

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY GENERAL LEE

## Weekend Weather

**FRIDAY:** Thunderstorms, highs in the 50s, lows near 20

**SATURDAY:** Mostly sunny, highs mid to upper 20s

**SUNDAY:** Variable cloudiness, highs in the 30s

The efficient machine  
called *Pilobolus* **3**

Women's swimming  
has perfect week **8**

# The Ring-tum Phi

VOLUME 96, NO. 11

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

JANUARY 19, 1996

## Ramos reinstated; charges not dropped



Betsy Green, Phi Photo Editor

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

A treacherous beauty, snow covered Lexington earlier this month. The Blizzard of 1996 stranded travelers, closed schools, and delayed flights...not to mention cancelled classes. See related story on page 2.

By DARCEY LIVINGSTON  
Phi Staff Writer

Lexington police officer Mark Ramos returned to work Monday, even though he has not yet been cleared of assault and battery charges stemming from the arrest of third-year Washington and Lee law student Shelby Katz.

Chief Bruce Beard reinstated Ramos after reviewing the results of a two month investigation conducted by the Virginia State Police.

Beard concluded that Ramos did not use excessive force and followed all departmental procedures during Katz's arrest on October 28.

Ramos charged Katz with having an open alcohol container on a public

street, being drunk in public, and resisting arrest.

On November 15, Katz filed assault and battery charges against Ramos. She claimed that he used excessive force during her arrest.

Ramos was suspended from the department with pay on November 17, pending the outcome of the investigation.

Chief Beard refused to say whether Ramos would be allowed to continue working on the force if he is convicted of the charges.

Katz declined to comment; Ramos was unavailable.

Katz and Ramos were scheduled to stand trial at the Rockbridge General District Court on January 12. However, the weather caused the court date to be pushed back to February 9.

## Freshmen faring well with fall term grades

By DAN ODENWALD  
Phi Executive Editor

The report cards from Fall Term 1995 may indicate one of the strongest freshman classes in years, according to Dean of Freshmen Dennis Manning.

"The grades indicate that the freshmen have adjusted well," said Manning.

Only eight members of the class of 1999 earned a grade point average below 1.5, the probationary GPA for first year students, as compared to 14 students last year.

Manning also indicated that the retention rate among freshmen has been higher than in previous years.

In addition, fraternities have an especially good reason to be proud of their pledges.

"With the condensed fall pledge period, the grades were higher than we had anticipated," said Dean of Students David Howison.

Lambda Chi Alpha pledges topped the list with an average GPA of 3.360 with Sigma Phi Epsilon pledges earning second place with a GPA of 2.990. Chi Psi was third with a GPA of 2.900.

Because of the decision to move fraternity Rush to the winter, academic expectations for freshman of the Class of 2000 are on the rise.

Dean of Greek Affairs, Buddy Atkins, expects that next year's freshmen might surpass their predecessors with Rush scheduled for the winter.

"They will achieve as well or better with lower anxiety levels," said Atkins.

Overall, Chi Omega was first among all Greek organizations with a GPA of 3.209 followed by Lambda Chi (3.191), and Kappa Alpha Theta (3.171). Sig Ep won second place among fraternities with a GPA of 3.123.

Howison was happy to report that Fall term grades showed nothing irregular.

## New exhibit proves photography is art

By EDEY POECKER  
Phi Staff Writer

When most people think of an art exhibit, they imagine that it displays painting or sculptures. However, the new exhibit in the DuPont Hall

gallery proves that photography can be just as artistic and creative as most conventional conceptions of art. The DuPont exhibit features the works of three Virginia photographers.

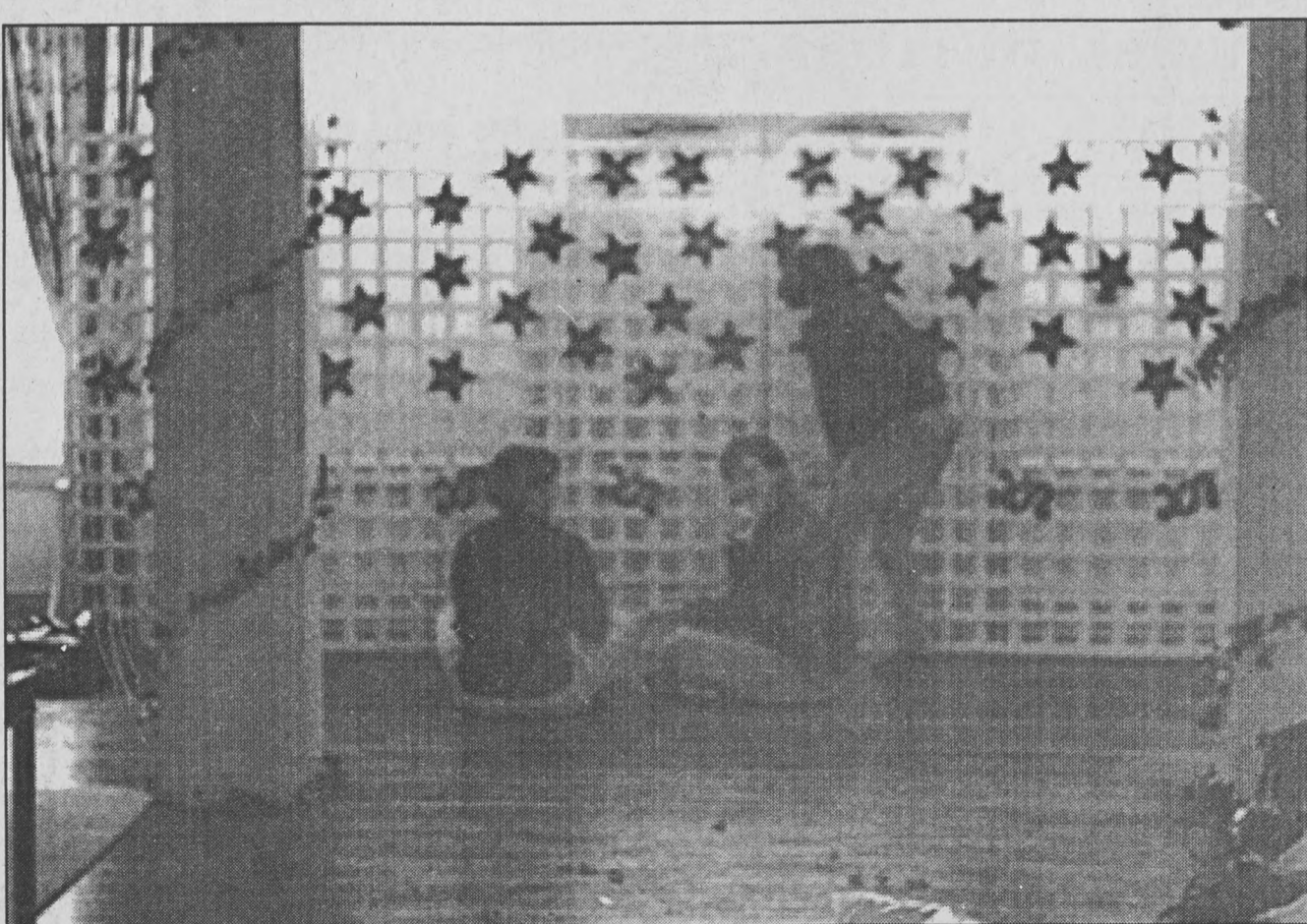
One of the contributors is Washington and Lee alumnus and current Annual Fund director Peter Cronin. Cronin's black and white photographs de-

pic local landscapes, including the Shenandoah National Park, and landscapes of the California coast.

Radford University art professor James Knipe trained as a sculptor and as a painter before he traded in his chisel and paintbrush for a camera. His local landscape photography has been displayed throughout the country.

Susan Bidwell's black and white abstract photography of everyday objects has been displayed in Virginia and North Carolina. Her work has also appeared in the New York art journal entitled *Manhattan Arts International*.

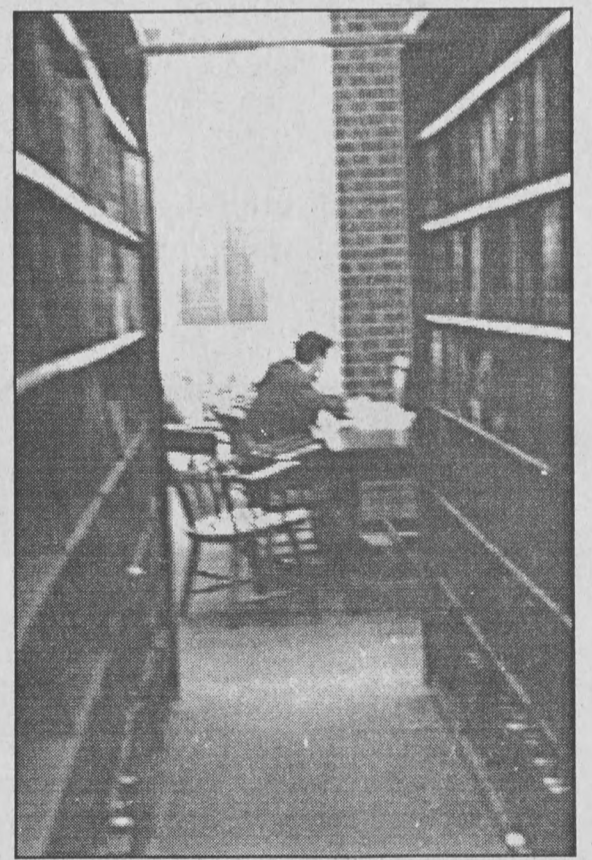
The exhibit will remain on campus until February 9.



Betsy Green, Phi Photo Editor

Reaching for the stars

The sisters of Chi Omega prepare for Pref Night by decorating the Fairfax Lounge on Thursday.



Betsy Green, Phi Photo Editor

## Professors to make the call on make-up classes

By DANIELLE BURGHARDT  
Phi Staff Writer

Washington and Lee students do not have to make up the snow days, unless their professors say so.

With more than 30 inches of snow and students stranded everywhere but Lexington, classes did not begin until Wednesday.

Dean Larry Peppers, Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee, said that there will be no formal make up classes. Instead, the decision will be left up to the individual faculty members.

The Committee met Monday to discuss the semester's slow start.

"The Faculty Executive Committee was asked by the President to consider this issue, and we made our recommendation to him," Dean Peppers said.

President Elrod agreed with the Committee.

Peppers plans to make up the lost time in his Tuesday-Thursday class. Although he normally needs an hour and a half of the two-hour time, he plans to use the extra half-hour two or three times to make up for the one missed class.

Professor of Sociology David Novack said that he learned of the Committee's decision Wednesday morning.

"I think that their primary concern is in the area of natural sciences, because there are labs. If you lose a lab, you literally lose the equivalent of a week," Novack said.

Novack also said that he plans to use less introduction time than he normally would.

W&L students will also miss classes the first Friday in March for Mock Convention.

"Losing class that Friday is unfortunate, but I think the benefits of Mock Convention certainly outweigh the lost time we would have," said Novack.

## BEYOND THE BLUE RIDGE

### Mitterand illness sparks debate on impeachment

Paris, France—Questions have arisen this week concerning whether or not the French Constitutional Court should gain the right to impeach a president. The debate is following the publication of a book by former French President Francois Mitterand's private physician, Claude Gubler, in which he reveals that Mitterand suffered from severe cancer for more than a decade of his presidency. Gubler, who is being sued for violating the code of patient privacy by Mitterand's family, asserts that the President was so ill that he was incapable of fulfilling the duties of the presidency for the last six months of his last term. This report is being vehemently denied by others who worked with the former President, who died last week of cancer.

### Government agencies face shutdowns, budget cuts

Washington, D.C.—Several federal agencies which recently reopened following the latest government shutdown are planning for the possibility of another shutdown on January 26, when many will run out of spending authority. By operating on limited reserve funds and sharply reducing all but necessary daily operations, agencies like the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have been able to pay some of the many bills which went unpaid during the shutdown. However, they are running out of money and will likely have to cut or shorten many important programs. Although many agencies have received approval for funding through the end of the fiscal year, some facing the January 26 cutoff fear that they could face very serious reductions in operations if GOP budget cuts go according to plans.

### Hillary Clinton uses book tour to deny Whitewater

Washington, D.C.—First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton used her new book's publicity tour to deny continued allegations of wrongdoing concerning her roles in the Whitewater and Travelgate affairs. Promoters of her book, entitled *It Takes a Village*, have sent Clinton on a nationwide press tour where she's faced reporters more interested in the scandals than her writings. In her effort to dispel the allegations, which have recently inspired a drop in her popularity ratings, Mrs. Clinton hinted that she might even be willing to testify before the Senate Investigation Committee on Whitewater, although as yet she has not volunteered to do so.

### Baseball owners vote on interleague play proposal

Los Angeles, CA—Baseball owners who are conducting quarterly meetings this week hope to vote on a proposal for interleague play during the regular season. Supporters of the proposal say that this change could improve baseball's popularity among fans, as well as increase ratings for television networks. Interleague play could be up for vote Thursday before a meeting of all the owners, and would need 21 of 28 votes for approval.

Beyond the Blue Ridge is  
compiled by Peggy Stuntz

## GOP WATCH

**Editor's Note: GOP Watch is a special weekly feature to keep Washington and Lee's students informed about the Republican Presidential Campaign in advance of Mock Convention.**

### Forbes' advertising blitz shows results in Iowa polls

A recent poll taken in Iowa shows that Steve Forbes has significantly cut into front runner Bob Dole's lead. Although Dole is still maintaining a large lead, many analysts believe that his chances of losing are growing as Forbes' popularity continues to surge. Forbes' strong showing in the poll is a direct result of his advertising bombardment of the state. Since Forbes is not receiving any federal election funds he is not subject to the spending limits that constrain other candidates. But political observers are warning the public not to be fooled by Forbes' showing in the poll. Although he has high name recognition, Forbes has practically no organization in Iowa and many believe that it will be difficult for him to transfer his popularity into caucus votes.

GOP Watch is compiled by  
Peggy Stuntz and Laura Knapp

# Blizzard of '96 hits Lexington

By CINDIE YOUNG  
Phi Features Editor

The Blizzard of '96, now a phrase reserved for gas station tee-shirts (of the "I survived..." variety) and meteorological records, was not without major impact both on the W&L campus and within the greater Lexington community over the past week.

The largest snow storm of several decades, last week's blizzard caused classes to resume at Washington and Lee a full two days later than was planned. Such a delayed opening is singularly rare for W&L, and was indeed "the fourth time school has been cancelled in 30 years," as will attest James Arthur.

Arthur, Director of Buildings and Grounds here on campus, describes the vigor with which B&G employees fought the weather across campus: "We had people working around the clock, from Saturday to Wednesday, to remove the snow."

While snow removal is after all a task common (although not to this season's extent) every winter at W&L, this year's removal process varied in several distinct ways from that of any other year.

Arthur explains that 1996 was "the first time we have ever set up housing in Gaines [Hall]" for those employees who could not risk the trip back and forth over the weekend.

Another difference lies in the fact that Evans Dining Hall this year provided B&G employees with food during their campus stay.

Thus provided with food and lodging, all B&G crew members—plumbers, carpenters and custodians alike—worked in shifts and overtime to prevent much accumulation of snow, and Arthur speaks for the entire crew in saying, "We're pleased at our success at getting the snow removed."

As well as the snow may have been removed from the sidewalks and crossways of W&L's campus, however, its presence upon the roads and backroads of Rockbridge County and beyond proved too much for many students to return

to school by Monday, January 8, originally scheduled as the first day of Winter Term 1996.

Phone calls from students who were trapped under snow drifts or whose flights were cancelled flooded W&L's administrative offices, and whether convinced more by these calls or the weather itself, school officials ultimately declared Washington and Lee closed until the Wednesday of last week.

Students in the meantime whiled away the long hours during which the weekend's heavy snow prevented travel, some in the comfort of their own apartments and houses, some in their dorms, and some stuck in hotel rooms miles away.

The W&L campus was hardly the only party affected by last weekend's blizzard, however; members of the Rockbridge County community also felt the impact of the storm.

One area of the county directly affected by the weather was that of the stores, most of which were closed during the thick of the storm only to re-open with droves of customers.

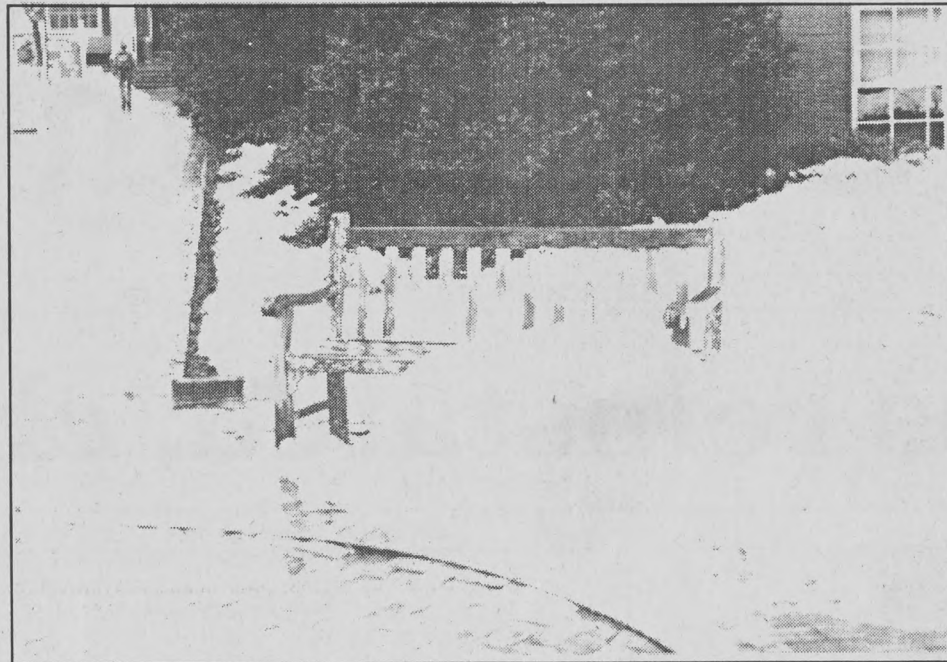
Laura Davis, an associate of Wal-Mart, declines to discuss any particulars about the store's sales, but allows that the store "did have good sales in toys and sleds."

A manager of Harris Teeter likewise describes the grocery store's business as "really, really busy" during the snowy weekend. Similarly avoiding specifics, the manager nonetheless stresses that the crowds were "worse than [during] Christmas."

As manager of Domino's Pizza, meanwhile, Rick Ficken also recalls "a good amount of sales," especially during the interval in which Domino's and Harris Teeter were the only stores open in downtown Lexington. Ficken estimates that his business did in fact suffer due to the storm, however, explaining that his delivery service was out for two and a half days.

Once reopened, "business did very much increase in the days that people could get to their cars," Kroger manager Mike Blanks affirms as well.

While traces and tee-shirts of the "Blizzard of '96" have not yet disappeared, and the trek to and from class still merits warm boots and Chapstick, the worst of the storm is long over, and Lexington has now become once again a booming Main Street community.



Betsy Green, Phi Photo Editor

Old man winter marks his territory once again.

### W&L husband and wife team to teach, research in Europe

From Phi Staff Reports

Lawrence M. Lamont, professor of administration at Washington and Lee University, and Anne Schroer-Lamont, associate dean of students at W&L, are spending the winter and spring in Oslo, Norway.

Lamont has joined the international faculty of the Norwegian School of Management, the second largest institution of higher education in Norway, where he will teach marketing, advise students, and conduct research.

Schroer-Lamont accepted a position as scholar-in-residence at the Center for Research on Women at the University of Oslo. She will join researchers from around the world and will share her findings from a 10-year study on the career decision-making of gifted young women from Washington and Lee.

In her study, Schroer-Lamont has been recording the changing patterns of future educational, career, and family planning goals of several hundred W&L alumni. Her goal is to contribute to the establishment of a theory of career development for gifted women.

Following their stay in Oslo, the pair will travel to Warsaw, Poland, to attend an international educator's conference where Lamont will present his recent research on the teachings of marketing. Later they will travel to Russia and eastern and western Europe, visiting research centers in their respective fields.

Lamont received the B.S., M.B.A., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined the faculty at Washington and Lee in 1974 as an associate professor and was named a full professor in 1981.

Schroer-Lamont joined the administration and counseling staff at Washington and Lee in 1985. She received her B.A. from Defiance College, her M.A. from Washington State University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Northern Colorado.



Betsy Green, Phi Photo Editor

They're seeing spots!

Amidst a sea of blue tape, the Kappa Alpha Thetas prepare for Rush.

### Freshman males initiated

By MICHAEL HEWLETT  
Phi Associate Editor

Despite concerns about hazing, fraternities initiated their pledges this past weekend. Under the guidelines passed last year by the Interfraternity Council, freshmen males must be initiated by the first week of the term.

Associate Dean of Students Leroy "Buddy" Atkins said under IFC bylaws, freshmen should have been initiated last Saturday. An anonymous letter by a parent raised rumors about possible fraternity hazing.

In response, President John Elrod called a meeting last Wednesday with IFC and fraternity presidents. Atkins said the purpose of the meeting was to remind them to not haze and get their pledges initiated that weekend.

"There is not supposed to be any hell week," he said. "Initiation week is supposed to be for initiation and not for any foolishness."

IFC president Ryan Connolly said all freshmen pledges were initiated this weekend and has heard of no violations or hazing incidents.



Betsy Green, Phi Photo Editor

Jenna Cowles and Dana Hood prepare Pi Phi for Rush.

**GOOD  
WEEKLY  
INCOME**

processing mail for  
national company! Free  
supplies, postage! No  
selling! Bonuses! Start  
immediately! Genuine  
opportunity! Rush S.A.S.E.:  
GMC, SUITE 216  
1861 N. FEDERAL HWY  
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33020

## the efficient machine called pilobolus



Lois Greenfield

By Lisa Brundage  
Guest Writer for the Phi

Martha Graham said that bodies can't lie. Perhaps that is why Pilobolus' audience members are so awestruck.

Pilobolus' dancers, who brought their unique acrobatic dance to the Lenfest Center on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, bend, shape and throw their bodies in unimaginable feats that seem to defy all the laws of physics.

Pilobolus Dance Theatre is the brainchild of Moses Pendleton and Jonathon Wolken. The pair founded the company in 1971 after meeting in a dance class at Dartmouth College. Since that time, the group has gained and continues to enjoy world-wide recogni-

tion.

The program shown at Lenfest was a retrospective of works covering the company's 25 year history. In the five pieces presented Pilobolus demonstrated not only physical prowess but miraculous artistry.

Dancers swung like pendulums, turned somersaults through each other, jumped, lifted and all out suspended themselves in mid-air. So seamless were the motions that the boundaries that normally exist between people completely vanished. Each dancer became part of the efficient machine called Pilobolus.

The inventive choreography kept Pilobolus' abstractions from being too esoteric, and it seemed that even the large members of children within the audience appreciated the group's efforts.

The repertoire the company presented varied from the comical "Walklyndon" (1971), straight from the Ministry of Silly Walks, to the stunning drama of Rebecca Anderson's pas d'un(e) entitled "Pseudopo-

dia," and Kent Lindemer's and John Mario-Sevilla's duet "Pyramid of the Moon."

Nothing, however, could have prepared the audience for the amazing ending of the program.

"Day Two" featured some of the most innovative props used in dance. Poles were used to suspend and support dancers before the flooring itself undulated beneath their feet. Soon, however, it was the dancers themselves who vacillated underneath the floor covering, before reemerging before a standing ovation to remind everyone how much fun Slip 'n' Slides are.

Pilobolus is ultimately a true testimony to the human spirit, not only by testing the bounds of physical capability within an aesthetic framework, but by giving the art of dance accessibility.

*Editor's Note: Lisa Brundage is currently a sophomore at Mary Washington College, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where she is enrolled in both English literature courses and dance classes.*

## waiting to exhale



Michael Hewlett  
Phi Staff Writer

Isn't life weird? First, President Bill Clinton forgets to inhale; now, we are waiting to exhale. The movie "Waiting to Exhale" has finally arrived, and groups of women have packed the house to see this movie about their lives, their fears, and their hopes.

The movie was inspired by Terry McMillan's best-selling book of the same name, which was based on the experiences of the author and her circle of friends. The book focuses on the trials and tribulations of four black women.

One such woman, Savannah is a single public relations executive who moves to Phoenix, Arizona, because she cannot find a decent man in Detroit.

Another, Bernadine, finds out on New Years Eve that her husband is leaving her for a white woman. Never underestimate the rage of a scorned woman because she proceeds to clean out her anal husband's closet, pile his belongings in his car, and light a match to them. Ouch!

Robin, meanwhile, is a successful insurance professional who always attracts the

wrong men. Although she is intelligent in other areas of her life, she loses all common sense when it comes to the male species.

Finally, Gloria is a single mother who runs a stylish salon and tries to raise her decent but increasingly difficult son. At the same time, she waits for the perfect man while feeling self-conscious about her weight.

Here you have four black sisters struggling to find a man who can satisfy them emotionally, physically and intellectually. In the course of one year, these women see a series of brutish men come in and out of their lives. They cling to each other to get through the rough times.

Some have argued that this book is a general bashing of black males. Those arguments fall flat, however, when one reads the book. McMillan simply and eloquently relates the experiences of black women in American society.

Furthermore, the reader is always reminded that not all black men are dogs (which serves as reassurance for this reviewer). Waiting to

Exhale is ultimately about the relationships that black women, and women in general, build among themselves and the bonds they share with each other.

I laughed with them. I felt their pain and their desperation. They spoke to me in a direct personal way, reminding me of my mother, my cousin, my aunt, and every black woman I have ever met.

*Terry McMillan's book is a realistic portrayal of the sometimes hostile world of black male-female relationships*

My only criticism was the sometimes cavalier attitude toward adultery with married men. At least three of the four characters get themselves involved with married men. But, in another way, these indiscretions show the reader that these women are

not angels; they are humans and as much at fault for choosing the men they allow in their lives as the men themselves.

This is a realistic portrayal of the sometimes hostile world of black male/female relationships. McMillan writes from the heart with honesty and sensitivity. Her novel brings to life the songs of black women's voices and experiences so the whole world can listen and learn.



Tarah Grant

Remember the days when Reagan napped in the White House, the General Lee was everyone's favorite car, people spent hours peeling and reorganizing the stickers on their Rubik Cubes, and W&L must have been a mecca for yuppies?

On Wednesday, January 24 at 10:00 p.m., the Student Activities Board's 80s Dance in the gym will bring students back to those bygone days.

Featuring laser lights and a band by the name of "The Breakfast Club," an 'eighties tribute band, the dance will allow students to jam once again to 'eighties favorites including "Hey Mickey," "Rock the Casbah," "Tainted Love," "Carma Chameleon," and many more.

"Last fall [the SAB] took a survey to come up with ideas for activities and events and a theme night was one of the suggestions," said junior Erin Harrison, an SAB member. "We presented it to the EC and they really liked it."

If Wednesday's dance is successful, there is a possibility that a theme dance could become an annual SAB-sponsored event.

The SAB wanted to provide an incentive encouraging students to get into the 'eighties spirit (again). Students who come in 'eighties garb will be admitted free, while all others will be charged a \$3 entrance fee.

"I knew that really tight jeans would be back in style someday," said sophomore Zach Hanks, who looks forward to dressing for the event. "I like the way they hug my buttocks."



## Army of 12 Monkeys Marches Across the Silver Screen

Kirk Susong  
Phi Reviewer

The typical time travel film involves some pretty basic criteria: the lead running into his younger self, the actors working to avert some tragedy and 'change the future,' and the time travelers blending into their surroundings to avoid capture.

*Twelve Monkeys* takes these normal parts of a time traveling movie and subtly changes each of them, altering them just enough to make the film innovative yet still a mainstream hit. And largely, it works.

The film's premise? In the year 1996, a deadly virus breaks out around the world, mysteriously killing five billion people; mankind is forced to flee underground to save itself. But we humans are none too happy in the dark, grimy, industrial caves below the surface. So the government decides to send convicted criminal James Cole (Bruce Willis) back to the year of the outbreak - but not to change history, since that can't be undone. Rather, they simply want him to locate the source of the pure virus, so that scientists can create a vaccine for it. Then man could safely return to the surface of the earth.

At this point Willis makes the same mistake it seems every time traveler does. (I vow that if I ever travel back in time the last thing I will do is to tell people I

am from the future, since they would think I was a complete loon. Why do they always make this mistake?) At any rate, Willis shoots his mouth off and is promptly taken to a psychiatric hospital, where he spends his time drooling.

More importantly, he meets fellow inmate Jeffrey Goines (Brad Pitt), and also the kindly Dr. Kathryn Raily, played by Madeline Stowe (*Last of the Mohicans*). Needless to say, they become an intricate part of his planning as well as of the plot's eventual resolution.

The real strength of this film is the intricate plot, and the many twists and turns it takes. Thanks to time travel, you are never absolutely positive what is going on, or who knows what. And since the film states early on that the future is unchangeable only to a certain point, it makes the resolution of the plot all the more interesting and unpredictable.

But as always occurs in science fiction or fantasy films, the unique features of *Twelve Monkeys*' world aren't perfectly developed. There are a number of questions which are left unresolved, and several of the characters' actions don't necessarily make sense. For example, if the future is truly unchangeable, then why does Jose give Cole a gun? Is there any significance to the fact that the scientist always says she is in "insurance" at the film's end? But though these distractions are disquieting, they also ultimately serve to illustrate the thought-provoking nature of the film.

Brad Pitt takes a lot of criticism for being a beef-cake poster boy, but I think this film will go a long way towards proving his critics wrong. Pitt brings to his role as Jeffrey Goines a sort of scary sanity reminiscent of Jack Nicholson in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; sometimes it's difficult to decide if the characters

are sane people who love the freedom 'insanity' brings or if they really are crazy. The other members of the cast also perform admirably; it's particularly good to see Bruce Willis continue to expand his repertoire.

So what bothered me about this film, besides the aforementioned inconsistencies? One, the script is rather uneven. Writers David and Janet Peoples (the former being known for *Unforgiven* and *Blade Runner*) seem only to have sketched out some of the more interesting parts of the film, and let the rest of the plot development be filled in by apprentices.

For example, the question of time travel is well addressed. But when the 'everyday' business of finding the virus begins, the script quickly loses its cleverness. When Cole and Raily are searching for the Army of the 12 Monkeys, they simply follow a trail of paint to the headquarters! That seems more appropriate to a Charlie Chan radio serial than a multi-layered film about the complexities of sanity and time.

I also found myself quickly tiring of Terry Gilliam's directorial vision. The former Monty Python member and director of *Brazil* and *The Fisher King* takes a dark and slightly paranoid view of the future which quickly becomes tiresome - after all, this film isn't 1984 and shouldn't get too involved with that sort of post-industrial, urban grime picture.

Overall, *Twelve Monkeys* is an above average picture. It raises and explores interesting questions about destiny, sanity and memory, all within the context of a plausible plot and compelling characters. Although there are a few loose ends here and there, Terry Gilliam's dark vision is well-filmed and entertaining. And really, what more can we ask for from a film?

# The Ring-tum Phi

The Student Voice of Washington and Lee  
Founded September 18, 1897

## You look fabulous

Perhaps the most fascinating feature about Sorority Rush (minus the singing and clapping girls) is the veritable fashion lollapalooza that overruns our campus for one cold week in January.

Yes, it's time again for Lexington's own *Pret-a-Porter* and you're invited.

From the Colonnade to the University Center, the women of *Vogue* and *Cosmopolitan* have stepped off their magazine's pages and into our lives.

Everywhere you turn it's a bazaar of winter fashion. A-line skirts in classic black accompany form-fitting charcoal sweaters. Tasteful brown turtles, cream-colored tights, and sensible shoes adorn virtually all W&L women.

Labels, labels, darling, it's all about labels. Anne Klein, Ann Taylor, Todd Oldham. It's not who you are, it's what you wear. Evidently, it's an *absolutely fabulous* campus—if only Patsy and Edina were here!

Never mind the ridiculous decorations that overwhelm Fairfax Lounge and the Game Room. They look more like the runways of New York, Paris, and Milan.

Yesterday somebody thought they saw the film crew of MTV's *House of Style* gathering footage for their college edition.

Time to put away those tattered Gap jeans and over-sized J. Crew sweaters, ladies! Grab those Kenneth Cole shoes and that funky mod squad dress you found in that boutique on Rodeo. That's right, honey, Kate Moss ain't got nothing on you.

Style, poise, and elegance are this week's buzz words. Diet Coke and rice cakes in hand, sorority women in *haute couture* have revolutionized W&L's fashion scene.

Guys take a look! After this weekend it's back to the frumpy casual wear of crunchy comfort -- so tired, so old, so three years ago!

Who cares about the snow on the ground? Check out those glammin' women. Hot, hot, hot. So what if it is gloomy and gray outside? This week's explosive excitement is inside.

They may call us snotty, shallow, and superficial. Maybe they're right. But don't despair, darling, because, as Billy Crystal would say, you loook mahvelous.

## Quote of the Week

"That's what Rush is all about."

—A Kappa Alpha Theta on the thousands of pieces of blue tape used to attach decorations to the wall



"I came to the south for THIS!"

## End of Racism : old issue, new debate

### MY VIEW

Joshua Heslinga

Over the past several weeks, a discussion has been raging on Washington and Lee's campus about the nature of racism and multiculturalism.

One of the most unfortunate things about such discussions, as they are commonly held, is that both sides seem just to rail against the other, repeating mantras about affirmative action and multiculturalism without much comprehension or substantial reasoning. The arguments in such discussions are frequently constricted and hardly ever supported in detail.

A few months ago, a book was published that attempted to change the nature of the discussion of racism in America. You've probably heard the many outraged liberal denunciations of this book. I'm referring to *The End of Racism* by Dinesh D'Souza.

I bought D'Souza's book partly because I figured that if it had drawn such condemnation from the entrenched liberal civil rights establishment, it probably had more than a grain of truth to it. I now believe that *The End of Racism* is one of the best books on culture and public policy I have ever read. It is exhaustively researched and extensive in its exploration of racism's history, scathing in its treatment of those who stand in the way of real solutions, and painfully probing in searching out contemporary cultural pathologies and prescribing remedies for them.

D'Souza provides an in depth look at the origins of the modern liberal commitment to group equality and proportional representation, ideas that have become gospel without any serious reasoned support. He charges that

while the early sociological commitment to cultural relativism served to fight the entrenched racism of the early 20th century, it has now become a major obstacle toward finding serious solutions to contemporary attitudes.

D'Souza presents the central dilemma for liberals clearly. By nearly all means of measurement, American attitudes toward race have undergone a remarkable transformation that now shows little or no explicit racism. Yet liberals have been puzzled as to why a reliance on merit has not produced a greater change in black achievement. In response, they have devised a dubious and unsupported concept of institutional and implicit racism that ignores any pretenses of fairness or merit and relies on explicit racial preferences that, D'Souza alleges, "treat incompetent individuals as competent on account of their membership in a favored group."

In addition to destroying standards as a whole, these racial preferences virtually concede black inferiority by acknowledging that less qualified minorities must be chosen in order to produce "fair" levels of achievement.

In 1993, Jack Nelson, chief of the *Los Angeles Times'* Washington bureau, announced to his staff that henceforth, only women and minorities would be hired. He was asked if this prohibition on white males amounted to discrimination and replied: "No, it's affirmative action." Similarly, Freddie Hernandez, a black lieutenant in the Miami fire department, stated, "We hire 60% Hispanics here, regardless of qualifications."

These rigid instances of explicitly racial preference have provoked, in D'Souza's words, a large white backlash that believes that "America does not have a race problem but rather a black problem." While some of this

backlash against racial preferences is undoubtedly expressive of racist sentiments, some black Americans too are beginning to attack affirmative action, and most whites seek only the restoration of Martin Luther King's color-blind standard.

However, many liberal civil rights activists see this as insufficient and reject all merit-based standardized tests, which invariably show a large gap between white and black achievement.

These large merit gaps have led liberal coalitions to oppose all testing and job qualification standards as inherently racist. Yet D'Souza points out that the National Academy of Sciences recently concluded that these tests in fact over-predict black achievement, and even critics of the tests, such as James Crouse and Dale Trusheim, authors of *The Case Against the SAT*, freely admit that the tests are, if anything, biased toward blacks.

To his great credit, D'Souza moves beyond the pessimistic recognition of the merit gap that is too often the extent of contemporary debate. Contrary to the assertions of many of his critics, D'Souza rejects any arguments of the genetic inferiority of blacks, including those proposed by Charles Murray in his controversial book on IQ, *The Bell Curve*.

Rather, he seeks to confront many of the pathologies that destroy achievement in black culture. He argues that having achieved formal equality, blacks must now address these cultural problems, which liberals refuse to acknowledge because it threatens their belief in cultural relativism. These cultural problems include extraordinarily high crime rates, the normalization of illegitimacy, prevalent drug use, dependency on government for help, glorification of

violence, a reliance on racism as an excuse, and a complete "repudiation of standard English and academic achievement as forms of acting white."

Unfortunately, the penetrating and honest commentary that D'Souza offers is hardly welcome in contemporary debates over racism and multiculturalism. As he states, the civil rights establishment owes its continued existence to the constant unearthing of allegedly racist attitudes and practices.

Indeed, liberal blacks denounce any serious dissent from the line of the civil rights establishment, impugning non-black critics as racists and invoking the dreaded Uncle Tom epithet toward black conservatives. *Washington Post* columnist Carl Rowan declared: "if you give [Supreme Court Justice Clarence] Thomas a little flour on his face, you'd think you had David Duke." Black historian John Henrik Clarke sums up this attitude, asserting that "black conservatives are really frustrated slaves crawling back to the plantation."

These inflammatory statements and attitudes have been used (or overused) so much that they now have only questionable effect. Controversial presidential candidate Pat Buchanan declares, "Words like 'racist' have lost their power to intimidate. No one is cowed anymore."

This ominously harsh rhetoric stands as a major obstacle to reaching the multiracial society that D'Souza envisions. It would behoove those on both sides of the debate (as well as those in the vast gray area between the two encampments) to listen to his innovative and compelling voice, for only when the debate becomes truly honest and open will we be able to achieve *The End of Racism*.

## Why can't they just keep it to themselves?

### THE FAR MIDDLE

Alex Christensen

I did not attend the Mock Convention Gala (and don't ask me to pronounce it), but it did, at least for me, provide a telling glimpse into the unpromising future of our country and the evils of so-called "political correctness" and "tolerance." While these are fine concepts in general, I think they are really getting out of hand when people try to force them into the mainstream of society, past the point of all reasonableness, until everyone is expected to conform to the same norms that everyone else does, leaving little or no room for disagreement.

"What does this have to do with the Mock Convention Gala?" you ask, as well you might. "I thought it was just another date function."

Sure, that's what they would like you to believe. It's all just another excuse for a party, another excuse to dance and drink and have fun. That's true up to a point, until you see the sinister ideology such an event promotes, however subtly.

Everywhere you looked on campus, it was the same. At first, it was hardly noticeable. Out of nowhere, they appeared: Women with men! Men with women! Laughing couples holding hands and pretending to be happy while flaunting their so-called "lifestyles" in a flimsy exercise to try to make them look more acceptable to the mainstream. Surrounding me was a tide of political correctness, screaming, "Abandon your morals! Throw away your future! Forget the rules of tradition and common decency! Heterosexuality is just as good as any other arrangement."

Now, I realize that in today's political climate, it is unfashionable to "bash" heterosexuality. Suddenly, politicians from Newt Gingrich to Bill Clinton to Pat Robertson want us all to believe that being heterosexual is somehow "okay," or even desirable. "Family values" are paramount in the political discussion.

And heterosexuals have not let this go unnoticed. Suddenly, as if out of nowhere, they are flexing their

newfound political muscle in an effort to carve out a territory for "special" heterosexual rights. They want tax deductions for married couples that somehow constitute more of a "family" than any other loving living arrangement. They want marriage to be an exclusively heterosexual province, depriving the children of people of other sexual orientations of a more stable, identifiably cohesive environment in which to grow up. In some states, heterosexual extremists have even attempted to organize to pass ballot initiatives that would deny access to the political process to anyone but heterosexuals. How far is this politically correct hegemony going to extend before the American people see it for what it is?

... This all dates back to the sixties. Then, "hippies" demanding "peace" and "love" threw out the old boundaries and moralities in favor of "free love." They brought their sexuality out of the closet, and demanded that everyone watch them fornicating in the woods on television, at the movies—throughout the popular culture. What once had been tolerance of other people's sexual choices and living arrangements became just a general sickness at watching naked men and women going at it all the time. And yet, they continued. Now you can't turn on a daytime talk show without seeing some hick with three teeth and long hair at the back of his flattop, just emerged from his trailer for the first time in months and still blinking, talking about exactly how he and his wife like to have sex. Do we really need to know?

I, for one, am ready to step forward and say, "Enough is enough!" I don't care what anyone's sexual orientation is—have sex with anyone and everyone you want, or an old boot. But the public promotion evinced toward this kind of sick, open heterosexuality is just wrong.

Imagine the effect this could have on our children alone. Suddenly, instead of discovering their sexuality in pure, healthy ways, they would have a heterosexual hegemony mandating that they get married, have kids, conform to the American ideal, even before they fully realize their own potential as individuals or develop healthy attitudes toward sexuality.

The country would be overrun with loping, macho

men and mincing, effete women all trying the latest "hip" trend of heterosexuality.

While I don't think that any one religion should control the government, it is abundantly clear by now that America is fundamentally a Christian nation, and this kind of rampant sexual immorality is clearly against the Bible. In the Old Testament alone, there are over 300 proscriptions on heterosexual activity. Can the message be clearer?

This is not to mention the unhealthy aspects of the heterosexual lifestyle. Over 90 percent of the world's AIDS cases are caused by heterosexual sex. A deadly epidemic is passing through our society like wildfire while "populists" and pseudo-intellectuals tell us that heterosexuality is "natural." If it is so natural, why will it kill you? May as well light up and shoot up and throw away your life as become a practicing heterosexual these days.

Heterosexuals are also more likely to be child molesters. 90 percent of child molestation, committed against both young girls and young boys, is committed by pedophiles who often masquerade as "normal" heterosexual men with good jobs, wives and families. Obviously, something is terribly wrong with a lifestyle that can generate these kind of shocking statistics.

I'm not saying that all heterosexuals should be locked away or whatever wild final solutions to the problem some have proposed. I have lots of good friends who are heterosexual, and even though I am their friend, I let them know in no uncertain terms that what they are doing, in my opinion, is a sin. I'm just saying that society cannot afford to sanction something so insidious as this in the name of "P.C." or "toleration," and while we should not violate the rights of heterosexuals, we also should not pretend that what they are doing is right or even morally neutral.

So next time you see a young boy-girl couple walking down the street, making moon eyes and flaunting their perversity for all the world to see, just ask yourself what you are being asked to accept in that arrangement.

Me? I don't go for fancy cars, diamond rings or movie stars. I go for penguins. Oh, Lord, I go for penguins.

# The Ring-tum Phi

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# Looking for something to do

## DREAM LAND

Richard Weaver

This is the time of the year when most seniors realize that in about five months they will no longer be on a meal plan. This jars them into thinking about what to do after graduation. This usually involves going to graduate school or getting a job. Or thinking about becoming a fifth-year senior.

My first step in the job search was putting together a resume. The toughest part for me was deciding which of my activities were directly relevant. It always helps to have a friend read through your resume to tell you "Member, Columbia House" and "President, the Cadaver Society" are unnecessary. Not that I am the president. Or even a member. Nevermind.

Next comes thinking of how to get as much money as possible with the least amount of work, while getting 14 hours of sleep a day. I would like to have a job in TV, but I'm working on some back-up plans, just in case. Seniors have to have something to calm their nerves.

I look no farther than W&L when I

think of the things I could do. What jumps out right away is to become one of the people who "buys" back text-books:

Robert E. Student: I bought this geology book for \$45. What will you give me?

Me: Two dollars.

Robert E. Student: Two dollars? What a rip-off!

Me: Now it's a dollar and half, just for your attitude.

Robert E. Student: I'm sorry sir, I'll take it.

Stonewall J. Student: How much is that used geology book?

Me: \$30.

Stonewall J. Student: Deal.

I could always be one of those "party pics" people who come to Fancy Dress. Even if each couple bought only one of

the 137 different shots I took of them, I'd still be raking in a profit. Plus I would get to go to Fancy Dress for free.

My date could carry around my camera bag for me.

Now that the Grateful Dead is disbanded, I could spend time following Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts around. I could sell T-shirts to help support myself on the road. Maybe if I worked hard enough Doug would make me a Hot Nut, and I could have my own limericks and everything.

You may have read that Hollins College is looking for a new president, and I figure, hey, why not me? I

already pretty much know my way around. I'd like to build a dairy there, just like the one they have at Sweet Briar College. Really.

There is always the one other contingency, the one which no college graduate wants to face: going back home and living with your parents.

For me this is only slightly enticing because over the Christmas break I found out that Linda Georgian, the president of the Psychic Friends Network, has moved to my hometown, Vero Beach, Florida.

"I psychically felt I wanted to live in Vero Beach. I saw a bright light around Vero," she told the Vero Beach Press Journal.

This could be my chance to live at home, work for a TV psychic and get to know Dionne Warwick personally, all at the same time. Plus this could lead to all-new career opportunities like working on Sylvester Stallone's mom's psychic TV show. My resume will have a bright light around it.

Recently I've also been thinking a lot about the speech of my high school valedictorian, who said the future lies ahead of us, gleaming with possibility or shimmering with hope or whatever. Maybe he'll give me a job.

## GENERAL NOTES

### Film Society

The Washington and Lee Film Society's next presentation will be the award-winning story of a "date from purgatory," *What Happened Was...* (USA, 1994), directed by Tom Noonan.

Screenings will be at 8:05 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 19 and 20 in the Troubadour Cinema, at the corner of Main and Henry Streets. As always, there is no charge for admission. This film is in English.

The Film Society's presentation of *The Postman*, postponed by the recent horrible weather, has been rescheduled for Jan. 26-27.

### Study Break

First Northern American National Bank (Circuit City) will be conducting an Information Session on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. in Room 114 of the University Center. All students are invited to attend.

The News York Stock Exchange Summer Internship deadline has been extended. Resumes, Statement of Interest and Transcript are due to the Career Development Office by January 26, 1996.

Videotaped practice interviews will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 4:30 in the Career Development Office. All students are invited to attend.

### Career Opportunity

Are you getting ready to graduate and can't find a legitimate career opening? We can help allay your fears. Exciting, unlimited financial opportunity in the telecommunications industry.

We are holding on campus recruiting meetings on Monday and Tuesday January 22 and 23 at 8:30 p.m. in Room 113, University Center.

For more information or to set up a confidential interview, call 463-6638 from 1 to 4 p.m. on Monday or Tuesday.

### Project Horizon

Lori Olan of Project Horizon will speak about violence and dating 7:30 p.m. January 25 in the Northen Auditorium.

### Support Group

A confidential support group is meeting weekly for Washington and Lee women who have experienced sexual assault/abuse at any time in their lives. This group has been meeting weekly for eight years with the membership always open to new members. Each member signs an agreement of confidentiality at the first meeting. Please call Carol Calkins, the Counseling Center secretary, at 8590 or the University Health Service at 8401 to learn of times and locations. The first meeting for the winter term will be Friday, Jan. 19.

### Stress Test

Take the Stress Test. Find out what stresses W&L students and how W&L students manage stress. Look for the stress test in the Health Center, d-hall, library and classes. Results will be revealed at an interactive program "Cliff Notes on Stress Management" 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, Northen Auditorium by Watter Childress of Dow Management Institute.

### Alpha Phi Omega

Alpha Phi Omega events for the month of January are as follows. APO will have an open meeting Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m. in the Fairfax Lounge. Midnight Bowling will take place at the lanes midnight, Jan. 26. Those participating in the Jan. 28 Animal Shelter Project should meet at 12:50 p.m. in the BDG quad. A pizza party is scheduled for 6 p.m. Jan. 30 in the Women's Center.

# Alpha Phi Omega coed service fraternity announces annual rush

To the W&L Community,

It is my privilege to announce that Alpha Phi Omega Coed Service Fraternity will be holding its Winter Rush from Jan. 25 thru Feb. 1. The activities include an Open Meeting, Midnight Bowling, a service project at the SPCA Animal Shelter, a Pizza Party, and the Pledge Ceremony. Flyers providing dates, times, and locations of activities will be posted across campus and both Greeks and Independents are encouraged to participate.

This is a very special time for the Alpha Beta Tau chapter of APO as this has been our best year ever! We have had the largest pledge class, the largest membership (forty brothers), and are working towards completing the most service projects and service hours in our history. For those unfamiliar with APO, we are a Coed Service Fraternity dedicated to the principles of Service, Leadership, and Friendship. We have weekly social breaks in the Co-

op, a weekly meeting in the University Center, and weekly service projects. (Brothers are required to attend two service projects per term.) Upcoming service projects include a visit to Stonewall Jackson Intensive Care Facility, a visit to the SPCA Animal Shelter, helping out with Habitat for Humanity and attending our Sectional Conference at V

CU. We also sponsor ongoing projects such as a tutoring program at Waddell Elementary School and supervising two Brownie Troops in the area. We also have numerous socials including our Annual Semi-Formal (Feb.), a Movie Night (Mar.), an 80's Party (Apr.), and many informal socials scattered in-between.

Pledgeship in APO is open (anyone who wants to join gets in), lasts about six weeks, and involves four tasks: going through the Pledge Ceremony and Initiation Ceremony, interviewing all the pledges and brothers, sponsoring a pledge service project and

pledge social, and attending weekly pledge meetings. Our pledgeship is not that demanding and is designed to introduce pledges to the traditions of APO and to familiarize them with their fellow pledges and their future brothers. Each pledge is assigned a BIG Brother who helps them out with pledgeship and who serves as a best friend in the fraternity. In addition, there is no hazing in APO: no meaningless errands to undertake, no stupid or humiliating tasks to perform. Finally, joining APO is very easygoing on the wallet or purse, only \$35.

If you're interested in learning more about APO (and you think you want to be a part of our best year ever), don't hesitate to contact an officer or brother or attend any (or all) of our Winter Rush activities.

Paul D. Saboe, APO President

# The Ring-tum Phi

Neither sleet, nor snow, nor driving rain can stop us from making our appointed rounds.

(Well, usually.)

## LOSE 20 POUNDS IN TWO WEEKS

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## Elrod commends B&G for snow removal

Dear W&L Employees:

I want to pay a special tribute to those of you in Buildings and Grounds, Dining Services, and Security who labored with such dedication during our monster snow storm. To the Buildings and Grounds crew, I want to express my appreciation for those long round-the-clock twelve hour shifts you served removing snow from the walks, roads, and parking lots on campus. To the Dining Services employees who found ways to make it to work on Sunday evening and Monday to serve those

students who made it back to Lexington, thank you for your great efforts. And to the Security folks who fielded hundreds of call daily through the storm weekend and on Monday, and who provided transportation as needed, a special job of gratitude is owed you as well.

Thank you all for your very special efforts on behalf of Washington and Lee. We all appreciate your dedication and thank you for it.

Sincerely,  
John W. Elrod

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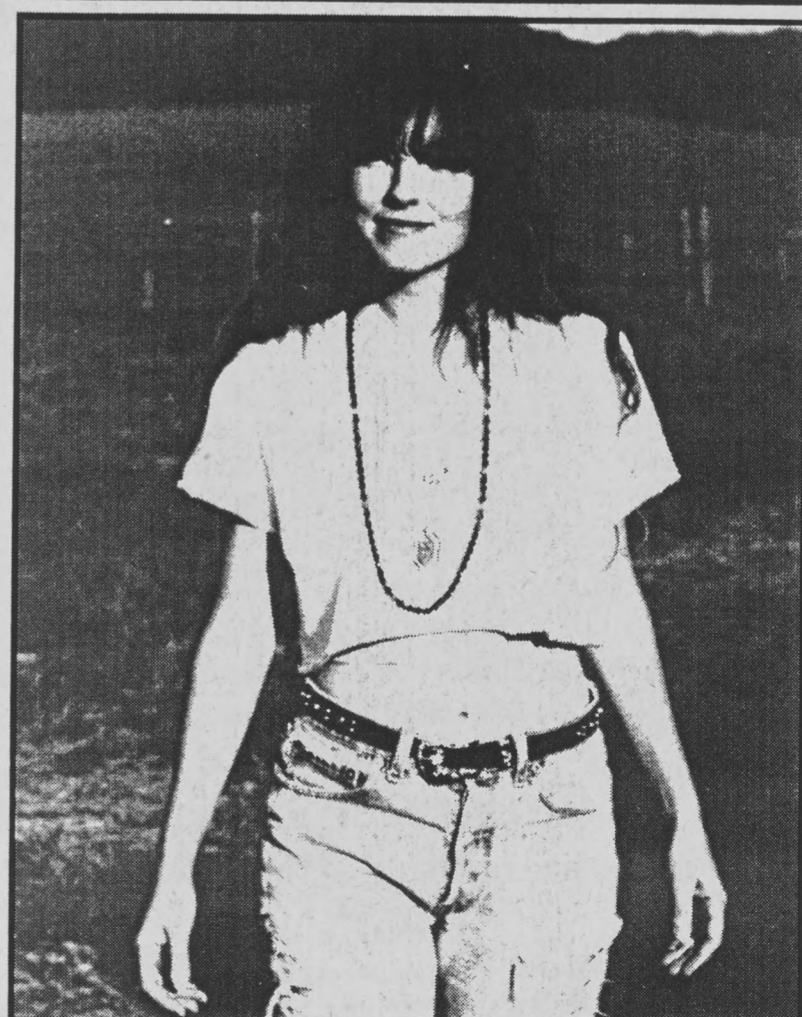
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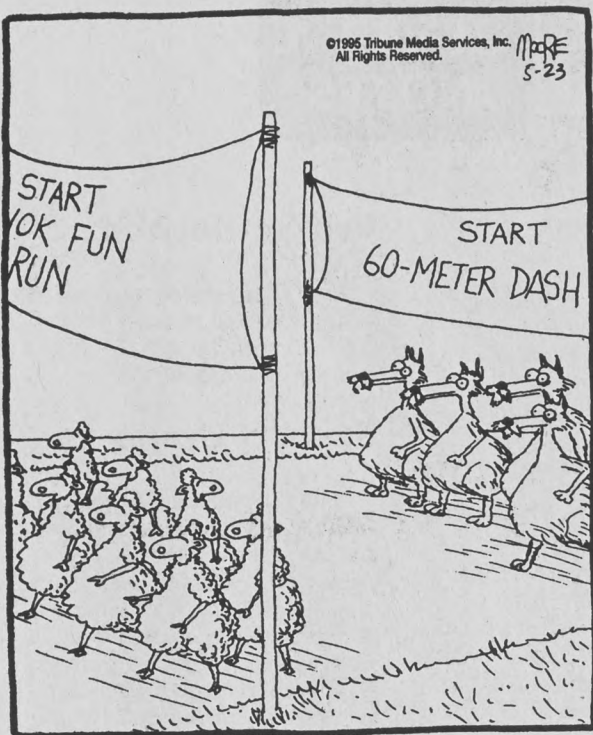
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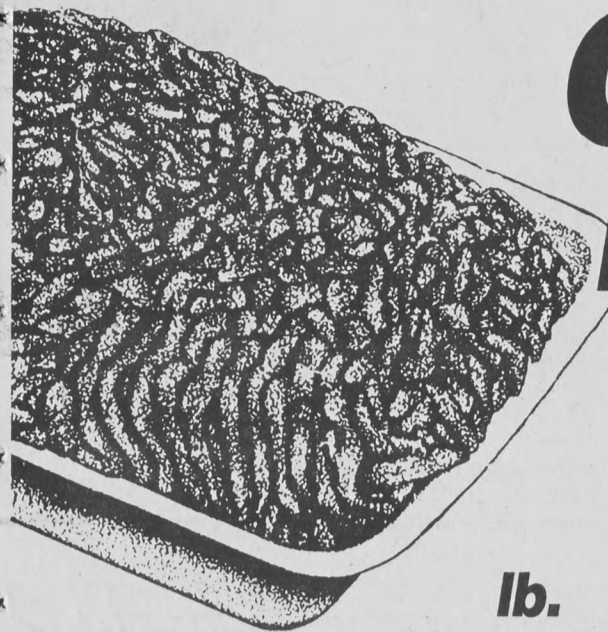
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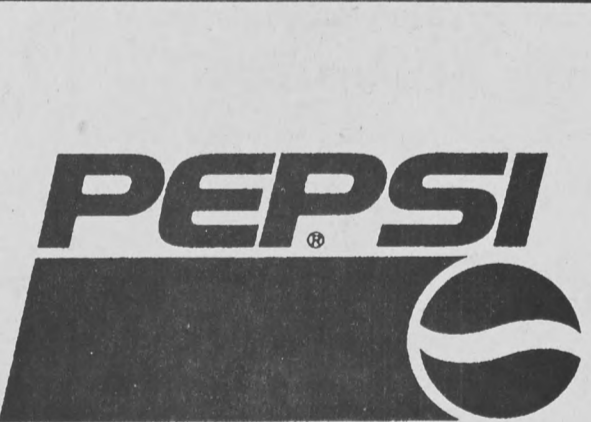


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## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Rebekah Prince  
Women's Swimming



Cam Dyer  
Men's Basketball

Rebekah Prince seemed to be everywhere last week.

The senior captain was a main contributor in the Generals' three meet victories last week. She proved her consistency by capturing at least one race in each meet. Against Centre, Prince took the 100 back and the 200 IM.

Her performance was also impressive late in the Catholic meet. With the meet on the line, Prince teamed up with Megan Wiedmaier, Greta Richter, and Laura Marshall to capture the 400 free relay and the meet victory.

Dyer has piled up some amazing numbers in the past few weeks.

The senior has not scored under twenty points since the New Year. After scoring 21 points against both Virginia Wesleyan and Lynchburg, Dyer went on a rampage at Randolph-Macon. He posted a career-high point total of 41, including 24 in the first half. Dyer's point total trailed only Jay Handlan's 66 as the highest W&L single-game total ever.

Dyer put 24 more points on the board against Roanoke and piled up 25 at Emory & Henry.

## JockShorts

### Men's Swimming:

The Generals rebounded nicely from an 0-2 start to the season by triumphing in two of their three meets last week.

W&L dispatched Centre, 109-82. Nathan Hottle and David Stillman led the way for W&L with two victories apiece and Craig Sears added another win. The relay teams also proved potent as they picked up two more wins.

Hottle was back in action in the Generals' 88-52 pasting of Buffalo State. The junior won two races, and teammates Brad Wymore, John Reed, and Aaron Howell all picked up wins.

The victory string came to an end against Catholic, 126-64. Hottle did his part once again by winning an individual race.

The road will get even tougher on Saturday when the Generals travel to UNC-Chapel Hill to battle tough Emory and Johns Hopkins squads.

### Wrestling:

The W&L wrestling squad has been busy since 1996 started, as it has played host to a quadrangular and a tri-meet.

The Generals captured one of their three matches in a quadrangular on January 6. A powerful Messiah team pounded W&L, 51-0, and Western Maryland followed with a 32-12 defeat of the Generals.

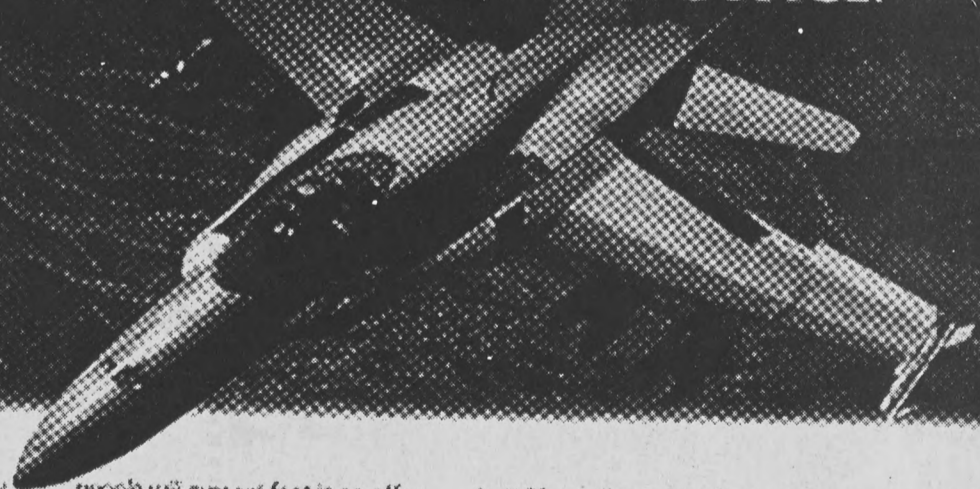
W&L came back against Johns Hopkins by breezing past the Blue Jays, 33-14. T.J. Griffin and Colin Looney pinned their respective opponents, and Chris Looney captured an overtime decision, 3-1.

Pensacola Christian rolled past the Generals a week later, 34-12, and Davidson squeaked by W&L, 25-24, in the tri-meet.

The Generals will return to action Saturday when they host the W&L Invitational.

The Ring-tum Phi is proud to serve you each week.  
Feel free to contact us at our office -- 462-4059.  
Interested writers should come to our meetings on Tuesdays.

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For more information, please see Captain Harwell at the Evans Dining Hall on February 13, 1996 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or call 1-800-542-5851.

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