

# THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006 BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897 VOLUME CIX, NUMBER 20

## what's inside

### Singing with the buffaloes

The annual Buffalo Creek music festival kicks off on Friday with four musical acts followed by five more on Saturday. Check inside for full coverage of the event, including performance schedules and information on the bands. Page 7.

### Debate continues

The Concerned Parent letter from April 24 continues to draw responses from all sides of the debate. This week an alumnus, a parent, a student and a student group all weigh in with their opinions on the school's admissions policies. Pages 3-4.

### Tennis takes on Division III

After a long and successful year of athletics, the women's tennis team is the last team standing in the Generals athletics scene. After dispatching their first two NCAA tournament opponents without losing a match, the Generals head to Santa Cruz, CA, for the final rounds of the tournament. The championships kick off on Thursday, May 18. Pages 9-10.

## hotticket

The Washington and Lee theater department's season finale will grace the stage of the Keller Theater next weekend. The show first opened in 1879 and remains popular today. "The Pirates of Penzance" will run Friday through Monday. Curtain is at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Monday; it will be at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets can be purchased at the Lenfest Center box office.

## goingson

### Floods swamp New England cities

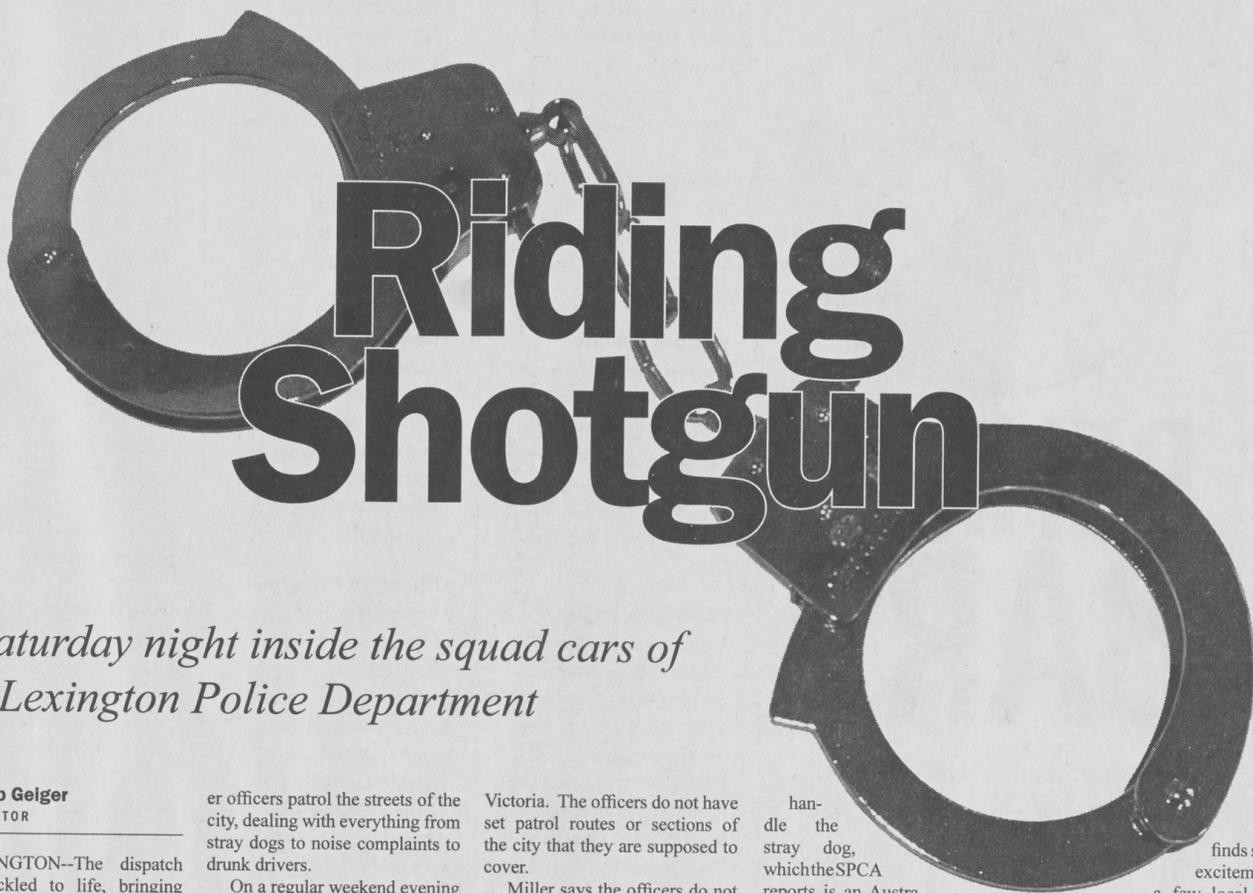
Dams broke and rivers flooded across New England on Sunday as heavy rain fell throughout the weekend. Some towns were expecting over a foot of rain before the storm finally swept out to sea. Milton, N.H., was evacuated because of concerns that a dam upstream of the town may rupture and allow a 10-foot high flood of water sweep through downtown.

### President prepares Oval Office Address

President Bush will address the nation today, Monday, May 15, from the Oval Office. The President's speech will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will address immigration issues. On Sunday Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist endorsed a proposal to use National Guard troops to help police the American side of the approximately 2,000 mile long border. Mexican President Vicente Fox raised concerns that the use of National Guard troops will militarize the currently unfortified border area.

## to our readers

The Phi's final issue of the year will hit newstands on Monday, May 22. Don't miss our first annual Athletes of the Year next week in sports.



## A Saturday night inside the squad cars of the Lexington Police Department

By Jacob Geiger  
NEWS EDITOR

LEXINGTON--The dispatch radio cackled to life, bringing the first call of Lexington Police Sergeant Bucky Miller's 12-hour shift on Saturday.

"Fifteen-20 to Central, I've just picked up a black and white collie mix with a collar and a lead on it. Is there a way I can take the dog over to the SPCA?"

Miller picked up his microphone to answer Officer Nathan Kesterson.

The Sergeant said he would meet Officer Kesterson at the SPCA building to help get the dog locked up for the night.

Every weekend Miller and oth-

er officers patrol the streets of the city, dealing with everything from stray dogs to noise complaints to drunk drivers.

On a regular weekend evening anywhere from two to four officers will be on duty.

Saturday night there were three officers on duty until midnight and two on duty after that.

After he and Kesterson tried unsuccessfully to find a way into the SPCA building, they went to the house of an SPCA worker and asked her to come let the dog into the building.

Kesterson took the dog back to the shelter, and Miller resumed his patrol.

Miller cruises the city streets in an unmarked dark blue Crown

Victoria. The officers do not have set patrol routes or sections of the city that they are supposed to cover.

Miller says the officers do not divide the city into sections because it is so small, but also because they think it is important for each officer to get to know people all over town rather than in just one neighborhood.

He starts his weekend shift when he stops by the police station to check in and begin his patrol.

Some nights will be quiet with only a few calls, like Saturday, while others, like Friday will seem full of almost non-stop action.

After leaving Kesterson to

handle the stray dog, which the SPCA

reports is an Australian Shepherd, Miller resumes his driving patrol, listening to radio traffic from Rockbridge County. The squad car's radio can pick up not only the Lexington Police calls, but also traffic from the Rockbridge County Sheriff, the Buena Vista Police Department, the Buena Vista Rescue Service, Virginia Military Institute's Post Police and even the radio traffic from Washington and Lee's security department.

When Kesterson calls the dispatcher to say that the dog broke his collar and escaped from outside the SPCA building, Miller simply only shakes his head.

Kesterson searches the area around the SPCA but cannot find the dog.

He radios Miller and asks where he would like to eat. They settle on Frank's Pizza and Subs.

After two hours, Miller has done little but drive around the seemingly deserted streets.

He and Kesterson sit in Frank's talking politics. The owner and waitresses all seem to know Miller, and jokes with the waitresses about one girl's newly orange hair.

Finally, at 11:30 p.m., Miller

finds some

excitement:

a few local kids

sitting around their cars in the

Kroger parking lot.

The unmarked car pulls into the lot, and before Miller can even pull up to the kids they are starting to scatter. Miller does not even have to say anything to get the kids to move.

"I won't waste my breath," he says. "They know they're not supposed to hang out there."

Miller, who grew up in Lexington, has worked for the city's police department since 1985. He played football at Virginia State University, located in Petersburg. His entire law enforcement career has been spent in his hometown.

Miller says he isn't sure how much of his time is devoted to Washington and Lee students or permanent residents.

"It depends on what day of the week it is," Miller said.

Miller said that the officers deal with students more on the weekend, but even then he says the number of calls or arrests varies from week to week. Regardless of the varying time commitments, Miller says he does not

See "COPS" on page 2

### Saturday Evening, Minute by Minute:

**8:50 p.m.** - Officer Nathan Kesterson picks up a lost dog that has a collar and leash on. Sergeant Bucky Miller joins Kesterson at the SPCA.

**9:40 p.m.** - The dog breaks its collar and runs away.

**10:00 p.m.** - Kesterson and Miller meet at Frank's Pizza and Subs for an evening snack.

**11:30 p.m.** - Miller drives through the Kroger parking lot, and the people hanging out there scatter before he can ask them not to loiter.

**12:10 a.m.** - Miller and Officer Leonard Stewart respond to a noise complaint in an apartment complex at McLaughlin and White Street.

**12:56 a.m.** - Miller and Stewart respond to a disturbance at the Palms. A cell phone tower worker is arrested outside the bar and charged with being drunk in public.

**1:05 a.m.** - Stewart takes the intoxicated man to the Rockbridge County Jail.

**2:50 a.m.** - The officers respond to a noise complaint on Maury Street.

# Sigma pledge breaks mold

Jameson Graber becomes first white man to join W&L's historically black fraternities

By Julie Petersen  
STAFF WRITER

Those Washington and Lee students lucky enough to be passing by the Commons on the evening of April 26 were able to catch a glimpse of Phi Beta Sigma's main pledgship event—the probate.

For the new initiates, who traditionally pledge in secrecy, the probate is their opportunity to announce their affiliation with their new fraternity, demonstrate their knowledge of fraternal traditions and entertain the audience with their greetings to other Greek organizations.

"Basically our probates are supposed to be a fun entertainment to get people hyped up, maybe joke around with other people and have fun," said Junior pledge Marcarius Byrd.

But aside from the antics of the performance, spectators soon noticed another curious sight—a white man on the pledge line of this historically black fraternity. Throughout the probate and since, this unusual occurrence has raised more than a few eyebrows and even more questions.

As W&L's first non-minority

*"I just felt like the guys in Phi Beta Sigma were principled. That they were motivated by something a little bit deeper."*

JAMESON GRABER, Class of 2008

member of the traditionally black Greek organizations, sophomore Jameson Graber, along with his new Phi Beta Sigma fraternity brothers, is helping to tear down barriers on our campus by just hanging out with his friends.

Unlike the historically black sororities on campus, Phi Beta Sigma has its own charter at W&L. The two sororities are associated with chapters at other schools. Delta Sigma Theta joined a chapter at Roanoke College, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha joined a graduate chapter in Roanoke.

Graber is eager to explain that, though his decision may be unorthodox here at W&L, Phi Beta Sigma is just the right fit for him.

"I think those who know me know that I am full of endless contradictions. I want to say I'm sort of counter-cultural, but at the

same time I consider myself pretty conservative," said Graber. "I just don't identify with the mainstream usually."

Graber was exposed to the fraternity scene last year as a freshman and opted to remain an Independent, deciding that most fraternal cultures did not coincide with his own sense of priorities. When he joined this year's Student Activities Organization basketball team, he found himself building friendships with many of the Sigma members. After spending time with the brothers and learning about the fraternity's goals, particularly its community service involvement, pledging felt like the next natural step.

"I already had a connection with them, so I wasn't just joining a group to gain status or anything. I was just joining something that

my friends were already in," said Graber.

Phi Beta Sigma tends to attract many members who would have otherwise chosen to forego the traditional W&L fraternity experience. The fledgling Beta Beta Nu chapter was brought to campus just last year to provide a unique Greek experience for those men not satisfied with the current options. Charter members, as well as this year's diverse line, found themselves drawn to the fraternity's accepting attitude and commitment to community service.

"The best thing about our frat is that you are who you are. We're not there to change you. We're all different people, different backgrounds," said fraternity secretary and charter member Julian Ledford.

Phi Beta Sigma was the first of the historically black fraternities to open its membership to non-minority men. Since that decision, the fraternity has shifted its attentions to focus on multiculturalism and acceptance, rather than a single race.

"Sigma prides itself in being a brotherhood of diverse people,"

said Chris Rucker, a freshman pledge.

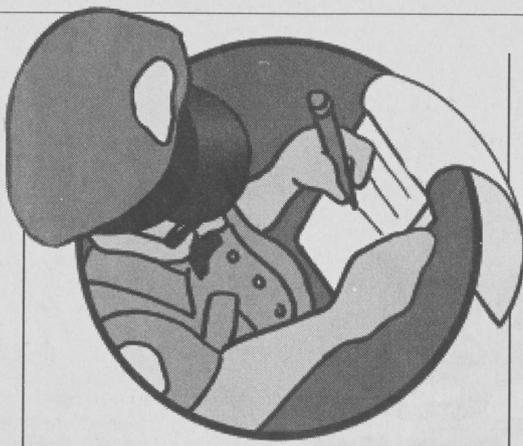
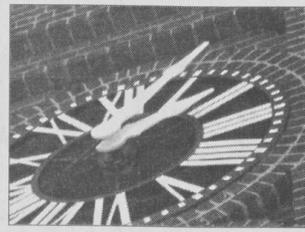
Sigma members emphasize that the true binding force of their brotherhood is not any type of ethnicity, but instead their passion for community service. When most fraternities are gearing up for their next big party, the W&L Sigmas can usually be found playing basketball with the boys at Natural Bridge Correctional Facility or raising funds for the Staunton Pregnancy Help Center at the Walk for Life. For Graber, who organized the W&L Walk for Life team, the fraternity's focus on service conveyed a set of priorities more in sync with his own.

"I just felt like the guys in Phi Beta Sigma were principled. That they were motivated by something a little bit deeper," said Graber. "The Sigmas on this campus are real. There's something genuine about them."

The new brotherhood has been encouraged by this year's line and expects to grow in numbers in future years.

"You know," said Junior Frank Lee, "there's just not that much difference between us."

# 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...*

### Not the time for a stroll around town

Lexington resident Frank Merchant was arrested and charged with public intoxication on Friday, April 28. Merchant, who is 23-years-old, was stopped at 10:53 p.m. by Officer Nathan Kesterson of the Lexington Police Department.

### Visitors beware

Jonathan French of Chesapeake Beach, Md., was charged with public intoxication on the night of Saturday, April 29. French, who is 41, was stopped around 11:25 p.m. by Officer Fred Smith.

### Especially in pairs

Edgar Talbott, a 42-year-old man, was arrested at the same time as French on April 29. Talbott, like French, was arrested by Officer Smith on charges of public intoxication. Talbott is a resident of Grundy, Virginia. Both men were stopped at 11:25 p.m.

### Student stopped

W&L freshman Ty Parrino was stopped on Friday, May 5 by Officer Leonard Stewart of the Lexington Police Department. Stewart, who stopped Parrino at 9:45 p.m., and arrested him on charges of public intoxication and underage possession of alcohol.

### Thanks for visiting

Joshua Smart, a 28-year-old from Chino, Calif., was also arrested on May 5 and charged with public intoxication. Officer Scott Fitzgerald made the arrest at approximately 11:25 p.m.

### Officer on the prowl

Christine Hogan, a 20-year-old junior at W&L, was stopped shortly after midnight on Saturday, May 6. Hogan was stopped at 12:17 a.m. by Officer Stewart, the same officer who stopped Parrino earlier in the evening. Hogan was charged with public intoxication and underage possession of alcohol.

### Another visitor visits jail for the evening

Charles Moore, a resident of Richmond, was arrested by Officer Stewart on the evening of Saturday, May 6. Stewart, who joined the Lexington Police in November, stopped the 25-year-old Moore and arrested him at 11:20 p.m.

### Local joins visitors

Jesse Lyons, a 27-year-old who lives in Lexington, was stopped by Officer Mike Huffman of the Lexington Police Department on Saturday, May 6 at 11:51 p.m. Lyons was charged with public intoxication.

### Don't stop at Stop-In

Matt Manning was cited for underage possession of alcohol on Sunday, May 7. Manning was stopped outside of the Stop-In gas station at 12:15 a.m. Officer Fitzgerald, who wrote the citation, and several other Lexington Police officers were at the gas station when Manning arrived to

purchase some food.

### Drinking and walking

Benjamin Jaskiewicz, a sophomore at W&L, was charged with being drunk in public on Sunday, May 7. Jaskiewicz was also stopped by Officer Fitzgerald. In addition to the charge of public intoxication, Jaskiewicz was also charged with underage possession of alcohol.

### Driving right to jail

Julia Cooper, a resident of Buena Vista who is 42-years-old, was stopped at 12:33 a.m. on Sunday, May 7. Officer Stewart charged her with driving under the influence and also with reckless driving.

### Assault and battery

Eugenio Hernandez, a 24-year-old Lexington resident who lives on Myers Street, was charged with assault and battery. Officer Fitzgerald issued the citation at 1:25 a.m. on Saturday, May 6.

## Cops spend quiet night in Lexington

Continued from page 1

distinguish between students and other residents.

"I don't look at it as student population and town population. I just look at it as one community," he said.

The sergeant says that he and the other officers do not like having to arrest people - students or residents - for drinking offenses.

"Nobody likes to go to jail, and we don't really like to take people to jail," Miller said. "What people don't realize is that when they drink and it doesn't look like they're going to make it home, it's our responsibility to make sure they get taken care of."

At 11:00 p.m., Officer Leonard Stewart came on duty. Officer Kesterson's shift ends at midnight, leaving just Miller and Stewart at work. Stewart, who is also a Lexington native, lives on Maury Street next door to the house he grew up in.

Stewart has been in law enforcement for 18 years, working in Northern Virginia, on the VMI Post Police, and with the Lexington Police since November.

Just after midnight, the two officers responded to a noise complaint at McLaughlin and White Street. Miller knocked on the apartment door, and told the student that if the officers are called back a second time, they will write a summons, and if they are called back a third time they will arrest the student.

Shortly after 12:30 a.m., at the intersection of Tucker and Massie, Stewart stopped a man carrying an open can of beer and a plastic bag full of several unopened cans. Stewart leapt out of his car and asked the man to stop. After checking the subject's ID and making him pour out the open beer can, Stewart let the man continue his walk home.

At 12:55 a.m., employees at the Palms called the police department because a patron in the bar appeared to have passed out. When a Palms employee walked over to ask if the man needed help, the man's wife became angry and refused to leave. The woman continued to argue with the employees, prompting them to call the central dispatcher.

When Stewart and Miller arrived, several VMI Keydets had carried the man out of the Palms

and started taking him home.

Another man waiting outside the bar then tried to re-enter the building. The man insisted that he wanted to come in and started swearing at the employee in the doorway. Miller spun around and, using what he calls his "voice of authority," told the man to sit down and be quiet.

While Miller went into the bar to make sure things had calmed down, the man started yelling at Stewart. When Miller exited the bar, the two officers arrested the still-shouting man and charged him with being drunk in public. They emptied his pockets and loaded him into the backseat of Stewart's squad car. The man had difficulty getting into the car and struggled to tell Stewart his name.

At the jail, Stewart pulled his car through the barbed wire fence and then into a small garage which has a door that locks behind his car. He took the man inside the jail, where three jail employees were waiting. As Stewart filled out the necessary paperwork, the man became increasingly agitated. When two jail guards tried to remove the necklaces the prisoner was wearing (one of them a St. Christopher's medallion), the man had to be physically restrained from trying to retrieve his necklace. Still handcuffed, he was put in a holding cell where he could be heard shouting at the two guards.

Having finished his trip to jail, Stewart cruised past what had been a crowded W&L party at the intersection of Randolph and Massie. The time was now 1:30 a.m., and only a few students remained in the house.

Miller, meanwhile, had agreed to give some of the law graduates a ride home from the Palms. One graduate and his fiancé piled into the back seat of Miller's unmarked car and asked if they can get a ride to Woods Creek. The graduate initially asked to be dropped off up the street from his building but changed his mind when Miller teased that he was afraid of his friends seeing him in a police car.

For next several hours, Miller and Stewart patrolled the quiet streets. Only a noise complaint at 2:50 a.m. broke the silence. Another night on the Lexington streets was drawing to a close.

*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!**

# opinions

to the editor

## Onyx defends administration

*Undergraduate black student organization responds to letter that criticized university admissions policies*

To the Editor:

The letter submitted from the Concerned Parent that appeared in the April 24 issue of the Ring-tum Phi was most troubling to the officers of the racially inclusive undergraduate black student organization, Onyx.

The highly inflammatory letter calls into question the qualifications of black and Latino students attending Washington and Lee. The administration was also implicated in instituting policies that the parent believes are "detrimental to the University."

The parent raises several times the question of whether minority students are given preference in the admissions process and whether financial incentives are given to students of color to encourage them to attend.

While we do not claim to know the inner workings of the Admissions Department, we are aware that the financial incentives have helped to expose Washington and Lee University to a more diverse pool of applicants. We can only surmise that these incentives are reflective of the socio-economic backgrounds of many of the recipients.

The parent asks to have the standardized test score data for the entering freshmen class for the past ten years broken down by ethnicity as well as citing statistics that state that black students score lower on the SAT than white students.

The parent fails to mention the score differences that also exist between male and female students and students who attended public school versus private school.

SAT tutoring, coaching and prep classes, another confounding variable, is an issue not even taken into consideration by the parent.

Furthermore, the parent does not even attempt to offer up a possible cause to the score discrepancy that may exist.

While *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954) may have prohibited the *de jure* segregation of public education facilities, the truth of the matter is that *de facto* segregation still exists.

The educational system continues to be segregated because residential segregation continues to persist as well.

Students largely attend schools in their neighborhood and as a re-

*It should be noted that black students represent only 4 percent of the school, and the total white, non Hispanic, population only constitutes 13 percent of the student body.*

sult, the school is going to be reflective of the racial make up of the community.

Could the differences in test scores be a vestige of America's highly racist and oppressive past and indicative of a greater societal problem, the inequality of education and life experiences of black and white youth?

The claim that the black population at Washington and Lee has increased by more than 100 percent in the last decade was found to be humorous.

For simplicity, let's round the number of black students up to 80, from the accurate number of 78; we do not see going from 40 to 80 students out of a population of almost 1,800 over the course of ten years as being alarming or representing a major threat.

It should be noted that black students represent only 4 percent of the school, and the total white, non Hispanic, population only constitutes 13 percent of the student body.

There are only about 100 black and Hispanic students. Could it not be possible for Washington and Lee to find 100 "qualified" black and Hispanic students of color in the entire nation?

The parent also says that they do not believe in helping one group of people by hurting another group.

Is this implying that the decision to admit women an example of helping one group by hurting another?

Is the decision to admit any student of color another example?

What about admitting more students from certain states, or those who are of differing religious faiths or from various socio-economic backgrounds?

The parent's usage of the term "minority" is also problematic.

Although it is widely used to refer to multicultural groups, a minority could also be defined as "a group having little power or representation relative to other groups within a society."

This definition is reflective of the way that people of color have been historically treated in America.

Racism, discrimination and racial inequality continue to exist, and continue to affect people of color in virtually every facet of life.

We see no problem with having race or ethnicity being one of the many factors taken into consideration with regards to admission.

It appears that the parent fails to understand that the college admissions process is a complex one.

It can not be reduced to a formula to determine who gains acceptance and who does not.

Many more students apply than there is capacity, thus the Board of Trustees and the Admissions Department determines which characteristics they would like to see in potential students.

Test scores do play an important part of the application process; however, they are most certainly not the sole component.

The Admissions Department also takes into consideration extracurricular activities, the personal essay, the three letters of recommendation and the interview to determine eligibility.

It seems that the parent is advocating that society returns to the days of yore when people of color were unable to gain admittance to institutions of higher learning.

The strides that Washington and Lee University have taken need to be commended, not criticized.

The institution has strived to become more diverse and inclusive, and these efforts should be respected and applauded.

The 2006-2007 Executive Committee of Onyx

## Student calls for open administration

To the Editor:

It is nice to see some controversy at Washington and Lee.

I'm referring, of course, to the Phi's May 4 issue, which featured a two-page parade of anti-Concerned Parent letters.

The letters contained a barrage of claims that I will not be able to deal with entirely.

There were two broad points made by students that I will deal with.

The first was that SAT scores are not enough to measure a student. Several reasons are given, most of them quite reasonable. Gabe Chapman points out, cor-

*The purpose of education is to transcend one's background in order to think objectively, logically and fairly.*

rectly, that rich students have an inherent advantage on the SAT. This advantage is not limited to the SAT and should be taken into account in all areas of the admissions criteria.

However, the SAT was designed to ensure that the admissions process would not be arbitrary. (See Dinesh D'Souza's *Illiberal Education*, page 44, where he also notes that "studies show that the SAT is a fairly reliable indicator of college preparation.")

We must not seek to undercut its validity just because we are unhappy with the results. If it can be shown objectively (without regarding how the scores turn out) that the SAT is inherently biased, then we should change it after careful consideration.

But the SAT continues to be a successful indicator of potential for college success, and I doubt the seriousness of such bias claims.

The second point is stated best and most disturbingly by Chapman: "Let us reaffirm our university's right to compose each class

as it sees fit..." Now it's not the university's power that is in question, but rather its integrity. The university certainly has the right to admit students unfairly, but only at the expense of high standards.

There are those who think diverse ethnic backgrounds are essential for any student body because different backgrounds create different perspectives. This idea may have some merit for creative work, but not for education in general. The purpose of education is to transcend one's background in order to think objectively, logically and fairly. In other words, if your perspective is solely based on your background, then your education has done you no good.

Some might respond that education is not provided equally at the high school level and that therefore college admissions should respond to this disparity. This argument has some merit, but I suspect the disparity exists between rich and poor rather than between races.

As I said, I do not have a problem with taking economics into account in admissions criteria, so long as we consider each applicant as an individual and not as a potential source of diversity points.

Now that I have responded to these broad points, I suppose the real question is whether our admissions policies are, in fact, racially biased.

If I am not mistaken, the letter from Concerned Parent was a request for just that information that might shed some light on this issue.

If the administration would not mind doing more than just asserting its own integrity, it might lay out the relevant statistics that would prove this parent wrong.

Do I think our admissions policies are flawed?

I am not sure.

There is one question to consider, given all the common knowledge about academic performance among different races.

Where are all the Asians?  
P. Jameson Graber  
Class of 2008

## Looking out for alumni

*Alumni says children deserve 'tie-breaker' status*

To the Editor:

It was truly a pleasure to be back at Washington and Lee May 4 to 7 for my twenty-fifth year reunion. Springtime in Virginia was just as I remembered it. So was Zollman's. While the campus may have changed, the character of the people, faculty, administration and student body has not.

It was also a pleasure to read the Ring-tum Phi again after an external hiatus. It was especially interesting to read the debate occasioned by the Concerned Parent letter and the responses to it. I thought the issues raised by Concerned Parent and the replies to his letter were timely and that I should join the discussion.

So you know my bias, I am a white forty something male practicing attorney for Mobile, Ala. I have four children. The oldest is 12, so I have some time before I have to think about her choice of the appropriate place for her secondary education. She's smart and talented though, and she might be interested in W&L. Right now Princeton is her target. All of my children may not want to attend W&L. All of my children may not be qualified when the time comes to apply. For purposes of this discussion, however, let's assume one child is qualified and wants to attend.

From my viewpoint, I am without racial prejudice. I do not care whether someone is white, black, brown or green and generally believe that everyone has a contribution to make. I also believe that is commendable for the administration to seek to foster the presence of minority members of our society on campus whether these minorities are racial, gender based,

*We alumni are part of the University community. If our children are qualified they should be offered admission.*

the product of disability or other.

What concerns me, I believe, concerns a number of the alumni of my class with whom I spoke while at the reunion, is the weight given in the consideration process to the status of the applicant will thrive at W&L and contribute to the community. At the opening assembly on Thursday, May 4, Beau Dudley told us alumni "welcome home" and expressed the general feeling that we contribute as part of the W&L community. In fact, the "welcome home" sentiment was repeated to us on multiple occasions by multiple speakers. I was made to feel as though I had returned home and truly, Washington and Lee has a family dimension.

It is in this vein and with these feelings that I write to the issue of admission. As an alumnus, if my child is qualified to attend Washington and Lee I would like that child to have the opportunity to attend. It is after all, in a sense, my home and therefore by extension the home of my child.

I understand that some weight is given to an applicant as the child of an alumni in the application process, but I don't know the degree to which that status is weighted nor have I seen any indication of that weight in print. I believe, however, that it should be substantial.

Do not misunderstand, I do not believe that any child

who is not qualified should be admitted to W&L simply because one of his or her parents was a student in his day.

However, I feel strongly that "child of alumni" status ought to be a differentiator that results in the offer of admission when an alumni's child is equally qualified with any other applicant who is not the child of an alumni. I believe that differentiator should be given more weight than minority status or some factor desired to foster some abstractly expressed "diverse university designed community."

We alumni are part of the university community. If our children are qualified they should be offered admission. Their status as children of alumni should be determinative in any "tie-breaker" situation and, in fact, ought to prevent the existence of a tie in the first place. If an alumni child is as well qualified as some other child and the differentiator is one of minority status versus child of alumni status, I believe the alumni child should be offered admission.

I understand the value of a diverse community within the student body, but I also understand the pain an alumni feels when his well qualified son or daughter is denied admission. It's not right to inflict that pain on a member of your family.

George R. Irvine, III,  
Class of 1981

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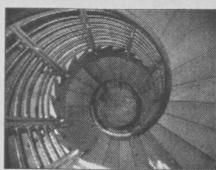
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# opinions



## The lessons of Duke

Why the lacrosse scandal in Durham could easily happen at Washington and Lee

By Jennifer Sutton  
COLUMNIST

It sounds like something straight out of Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities*: wealth, privilege, strippers, rape (in lieu of murder) and racial politics.

Durham, N.C., has become the latest racial platform for racemongers like Al Sharpton and his cronies to march down to Durham and hold massive protests.

A racial divide has engulfed a community, tragedy has occurred and an entire school is being blamed for the suspected actions of a few.

However, all of this is clouding the bigger issue; if this tragedy can happen at Duke, it can happen anywhere.

Thus, I implore you to think twice, as enticing as I am sure it may be, the next time one of your frat brothers, or the like, suggests hiring townies from the surrounding areas to strip or do something equally ridiculous. While this may sound like a ludicrous scenario, remind yourself what is happening at Duke.

I have always been a proponent of siding with the victim in rape cases, but this time the evidence and circumstances that have surrounded the Duke lacrosse scandal appear to have marred our perception of who is really at fault.

If the accused are guilty, then they have desecrated the name of all Caucasian suburban athletes at top schools.

If reports are accurate that an unnamed third player will be charged, this time with reliable DNA evidence that links him to the crime (in this case that the suspect's skin tissue may have been found under the victim's

*Evidence that has surfaced, including time-lines with receipts, a lack of DNA evidence and prior false accusations on the part of the have made us question the credibility of the accuser.*

fake nail,) then that individual should, without a doubt, be held accountable for his horrendous actions.

But what if the others accused are not at fault?

Evidence that has surfaced, including time-lines with receipts, a lack of DNA evidence and prior false accusations on the part of the accuser have made us question her credibility.

In addition, there appears to be bias on Prosecutor Nifong's end, a man who was just successfully re-elected, by appealing to the angry residents of Durham with a campaign centered on the Duke case.

But let me be perfectly clear, my doubt from this case stems only from surrounding evidence that has emerged, not from any sort of elitist racial-bias.

That said, the profile of these students is eerily familiar: upper-middle class, Caucasian athletes hailing from suburban Northeast.

These are individuals who seem to work hard, at least enough to gain acceptance at Duke, and play hard both outside the classroom and on the field.

Does this sound familiar to you?

It should, after all, this image is a classic stereotype of Washington and Lee and many other top-schools around the country.

But make no mistake. Given

the right circumstances, this type of scenario can unfold itself at W&L or elsewhere.

It can happen to your friend, your frat brother or anyone else you know.

Hopefully, we know better. Hopefully, we are not crazy enough to call up local strippers from neighboring Rockbridge County (why one would actually want to do this, is a whole different question).

And of course, I'd like to assume that the Honor System would prevent such a situation from happening.

Nonetheless, we are not immune. Six percent of the W&L women interviewed in an anonymous survey said they were victims of an attempted rape in 2005.

Consequently, if these students are guilty, then I hope that justice will be served and that these students will pay dearly for their crime.

However, what if their only crime was their intoxication and thereby their inability to make rational decisions?

In an instance like this, should inebriation equal automatic guilt?

I'm not claiming to be the standard for morality, far from it.

However, I have seen both my friends from school and from home in precarious situations because of alcohol.

In fact, when this story first broke, I immediately thought of my friends at schools where athletic teams are the equivalent of fraternities.

These are teams where the premise of an evening is to get as a drunk as possible and hit on random girls.

I have no doubt that these teams or organizations, either Greek or athletic, are not impervious to any-type of alcohol-fueled debauchery.

Could this tragedy at Duke have been prevented for all parties?

I would like to think so.

If someone had been sober enough to either stop what was going on, or to realize that this woman, allegedly, arrived shoeless and in no state to work, maybe none of this would have happened. Maybe someone would have simply sent the strippers home.

Instead, these boys, guilty or not, will be used as a pawns in larger racial game in Durham for years to come.

They're caught at the center of race, gender, and socio-economic conflicts that were simmering in Durham long before they arrived at Duke.

And imagine, it could have all been prevented if someone, anyone had the brains to be cognizant of what was going on.

The moral of this story?

Be aware of your actions, or at least have friends who are looking out for you when, and if, you choose to drink yourself into oblivion (not that I am advocating blacking-out).

Maybe then we will decrease our chances of tragedy occurring in Lexington.

to the editor

## Just another PC liberal arts school?

Parent hopes school does not show preferences based solely on race

To the Editor:

I just finished reading the April 24 edition of the Ring-tum Phi and am deeply concerned about two editorials. Is Washington and Lee becoming another PC Liberal Arts univer-

sity? If so, then it is not the school I thought it would be.

Coming from California, a land where anything goes, I wanted a more "traditional" type of education for my son.

A highly challenging approach to education with a conservative student body is what I thought would be of great value.

I thought Washington and Lee was swathed in tradition and would not be a follower of political correctness but a continuing trailblazer for honor and integrity. I was saddened to read that some discrimination may exist through affirmative action.

Does this University show preferences based on race?

How many "agenda" groups does this university have?

If it ever becomes evident that biased opinions, from either the left or right dominate classroom themes, Washington

*I really hope this very respected institution remains a bastion of "sane-ness and integrity."*

and Lee University will be a great disappointment.

I really hope this very respected institution remains a bastion of "sane-ness and integrity" and continues to have a clear and focused vision that stresses a balanced and traditional approach to higher education.

Linda Livingston,  
Parent

## staff editorial

# Right of press limited by EC

A public hearing impossible to reach without full freedom of the press

Throughout the centuries, the general public's sole defense against deception has been a free press.

The United States Constitution protects it, the population depends on it, and absolute power abhors it.

Last week, the Executive Committee tried to stifle it.

Press coverage of the planned Student Body Hearing last week was effectively prohibited by the EC's ban of notepads, pens, and recording devices.

The accused student, found guilty by the few powerful members of the committee in a closed hearing, found his or her cause valuable enough to request that the public decide.

But the public would have been shut out.

Lee Chapel only holds 525 students, leaving a large majority of the 2000-plus student population out of the "community of trust."

Students are expected to keep information within the community of trust.

Yet most students are denied membership into this community. A free press was designed to solve this problem.

The purpose of newspaper from the very start has been to provide public information to masses.

This information includes everything that is vital to the comfortable citizenship of every member of a society.

A reporter is supposed to be there when the citizens cannot.

Thomas Jefferson once said

that "our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press."

How can our liberty be guarded when the majority of the citizens neither know nor understand the major principles which guide their everyday life?

The honor system is intended to be flexible so that it may apply its standards of gentlemanly conduct in a way that has effectively governed students for over a hundred years.

A key factor in its flexibility is the ability of the current student population to make decisions determining the definition of honor.

If the student population cannot participate in this decision, they have been cheated.

Any attempt by the press to cover an event at which they were not allowed to take notes would result in gross inaccuracies.

Any attempt to restrict its coverage would result in a hundred false rumors.

As information of the hearing slowly leaked from the doorway of Lee Chapel, it would pass through campus in whispers which would grow into screams, the truth growing into a mistruth and eventually ending in a complete absence of fact.

The ability of the press to cover such an event would protect the accused from the damage of these lies.

The press was closed out of the hearing, something Chairman Wheeler Sparks explained as protection of "fairness of process for the accused."

*If students cannot make it into Lee Chapel, how can we maintain the honor system Robert E. Lee helped found?*

Did the student not request a public hearing?

The accused, in accordance with White Book policy, requested that the facts of the case be placed before the public in order to determine and also define our standards of honor.

Yet, if the hearing had actually taken place, less than one quarter of the "public" could have actually been present to hear the case.

Is the hearing truly public if most of the public cannot attend?

Information, when presented to the public, is determined true or false by the public market of ideas.

It is the right of this accused student to allow the public to decide the truth.

The system is designed with trust in the community's sense of honor.

When the community cannot participate, that trust is violated. Further, students place trust in the Executive Committee.

We elect these powerful officials, but then rarely get to monitor their actions.

A student body hearing is an important opportunity to evaluate their performance and worthiness as leaders.

If less than a quarter of us can

attend, we simply cannot make a complete and thorough evaluation.

If students cannot make it into Lee Chapel, how can we maintain the honor system Robert E. Lee helped found?

His influence, still deeply felt within the confines of the Washington and Lee community, continues to guide the population and its governing principles.

Lee said, "Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less."

It is the duty of the Executive Committee, based on the principles on which they were elected, to ensure that the honor system is justly followed.

Meanwhile, it is the duty of the press to monitor this governing body and the citizens ruled by it.

This action by the press allows for the fair dissemination of information.

The direct result of this information is more responsible citizenship, which includes a fair and truly public trial for the accused.

The EC is allowed to exercise their duties without censure or hindrance by the press.

We let you do your job. Please let us do ours.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

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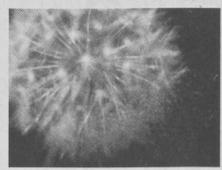
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# arts&life



## Senior wins teaching award

*Joe Franzen plans to use the \$4,000 stipend to purchase computers for his middle school classroom*

By Stacey Grijalva  
STAFF WRITER

Who couldn't use an extra \$4,000 after graduation?

One senior, who won that stipend, intends to use the money not to repay loans or for a car, but on his middle school kids.

Joseph Franzen plans to teach in either Kentucky or in Rockbridge. He hopes to use the money on computers.

"Technology is such a huge part and is largely utilized in the classroom," he said.

Franzen won the Sarah G. Ball Teaching Award, which gives the money to a graduating senior who will teach in an area with diverse needs.

The award was named in honor of Sarah Ball, Class of 2001.

Despite being able to spend the money in any way, all the winners have chosen not to spend the salary supplement on themselves. One past winner even used the money to buy winter coats for her students.

"Every winner has used the award to buy things for the classroom, without exception," said Nan Partlett, Director of Teacher Education.

This year's winner, in addition to teaching, will be studying for his masters and his certification.

Partlett said Franzen stood out from the other applicants because

of his very serious commitment to teaching and his knowledge of teaching learned from watching his mother and grandmother, who are both teachers.

Franzen was a double major in American History and Anthropology before taking any education classes.

"I did child care and got deep into it," he said. "It just clicked."

Franzen has been an enrichment tutor and taught in classrooms as part of the education practicum, a chance for W&L students to actually teach for 60 or 70 hours in one semester.

As the only male sixth grade teacher, Franzen connected with some of his male students that had been labeled as bad boys.

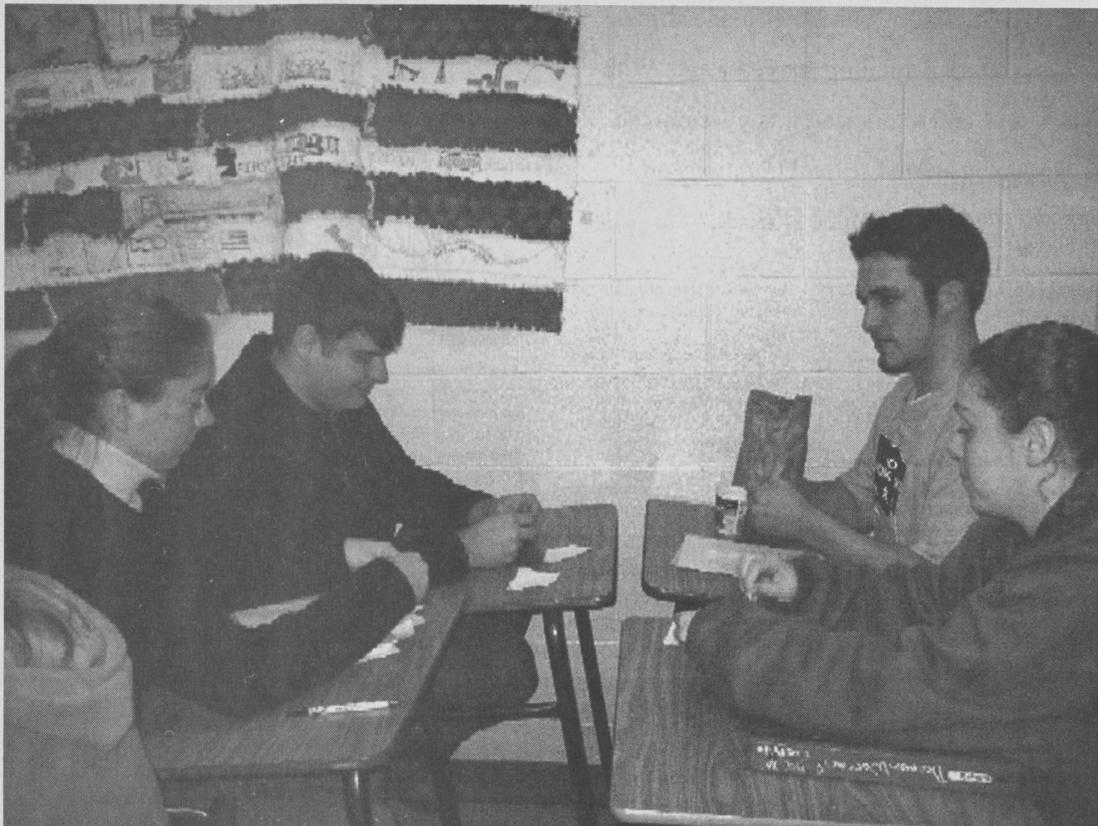
"It's an adventure," he said. "The best part is seeing a change. I had one student who wasn't passing when I started and he raised it to a low C. He felt like he could do this."

In case Franzen is unable to teach next year, the alternate for the award is Sarah Weil.

Already certified, Weil plans on teaching in Maryland or Pennsylvania.

A politics major, Weil decided to pass on law school in favor of teaching in an area where she was needed.

She said, "I wanted to do something that helps people without charging \$150 an hour."



Sarah Weil's students employ creative techniques for a project in her practicum classroom. The politics major decided to forgo law school in order to teach in an underprivileged area where her skills are needed. Photo courtesy of Sarah Weil

## topgirls

# Saving lives one letter at a time

*Senior Amanda Dysart organized the W&L chapter of Up 'Til Dawn and helped to raise thousands of dollars*

The W&L community stepped up behind

Dysart's lead to raise money for children with cancer at St. Jude's. By writing 50 letters each, members of Up 'Til Dawn made \$20,169.49 in the past year which will help cover the cost of treating children whose families cannot pay.

By Steph Wiechmann  
STAFF WRITER

Ben's father spoke with tears in his eyes. After losing his young son to cancer, addressing a room full of college-age students reminded him of the life his son would never have.

Yet, the message he brought was full of hope. Without St. Jude's Children's Hospital, he would not have had as many years with Ben as he did.

He, like hundreds of thousands of other parents, was grateful for the research being done at the unique hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

"We still need to keep doing it," he said.

Within the audience crying with him was Amanda Dysart.

After her visit to St. Jude's, the English major saw the need to help the facility.

She immediately brought that passion back to Washington and Lee.

Dysart started the W&L chapter of Up 'Til Dawn, a national fundraising campaign for St. Jude's.

She organized the chapter this year by working with the national board, selecting an

executive committee at the university and recruiting fundraising participants.

Her efforts helped to raise \$20,169.49 in a matter of months.

The money raised will pay for research and treatment of childhood cancer for families who cannot pay for care.

All patients at St. Jude's are never billed.

Regardless of their financial situation, sick children and their families can get the help they need.

Dysart and her fundraising team did not hold a telethon. They did not sell chocolate bars or pizzas. They did not have a car wash. They simply wrote letters.

Dysart recruited and organized 25 teams of students to fundraise with a letter-writing

campaign.

Each student gathered the names of 30 to 50 family members and friends and sent out form letters asking for donations.

St. Jude's form letters show the face of childhood cancer. Abbi, a blue-eyed two-year-old, stares up from the page, while a sidebar tells its recipient her story.

She was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia when she was five-months-old.

Even though her parents could not pay for treatment, Abbi was taken in by the St. Jude's staff and is in remission today.

As the letter with her picture and story reminds potential donors, it is fundraising money that keeps the hospital going.

"Your gift today," it reads, "will help pay for the chemotherapy, radiation and bone marrow transplants that save the lives of these innocent children... so they can have the chance to grow up and go to college, too."

Like the family and friends that donated, Dysart was moved by the mission of St. Jude's. "When I began the project," she said, "I wasn't so emotionally invested in it. Then I actually

went [to St. Jude's]."

At the hospital, the environment is entirely different from clichéd pistachio green walls and the smell of antiseptic.

Corridors are filled with brightly-colored cartoon murals.

The sounds of video games echo from a special room for teenagers. No one over the age of 19 is allowed in — especially parents.

Doctors tend to their small patients in special ways. "They will draw pictures on kids' faces when they are having their MRIs," said Dysart, "so kids don't get freaked out."

St. Jude's does not just calm the children.

Worried parents are also taken care of. Depending on the length of their stay, parents are housed in hotels or their own apartments.

Personal chefs cook dinner for those with more on their minds.

There are gyms for exercise, and the hospital employs professional masseuses to knead stress away.

St. Jude's also conducts important research on childhood cancer, to one day find a cure. And, said Dysart, "they don't hide their research. As soon as they get results, they share it. So other hospitals can benefit, too."

Dysart kneels over a large banner that lays on the floor, which reads "W&L Loves St. Jude's."

What seems like thousands of separate handprints border the words in swatches of blue, red, yellow and green.

In the background, live music from Jacob's Ladder invades the gymnasium.

This is the reward for the hard work of the year. Up 'Til Dawn's all-night event celebrating the fundraising effort, and where the movement gets its name.

Several students tap their feet to music while decorating homemade greeting cards

— those a week later that will be hanging from children's bulletin boards at St. Jude's.

Dysart, whose small frame seems to shrink into her surroundings, speaks about the upbeat attitude you must have for a project like this.

"You have to be invested in the cause. You've got to see your goal and keep going towards it."

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*"You have to be invested in the cause. You've got to see your goal and keep going towards it."*

AMANDA DYSART, Class of 2006

# arts & life

## GSA opens the closet

Rainbow week is a celebration of tolerance and open-mindedness

The Gay-Straight Alliance has made strides since its small beginning six years ago. With acceptance and tolerance as its mission, the group had instituted several traditions on campus, including Rainbow Week.

By Stacey Grijalva  
STAFF WRITER

The Skittles and drag show may have been missing but the Gay-Straight Alliance celebrated Rainbow Week in full force last week.

Events included a showing of movies, "Hug a Homo" day, and culminated in the second annual trip to Roanoke's gay bar, The Park.

"Rainbow Week is open to everybody, even if you're not a GSA member," said GSA's incoming president, Stephanie Wiechmann. "By coming, you learn about us, we learn about you. Tolerance doesn't have one face, it's not from the North or South."

Originally begun as a week-long celebration of Calvin Awkward's birthday (May 10), the GSA has come a long way from its inception in 2000.

Started by three students with a mission to change the university's nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation, the group now focuses on tolerance and acceptance.

A hallmark of the association's work is the voluntary Safe Place program. Stickers mark the doors and offices of students, faculty and staff on campus.

"The stickers denote that anyone can feel confident to talk to the person about issues of sexual orientation and won't be made fun of," said Wiechmann.

The Safe Place program has also helped faculty and staff to come out.

Before the program, according to GSA's president, no faculty or staff were openly gay.

On the GSA website, one student remembers her first GSA meeting.

She had asked how many undergraduate students were openly gay. The answer, in 2002, was zero.

Now, four years later, the number is eight to ten. The number varies because some students are out to only their friends or their frat or only the GSA.

Matthew Hampton, the outgoing vice president, remembers coming out in the fall of his freshman year three years ago.

"I fell in love with a guy," he said. "He made me feel that it's ok. I was finally proud and willing. I told whoever asked. I didn't try to act straight anymore."

Wiechmann said that, on average, ten percent of any population is gay or lesbian.

Even by conservative standards of four percent, W&L falls short of normalcy.

Wiechmann suggested that there may be more gays on campus but that they have not come out yet. Part of the GSA's mission is to provide an accepting environment.

"Calvin has made being gay more upbeat and non-threatening," she said. "People seek us

out. We don't presume anyone is gay or straight. We presume a blank sexual orientation until we are told."

Members of the alliance do not have to be gay or lesbian to join. In fact, Wiechmann said that 80 to 90 percent of the group is straight.

The support has made a difference for Hampton.

He said he has gone from considering transferring his freshman year to not even thinking about his sexuality being an issue because everyone has been so accepting.

Hampton thinks that the difference has come from how people view him.

"I fit into the stereotype [of W&L] but I just happen to be gay," he said. "People saw me as Matthew, not that gay freshman. Sexual orientation is just a small part of who you are."

Hampton said that Awkward's strong leadership as a gay man has helped to make the GSA a strong presence on campus.

The GSA wants people to know who they are and what they

are about without being pushy.

Their events are about visibility without being offensive. Hampton said they are not recruiting gay members or even about activism.

"If gay students are not out because they feel the environment is not conducive, then I have a problem with that," said Hampton. "No one should have to suffer the way that people in the closet suffer."

"If that's not the case, then I don't have a problem with a small number of out students."

In the undergraduate catalogue, the group is classified under multicultural associations.

"We work for tolerance of the minority by the majority," said Wiechmann. "So we are considered by the university as multicultural."

The GSA may have come a long way from its beginnings six years ago, but its presence is still necessary.

"There isn't another group that deals with tolerance of sexual orientation."

### Did you know...

- Average number of gay/lesbian in a population: 10 percent, so W&L should have 170
- Students on the mailing list: 97
- Faculty/staff on mailing list: 14
- Members who are a DC/RA: 11
- W&L's ranking on the Princeton Review as "Al-

ternative Lifestyles not an Alternative": 14

- Number of alumni in the network: 27

- Average attendance at a meeting: 20

- Other support and ally groups on campus: 1 undergraduate support group for men, 1 law school group (OUTLAW)

## Prancing & pillaging

Comic opera performed at Lenfest

By Elliott Walker  
STAFF WRITER

A riot of song and dance will debut in the Keller Theatre this weekend as "The Pirates of Penzance," a Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera, is performed by W&L students.

The opera, according to the theatre department's website, "spins an hilarious farce of sentimental pirates, bumbling policemen, dim-witted young lovers, dewy-eyed daughters and an eccentric Major-General, all morally bound to the often-ridiculous dictates of honor and duty."

"It's really going to be a high quality production," said Julie Petersen, one of the cast members.

The approximately 30 cast members have been practicing since the beginning of winter term.

John Henderson, another cast member, said the cast started learning the music for the show first.

The practices were only once a week, he said, but when spring term started the cast upped their practices to three hours a night, six to seven days a week.

"It's definitely been a lot of work," he said. "But it's been a lot of fun. Everyone is having a great time and we're all committed to the production."

"We have rehearsal all the time," said Petersen,

"but it's worth it."

Kenny Kraft and Lisa Zevorich play the leads in the production. Kraft plays Frederic, a man that has been mistakenly apprenticed to a band of pirates instead of a pilot.

"Kraft is actually pretty good," said stage director Paten Hughes. "He has a lot of charisma and has probably grown the most in his role."

"You hear him in SoCo," said Petersen, "but I never appreciated how amazing of a voice he had."

Zevorich plays Mabel, the daughter of a Major-General, who falls in love with Frederic only to be hampered by his father and his disapproval of Frederic's status as a pirate.

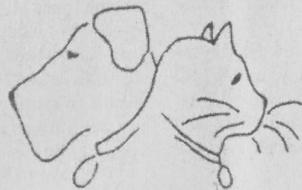
"She has an amazing voice," said Hughes. "It's absolutely gorgeous. I don't know how she does it."

After a series of humorous events, the pirates must endure a battle with a police force. The victors of the fight help to determine the fate of Frederic and Mabel.

So do the lovers reunite at the end of the opera or are they doomed to lead separate lives because of Frederic's occupation?

To find out, go see the production.

It will run from Friday, May 19 through Monday, May 22.



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## Bienvenue, le Patisserie

Lexington Lanes transformed into a gourmet restaurant and catering service

Photos and text  
by Katherine Bastian  
STAFF WRITER

With students bored with campus food, many are looking for variety.

Look no further than The Patisserie, Rockbridge County's newest addition to its somewhat limited selection of eateries. The restaurant is open weekdays and weekends.

**The Patisserie**  
98 Northwind Lane  
Lexington, VA  
540-464-1299

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Mon-Fri:  
7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Sat:  
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Sun: Closed

**Entrees:**  
\$7.95-12.95

since its grand opening on Feb. 4.

The owner and manager, Kayla Finlay, along with The Patisserie's chef, Pennie Griffin and baker, Higgins Stewart, were former employees of Foods International.

When this establishment closed, these enterprising individuals used their experience from Foods International to create The Patisserie. Finlay noticed that a niche existed in the local market for gourmet foods and baked goods and fashioned the restaurant's menu accordingly.

The Patisserie provides a wide variety of choices for the hungry college student. Although the chef and baker have virtual carte



A variety of delectable homemade desserts are offered for reasonable prices.

blanche and the selection changes slightly everyday, the restaurant always offers some basic items. Turkey and roast beef sandwiches, as well as spinach and Greek salads are typically available prepared.

Additionally, The Patisserie always offers two soups, both made from scratch, one vegetarian.

Since the entrees are prepared in advance, the longest a customer will ever wait is two to three minutes for their order.

Not only is this gourmet food available quickly, but the prices are reasonable. Sandwiches vary

between \$4.95 and \$7.95 and entrees prices range from \$7.95 to \$12.95.

Of course, we cannot forget about desserts.

The Patisserie offers a mouth-watering array of treats, including everything from traditional cinnamon buns to baklava to filled French croissants.

If you have the time, you can savor your sweet in the comfortable, intimate environment while surfing the Internet, since The Patisserie provides wireless Internet on the premise.

Although The Patisserie does

not advertise heavily, its reputation has spread impressively simply by word of mouth.

Finlay reports that the restaurant has been serving 15 to 30 new customers every day since its opening.

The atmosphere of The Patisserie is appropriate for a quick bite or for an extended meal.

While The Patisserie may be located in a rather unlikely place, an old bowling alley that had to be renovated and redesigned, this little establishment is flourishing on the quality of its cuisine alone.

# Where the Buffalo roam

Bands from across the country will travel to the Buffalo Creek music festival to entertain the community

By Madeline Gent  
STAFF WRITER

As spring term comes to a close, the annual Washington and Lee tradition of the Buffalo Creek music festival kicks into high gear.

This year's festival includes nine bands—four of which will play on Friday and five on Saturday.

Because of the recent explosion of the internet website Myspace, almost all the band's information as well as

**Buffalo Creek**

Tickets are \$10 and sold online, in the commons and can be bought at the event

tour schedule, sound clips and merchandise can be found online.

Buffalo Creek follows on the footsteps of Derby Days, Foxfields and tubing down

the Maury, as something every student goes to at least once if not each of the four years.

The festival has a great selection of music that is sure to tap into a variety of musical tastes.

Playing Friday is Tom Hamilton's American Babies, Steel Train, Brothers Past and Quagmire Swim Team. Brothers Past is the Friday night headliner.

They come into the show after ending their year-long tour. This summer their focus is on special events, Buffalo Creek being one of them.

"We're going into summer

and just really working on new material so special events are last push for our album," said the band.

"Buffalo Creek has always been a good fit for us... Not many things set up that we're tied to a university except Washington and Lee and The University of Vermont. We've had tremendous time here last two years and a good fan base."

After playing here, Brothers Past will go on to play much larger music festivals like Summer Camp, Wakarusa and Bonnaroo.

This year will mark the band's third trip to Buffalo Creek. Since then they have found their amount of fans, praise and coverage growing.

Glide Magazine wrote, "Brothers Past focuses on the art of songwriting in a unique way that sets them apart from the pack. When you combine strong, well-written catchy songs... with electronica laden powerhouses... you get a detailed glimpse into the future of music."

They play from 11:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. on Friday night.

Brothers Past manager Pete Nicolosi calls the bands music style describes the typical fan as "anybody who likes live music that might not typically be heard on top 40."

Nicolosi is also the manager for the band playing the Friday night Gazebo set 7:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m., Tom Hamilton's American Babies.

"Frankly the band would like anyone who is a music lover, who enjoys music, who likes to dance, [and] who likes good songwriting. We play music with songs that have not such silly lyrics but those that resonate with people. People who rock out," said Nicolosi.

For anyone else who needs more convincing they should come out and watch Brothers Past, the New York Press called the band, "the square-jawed, bastard child of Pink Floyd with a gigantic stage show."

Buffalo Creek and the band have developed a good relationship over the past years.

The Brothers Past plan on returning as long as they are wanted. "We're loyal to the people who followed us when we were a smaller band."

The vibe, weather and fans have worked together in the past to create a great set that a true music fan will not want to miss.

Saturday will not disappoint either as Mayhem String Band, Steam Powered Airplane, Hackensaw Boys, The Pnuma Trio and Perpetual Groove play throughout the day.

The Pavilion Headliner is Perpetual Groove playing from 10:00 p.m.- 2:00 a.m.

Perpetual Groove, like Brothers Past, is hitting up the musical festival scene this summer.

Along with Buffalo Creek they will be playing at Wakarusa as well as 10,000 Lakes Music Fest, JamCruise and moe.down music festival.



**Brothers Past**

Their third year at the Zollman Pavilion Festival, Brothers Past returns for the fans, the atmosphere and to headline Friday night.

**Home:** Upper Dairy, Pa. **Members:** Tom Hamilton (Guitar, Laptop, vocals), Tom McKee (Keyboards, vocals), Clay Parnell (Bass, vocals) and Rick Lowenberg (Drums)

**Where else you might see them:** Bonnaroo Music Festival, Wakarusa Music Festival, Summer Camp Music Festival

**CD Release Date:** To a sold out Bowery Ballroom in New York City earlier this year, nationally on Oct. 18.

**Label:** SCI Fidelity Records **Compare To:** Pink Floyd, Sasha, The Disco Biscuits

**For a Taste:** Go to <http://brotherspast.com>

**Time:** Friday, Pavilion Headliner Set 11:00 p.m.- 1:00 a.m.

Their live performance from last year's moe.down, moe.down 5, was the second best selling live collection as the festival.

They outsold other more commonly known bands as Blues Traveller and The Disco Biscuits.

"As I awoke on Saturday, my first thought was of who would have the pleasure of completely blowing my head off tonight. That honor went to the touring juggernaut known as Perpetual Groove," said JamBase.com

writer Brian Bayosa in his review of New York City's first annual Green Apple Music Festival.

The band was "the last spot and summed up the week nicely... (and) had my tired bones boogying."

Another band taking the stage on Saturday for the Pavilion set from 7:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. is the Pnuma Trio.

They too are making the rounds this summer and can again be found at Wakarusa as well as Smilefest and Summer Camp.

The band is only a year old and claims Virginia as its home.

"Described as a sound com-

binning dance music with traditional jazz driven by funk sensibilities, the band is taking multiple scenes by storm," said the bands site.

Whether you go to listen to music, burn an old couch or sit in a creek all day, Buffalo Creek proves to be another tradition among traditions here at W&L.

It gives the students access to both lesser and better known bands creating a way for everyone to expand their musical palettes.

The festival is open to everyone and always proves to be a good time.

## The honor system and alcoholism

Students who planned to pre-game the trial have no respect for honor system

By Tim Livingston  
STAFF WRITER

Last week many students looked forward to witnessing the first honor trial at Washington and Lee in years.

While some of the eager spectators wished to behold a pivotal moment in our school's history as well as a vital event in the life of a student, others had other motives to attend the trial.

As rumors circulated at the details of the crime, several individuals planned on pre-gaming and going to the hearing intoxicated.

As excitement grew at the prospect of watching the accused student on trial, I saw several weaknesses within the structure of our community of honor.

Immediately after every member of the student body received the email, few conversations around our gossip-obsessed campus consisted of topics besides the intricacies of the trial.

In theory, the student body should attend the trial because of an undying need to preserve the sacred honor system our school was built upon.

However, many of the students who planned on going to the hearing wanted to equate the experience to a college football game by putting ten brews in their system to make the rare occurrence truly enjoyable.

Were these students making a mockery of the honor system? Or were the people who planned on attending drunk simply epitomizing the average W&L student who has to be inebriated in order to be in a room with more than five fel-

low students?

Truthfully, I believe the reaction of the student body demonstrated a common belief in the lack of importance the honor system plays in everyday life.

For many students, the honor system means virtually nothing unless they are taking a test or writing a paper.

The fact that people wanted to attend Lee Chapel under the influence reveals a truth that the honor system plays an increasingly small role in student's lives as their careers progress.

After the first speech freshman year when the EC president tells all those who don't believe they can abide by the honor system to "leave now," freshman consider the regulations sacred.

Yet, as time progresses, honor fades in importance like the obligation people feel when adhering to the speaking tradition.

For many, the honor system by the end of sophomore year is merely a reason not to cheat, lie or steal and be forced to submit to the humiliation of the student who became the laughingstock of W&L before his or her tragic exit.

Students wanted to pre-game the hearing because they could not care less about the fate of the indicted.

Why not get drunk to witness a student face humiliation for possibly breaking the hallowed system? He or she made the critical mistake and many felt she deserved embarrassment.

The question of what the honor system really means to a majority of the student body remains: is it a way to govern one's life, or a way not to get expelled?



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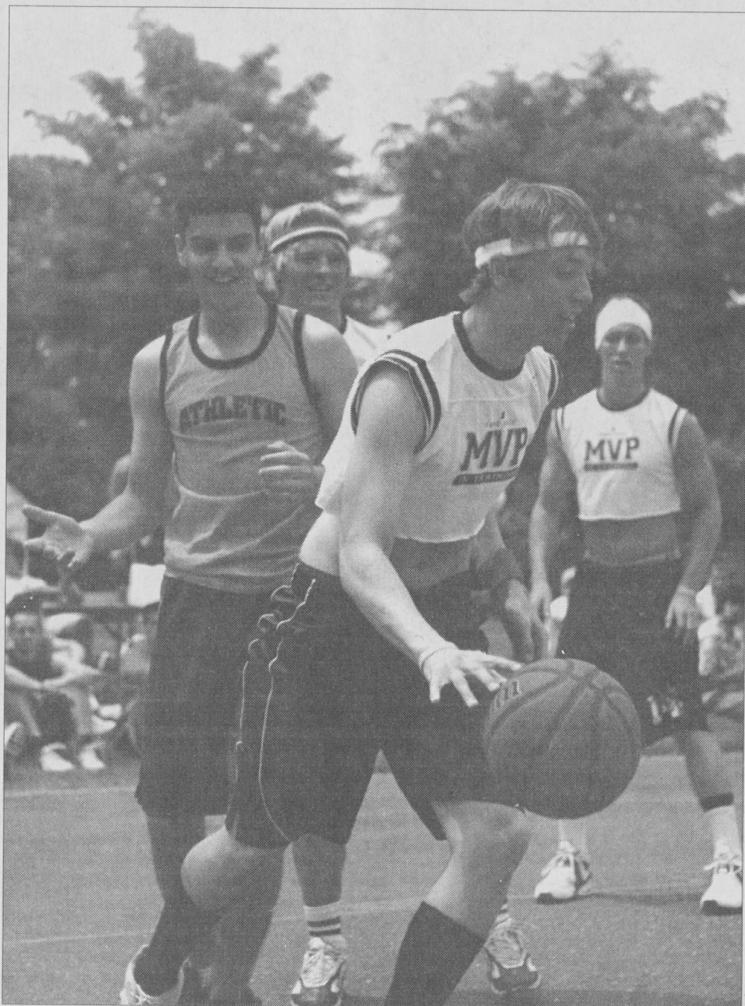
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# sports



MORGAN HARRIS / Staff Photographer

## Sigma Phi Epsilon sponsors charity tournament

Nine teams participated on Saturday in a three-on-three basketball tournament, earning over \$300 in cash donations to support Wounded Warriors, an organization assisting injured soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. "After 9/11, I was very tempted to join the military, but instead I went to college," sophomore Thadeous Larkin said. "This is my way of giving back a little bit." He also said the fraternity dedicated the event to his high school friend, Eli, who died in Iraq two weeks ago. Tournament champions, freshmen Ryan Owens, Chris McHugh and Craig Sauers donated their prize money to the cause.

# Club sports give athletes options

Alternate athletics actively welcome new members

Washington and Lee offers a host of opportunities in the realm of club sports including sailing, boxing, martial arts, table tennis, soccer and softball. W&L club teams compete against varsity and club organizations at other colleges state-wide. These activities are open to all undergraduate and law students.

By Liz Cresswell  
STAFF WRITER

### FENCING

Washington and Lee's Fencing Club is wrapping up a successful season under new coach and professor Daniel Turkeltaub. The team has 30-40 members and continues to grow.

"The Washington and Lee Fencing Club has doubled in numbers since my freshman year, both in membership and the number of people attending practices," junior captain Alejandro Selin said.

The club practices year-round: three weekdays, for two hours, and on Saturday for bouting practice. It also participates in several tournaments with colleges such as Hollins, Virginia Military Institute and University of Virginia.

According to Selin, "W&L has never failed to achieve first or second place in intercollegiate tournaments."

According to freshman member Sean Hurdiss, it is not only a

good physical workout but a mental one as well.

"Fencing has been called physical chess because it requires a sharp mind and well-trained body," he said.

While some students have joined with prior experience, the team welcomes all newcomers.

### LACROSSE

Since the end of winter term, the W&L's Club Women's Lacrosse team has been practicing. Fifteen girls are participating, and the team encourages newcomers to come out.

Freshman swimmer Amber Butyn recently joined the team having little previous experience.

"It's cool to broaden my interests and learn a new sport," she said.

The girls practice twice a week, for an hour and a half each time. A typical practice includes drills, sprints and scrimmaging.

Due to weather complications, the team has yet to show its skills. The tournament in District of Co-

lumbia the women were scheduled to play in was cancelled due to thunderstorms. With the season concluding, lacrosse player Alden Wicker said she hopes it turns out better next year.

### WATER POLO

The W&L Club Water Polo team has struggled to maintain a regular practice schedule this season and has yet to compete in an official match.

Currently, the team consists of 10 to 12 members. The team is open to both men and women and is comprised largely of varsity swimmers.

Practices are scheduled Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m.

According to sophomore member Ben Jaskiewicz, he is trying to get the team more organized.

He also said head coach Joel Shinofield is in the process of organizing a tournament with James Madison University next fall before the swim season commences.

Jaskiewicz formed a club team with one of his friends as a junior in high school. He also played as a freshman in college last year in California.

"It's a fun sport," he said. "That's why I went to California to play polo. It's a team sport like baseball, but at the same time, it's aggressive like football or rugby."

The team welcomes any new interest. Previous experience is not required.

Sports Editor Jessica Shaw continued to this article.

# Squad of seven is on pace to write history

Continued from page 10

on national rank. The top 32 singles players in the nation are invited along with the top 16 doubles teams. Applegate and McClung along with Tabb and Wortham will represent W&L on Saturday in doubles play. Applegate and Tabb each earned a spot in singles as well.

Wortham, who will compete in both team and individual competition said she is trying not to focus too much on upcoming matches.

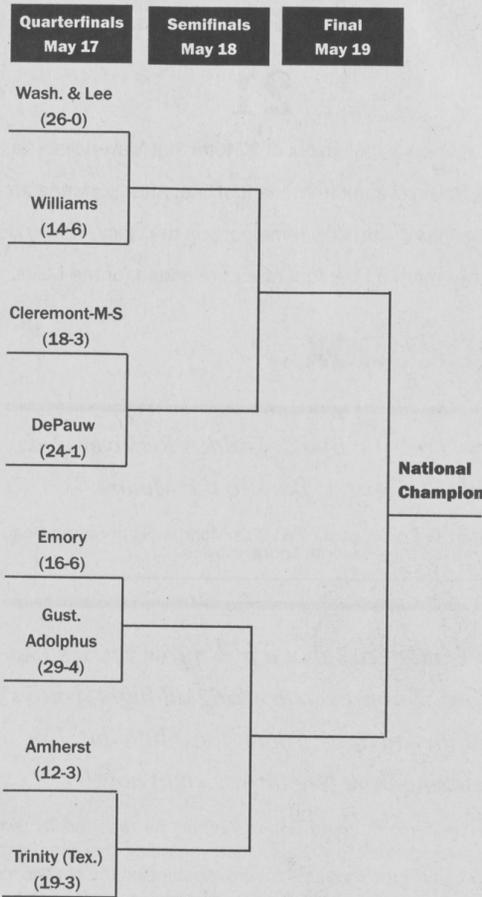
"I'm taking it one match at a time," she said. "I don't want to look ahead. This is why you practice hard. This is why you play hard. This is why we compete. This is why I play, for opportunities like these."

The Generals, currently undefeated (26-0), will meet their first opponent, ninth ranked Williams (14-6), Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at the University of California, Santa Cruz. If the women defeat Williams, they will play either Claremont-Scripps-Mudd College (18-3) or DePauw University (24-1) in the semifinals on Thursday. Emory University (16-6) won the title last year and are currently ranked fifth. Trinity University of Texas (19-3) may prove to be the fiercest competition, ranked second in the nation.

Tabb said one of the most greatest influences to bring home the title is each player's commitment to the team.

"I think this year especially, we've done a fabulous job at stepping up," she said. "I think this is our year to step up in the finals and play hard and finally win it. This is our time."

## NCAA D-III Women Tennis Tournament Bracket:



MELISSA CARON / Design Director

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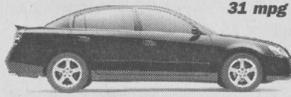


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# sports



## INSIDE SPORTS

- ▶ Club sports offer different perspective for students. Page 9.
- ▶ Sigma Phi Epsilon sponsors charity three-on-three basketball tournament. Page 9.

## sportsbriefs

### Women's Tennis

The Generals, currently ranked first in the nation, defeated both Mary Washington and Carnegie Mellon in the first two rounds of the NCAA Division III National Championships held last weekend at W&L. The Generals won every set, scoring 5-0 against both competitors. Senior Emily Applegate, juniors Ginny Wortham and Kristen McClung and freshman Katie Tabb will be competing against Williams in the quarterfinals in Santa Cruz, Calif., beginning Wednesday.

### Women's Lacrosse

The Generals began their playoff run on a strong note defeating Christopher Newport with a decisive 19-9 victory last Wednesday at home. The drive ended early when they fell to The College of New Jersey on Saturday 16-6. Sophomore Megan Slosson led the team in scoring with four goals followed by freshman Kelsi Robinson with two.

### Golf

Nathaniel James was the sole member of W&L men's golf team competing in the National Championship in Lincoln, Neb. James tied for thirty-fourth place, scoring 80-78-72-78 totaling 308 strokes. James was awarded All-American honors marking the first time in 14 years a W&L golfer has

## in the numbers

# 73.9

Current stroke average for sophomore Nathaniel James who finished his season tied for thirty-fourth place at the NCAA Golf Championships in Lincoln, Neb.

# 7

Number of Generals women who will be competing at the NCAA Division III Championships in Santa Cruz, CA. In singles competition, junior Emily Applegate, freshman Katie Tabb, juniors Ginny Wortham and Kristen McClung and sophomores Leah Weston and Kelly Will will represent the Generals. In doubles play, Applegate/McClung, Wortham/Tabb and Weston/sophomore Rebecca Timmis will pair up.

# 36

Points scored by Wizards point guard Gilbert Arenas in game six against the Cavaliers. The Cavs defeated the Wizards to advance to the second round of the playoffs for the first time in 13 years.

# 21

The number of points out of 27 total that Mavericks' star Dirk Nowitzki sank from the foul line. After suffering an ankle injury with 1:05 remaining on the clock, Nowitzki hit two more on the foul to secure a lead for the Mavs.

## soapbox

*"Air Bud, Air Bud 2: Golden Receiver and Major League 3: Back to the Minors."*

— Andy McEnroe, host of WLUR's Monday Night Sports Beat, on his top three favorite sports movies.

*"I still haven't shot a free throw yet. It's like when you've been drinking all night, you've got to stay away from it for a little bit. I'm detoxing from free throws right now."*

— Wizards point guard Gilbert Arenas, as reported by the Associated Press on his reaction regarding the one-point loss against the Cavaliers costing Washington the chance to advance. Arenas missed two free throws in overtime.



Juniors Maggie Megear (9) and Karina Schless (10) lead the team to Wednesday's victory over The College of New Jersey..

# Playoff drive cut short

*Women's lacrosse ends promising crusade Saturday with fall to Lions*

By Madeline Gent  
STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee women's lacrosse team ended its best season to date with a 16-6 loss to The College of New Jersey in second round play of the NCAA Division III Championships.

The team ended with its highest overall record of 16-4.

The Generals began their play in the NCAA tournament with a 19-9 victory over the Christopher Newport Lady Captains in the first round on Watt Field.

Senior captains Amanda Strickler and Kate Lester and junior Kelly Evans scored three goals apiece. Sophomore goalie Sarah Tilbor recorded 13 saves, but it was Strickler's performance

that stood out most in the match up. On top of her three goals, she recorded four assists.

"It was our last home game, and we really wanted to win for our seniors... It was also the first time that [the Lady Captains] had made it into the NCAA playoffs, so they didn't know what to expect. We wanted to show them what it was all about," said junior midfielder Mallory Lobisser. She finished the game with one goal.

The momentum of their victory over the Lady Captains did not prove enough to tackle the The College of New Jersey in Salisbury, Md., on Saturday.

The Lions entered with a nine-game win streak, 12 previous NCAA Division III championship titles and 22 previous tournament

appearances.

Sophomore midfielder Megan Slosson led the Generals' first half performance with two goals. Despite her performance, the Generals found themselves on the bottom half of the 5-2 score going into the break.

The Generals were optimistic at the start of the second half, but were hit hard when Tilbor received a yellow card. Freshman goalie Ali Hillyard had to step into goal lacking the experience of Tilbor. To that point, she had faced 282 shots. In the seven games Hillyard played, she faced only 38 shots. Hillyard recorded two saves in her 14:27 of play.

The Lions outscored the Generals 11-4 in the second half. They were led by senior midfield-

ers Bridget Bigley and Lauren Dougher, scoring two goals each. Bigley also had three assists as her nine-point performance ranks fifth all-time for single-game point totals. Dougher adds her six goals to a total of 41 in tournament play, which ranks fourth for the most goals scored in NCAA tournament action.

"Our defense played really well. We tried to shut down Dougher, but they had shots we weren't prepared for and couldn't defend," Lobisser said.

Freshman Kelsi Robinson finished the game with two goals. Strickler had two assists.

"Our five seniors played their hearts out, but they just finished a lot better than we did," Lobisser said.

# Matchmakers vie for title

*Women's tennis heads to California to face Williams in quarterfinals*

By Jessica Shaw  
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven women leave for California today with a chance to make history for the Washington and Lee women's tennis team. Cruising through the first two rounds of Nationals held last weekend at home, these women hope to clinch the title that has eluded them for the past two years.

Freshman Katie Tabb was recently declared Atlantic South Rookie of the Year with a singles record of 23-5 and a doubles record of 24-5. She said the team's main motivation is its commitment to one another.

"We know we can depend on one another," she said. "We all know we are committed and serious. I think that's really important for doing well, knowing that your team mates are there and working just as hard as you."

Last Saturday, the Generals defeated Mary Washington, ranked twenty-first in the nation, 5-0. An identical performance Sunday versus number 12 Carnegie Mellon left nothing but hunger in the hearts of these women.

Saturday, decisive wins from juniors Emily Applegate and Kristen McClung, Tabb and junior Ginny Wortham and senior Lisa Mabry and sophomore Leah Weston in doubles placed the Generals on top going into the singles matches. Applegate and Tabb handled their opponents with ease, securing victory over

Mary Washington.

On Sunday, Applegate and McClung played number one doubles, defeating their CMU opponents 8-6. Tabb and Wortham followed in number two doubles with a duplicate score. Competing in number three doubles, Weston and Mabry tripled the success with a score of 8-4. In singles competition, Applegate and Weston cleared the courts with their victories over their CMU contenders guaranteeing a plane ticket to Santa Cruz for the next rounds of Nationals.

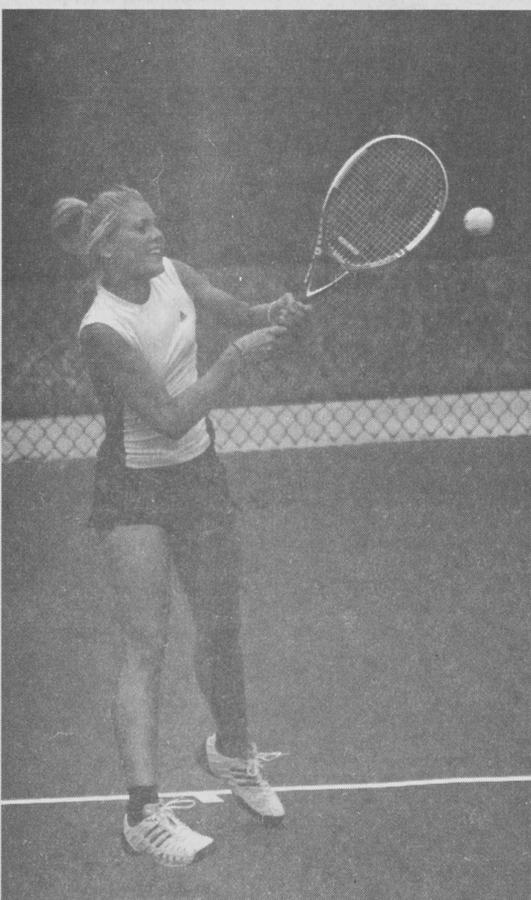
Tabb said coach Cinda Rankin was collected as she led the team to victory.

"I think Cinda was actually a little nervous, but she did a good job not showing it," she said. "She was not overconfident, but she wanted us to be comfortable and ready to play going into the first couple of rounds."

Nationals is divided into two competitions: team and individual. The first, beginning Wednesday, will determine each school's national standing. The second tournament begins Saturday to establish individual status. Applegate, Tabb, Wortham, McClung, Weston and sophomores Rebecca Timmis and Kelly Will compete in the quarterfinals opening Wednesday.

Four Generals were chosen to participate in the individual tournament. Selection is based

See "SQUAD" on page 9



MORGAN HARRIS / Staff Photographer

Junior Kristen McClung helps her teammates defeat Mary Washington and Carnegie Mellon in the first two rounds of Nationals. McClung and junior Emily Applegate will play number one doubles in California against contenders from Williams College on Wednesday morning.