't even want to write about this topic anymore. But alas, I have to continue.

Let's say he's a little younger-like he graduated within the past decade or maybe even this century.

Does his mom still tuck him in?

There is a point when the cost benefits of living with mom and dad are totally overshadowed by the sheer disappointment of it all. Then it is considered a pity hook up, which is not a good feeling to wake up with. That, plus a hangover can almost ruin your entire weekend.

Also, what if you find yourself really falling for the alumnus who has caught your eye?

First, I'm just going to assume he's age appropriate for my stomach's sake.

Second I am going to tell you to forget it.

He is here for the weekend. That's it.

He comes once a year to find a girl like you, shotgun way too many Natty Lights, and return to the real world to make his co-workers even more jealous of the fact that they did not attend Washington and Lee.

You're just a water cooler story—no better or worse than the discussion of Sunday night's episode of Grey's Anatomy.

Yet there is the lure of the

alumni.

Maybe by now some of you have hooked up with one too many frat guys.

Maybe a man who is actually working for a living sounds really appealing to you right now.

Maybe you just want to cross another item of your list-right after the colonnade club, but before passing that organic final.

Even though it's spring term, I have to ask you to proceed with caution.

This "no hold bars" feeling feels good after an unhealthy amount of cocktails on Friday night, but you have to make sure it will settle well in your stomach the next morning.

The alumni are here only one weekend.

Washington and Lee has become their oasis.

They look forward to this weekend so why shouldn't we?

Have fun, live it up, enjoy yourself, be safe.

Whatever you do this weekend, make sure of one thing. Make sure he is not married. That would really not be cool.

HE SAID

I respect and applaud all of the uninhibited alumni who return to W&L every year during alumni weekend to relive their college glory days.

I'm not referring to the old timers who graduated in 1960, but on the other hand the men and women (mainly men) who come

back to try and score with the hot freshman (now sophomore) chick they hooked up with in '05.

The dudes who got the mediocre job after college because their 2.9 wasn't solid enough to get them a great job after graduating.

Why do I celebrate these fine men?

Because I am 100 percent certain that I will be the sketchy 23 year-old returning in 2009 to puke on the frat lawn for old times and maybe make out with some chick...any chick.

That's the beauty of alumni weekend; you can't get made fun of by your friends for hooking up with a less-than-attractive girl because most of them won't be there.

Therefore, when the hard-

working pledge bros with real jobs call you to ask about the weekend, you can tell them you went back to the old stomping grounds and still brought the A-game. Legit.

There is no problem with alumni hooking up who graduated in the last decade.

It's when the drunk girl hooks up with the 36-year-old lawyer when things get unpleasant.

Yet when a senior frat lord goes after the MILF and seduces her with a bottle of cheap wine and fancy dialect, glory is achieved.

Basically, girls can only harm their reputation during alumni weekend while guys can create awesome stories and obtain awesome nicknames.

The aforementioned tale of mother seduction was achieved last year by a young alumnus.

This story is the reason that many freshman boys are extremely excited to meet the 23 year-old investment banker (damn, he has a real job) who will be returning to campus on Friday to attempt and conquer alumni weekend once again.

When people ask about this legend, they often use this story to describe his character and immortalize him in the alumni weekend hall of fame.

I can only dream of the day when I'm teaching eleventh grade history and coaching JV baseball and basketball at my old high school and get to return to W&L

to attempt to dominate the campus as an alumnus...because dominating as an undergrad hasn't really worked out.

Nonetheless, all alumni receive a cloak of coolness when they return to campus.

I have no idea what the guys who graduated in 1990 were considered cool when they went here, but I imagine they ruled W&L because of their awesome stories.

These narratives coupled with super-hyper-mega fratty tattoos on their ankles made them way cooler than any current students.

Who knows whether their stories of buying a huge slingshot and firing a rock that went through the Phi Delt house actually happened.

The main thing is that I can tell kids that it did happen in 12 years when I'm coaching and teaching at my old high school (lofty aspirations).

The key of alumni weekend is absolute debauchery. Guys who hazed you last year and hung out afterwards are now old and washed up while you still have a year or two left of the best years of your life.

Meanwhile the dudes who graduated many moons ago can now bask in their frat glory and tell stories of their hammered hey-day.

Come back alumni, you are missed, and the freshman girls might not know any better.



This week's Hot Topic was written by columnists Madeline Gent and Tim Livingston.

The darker side of sunbathing

With bathing suit season here, tanning is a popular activity. A&L Editor Kathryn Krall gives you the do's and don't's of laying out.

Don't expose yourself to the midday sun. If you are outside between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., try to stay in the shade. Laying out for the purpose of becoming tanned or burned is nonproductive, boring, sweaty and, most importantly, dangerous.

Don't count on clothing to protect you, especially if they are loose-knit or light-colored. Clothes are about SPF 30, and if you burn easily, you can burn through your clothing.

Don't ignore your skin type. A person with red or blonde hair, blue eyes and freckles burns much more easily than other skin types.

Don't use tanning salons. Many salons exceed the safe limit of UV rays and can cause an increased chance of cancer. Besides, fake-baking leads to an orange tint that is never attractive.

Do wear sunscreen of at least SPF 15 if you plan to be in the sun. Even if you are not laying out at the beach, daily sun exposure, such as a tennis game or the walk to freshman parking, can be risky. Plus, sunscreen smells really nice.

Do reapply sunscreen every two hours. Sweat, water and time erode the lotion and leave your skin unprotected. Besides the increasing the chance of skin cancer, prolonged exposure to the sun leads to leathery skin and early wrinkles. Even if you are willing to sacrifice your health for beauty, you should realize that

tanning will cause your skin will show signs of premature aging.

Do wear sunglasses that offer 99 percent or 100 percent UV protection. This fights sight problems and blindness that could result from excessive exposure to the sun. The tint should be dark, but not so dark that you cannot tell a red light from a green light.

Do wear a style of sunglasses that not only protects your eyes, but also covers the delicate skin around your eyes. The large-framed glasses that are in fashion work well to prevent sun damage to the eyes.

Do know your risk factor for skin cancer. Genetics, skin type and exposure to sun all play a role in your chances of getting cancer.

Do examine your skin often to check for changes or the appearance of sunspots and moles. If one changes shape, edges, color or size, have it checked by a dermatologist.

Don't wait until there is a problem to see your doctor. Schedule yearly skin checkups, especially if you are at a high risk for skin

Did you know ...

- 3 states forbid minors to use tanning salons
- 18 states require a guardian to provide written consent for minors
- www.skincancer.org

- 1/2 of all new cancers are skin cancers
- 1 million new cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year
- 9800 people die of skin cancer each year
- (American Cancer Society's 2001 Facts & Figures)

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Baseball

The W&L baseball team lost its two first games of the ODAC tournament to Bridgewater College (2-6) and Guilford College (4-5, 11 innings) to end their season at 18-15-1. In the first game, Bridgewater starter Ricky Reed only allowed a pair of runs through nine innings to pick up the win. The next day against Guilford, senior outfielder Dave MacKenzie singled home two in the top of the ninth to give the Generals a 4-3 advantage, but the lead was relinquished and the squad ended up losing in the bottom of the 11th inning.

Women's Lacrosse

The Generals cruised to the ODAC championship by defeating Virginia Wesleyan 13-7. Senior Louisa Feve ended her ODAC career by scoring 3 goals and accounting for 1 assist in the victory. The Generals are currently ranked tenth in the country and will learn who they play in the NCAA tournament on May 7.

Golf

The Generals finished second in the ODAC, falling to defending National Champion Guilford College. The Generals were led by Freshman Beau Allen who shot two rounds of 74. Allen was named Co-Rookie of the Year in the ODAC, while teammate Nathaniel James was named ODAC player of the year and Anthony Zappin received ODAC Golf Scholar Athlete of the Year honors.

in the numbers

.542

Jason Giambi's on-base percentage as of May 2, the highest in baseball.

.231

Current batting average of Carlos Pena who plays for the Yankees AAA affiliate Columbus Clippers. It was reported by Bob Klapisch of ESPN.com that the Yankees acquired Pena to possibly take Giambi's spot later this season.

13

Minutes Red Sox catcher Doug Mirabelli arrived before Sunday's game against the New York Yankees. Mirabelli was acquired hours before for Josh Bard and a minor league prospect to catch Tim Wakefield's knuckleball.

5

The number of players on the Women's Lacrosse team who were named to the All-Tournament team after the General's claimed the ODAC championship. Seniors Amanda Strickler and Rachel Wallick were selected, along with sophomores Megan Slosson, Kat Michaels and Sarah Tilbor.

soapbox

"They should cheer because of a championship and boo because I'm a Yankee."

— Johnny Damon, as recorded by Gene Wojciechowski on ESPN.com

"We handled our business, hopefully they'll handle their business, and then we can just get it on. No holds barred, baby, let's go."

— Clippers point guard Sam Cassell, as reported by James Reid of the Los Angeles Times on the possibility of a Lakers vs. Clippers match-up in the second round of the NBA playoffs.

Lax falls to Roanoke

Loss in ODAC tournament marks the close of a disappointing season for men

By Madeline Gent
STAFF WRITER

A disappointing loss to arch-rival Roanoke College ended the men's lacrosse season yesterday.

They went into the game with high hopes.

With a win over the Randolph-Macon College Yellow Jackets, the Washington and Lee men's lacrosse team secured themselves a spot in playoffs.

The Generals opened their week with a night game against their neighbors, the VMI Keydets, in the nineteenth annual Lee-Jackson lacrosse classic.

The Generals secured their win with a strong second quarter, outscoring the Keydets 3-0 as well as a stellar performance from the game's MVP, goalie Chris Lalli.

The Keydets took an early 4-1 lead with a little over six minutes left in the first quarter. They were led by two assists and a goal from sophomore Kevin Hill. Hill finished the game with four goals

and two assists and is the VMI recipient of the Worrell-Fallon award. Lalli was the Generals' recipient.

Lalli finished the game with 14 saves.

The Generals were led by a team effort as sophomore Ned Rider and freshmen Tim Skeen and Harry St. John each scored two goals. Skeen also recorded two assists in the Generals' 9-8 victory.

"The environment was incredible—a night game, rowdy fans and packed stands... it was like nothing I have ever played in before," said St. John, and he said he hoped the fans would follow the team again to the semifinal match yesterday.

On Saturday the team traveled to Randolph-Macon and left with a 12-7 victory over the Yellow Jackets.

Again, the win can be attributed to a strong second quarter as the Generals shut out their opponent, going on a 5-0 run.

"We knew we controlled our own destiny heading into the Randolph-Macon game, with a win getting us in the ODAC tournament, so we were happy with the outcome, but we know that we can play better lacrosse," said junior Grant Martin.

Martin finished the game with one goal and an assist.

The Generals managed to grab 40 of the game's 59 ground balls while goalies Chris Lalli and freshman Alex Heaton combined for nine saves.

The Generals also out-shot their opponents 38 to 23.

St. John led the General's with three goals and two assists while Randolph-Macon's sophomore Paul Johnsen led his team with three goals.

Junior Jim Ryan and Skeen each added two goals for the Generals and Senior Clark Finney added two assists.

The Generals concluded their season yesterday at 4:00 p.m. against Roanoke College in Roanoke. St. John pointed out that anything could have happened. "If we've learned anything this season it's that anyone can beat anyone," he said. The team was hoping to avenge their loss from earlier in the season, he said.

The men fell 16-9, ending their season on a bitter note.

Roanoke will go on to play Lynchburg, who defeated Hampden-Sydney 10-9 on Tuesday.

Key stats for round 1

Team Leaders...

The Generals headed into their semifinal ODAC contest with young leaders who have used this season to obtain much-needed experience.

Goals: Fr. Midfielder Harry St. John with 23

Assists: Fr. Attacker Tim Skeen with 17

Points: Tim Skeen with 33

Ground Balls: Fr. Midfielder Seldon Clarke with 67

Saves: Jr. Goalie Chris Lalli with 122

The Competition...

Roanoke College comes into the tournament ranked first. Here's a look at their team leaders.

Goals: Jr. Attacker Jon Mason with 47

Assists: Sr. Midfielder Chris Keating with 25

Points: Jon Mason with 54

Ground Balls: So. Midfielder Billy Cameron with 83

Saves: Sr. Goalie Matt Madalon with 136

TIM SKEEN
Attacker

G	A	Pts	Shots	SOG
16	17	33	56	28

Information courtesy of athletics.wlu.edu

Williams vs. Bush

Texans missed chance at 'Michael Jordan' of running backs

By NEIL "JEFF FRANCOEUR" SHEAFFER
STAFF WRITER

So Friday night (the night before the draft), I was lying in bed, dead tired, when I hear a knock on the door. It was my friend Jorts. He walks in and broke the news to me. The Texans had made an agreement with Mario Williams (6 years, \$54 million) to make him the first pick in the 2006 NFL Draft. The first thought to go through my head, "With the second pick in the 1984 NBA Draft the Portland Trailblazers select Sam Bowie from the University of Kentucky." It was really a system overload for me. I was not in the state of mind to try and comprehend the ramifications of the Texans' actions. Reggie Bush looks like he has the chance to become the Michael Jordan of the running back position. There's a good chance that Mario Williams is more like Hakeem Olajuwon, who was drafted first by the Rockets and had a great career, but he was no Michael Jordan. I guess we will have to wait and see what happens. Until then, I will try and put my convoluted thoughts down on paper.

May I please recap Reggie Bush's most recent season for you? Okay, he rushed 200 times for 1740 yards, an average of 8.4 yards per carry (basically unheard of), and 16 touchdowns, caught 37 passes for 478 yard and 2 touchdowns, and returned punts and kicks, including one punt for a touchdown. I have seen many great college football players, including Desmond Howard, Ricky Williams, Donovan McNabb, Kyle Luby (the rumors are true: water covers 2/3 of the Earth, while Luby covers the other 1/3), and so many more. All of the guys listed were great football players (many still are), but I have never seen a player with as much talent as Reggie Bush. He is the most versatile, most explosive and just flat out the best college football player I have ever seen.

Mario Williams could be the missing piece for the Tex-

ans, but, in my opinion, if they were not going to draft Reggie Bush, shouldn't they have taken D'Brickshaw Ferguson, the best offensive lineman in the draft? There is no way he can be expected to develop as he should if he has no protection in front of him. I had the chance to watch an interview with Charley Casserly, the Texans GM. He claimed that the picking of Mario Williams was purely a football decision. I don't believe this for a number of reasons.

A) Reggie Bush is amazing. If it were a football decision, Casserly would have picked Reggie Bush without glancing at Williams.

B) Bush can demand \$5 - \$10 million more than any other player in the draft purely because he is a uniquely exceptional football player and so much better than anyone else in the draft. The Heisman also ups the asking price.

C) There is a chance that the whole fiasco about Reggie's parents' home came into play here. I doubt it.

Good, pass-rushing defensive ends are hard to come by in the NFL, and Mario Williams is a physical specimen at 6'7" and 293 pounds. He runs a 4.73 40-yard dash, which is exceptional for a player of his size. He has been compared to Julius Peppers, who has been excellent in the NFL. Reggie Bush, on the other hand, has been compared to Hall of Famer Gail Sayers. If you could choose between having Sayers and Peppers who would you choose? Exactly.

You may be yelling at me right about now, "Yo! Dude! The Texans already have Domanick Davis, a running back who has averaged over 1,000 yards per season since he arrived in the league, and he can also catch the ball out of the backfield. The Texans don't need another running back no matter how good he is!" Davis is no Reggie Bush. Also, Davis was never fully healthy last year and has not been the most durable back, so it makes sense to me for the Texans to have some insurance. Or you

might be yelling at me, "Defense wins championships!" It sure does. I cannot agree more, but if his college career mirrors his NFL career at all, defenses cannot stop Reggie Bush. Others may be saying, "Bush never carried a full load in college and isn't ready to be an every down back in the NFL." That is a load of malarkey. He carried the ball 200 times last season while LenDale White, the "tougher" back, carried it 197 times and still got hurt. Reggie has no history of injury, so do not try and tell me that Reggie can't take the physical play in the NFL. He will be fine.

There is a good chance that it goes down in history as one of the most important drafts of the next few decades, just as the 1984 NBA Draft will always be remembered as one of the greatest drafts ever. A player like Reggie Bush (or Michael Jordan) comes along only once a generation.

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