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Old building gets new facelift

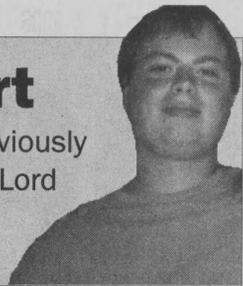
The old co-op undergoes a radical re-design to become faculty offices.

— Page 2

Bush and Voldemort

Columnist Dylan Merrill exposes the previously hidden links between George Bush and Lord Voldemort.

— Page 6



WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, SEPT 11, 2006

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

VOLUME CX, NUMBER 1

Virginia cracks down on minors

State toughens penalties for underage alcohol possession

By Jacob Gelger
NEWS EDITOR

Students across Virginia who drink underage face a new penalty this school year: the mandatory loss of their driver's license for at least six months.

The Virginia state legislature beefed up underage drinking laws last February after Delegate Brian Moran, D-Alexandria, introduced a pair of bills in the Virginia Legislature.

One bill makes it illegal for adults to serve alcohol to minors who are guests in their homes.

The other bill, which passed unanimously in the State Senate and by an 88-10 margin in the House of Delegates, mandates a six-month loss of a minor's driver's license if the person is convicted of possession or consumption of alcohol.

Along with the suspension of license, the minor also faces a mandatory \$500 fine or 50 hours of community service.

The bill passed the state senate on Feb. 28 but only recently came to the attention of university officials across Virginia.

"We found out after the law passed," Dean of Students Dawn Watkins said. "It hit administrators around the state by surprise."

Watkins also said Washington and Lee's legal counsel, Leanne M. Shank, did not know the law was under consideration until after it had been passed.

Dean Watkins and Matt Krieg, Chairman of the Student Judicial Council, sent a letter to all students and parents inform-

ing them of the new laws.

In their letter, Watkins and Krieg noted that if the new laws had been in place last year, 15 students could have faced the loss of their driver's license.

Michael Young, W&L's Director of Campus Security, said his department, along with Watkins and Krieg, has told everyone they can possibly tell.

"Word has gotten out," Young said. "The freshmen have been told two or three times at least that it's illegal to drink underage."

Since Virginia's new law is stricter than the minor-in-possession laws of most states, Young said some confusion exists over what will happen if out-of-state students have their licenses suspended.

"Some states have reciprocal agreements and might suspend your license at home, but other states might not acknowledge Virginia's suspension. Either way you still won't be allowed to drive in Virginia."

Young said the state "wants to indicate they are getting tough on underage drinking."

Lexington Police Chief Steve Crowder agreed with Young's assertion.

"My understanding was that so much underage drinking was going on that the penalties weren't stiff enough," Crowder said.

"I have a 17-year-old son and when I told him about the new laws, he said that this would definitely get kid's attention."

Crowder said that he is not sure if the penalties will stop

people from drinking underage. He also said that the new laws will not cause the police department to increase, decrease or in any way change the way they patrol.

Crowder did say that underage possession citations have become more common.

"We had three in August of

2006 versus zero in August of 2005. In all of 2004 there were three and in all of 2005 there were four, so we had as many last month as we had in the entire year of 2004."

In 2005, local law enforcement officers issued 59 citations for liquor law violations. The number of violations in

2004 was 38.

Though Virginia legislators hope to cut down on underage drinking, Watkins said she was not sure if this law was the way to solve that problem.

"I'm not sure if this is a positive step; it seems like a regressive move to me."

What you need to know:

- **Possession or consumption under 21:** loss of driver's license for six months and a \$500 fine or 50 hours community service.

- **Using a fake ID to purchase alcohol:** Mandatory loss of driver's license for six months and mandatory \$500 fine or 50 hours community service.

- **Drinking in public:** Fine of not more than \$250.

- **Drunk in public:** Fine of not more than \$250.

- **Purchasing or giving alcohol to persons under 21:** loss of driver's license for up to 1 year and fine of not more than \$2500 and/or jail for up to 12 months.

- **Driving with a .02% BAC when under 21:** Loss of license for six months and up to a \$500 fine.

J-School captures national awards

W&L's online Rockbridge Report named runner-up

By Melissa Caron
DESIGN DIRECTOR

This summer the "Rockbridge Report" was named one of the top three online student newspapers in the country by the Society of Professional Journalists.

The publication, which is produced weekly by classes within the journalism department during fall and winter term, was awarded the "Mark of Excellence Award," for the work students did in 2005.

Professor Doug Cumming, who teaches the Reporting for Print Media class, related that this award was a true testament to the success of the online publication.

"There is a difference between awards given to journalists by journalists and marketplace success," Cumming said. "You wish they were the same thing."

The "Rockbridge Report," covers news within Lexington and Rockbridge County. While it is produced by students, the general audience of the publication is the surrounding community.

Journalism Professor Claudette Artwick teaches two of the classes responsible for the production of the publication.

"I don't know that we have lots of student exposure and interest," Artwick said. "People in the community are really what we're aimed at."

Cumming points out that the real intention of the "Rockbridge Report" is not increased readership but rather education, and little has been done to promote the publication.

"This is real news, covering Rockbridge County," Cumming said. "At the same time our purpose is education."

Several other classes, such as Journalism 362, Advanced Elec-

See "News" on page 2

A tumultuous orientation week

ThinkFast and PlayFair draw mixed reviews from freshmen

By Cody Beauchamp
STAFF WRITER

A small group of freshman confronted dorm counselors and residential life staff when they tried to walk out of an orientation event Monday night.

The students were trying to leave the trivia game "Thinkfast," held at Lenfest.

Head dorm counselor Sam Wilmoth said, "I think that some of the [dorm counselors] were a little confused and hurt by the way they were treated by those students."

Wilmoth said that the students' actions can be explained by the stress of being in a new place. He said that the problems may be

caused by the adjustment to a new environment and having to meet so many new people. "It's easy to fall back on becoming sarcastic and getting an attitude," he said.

He said that the staff was caught off guard by how quickly those feelings manifested in the students concerned.

"The actions of those few individuals at ThinkFast just weren't in keeping with the high standards of civility we hold ourselves to, and to be yelled at and ignored by those individuals caught some of us off guard," Wilmoth said.

One of the more prevalent complaints from students was that many failed to understand how some of the activities fit their ideas of what orientation week

should be.

"O-week is all about meeting people," said freshman Diana Cianciotta, but pointed out that the "ThinkFast" activity hindered that.

"I think that out of all the events, only "PlayFair" did that. It was corny, but pretty effective."

A freshman, who wished to remain anonymous to avoid further conflict, agreed that PlayFair was most effective. "It was a better get-to-know-you event than any of the others," the student said, but added, "I felt like we were being sort of talked down to."

"It was ridiculously difficult to meet people," Ciancotta said. "The music was so loud that it was tough to understand what the

person next to you was saying, let alone meet them."

Dean David Leonard said, "Orientation is not simply designed for new students to meet one another. It is also an opportunity to introduce new community members to the academic and co-curricular aspects of the University."

One freshman was particularly peeved that some of the dorm counselors were competing for a share of the \$200 cash prize for the event.

"It's supposed to be a freshman event, and it's mandatory, but we can't even compete amongst ourselves for the prizes?" the student said. "We have to compete with these upperclassmen who've done it before? Explain to me how that's right."

The walkout may have

stemmed from impatience, Dean David Leonard said. "Unfortunately, the event didn't start promptly and should have concluded 15 minutes earlier." He said that a timely start would have helped avoid conflict.

At some events, Leonard said, "it was evident that some members of the class were tired, disengaged, and wanting to go party." Leonard said that although the social scene is "both important and enjoyable," it is important to reiterate the primary reasons for going to college in the first place.

When discussing what they liked about the week's events, several students regarded the Tuesday night discussion on race and diversity as "very interesting," and "compelling."

Sunday night's program entitled "Pieces of the Puzzle" met

with near universal praise. "Burr Datz is the coolest guy alive," asserted one freshman after the program.

Some found the program's closing song "I Got Drunk (and I Missed It)" to be ironically hip.

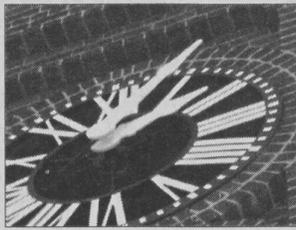
(Much to the dismay of this reporter, it is a Burr Datz original, and is thus not on iTunes - yet.)

Overall, despite the one dissonant event at "Thinkfast," widespread approval seemed to be the norm.

Wilmoth said, "There will always be mistakes and problems, but I think to just look at those who messed up and to transpose those incidents over the entire class would be a mistake."

One anonymous freshman agreed. "I've had the time of my life this week," the student said. "It's awesome."

news



Old Co-Op begins new life as faculty offices

Six-million dollar project aimed at relieving office space crunch

By Wesley O'Dell
STAFF WRITER

Students returning to W&L after a summer hiatus were surprised to find their beautiful campus turned into a construction zone.

The area between the Graham-Lees courtyard and Huntley Hall looked especially different. The old Co-Op building is undergoing a nearly-\$6 million makeover.

According to Joseph Grasso, Vice President for Administration, the 95-year-old structure is being completely gutted and renovated to create additional office space. This is in response to the recent faculty expansion that left many new hires without an office close to their classrooms.

Vice President Grasso says the project, which began on the day after graduation, will create 22 new offices for faculty of both the Williams School and the College, some of whom have been forced to work out of the Early-Fielding building.

Constructed in 1911, the old Co-Op is a place of fond memories for many alumni.

The fact that the Co-Op is being remodeled to continue serving the campus is, according to Grasso, an example of the "history of W&L and the value the buildings have in maintaining the character of the campus."

The construction has been characterized as "mildly disruptive" by some freshmen in Graham-Lees, who complain of noise throughout the day. Others reported that the work caused no disruption to their day.



MELISSA CARON / Design Director

The old Co-op, originally built in 1911, gets a little re-vamping this year.

The project's completion is slated for July 2007. In addition to the remodeling of the building itself by Glavé and Holmes, a Richmond firm which specializes in academic buildings, a landscape architect will be brought in this summer to redesign the grounds around Huntley Hall.

In the interim, the University will be putting down sod at the end of September to spruce up the area.



Expensive education

State legislature attempts to control book costs, but W&L remains exempt

By Kate Shellnut
STAFF WRITER

The book-buying routine used to be standard: head to the campus bookstore a few days before classes, find the necessary books, lug them to the register, and then "swipe it home."

As shiny hardbacks, supplemental CDs, and new editions cause book prices to grow, more students are looking for alternatives to the expensive campus bookstore.

What's this?
The Textbook Market Freedom Act

- enacted by state legislature in July 2005

- requires public colleges in Virginia to post book lists

At Washington and Lee, there are few. Some students sell used books over Campus Notices. From last year to this year, the number of notices selling textbooks has tripled. They all offer books at cheaper prices than the campus bookstore.

Online sites have also become more popular. They allow students to comparison-shop for specific textbooks and find cheaper versions of the book in earlier editions or paperback.

In a 2006 study commissioned by the Virginia General Assembly, students who shopped for textbooks online saved a minimum of 20 to 40 percent.

Web sites like Amazon.com tack on additional discounts during peak seasons in August and December.

Still, according to the study, over 77 percent of students attending Virginia colleges shop exclusively at their university's bookstore, usually because book lists for their courses were not available elsewhere.

Last year, Virginia21, a youth-oriented action group, stepped in. The group successfully lobbied to make book-buying more affordable and end the monopolies bookstores hold on most campuses. Last summer, the Textbook Market Freedom Act was put into place.

Public colleges in Virginia now have to post book lists as soon as professors submit them. They must be in a visible place and available to students well before classes begin. The Chronicle of Higher Education reports 17 other states have enacted similar legislation.

As a private institution, W&L is not subject to the act. For students to find book lists, they must work for them.

That was Allison Rogers' plan. The junior English major tries to save money by buying books online each semester.

Last year, the books didn't arrive in time, and she was stuck borrowing from friends and the library until they arrived. This year, she emailed her professors over the summer, asking what books she needed to buy. Some responded; some did not.

"So it was easier to go to the bookstore and buy there," said Rogers, after her failed attempts, "even though I hate how expensive it is."

The State Council for Higher Education reports a quarter of students spend over \$1,000 on textbooks each year. Average costs are about \$400 each semester, and the council predicts prices are on the rise.

Don't forget:
Wednesday is the last day to return textbooks, with a receipt and proof of a schedule change, to the university bookstore.

News website tops nation's best

Continued from page 1

tronic Journalism and Journalism 351, Editing for the Print Media, also participate in the production of the publication.

Although the production of a television news channel has been a part of the department since the 1970s, the web version was not launched until 2000.

"We started it because we were keeping a pulse on the industry and realized this was the direction it was moving in," Artwick said. "We've found that our graduates are attractive and competitive

"The recognition by the SPJ is an indication we're doing our job,"

CLAUDETTE ARTWICK,
Journalism professor

with the skills they've learning. Combining resources can be wonderful but it's also stressful."

The Society of Professional Journalists is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to upholding freedom of press and ethics amongst publications nationally.

"The recognition by the SPJ is an indication we're doing our job," Artwick said.

The road to gaining national recognition began last year when the department sent in copies of the online publication. From here the "Rockbridge Report" was judged against other publications from its region.

The SPJ separates the nation into twelve regions by state. Washington and Lee resides in region two and was up against other colleges from Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Delaware, and the District of Columbia.

Last spring at the SPJ's regional conference the "Rockbridge Report" was awarded first place in its region. From here it was judged against all other first place publications from each region and was eventually named one of the two national finalists at the SPJ Convention and National Journalism Conference held in Chicago this summer.

First place was taken by "The Lantern Online," which is produced by students at Ohio State University. The Rockbridge Report, shared the finalist position with "The Independent Florida Alligator," from the University of Florida. Publications were judged based upon several criteria, including accuracy, ingenuity, creativity, and adherence to the SPJ's code of ethics.

When the students of two reporting classes responsible for the "Rockbridge Report" met this fall, they sat around a long conference table. There were only seven of them, normal for this

usually small class. It was a lab day, so the two classes were being held together.

In the classroom students use a textbook and discuss general issues about newspaper production. Students are then able to take this theoretical and academic side and apply it to their work during lab.

Cumming and Professor Robert deMaria, who teaches the Reporting for Electronic Media, sat with students at the table, much as if this were an actual meeting for a professional newsroom. Cumming suggested that everyone go around and introduce themselves

and tell what they did over the summer. Student resumes proved impressive as most went on to describe internships they had held over the summer, ranging from jobs held at Reuters and Bloomberg to writing for local newspapers.

"We've got some high powered people in here. This is great," Cumming said, growing more enthusiastic as the conversation moved around the table.

"We're going to cook here! We're going to cover Rockbridge County like it's never been covered."

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W&L expands faculty

University adds dean and faculty to accommodate popular programs

By Julie Petersen
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee students are returning this fall to a campus and administration with a serious facelift.

But the flare of a new President and a stunning new Arts center may have overshadowed some other exciting additions to our W&L community.

Here's a quick run-down of the new faculty on campus and the contributions they are bringing to our school.

On the administrative level, the school is glad to have Brandon Dotson as the new Associate Dean of Students.

Dotson comes to W&L with a full resume, having served as a housing administrator at the University of Tennessee, followed by a stint as the Dean of Students at Radford University, his alma mater. As Associate Dean of Students, Dotson's main responsibilities include overseeing all residential housing, as well as the university's six judicial bodies (the Executive Committee, Student Judicial Council, etc.).

Unless students plan on com-

mitting an HV or vandalizing Graham Lees, they'll like Dotson. He is young, good-looking and holds a solid student-administration relationship as his top priority.

"I want [students] to see me as a real person, and to understand that on the administrative side, I'm an advocate for them," said Dotson.

Along with the new Fine Arts building, Wilson Hall, two new faculty members have joined the Art Department.

Dinah Ryan will serve as the new Gallery Director and Visual Resource Curator. Christa Bowden joins W&L as an Assistant Professor of Art, expanding the university's photography program.

But the Arts programs are not the only ones to expand this year. In response to increased interest in the recently established biochemistry program, Professor Fred La Riviere joined the chemistry department to accommodate the growing demand for classes tailored to the biochemistry major.

Having studied primarily at small liberal arts colleges, La

I want [students] to see me as a real person, and to understand that on the administrative side, I'm an advocate for them.

BRANDON DOTSON, Associate Dean of Students

Riviere is excited to find a similar university that allows him to pursue both of his professional passions—teaching and research. Although he expresses his excitement for getting to know students as the year progresses, he has, so far, been most impressed with his colleagues.

"They are all extremely smart, and good at what they do. But they're also great to hang out with and just grab a cup of coffee."

Along with assisting the university's numerous pre-med students, he hopes to increase interest in research careers for W&L students in science majors. The university has committed to expanding faculty in several departments.

Other new faculty members

are Jonathan Eastwood (Assistant Professor of Sociology), Monica Botta (Assistant Professor of Romance Language), Mark Carey (Assistant Professor of History), Jeffrey Rahl (Assistant Professor of Geology), Megan Fulcher (Assistant Professor of Psychology), Molly Michelmore (Assistant Professor of History), and Jacob Siehler (Assistant Professor of Mathematics).

As the university plans to continue its efforts to expand the campus and faculty, these men and women are likely to be only first wave of new faces still to come, and all aim to uphold the university's tradition of honor, integrity and academic excellence.

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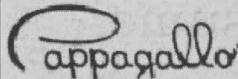
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Opinions

Straying from the speaking tradition

Three ways W&L students try to avoid talking with strangers and students they meet on the street

Members of the W&L community have been decrying the supposed demise of the speaking tradition for decades, but Grace Andrew has noticed that today's students employ some sly tricks to subtly escape the tradition of talking.

By Grace Andrews
COLUMNIST

"Hey," "How are you?" "Hello," "What's up?"

These are a few of the ways that many faculty and students greet one another, or at least are supposed to.

Today's topic is the speaking tradition here at Washington and Lee.



Our speaking tradition is the stuff of legends: the notion that everyone on this campus will speak to anyone they see regardless of familiarity.

Disappointingly, this is not always the case. There are some of us here in the W&L community who participate a little more actively than others, so much so that I have created my own list of "avoidance" techniques and how they are used.

Before I begin, I must warn the readers: you may identify these as actions that you do on a daily basis. My goal is not to offend, only to create awareness. If you are

offended, you know why. Since I cannot speak for others, I will only use my experiences to illustrate the lack of "speaking" that I have sometimes encountered.

The first technique is the "Watch My Every Step." This technique usually begins from about 200 yards away, when the person realizes that you are walking in their direction and begins to strangely look down.

It may seem to the untrained eye that this person is one of the most discreet and ambiguous mammals on the campus, otherwise known as the shy or quiet kid.

The truth is that this person is now watching their footwork so meticulously that one would think that an intense game of "Step on a Crack, Break your Mother's Back" was being played, in which if they stepped on a crack their mom would mysteriously turn into a female version of Quasimodo.

In reality, the Foot Watcher is just avoiding greeting you, and what ever the reason you are left smiling and greeting the lovely scalp of some random stranger. Let's just hope they're not suffering from male pattern baldness or a severe case of dandruff.

The next technique is the "Cell

Phone." I really love this one, especially because of the hilarity I see in this avoidance method. The "Cell Phone" usually begins at about a 100 yards from you.

The Cell Phone Poser will pretend that their cell phone is ringing, vibrating or sending dog whistle like sound waves to their ear, especially since no one else seems to hear the ring or see any kind of vibrations.

The Cell Phone Poser will then proceed with a fake conversation, usually with their "Mother" or beloved "Granny." Lord knows that the only person they're talking to is themselves or their imaginary friends, or maybe the voices in their head are finally talking back. If they don't pretend to "talk," the Cell Phone Poser will pretend to be actually making a call. That part kills me because of the amount of numbers they decide to dial. Most numbers are seven digits, ten if the area code is included. So, to see someone literally punch about twenty-five different keys makes me suspicious.

Now, if they aren't using a calling card and calling a foreign country, there is absolutely no reason to be pressing every number combo known to the human race.

This technique is probably the hardest to pull off since the Cell Phone Poser forgets to even turn on their phone at times.

I mean, seriously. When was the last time you saw a solar powered phone? That's right: never! It's not cute when I walk by and see that the little power light isn't even on.

Last but not least is the most common of techniques: darty eyes. The Eye Darter will usually

be able to see you from a variety of distances.

Upon making initial eye contact, they will then begin to look all over the place, as if they were reenacting a Stevie Wonder performance, or they might even do the "straight-ahead."

When this happens, the Eye Darter just looks straight ahead, avoiding your glance and disabling their peripheral vision until they get past you and start to "magically" regain their vision and greet the people they know directly behind you. This recently happened to me, I know, me of all people! I'm just kidding.

I really did encounter an Eye Darter, whose darting eyes hurt my feelings and made me wonder about the state of our speaking tradition.

Here's the story: As a friend and I walked toward the school from the direction of Sweet Things, we saw a young man walking towards us. At this time, we were about 100 yards from him. All of a sudden he got really jittery and started to look up and down really quickly and awkwardly with big giant head motions.

I got really confused and realized that he was trying to avoid speaking to us. Being the type A personality that I am, I greeted him with a simple "hello," and my friend with a "hey." The young man mumbled something that may have been somewhere in the family of hello and then walked away so quickly you would have thought he was an Olympic speed walker.

I mean, honestly, this boy's eyes were darting up and down so quickly you would have thought that I had just asked him to be my

The Cell Phone Poser will then proceed with a fake conversation, usually with their "Mother" or beloved "Granny." Lord knows that the only person they're talking to is themselves or their imaginary friends, or maybe the voices in their head are finally talking back.

baby's daddy and pay child support in the five digit range. It was really strange and my friend and I were extremely hurt, confused, and a bit offended. We couldn't figure out why this guy had acted so strangely. I would like to say it was because he had never seen creatures as lovely as us, but the truth is we don't know why. The manner in which he acted and mumbled hello was so offensive, he would have been better off not saying anything at all.

But no matter the reason, all of these techniques and the other ones that are out there are absolutely unnecessary. So what if you are shy or get nervous around new people? All you have to do is say hello.

No one is telling you to stop a person and get their life story, complete with baby pictures and first kiss stories. It's not that critical. But from some of these techniques, you would really think that people were going to ask you to put your first born child into the creek and float them to the law school or something.

Something as simple as saying "Hi" shouldn't make anyone

break out into convulsions and nervous fits, and that's simply the truth of the matter. Speaking is a polite and simple way to improve someone's day and even your own.

Some of you may be wondering what the point of this article was since all I seem to be doing is criticizing.

BUT, I criticize to make a point. Let me put it this way, if the speaking tradition were an animal, it would be an endangered species on the verge of extinction.

Maybe we would even call it Speakenus Traditionalus (that would be the Latin name, of course) and it would be one of ten still left on the planet with its ecosystem being cut down for lumber.

Sounds pretty grim, doesn't it?

As funny as that may sound, if we the W&L community are not careful, the Speaking Tradition of this institution will become a side note of the past.

Just another "good 'ol days" memory that your children will never have the honor or pleasure to experience or understand.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI.

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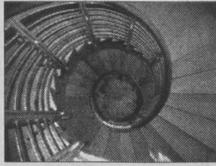
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opinions



Bush and the prison of secrets

What Voldemort taught George Bush about torture

By Dylan Merrill
COLUMNIST

Don't get me wrong, I love prisons. How could you not appreciate such a cultural convergence of nonconformists and free thinkers?

These prisoners are only trying to compensate for their past mistakes, and maybe make a few license plates in the process. Unfortunately, however, the era of color-coordinated gang members and candy-dispensing drug dealers has gone by the wayside.

Last Wednesday, President Bush announced the existence of several secret CIA prisons across Europe facilitate the interrogation of terrorism suspects (most assuredly in a lawful manner).

In order to save face, Bush also made public that some of these secret suspects are being transferred out of the clandestine facilities.

The suspects should take comfort in knowing that they will get a change of venue. Prisoners can go from their European getaways to the tropical Guantanamo Bay Penitentiary - where inmates are illegally held. Nice upgrade.

Unfortunately for the transferees, the Supreme Court recently condemned the federal prisons' practice of "alternative" methods of extracting information from unhelpful suspects, particularly

the use of extreme temperatures and "waterboarding," which is used to make prisoners believe they are drowning.

I'm sure the new inmates will feel cheated when they arrive in Cuba, only to be denied the fun in the sun and exciting water sports that such a beautiful island offers.

The Bush administration has not disclosed the locations of the secret prisons, nor has it pledged to no longer make use of the Nazi-esque facilities.

Now, we cannot even have the privilege of finding these unlawful institutions on our globes. Where are they? Prague? The Rhine Valley? Auschwitz?

The international community has condemned these underground interrogation facilities. Even American allies have spoken out. Last week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has been desperately trying to strengthen the relationship between the two nations, criticized the Bush administration, saying that the government is "calling our fundamental beliefs into question."

Hmm... the German chancellor is wary of Gestapo tactics and Secret Police interrogations... I guess we can take some comfort in knowing that one of the major world powers can learn from history.

Alas, this all seems like a Har-

ry Potter novel gone awry. Harry (the Secret Prisoner) is taken from captivity at the Dursley's (Secret Prison X) by Hermione and Ron (the CIA) and transported via the Hogwarts Express (high-capacity cargo aircraft) to Hogwarts (Guantanamo Bay), only to find the uniform has changed to black and white stripes and his Gryffindor dorm room no longer has windows.

It was that evil Voldemort (George Bush) that broke Harry's wand and shut him in solitary confinement, all because Harry has a penchant for wearing turbans and hiding underground for long periods of time.

This is not okay. I want to go back to the more innocent days of penal institutions, when people didn't have to worry about running into terrorists while vacationing in the Swiss Alps. Yet, The Powers That Be have transformed our beloved penal system into a series of illusions and facades, where torture is likely and invasions of civil liberties are counted on.

The international community has spoken out against these violations, but no changes have occurred.

These days, the secrecy and lies of our government are all too common. What will it take to correct the mistakes of the Voldemort administration?

staffeditorial

Why we're letting the readers decide

Police blotter column comes to a close after debates

In January, we gave ourselves a new mission.

We vowed to turn ourselves around.

We made promises to the community about accuracy and relevancy, and used our newfound professionalism to test the boundaries of journalism.

We were not always met with approval, but through 18 weeks we honed our technique.

Now that we have a firm foundation, we hope to expand our abilities and use them to better serve our readers.

Last year, we ran a feature called "Behind Bars."

A police blotter, "Behind Bars" documented the arrests made each week by Lexington police officers.

Similar columns run in many campus newspapers—in fact, in newspapers of all types.

Readers responded resoundingly both for and against the column. It brought more mail to our inbox than has been seen in years.

Most importantly, it stimulated an intellectual discussion in our community.

We received (and often printed) many reasonable civic opinions about whether we should make

In the past few months, both sides have had their say. We've editorialized about the journalistic reasons for printing it, and we've proven the legality of our actions.

public record so, well, public.

Members across the community responded with their ideas about protection and information and where the line between them should be drawn.

Sadly, not all of the discussion was intellectual.

The reporter assigned to write the column faced a daily onslaught of hate mail and harassment.

He was threatened in the dining hall, and confronted at parties—someone even trashed his dorm room.

Ungentlemanly, no?

Despite these inappropriate (and somewhat misdirected) criticisms, the conversation went on.

Looking back at the letters we received—the letters you wrote—we have decided to cancel the column.

In the past few months, both sides have had their say. We've

editorialized about the journalistic reasons for printing it, and we've proven the legality of our actions.

But at the end of the day, what you think matters.

Our mission is to serve the readers.

We're here for you. And the readers have decided: "Behind Bars" will no longer run as a column.

Last school year, the Phi focused on improving its journalistic skills.

We have a strong core of returning writers and editors. And in the last week, we've gained an eager and motivated group of new staffers.

We're growing every day. Looking back, we've really turned ourselves around.

Help us keep the Phi moving forward.

The Alumni Association and Kathekon, W&L's student alumni organization, proudly welcome the Class of 2010!! We wish you all the best in the coming year!!



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Let's keep it that way!!!

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arts & life

Class of 2010 gains early edge

New students build up confidence, self-reliance, deep friendships, and houses during one week trips

By Jessica Shaw
SPORTS EDITOR

One-quarter of the freshmen class bid their families farewell a week early to embark on an adventure that would lead some to the peaks of mountains in the pouring rain and others to some of the darkest slums of poverty in the country.

According to Director of Campus Activities and Outing Club Advisor James Dick, the Leading Edge program at Washington & Lee University began in 1995 with a hiking trip of less than 15 students. Since then, the number of freshmen participants has escalated to over 150, and a volunteer branch has been incorporated.

While the two branches are very different, they share a common goal: to provide an intimate environment for freshmen to become comfortable and establish deep friendships prior to the chaos of Orientation Week.

"I cannot imagine what it would have been like to show up the first day of move-in and not know a soul," participant Shannon Brunner said. "It would be so uncomfortable."

Leaders arrived on campus two weeks early to undergo wilderness training, team building activities, psychology seminars and workshops teaching leaders how to deal with any group dynamic issues.

"I think it's a big sacrifice," Dick said. "You're giving up two weeks of your summer."

Twenty-six Appalachian Adventure leaders split up to lead 81 freshmen to different parts of the trail.

"As a freshman, my trip leaders were my role models and friends, and they certainly helped

me beyond that initial week in terms of meeting people and adjusting to college," Sophomore trip leader Jen Lysenko said.

Eight groups of students hiked between 25 and 38 miles in four days, pitching tents each night and securing tarps to shield themselves from the torrential rain. A ninth group was focused on rock climbing, but it had to tweak the trip due to weather obstacles.

"My freshman orientation trip at the time was the most challenging thing that I had ever done," Senior leader Erin Tainer said. "On the first day I thought that I was never going to make it through, physically or emotionally, and I was homesick and farther outside of my comfort zone than I had ever been."

According to Dick, who is currently in his fifth year at W&L, there are, on average, of 2.5 evacuations each year. He said evacuations occur for numerous reasons, ranging from allergic reactions to illnesses. This year he said three people were evacuated.

"One of our freshmen got a serious rash that began the first night, and by the second morning we knew we had to evacuate him," Lysenko said. "The four to five miles we had to hike to get phone service was the most difficult part of the trip."

Freshman Andrea Null said that Leading Edge was an experience that she struggled with on the way, but ended up thoroughly enjoying.

"I don't think I've ever felt as proud of myself after anything," Null said. "Every step you took, you knew you could only do it because of you. There was no one helping you. You definitely had a sense of personal gain. It was a great confidence builder to go

into college with."

Despite physical struggles and harsh weather conditions, Junior leader Samantha Hishmeh said her group bonded over campfire games and activities.

"We played Mafia almost every night, and we even took someone 'snipe hunting' one night, which was highly entertaining to say the least."

According to Null, breakfasts and dinners were cooked on stoves at the sleep sites, and lunch usually consisted of trail mix or granola bars on the hike.

"Mealtime was definitely something you looked forward to," Null said. "We had a set hour that we would do it. Basically, everybody pulled out all the food out of our packs that we had been packing the last three days, and it was basically a free for all."

Through the rain, soggy pancakes and tough miles, a bond developed between freshmen and their mentors that made it easier to approach freshman year, according to participant Sarah Jo Trimble.

"I definitely made some long-lasting friendships on that trip," Trimble said. "This trip has definitely inspired me to get involved in other campus activities. I actually signed up for the Outing Club during the activities fair."

Simultaneously, students participating in the Volunteer Venture program were divided into

four groups. Each group traveled to a different location, lived simply and volunteered at sites serving children, the disabled and the homeless.

"These trips are designed to give incoming freshmen a glimpse of the poverty that exists in our country," Junior leader Bonnie Fay said.

Students could sign up to go to Roanoke, Va., Lexington, Va., War, W.V. and Greensboro, N.C. Senior Camille Allen coordinated the entire process and helped select 23 student leaders that were assigned to one of the four locations.

"I wanted to provide a good experience for incoming freshmen," Sophomore coordinator Rosemary Boyle said. "I wanted to provide a comfortable transition from their summer to college and at the same time have them become engaged in the field work that the Shepherd Poverty Program is all about."

During the week, students slept on the floors of church buildings, dormitories and a community center. The participants also had a night where they had limited funds to purchase food for their "family" (a group with an average of six people).

"The activities specifically helped us experience on a small scale what it is like to live in poverty," participant Dinah Danforth said. "I not only learned from these experiences how terrible poverty is but also how difficult rising above it is."

Professors visited during trips to give students insight on the

big picture of poverty and ways to get involved around the W&L campus.

"As Harlan Beckley told our Lexington Habitat group this year, Volunteer Venture trips do not change the world," Junior leader Dane Boston said. "Building one house will make a difference for an individual family, but it will not solve the problems of homelessness and substandard housing."

Grappling with former views of poverty, freshmen watched films, participated in activities and engaged in deep discussions, often sharing very conflicting viewpoints.

"My dinner group had an amazing talk about it," participant Victoria Raabe said. "It was unbelievable. That was my favorite discussion."

During the week, students volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, HeadStart, Soup Kitchens, the Salvation Army, Campus Kitchen Project and many more organizations depending on their trip.

"Being able to see frames to an entire room that four girls put up by themselves was amazing," participant Kelsey Wright said.

Many students said they now know how to get involved in volunteer activities around campus.

"I'm considering doing Campus Kitchen because it was such a great experience," Wright said. "I can see myself going down with a group of friends on Tuesday nights and making food."

Dick said one of the most important qualities of the trip is that it establishes deep friendships that

Appalachian Adventure Fun Facts

What they packed...

60 pounds of butter
500 + bagels
135 pounds of cheese
35 pounds of M&Ms

What they hiked...

215 + total miles hiked

What obstacles they faced:

3 evacuations
Tropical Depression

can last forever.

"These are lifelong memories and experiences," he said. "You never forget those trips. I forget most of the parties I went to as a college student. I have forgotten my classes, my study sessions, my eating in the dining hall. You don't remember that. But you don't forget the campfire or putting up a wall. Those experiences stay with you."



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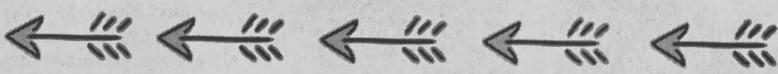
Match the colorful descriptions of unusual student life with the group name

The activities fair was full of friendly faces and lists to sign but a few organizations may have not received the attention they deserve. Can you guess which group on the left matches its description on the right? Just so you know, we didn't make up any of these groups.

- a. Boxing
- b. Campus Kitchen Project
- c. Club ice hockey
- d. Club table tennis
- e. Cold check
- f. Ducks Unlimited
- g. Fencing
- h. Foxhunting club
- i. Liberty hall volunteers
- j. Martial arts
- k. Model UN
- l. Project Nicaragua
- m. Rowing club
- n. Spirit committee
- o. Up 'til Dawn
- p. W&L Knitting Society
- q. Williams Investment Society

1 Roommate driving you crazy and giving you the urge to hit things?	2 Spending all your evenings watching Mighty Ducks? Want to slap on some skates of your own?	3 Don't enjoy running? Not professional enough for tennis?
4 Chuck Norris' tears cured cancer. Too bad he's never cried. Start training to become the next Chuck Norris	5 Are the Three Musketeers more than a candy bar to you?	6 W&L's oldest sport
7 Someone has to pay for your drunken mistakes	8 Looking for a fox that isn't in a frat basement?	9 Calling all history buffs: dust off all those Civil War uniforms and reenact the battles
10 Do you bleed blue and white?	11 Some people travel to other countries, other people become them.	12 Ever wonder where all our money goes?
13 Its vision is to provide "sufficient wetlands to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever"	14 The website promotes this activity as "a life long art form that brings peace and relaxation in its use"	
15 Now putting leftovers to good use	16 Insomniacs for the good cause of St. Jude's Children's Hospital	17 Looking to get a tan and help people on your Spring Break?

1. a; 2. c; 3. d; 4. f; 5. g; 6. m; 7. e; 8. h; 9. f; 10. n; 11. k; 12. q; 13. f; 14. p; 15. b; 16. o; 17. i



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For 83 years, Contact has been bringing big, influential names to this campus, connecting you to the people who shape our dreams. Look who we're linking you up with this year.

Dominique Dawes, Olympic gymnast

SEPTEMBER 26, 2006, 7:30 P.M., LEE CHAPEL

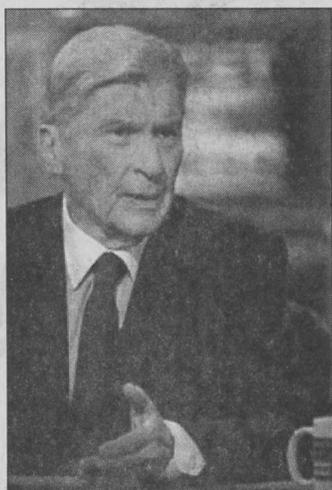
The Olympic champion (pictured on RIGHT) will be speaking on "Taking the Gold to A New Level."



Dr. Victor Davis Hanson, author

OCTOBER 16, 2006, 7:30 P.M., LEE CHAPEL

The best-selling author, columnist, and Professor Emeritus at California University in Fresno will be discussing "September 11th and Beyond."



Senator John Warner

OCTOBER 26, 2006
7:30 P.M., LEE CHAPEL

The Virginia Senator (pictured on LEFT) will be speaking on "Honor, Integrity, and a Life of Public Service." After 27 years in the Senate, the W&L alumnus now holds a seat in the Committee for Homeland Security, among others.

*Senator Warner's appearance is subject to change.

D.F. Whipple, author

NOVEMBER 2, 2006, 7:30 P.M., LEE CHAPEL

The Washington & Lee alumnus will be returning to the campus to speak on the inspiration behind his novel *Shadow Fields*.



Contact will be accepting applications from September 11 until September 15.

Email us at contact@wlu.edu or pick up an application on the second floor of the Commons or in our cubicle on the third floor.

sports



ondeck

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Volleyball			vs E&H 7:00pm		at CNU 6:00pm	at VWC 12:00pm	
Cross Country						at NYU Inv TBA	
Golf						at R-MC TBA	at R-MC TBA
Men's Soccer	vs Blue-field 4:00pm					at Marymount 6:00pm	
Field Hockey						at R-MC 1:00pm	at McDaniel 12:00pm
Women's Soccer	at RMWC 4:30pm					at R-MC 3:00pm	
Football						at Sewanee 1:00pm	

in the numbers

4.4

The number of yards averaged per play by New Orleans Saints' running back Reggie Bush in his first regular season game against the Cleveland Browns. In this game, the Saints defeated the Browns 19-14. After his college career at the University of Southern California, Bush earned the coveted Heisman Trophy in 2005.

13

The number of saves made by field hockey goalkeeper junior Tara Rubenstein in the team's second game of the season against Centre College Sunday. The Generals out-scored Centre 1-0 after defeating Rhodes College 2-1 Saturday.

42

The number of total team blocks by the Generals volleyball team this weekend at the season opener. The team defeated Southern Virginia University, McDaniel College, Averett University and University of Virginia at Wise to finish the tournament undefeated. The women begin their season with a perfect 4-0 record.

XC off to running start

Freshmen perform Saturday for both men and women in season opener

By Jessica Shaw
SPORTS EDITOR

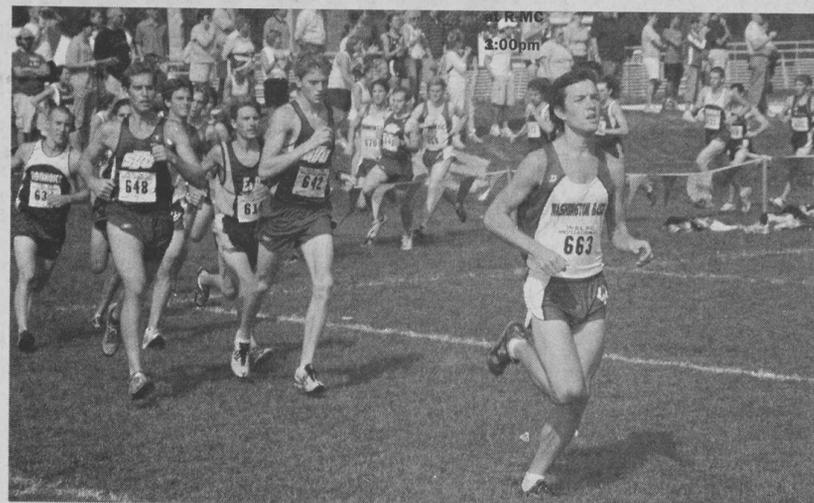
Freshmen standouts on both the men and women's cross-country teams led the Generals to matching wins at the Washington & Lee Invitational Saturday morning.

On the women's side, sophomore Becca Taylor stunned the crowds as she finished first by four seconds (20:54.00), outrunning Roanoke opponent Mallory McClaine (20:58.00).

"I saw two [Roanoke girls] up in front of me, and I decided to go for it," Taylor said. "After it was over, I couldn't believe it."

Taylor was followed by a trio of freshmen with Mary Frances Weatherly in fourth (21:11.00), Dorothy Todd in sixth (21:20.00) and Annie Casper in tenth (22:10.00). Senior captain Jenny Ratzel clocked in at 22:16.00 finishing twelfth for the Generals.

For the men, junior Andrew Friski was the Generals' top competitor finishing seventh with a time of 30:14.00. Three freshmen finished on his heels posting times within five seconds of each other. Freshmen Benjamin Stutts, Elliot O'Brien and Stuart Vassey



Junior Andrew Friski finishes seventh for the Generals in the W&L Invitational this Saturday, helping his team secure a first place finish against six other ODAC teams.

crossed the finish in eighth, ninth and tenth place respectively earning times of 30:16.00, 30:17.00 and 30:21.00.

"We are incredibly pleased with the performances of the freshmen," captain David Kronenfeld said. "Going from the 5K in high school to the 8K in

college can be a difficult transition. We are very pleased to see them handle the transition so well."

Last year, both teams placed fourth at Regionals, and according to ODAC Runner and Rookie of the Year sophomore Jackie Burns, the team has even higher

expectations for this season.

"We're closing the gap," she said. "There's a much smaller gap than there used to be between the first and last runner. I think we have a shot at Nationals, which would be great. It's really exciting to see what the freshmen can do."

Coach's memory lives

Community remembers Amy Reistrup, husband replaces her as coach

By Lara Jordan
STAFF WRITER

After a brief battle with cancer, riding coach Amy Reistrup passed away July 7, leaving a 2006 ODAC Coach of the Year title and a team she led to win the 2005-06 ODAC Championship.

"Amy was a great person and just a lot of fun to be around," said senior Katherine Tompkins. "She had a light-hearted approach to everything, but was still competitive, which is sometimes a hard balance to have. There honestly wasn't anyone on the team who didn't absolutely love her, and I think that's a pretty rare thing."

Teammates said Reistrup coached with a no-pressure technique, always encouraging riders.

"Amy coached as she lived her life," said junior Alice Shih. "She told us not to sweat the little things and to enjoy what was in front of us. At shows, she always told me to just breathe and enjoy the experience. She was also very demanding in that she knew we were capable of more than we

ourselves knew."

As the team recovers from the loss, Reistrup's husband, Gordon Reistrup, will take over her position.

"Gordon has extensive experience in intercollegiate riding, and already is familiar with many of us on the team," said senior Britany Bansak. "We are honored that Gordon has chosen to coach us this year and look forward to riding with him."

The riders feel that it will be easier to adjust to the loss with Gordon Reistrup as the new coach.

"[Gordon] and Amy ran their farm together, coaching and riding, so they'll have the same coaching philosophies and ideas about what it takes to succeed," said Tompkins. "This will make

"Amy coached as she lived her life. She told us not to sweat the little things and to enjoy what was in front of us. At shows, she always told me just to breathe and enjoy the experience."

ALICE SHIH, Junior

the change much easier to handle, and [it] takes away a lot of anxiety about what the new coach will be like and what he will want to see."

Overall, the team has an optimistic attitude for this season.

"This year will be a bit of a rebuilding year, because we lost our top two riders, who graduated, and we also had a couple of people transfer," Tompkins said.

"I think we should be pretty competitive, and I just can't wait to see what new riders this year will bring."

The team is hopeful they will remain successful, as they carry on the lessons of Amy Reistrup.

Shih said, "We will all miss her terribly, but what she has taught us is still very much with us in our riding as well as in our personal lives."

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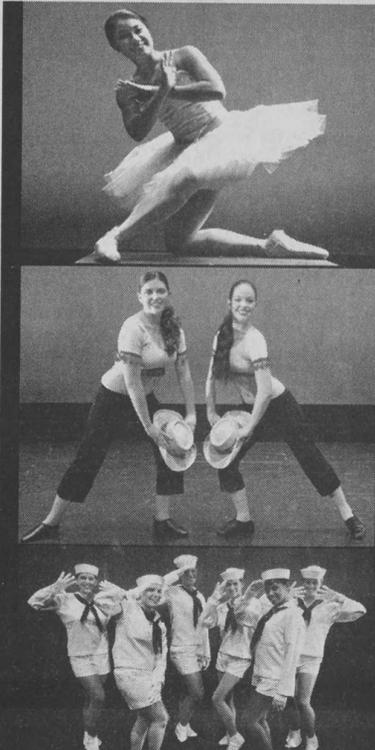
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Football

The Generals lost their first game of the season 21-7 to Franklin & Marshall University on Saturday in Lancaster, Pa. The Generals got outplayed with F&M in control of the ball over two thirds of the playing time. Senior quarterback Hunter Dawkins posted 11 for 20 receptions and threw for one touchdown. Scoring for the Generals was senior wide receiver D.J. Hackett. After their rough start, the Generals look to redeem themselves Saturday against Sewanee at 1 p.m. at Wilson Field.

Tennis

The men's tennis team opened its season this weekend by hosting the Generals Fall Classic. Athletes from Davidson College, George Mason University and James Madison University battled the Generals. Washington & Lee did not secure wins in any of the singles' or doubles' flights but did post some key performances. Junior Tim Ross and sophomore Jamie McCardell earned runner-up honors in singles' flights while junior Stuart Sanford and freshman Clifford Gaddy along with teammates freshmen Brent Meyers and junior Seth Feibelman secured third place wins in doubles' flights.

Soccer

Men's soccer began a flawless season this weekend defeating opponents from Southern Virginia University and Catholic University of America. The Generals shut out SVU on Friday 1-0 and defeated CUA on Saturday 2-1. The women's team hosted the W&L Invitational this weekend and had similar success defeating Kenyon College on Saturday 2-0 and Southwestern University on Sunday 4-0.

Volleyball kills at tourney

Women dominate in first matches of season, look to better success with new depth in bench

The Generals dominated their season opener this weekend posting a flawless record of 4-0.

The girls did not drop a match against ODAC competitors from McDaniel College, University of Virginia at Wise, Averett University and Southern Virginia University.

By Jessica Shaw
SPORTS EDITOR

"One. Two. Three. Destiny." These words echoed through the gym as the girls exploded from their huddle to face their opponents.

The Generals' volleyball team swept its competition at its season opener this weekend, not dropping a single match. The ladies defeated competitors from Southern Virginia University and Averett University on Friday 3-0, 3-0. Saturday, they demolished opponents from McDaniel College and

Next Game

University of Virginia at Wise in the same manner.
Wednesday
Sept. 13 v.
Emory & Henry
at 7pm

Last year after securing the ODAC championship, the Generals ended their season 10-0. Their overall record sat at 32-5 including teams outside the ODAC bracket. After this weekend, they begin the season strong at 4-0.

At the awards ceremony, sophomores Jess Ulrich and Kassie Bagley and junior Jess Hudock earned All-Tournament Team Honors. Senior captain Lauren Edmonson was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

According to Ulrich, the toughest competition was found in Averett University. The Generals out-played the Cougars at the Averett Tournament last fall 3-0.

"We really stepped up against Averett," junior Lauren Rudolf said. "We're so deep in so many positions that we're able to change the line-up and bring a new level of intensity to each game. We had a lot better ball control, and we passed better, so we had better offense so we could put the ball down when we needed to."

Friday night, the two teams battled to a final score of 30-20, 30-23, 30-18. Though the Generals looked strong throughout, all three games were hard to gauge, because the points remained about even until the final stretch.

"We clearly got outplayed by W&L," Averett coach Danny Miller said. "I was really impressed by the way we played against UVA-Wise. Not to take anything away from W&L, but we could play better. We didn't have the same enthusiasm. We have to get our intensity up."

The rest of the matches ended relatively quickly as the ladies silenced SVU 30-19, 30-21, 30-15, McDaniel 30-23, 30-24, 30-17 and UVA-Wise 30-21, 30-15, 30-9.

All three teams had games under their belt before the tournament while W&L was starting with fresh legs.

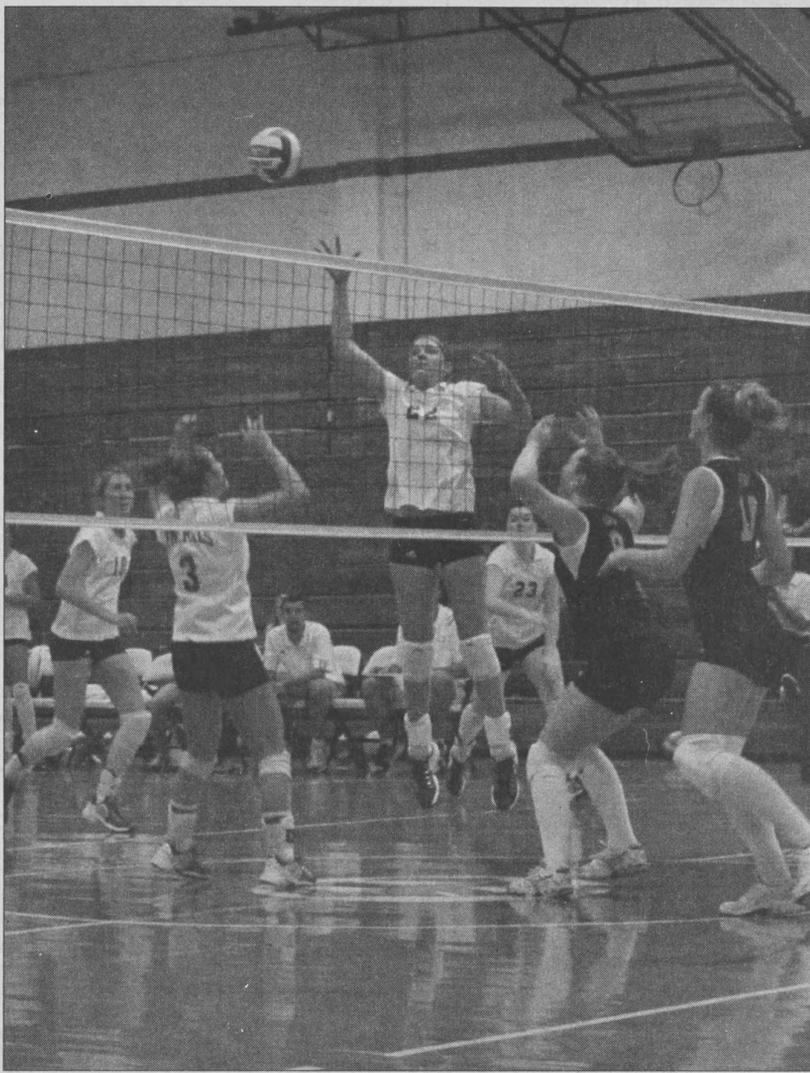
"We definitely went in there and jumped on the other teams," Bagley said. "It's really hard coming into a tournament when the other teams have already had a week of season and start off really well."

The Generals have a young team this season with eight freshmen and five sophomores. They return only two juniors and two seniors.

"We lost a lot of good seniors, so we really had to adjust our offense," Ulrich said.

According to Bagley, the Generals hope to perform better at the NCAA tournament this year. Last year, they lost in the first round to Southwestern University 3-0.

"I feel like we are going to have a really strong team," she said. "We are definitely going to put up a fight against other teams."



MICHAEL KEENAN / Staff Photographer

PHI FRESHMAN PICK:

#3 KRISTI STEVENS, Volleyball

Hometown: Overland Park, Kansas

Stats from Season Opener:

A	Pts	Digs
45	10	20



Freshman Kristi Stevens sets the ball to sophomore Abbey Wilson in battle against Averett University.



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