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Uncensored.

All you've ever wanted to know about W&L's 16 IFC fraternities, totally uncensored

OPINIONS / page 4

Scarecrows should be afraid.

According to one professor, corn is evil and we should all stop whining about gas prices.

A&L / page 6

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

# THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897 VOLUME CXV, NUMBER 16

## W&L's Beautification Initiative

W&L Office of Admissions reveals the real reason all applicants are required to submit a headshot

By Campbell Burr  
OPINIONS EDITOR

On Sunday, the W&L Office of Admissions admitted to implementing a "Beauty Initiative" four years ago. The plot was uncovered after suspicion from other top liberal arts and Ivy League schools who realized that their incoming students had the same achievement levels as W&L's, but were a lot less attractive. W&L admissions officer, Howie Looking, created the project after W&L alums expressed concern that the school's increasingly competitive admissions process would compromise the attractiveness of the student body.

The "Beauty Initiative" requires all applicants to submit a headshot along with test scores, transcripts, and essays. In addition to reviewing applicants' academic achievements, officers rank each applicant from 1 to 10 on a "beauty scale." Though beauty rankings are not weighed as highly as grade point average, admissions officers have admitted that in the last two years, beauty rankings have had as much weight as high school extracurricular involvement in some cases.

Yale admissions officer, Anita May Kover, led the investigation of W&L's admissions process. She hired an undercover detective to pose as a W&L student fulfilling her work-study requirement at the admissions office. While "filing" the detective found beauty scales inside each applicant's folder. She stole a few and brought them to her boss. Kover emailed the W&L admissions team, "We have

copies of your beauty scales. You're busted."

The W&L team responded, almost immediately. "We're busted? Hope you put those beauty scales to use!"

Williams' admissions officer, Hugh Jass, was asked to comment. He defended the Williams admissions process as "need-blind and beauty-blind." He continued, "We may not have the best looking campus in the nation, but at least we don't have the shallowest."

The W&L admissions team denied accusations of having a "shallow" process, claiming that students are happier when they are surrounded by prettier people. "At W&L, students' happiness is first and foremost," said May Beeshallow, a W&L admissions officer.

To avoid future trouble, the W&L admissions team has decided to announce all other "secret" initiatives in the works. The team revealed that in coming years, they may require applicants to fill out an additional form to determine whether they would fit in at W&L.

Washington & Lee University's Application for Admission, Part II would request basic information, as well details regarding beer chugging and swing dancing abilities, and political affiliation.

Even after the huge backlash, the W&L admissions team has no intention of doing away with the Beauty Initiative. Ms. Beeshallow commented, "We are satisfied with our process. We look for students with a 'good head on their

shoulder,' literally and figuratively. The only adjustment we're considering is giving the beauty rankings more weight in the admission decision."

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

**Application for Admission: Part II**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Record time for chugging a beer: \_\_\_\_\_

High school: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Swing dancing ability (circle the option that describes what you're thinking):

a. Is that the same thing as grinding?

b. I'm really stiff and have no beat

c. Can I swing dance? Is the pope catholic?

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Ranking: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Republican? Yes  No

## Happy Derby Games

Sigma Chi revamps its "Philanthropy" format to rave reviews and staunch criticism

By Frances Everclear  
STAFF WRITER

The popularity of the Hunger Games series, which includes The Hunger Games, Catching Fire, and Mockingjay, has exploded on the Washington and Lee campus, especially within the sorority community. Deciding to capitalize on the excitement surrounding the series, Sigma Chi spent the winter giving a massive overhaul to their traditional week-long charity event: starting this year, the Derby Days will feature a fight to the death with one sorority first-year crowned Champion of the Derby Games.

The overall format

for the new Derby Days is known, but some of the details will remain closely guarded secrets before the Games. The event will start, much like the previous version, the first Monday of Spring Term. Four members of each sorority's pledge class will be chosen through what is being called a "mutual selection process." First-years will be picked at chapter meetings and provided a Sigma Chi mentor to coach them through the pre-

the pre-

Games. The 24 sorority women will represent their sorority in a pre-Games public interview and pre-Games training before being put into the arena on Wednesday afternoon. After the start of the Games, Derby Days will become a free-for-all; much like the original Derby Days, rules that arise during the Games are temporary or will be disregarded. Obstacles for the participants are undetermined as of yet, but fraternity members have hinted that skills in baking themed desserts, keg stands, and handling greased watermelons would be helpful to survival. Sigma Chi has decided to keep upperclassmen and members of other fraternities and organizations involved by allowing them to cheer on the sidelines and send care packages to the first-years, which may include anything from lettered sweatbands to emergency Redbulls. The actions of the first-years will be covered on WLUR, several live webcam feeds, and on Twitter on @thederbygames. The money

raised by entry fees and structured gambling will be split between the winner's sorority's national philanthropy and the host's beer fund.

The reaction to the new Days has been decidedly mixed. In general, fraternity members have responded well to the idea. "It's just like the powderpuff game on steroids. I don't see what everyone's getting so upset about," reasoned junior Peter Meriwether, while senior Gates Harkness said, "Everyone loves watching it. Did you see the Kappa-KD game last year? Sick, am I right?" Sophomore Kathryn DeWitt agreed. "I loved Derby Days last year! Plus, my sorority has the best class of freshmen. Somebody we pick is going to win. I just might volunteer my little...she's a champ. The people complaining are just jealous they didn't join a sorority of winners. Sorry 'bout it." First-year Ellery Spalding, looking visibly upset about the announcement, expressed a much different view. "I'm really nervous about the new format. I love all the books, but I didn't think this would happen in real life. And I was really looking forward to bonding with my whole pledge class." When questioned if she would decline to par-

ticipate in the Derby Games, Spalding said, "Well, obvs I'll do it. It's real death or social death so...I guess real death will be fine." Fellow first-year Mary Margaret Coleridge added, "I've been training for this since February. I haven't eaten in, like, two days and I can still run for miles without stopping. I hope I get picked. Plus, you get wear to wear cute tanks and Norts! Still, the whole dying thing is kind of terrible. Whatever."

The drastically altered format has come under fire from the Panhellenic Council as well as school officials. Panhel released a statement referring to the restructuring as "detrimental to the spirit of sisterhood" and "unfair to sororities with smaller new active pledge sizes." One dean was quoted as saying, "How were they able to clear this event in the first place? Surely this can't be legal?"

A representative for Sigma Chi responded to the controversy with, "The Games will be regulated by Sigma Chi brothers to ensure the utmost level of fairness and respect between competitors. Good luck to all first-years, and may the odds be ever in your favor. Kidding. You're all screwed."



APR 04 2012

# news

## Unemployment: the final solution

Economics Professor introduced his solution to unemployment and American defense spending in his lecture last Friday

By Ernesto Superbius, Ph.D.

GUEST WRITER

Ernesto Superbius received his Ph.D. in 1985 from the University of Santiago in Chile. Upon graduation, General Augusto Pinochet and Prof. Milton Friedman personally bestowed upon him the coveted Von Mises Prize in Economics for his dissertation on "The Enforcement of Free Markets." Now a U.S. citizen, Dr. Superbius holds the Ronald Reagan Chair in Advanced Economic Theory and Remedial Arithmetic at Northern South Dakota Community College. He recently gave the following lecture at a joint meeting of the Lexington Libertarian League and the local chapter of Mormons and Evangelicals United for Big Business, Small Government and Various Wedge Issues.

According to the New York Times, the electronics giant, Apple, has created 700,000 manufacturing jobs in China and other foreign countries, but only 43,000 here at home. Just before he died, Steve Jobs bluntly told President Obama that the positions Apple has moved to China will NEVER return to America. Another Apple executive added "We don't have an obligation to solve America's problems."

From my own libertarian perspective, I think Apple has it right. By having no obligations to America, the company made over \$108 billion last year—more than the budgets of the states of Michigan, New Jersey and Massachusetts put together. The company's CEO took home \$427 million in company stock—in addition to his \$1.7 million salary. Not a bad Apple!

Like Apple executives, we libertarians don't have to solve America's problems either—unless, of course, they get out of hand. Mitt Romney recently said he's not worried about the poor. He clearly was thinking of Marx's Lumpenproletariat, the low-class parasites that live on charity, disability payments and food stamps. If that's what he had in mind, Romney is absolutely right. Our Lord Himself said we would always have the poor among us. (He obviously had in mind the malodorous defectives who hang out in the restrooms of Greyhound bus stations and public libraries. You'll never get rid of all of them—not "even with buckshot," as we say out West).

What we libertarians and Mormons-and-Evangelicals-United SHOULD worry about is the unemployment of the SUPRA-lumpens, the stratum one level above the parasites. Why? Because these people, the cream of the proletariat, VOTE! And we want those votes to support our big business-small government agenda.

What we need today is a FINAL SOLUTION to unemployment of the supra-lumpens. In their wisdom, America's financial leaders have sold off the better part of our manufacturing base to China and other countries—something the elite of other countries would never DREAM of doing. We have DARED to move into the post-industrial age. You have to admit that that took REAL GUTS and REAL COMMITMENT to FREE TRADE! Our leaders must now be equally gutsy about solving the resulting problem of post-industrial unemployment.

Unlike de facto unemployment, STRUCTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT is something that demands the libertarian's attention. I am convinced that we can bring the same BOLDNESS and CONSISTENCY to this problem that we have brought the nation's other social and moral issues. We just have to stick to our ABSOLUTE ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES.

According to the economic theory of "comparative advantage," countries that want to prosper from international trade should do what they're really good at. But what IS the United States good at now that we have given up manufacturing?

The answer is staring us in the face: WAR, or, if you like, KEEPING THE PEACE. Everyone knows that the U.S. has the most powerful

military machine in the world. Every year, we spend roughly \$680 billion on defense, more than the military budgets of the next ten nations combined. We have between 900 to 1,100 bases in foreign lands, outposts that cover some 29,819,492 (rented) acres. Writing in the "Asia Times," Nick Turse says that "the US military maintains an empire of bases so large and shadowy that no one—NOT EVEN AT THE PENTAGON—really knows its full size and scope." This huge investment makes it possible for us to fight two or three wars whenever and wherever we please.

Instead of just SPENDING money on defense, why not use the military to MAKE money—AND SIMULTANEOUSLY SOLVE THE NATION'S UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM? Here's what I propose: Let's turn the U.S. military into the world's largest, most lethal MERCENARY FORCE. Yes, let's rent out our troops to countries around the world—and make war profitable for a change.

In the American Revolution, the British rented 30,000 Hessian soldiers from Landgrave Frederick II of Hesse-Kassel. It saved gallons of British blood and poured thousands of golden ducats into the coffers of the German princes. What were the British doing? They were OUTSOURCING their war in America—just what we did when we hired Blackwater and other private contractors to help us out in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, political correctness and pseudo-patriotism blind some people to the UTILITY of mercenary warfare. Most of our recent wars have resulted in a horrific loss of blood, treasure and national reputation. It's time to let someone else call the shots. At least then we won't be blamed for cost-overruns, friendly-fire, lost battles and other screw-ups. My mercenary program will transform the army into a LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY that will create a much-needed ZONE OF IMMUNITY around our military and political leaders.

Here are some mercenaryfication's other pluses:

Mercenary warfare doesn't have to be "just." Once Congress adopts my plan, a "just war" will become just a war. Those of you who know something about the history of economic development know that the same thing happened to the medieval idea of the "just price." In today's capitalist world, a "just price" is just a price. Thanks to mercenaryfication, the old idea of "causum belli" will be relegated to the history of theology. Once our mercenaries hit the road all we have to do is collect the rent!

Like all economists—from Adam Smith to my own dear teacher, Milton Friedman—I worry a lot about monopolies. Because a monopoly, by definition, is a business with no competition, it is inefficient and inflationary. A "natural mo-

nopoly," on the other hand, is something else. Take your public utilities. It would be counterproductive to have two or three electric, gas, water, or sewage treatment companies serving the same city. So we choose just one and grant it a monopoly over a specific service. Your local police force is good example. You wouldn't want Lexington to have two or three police departments just so they could "compete" with each other. Because competing police forces would invite corruption and even bloodshed, they wouldn't bring costs down. Just imagine a shoot-out in downtown Lexington between competing police units! For the same reason, we wouldn't want to have competing national armies. We don't need THAT kind of "competition!"

Since the military is a natural monopoly—one that the government must have and pay for in any case—WHY NOT MAKE IT AS PROFITABLE AS YOUR LOCAL SEWAGE DEPARTMENT?

Many cities are already outsourcing jobs and applying free-market models to government. Your city manager, for

(Mubarak didn't have any oil money to spend on mercenaries, but a savvy U.S. administration could have pried the Suez Canal away from him in return for a few battalions).

The much-maligned DICK CHENEY was actually onto something when he predicted that, once we had our hands on the spigots of Iraqi oil, the war against Saddam Hussein would pay for itself. Unfortunately, the liberal, nice-guy Obama administration forgot to send Nouri al-Maliki's government the bill! That's why we're still out the \$1 trillion we spent on that war (not to mention the \$9 billion unaccounted for, and the \$6.6 billion that was stolen).

TRUTH BE TOLD, CHENEY DIDN'T GO FAR ENOUGH. We need wars that not only pay for themselves; we need ones that will turn a profit. True, the government would have to put some "seed money" into mercenaryfication. But doesn't China subsidize its state-owned industries? Didn't Japan and the "Asian Tigers" do the same thing? And just look how well they are doing!

Critics worry that mercenaryfication will result in a high toll in human

ones who will be signing the service contract—not your average tax-payer! As everyone knows, A CONTRACT IS A CONTRACT.

So who IS responsible for what happens to the soldier? THE SOLDIER HIMSELF! We're talking here about PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY—something that all of us libertarians, conservatives, Mormons and Evangelicals firmly believe in. This is what made America great. Taking personal responsibility for our lives is the ONLY way out of the economic morass created by our liberal past!

I predict that as our mercenaries begin deploying abroad, the unemployed will enlist in droves. I also predict that the mercenaries will have a "multiplier effect" on the whole economy. Taxes will come down and incomes will go up. The middle class, now threatened by Obama's pacifism, will flourish once again. As the business picks up, tax revenues will pour into the Treasury—just as gold poured into the coffers of those Hessian princes during the American Revolution. The wimps now calling for cuts in defense spending will be silenced once and for all. Liberal tax-hikers will be stopped dead in their tracks. Gratuitous amenities like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid can be dismantled. School teachers can be rehired—even the music teachers. State parks that were closed during the Great Recession will be reopened (and then, hopefully, privatized). The national debt will not only shrink; I predict it will disappear altogether. Since foreign countries will be relying on U.S. forces to maintain law and order, military budgets around the world will shrink. This, in turn, will result in greater global stability and higher profit margins for all. In short, mercenaryfication will result in what President Ronald Reagan called "morning in America." Indeed, the sun will rise on the whole world!

There's nothing wrong with being the world's cop—if, like doctors, you're paid on a fee-for-service basis. But to police the world without being paid at all—THAT'S SHEER MADNESS!

If mercenaryfication is NOT adopted, I'd like to know how we are going to pay for the world's most expensive military, the world's most costly health system, Social Security and the rest of our socialist system? What are we going to do about the national debt? How can we pay for these things with the paltry tax revenues generated by the low wages and chronic unemployment of our new, post-industrial economy?

It's high time we conservatives, libertarians and members of Mormons-and-Evangelicals-United all started to think about these things. If we don't, the liberals, socialists and fascists will use them as grist for their own dark, satanic mills. And that we don't need!

Thank you and God bless.

*Instead of just SPENDING money on defense, why not use the military to MAKE money—AND SIMULTANEOUSLY SOLVE THE NATION'S UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM?*

example, is a good example of outsourcing. He is simply a private contractor paid to do what mayors and other elected officials are supposed to do. The widespread use of city managers makes the astute libertarian wonder why the rest of government can't be outsourced. Eliminating elected positions makes perfect economic sense. It would maximize efficiency, cut government spending and expand the private sector.

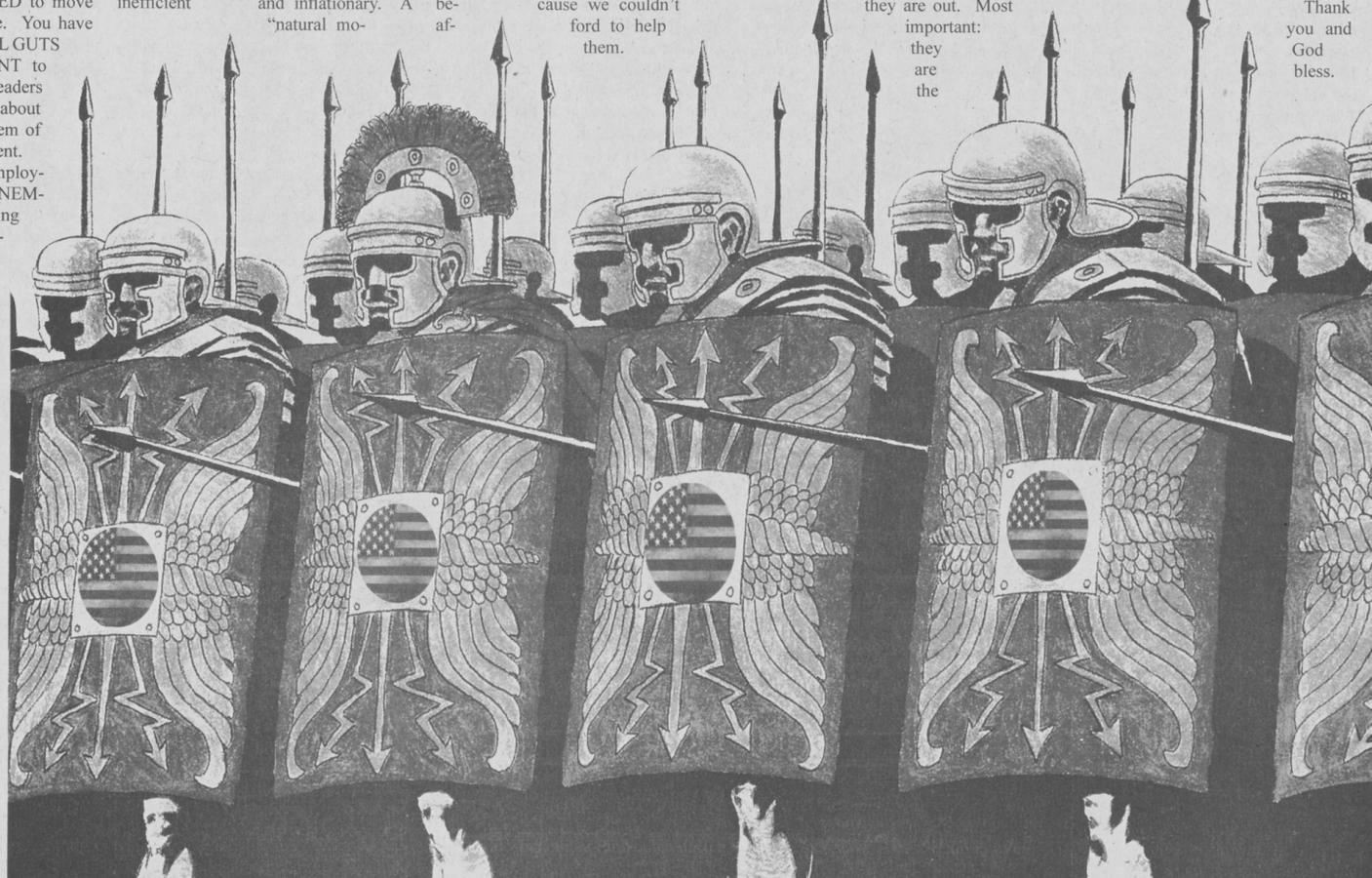
State universities show how public institutions can be used to attract foreign capital. In recent years, state legislatures have slashed university budgets by more than a half. Some have cut back admissions to in-state residents in order to admit more foreign students whose tuition is often THREE TIMES HIGHER than that of in-state students. Some foreign students even pay an annual surcharge of up to \$2,500. Every year, these students add some \$21 billion to our economy. If the Grand Poobahs of the Chinese Communist Party are willing to pay this much to educate their kids, think what they would pay to put down a political uprising! Beleaguered leaders like Syria's Bashar al-Assad would be delighted to rent the Marines for a few weeks. Muammar Gaddafi, Slobodan Milosevic and Hosni Mubarak ended up in the dustbin of history just because we couldn't afford to help them.

life, that the public will sour on the idea when the body bags start to come home, or that people will treat returning veterans poorly.

These objections must be handled with great sensitivity—but with hard heads too.

The answers can be found in contemporary attitudes toward the military. Civilians no longer look at soldiers the way they did years ago in the days of the draft. In effect, the all-volunteer army has lifted an enormous burden from the shoulders of the public. No longer do we have to fret about veterans' personal lives—their post-war joblessness, homelessness, drug-addictions, post-traumatic stress syndromes, amputations, suicides, criminality and sexual perversions. To put it bluntly—and we libertarians are as BLUNT as we are CONSISTENT!—the responsibility for what happens to soldiers has ALREADY BEEN SHIFTED TO THEIR OWN SHOULDERS.

Think about it! Under mercenaryfication, no one will be compelled to enlist. Mercenaries will sign up because they want the excitement of foreign travel, as well as the training, pay and respect that come from wearing the U.S. uniform. They are the ones who want the government to pay for their college education once they are out. Most important: they are the



JUST KIDDING!  
...NOW ON TO THE  
REAL PHI

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

# THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897 VOLUME CXV, NUMBER 16

## Wolfe seminar features McCann

Featured author Colum McCann discusses how the voices of Tom Wolfe and many others have influenced his writing

By Tommy Kent  
STAFF WRITER

The 9th Annual Tom Wolfe Weekend Seminar, sponsored by the Class of 1951, brought alumni back to Washington and Lee for a weekend filled with literary discussion. This year the event featured the author Colum McCann who discussed his award-winning novel *Let the Great World Spin*.

For the opening event, Colum McCann gave a lecture in Lee Chapel entitled "The Art of Knowing the World through Fiction." Wolfe, in introducing McCann, said, "[The weekend seminar] really is a great honor. I'm trying to think of a word for it... posthumous. It makes me feel posthumous."

While speaking of the merits of McCann's writing, Wolfe said, "I want to sit down with [McCann] after this and learn about all of his reporting techniques. I was spell bound and greatly surprised. If there is anyone who hasn't read *Let the Great World Spin*, you are in for a marvelous time."

McCann followed Wolfe and began his lecture by describing his childhood and how he came to be a writer. Mc-

McCann added: "It seemed to me that the art of knowing the world was not only in the art of telling, but in the art of imagining. I began to realize at an early age that creative reading is just as important as creative writing."

In a gesture toward Tom Wolfe, McCann said, "We are an accumulation of voices. I would not be here but for the generosity of this gentleman here."

McCann emphasized the importance of experimenting with writing and taking on obscure characters. McCann, in describing the writing process, quoted Kurt Vonnegut, who said, "You should be continuing to jump off cliffs and developing wings on the way down."

McCann said: "I'm somewhat sick of the world. We need stories. Stories create what is yet to come. Literature proposes possibilities and then makes truth of them. In literature, we are given evidence of being alive. It is a moral argument for living in the world and for a sustained imagination at the same time."

Returning to the democracy of voices message, McCann said, "When we enter a story we enter out most stunning democracy. Everybody has a story. Everybody has a deep need to tell a story."

Since McCann cited his happy childhood as the worst possible thing that a writer could want, he has attempted to live his life on the edge, similar to Wolfe's representation of "leaving the study."

He has spent months living with the homeless and working with juvenile delinquents. Inspired by Wolfe's *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, McCann suggested to his friends that they take a bus across America when he was in college. McCann's friends were all for it, but due to worrying mothers and other obstacles, most of them couldn't take the trip. McCann said, "It went from a bus, to a van, to a bicycle," riding 1200 miles across the U.S. for more than a year.

McCann said: "I had to learn to be at that edge. In the course of the [the jour-

ney], I began to understand the idea of the democracy of others. The act of getting to know the real world is the art of losing oneself. It makes me feel acutely alive."

McCann added: "You don't write what you know. You write towards what you want to know. Tom Wolfe has done this majestically. You learn things that you knew but that you weren't entirely conscious of in the first place. We all have access to it. When we read a book we empathize with characters. You can cry and laugh, and the wonderful thing is that you can wake up without any scars."

Later in the speech, McCann shifted to describe the background behind his novel, *Let the Great World Spin*. McCann, who has dual Irish and American citizenship, lives in New York City and was there when the planes crashed into the Twin Towers.

On September 11, 2001, McCann's father was in one of the towers but was able to get out. When McCann's father returned home, McCann's young daughter saw him and told McCann, "He's burning." McCann at first thought she meant that his clothes smelled like smoke until she said, "He's burning from the inside out." McCann said that it was at this point that he knew it would be his job to write a story about 9/11.

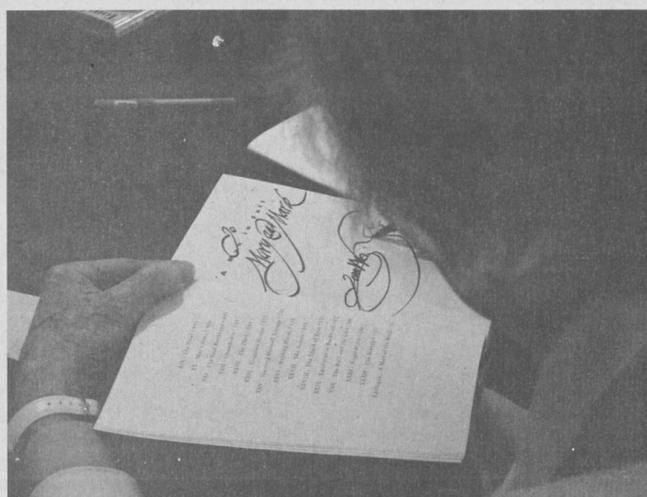
*Let the Great World Spin* combines the "image of creation" of Philippe Petit walking a tightrope between the Twin Towers on August 7, 1974, and the image of destruction that is 9/11. McCann said that he wanted to use the tightrope walk as a sustained image in the novel.

"If I could do it properly, maybe it could be about who we are. I was taking this non-fiction event and manipulating it, just like I did when I was a boy. I wanted to write about the symphony of the city," said McCann.

McCann read three passages from his novel throughout his speech. From one passage, he read: "We are all torn between the promise of doom and the disappointment of the ordinary. We all live on a tightrope."

In the novel, McCann's list of characters includes prostitutes and an Irish monk. McCann said he enjoys taking up the lives of his characters. He said: "I don't really want to be myself. I wake up in the morning and look at myself in the mirror and say do I really have to spend 24 hours with this guy. It is so much fun to roll away and be other."

McCann said: "The beauty of literature, like Joyce's *Ulysses*, like everything I learned from my father, is its ability to last. Fiction doesn't lie. Fiction shapes things. Literature reveals truth.



Imagined comes from real, and real is shaped by imagined."

In application to writing, McCann said: "There is a degraded discourse around ideas of literature and optimism. I believe we have to go through the dark to recognize the light. The best optimist should be a cynic first."

The speech ended and several questions were asked before those registered for the seminar weekend departed to attend the reception outside the Lee House, followed by dinner in Evans Dining Hall. The weekend continued on Saturday morning with breakfast in the Commons, discussion by W&L English professor Marc Connor and Sociology professor John Eastwood in Stackhouse Theater, a book signing and finally lunch in the Lenfest Center lobby.

Professor Connor, speaking of *Let the Great World Spin*, said during his lecture, "The main character in the book is the city itself, like *Ulysses*. Time and history unify. McCann gives expression to the things that go on beneath the surface."

Connor, described as the "best lecturer at Washington and Lee," drew comparisons between Ralph Ellison and McCann's novel. Connor mentioned how one of the characters in the novel makes God into a human foe, but that the theology of the novel is the opposite: God is the mystery.

Professor Eastwood described modernization, our age-segregated society and how it gives the sense of disconnection from each other. Eastwood said that as a sociologist he sees connections that are hidden from view and that McCann really exposes this concept in the novel.

Eastwood said, "People experience

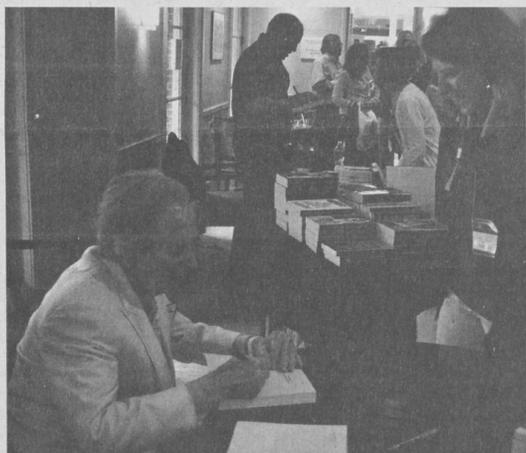
themselves as disconnected and yet we are all very closely connected." Eastwood mentioned social network charts, which show the aggregate data of ties between people, stating that happiness, depression, political attitudes, religiosity and obesity in one person increase the chance of such characteristics in the next connection.

Eastwood, linking his speech to the novel, said, "The vision of people crossing paths does not seem so fantastical, but seems to mirror reality. Emergent forms of connectivity in social science dovetail what the novel does." Eastwood, stating that he has no knowledge of the aesthetics of the novel, said, "Novel and sociology may be twins but they are not identical twins."

After the two professors concluded their presentations, McCann joined them to form a question and answer panel. At one point, a person in attendance asked how McCann discovered his characters.

McCann said, "I like the idea of the novelist as an explorer. You set out in a boat and you have no idea where you are going. Many times you might shipwreck, or head right back to shore with the wind. But sometimes you find a Galapagos, full of a diversity of characters."

At the end of the panel, Wolfe, who was in attendance for all of the weekend's events, said, "This has been an extraordinary weekend. [Professor Connor's] address was peerless. So Colum, you should be floating away from here. You don't even have to catch a plane. God bless you all."



COY FERRELL / staff photographer

Cann said: "So much of everything goes back to our fathers. My dad was a newspaper editor in Dublin. He used to come home with books." These books, including those written by Wolfe, inspired McCann to experiment with reporting.

McCann said, "As a teenager I knew somehow that [Wolfe] in particular was shifting my world view sideways." He cited Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* as a specific influence. "We get our voice from the voices of others. So much of my voice has come from the great Tom Wolfe and my father and other authors," said McCann.

## Relay raises over \$15,000

By Neil Haggerty  
NEWS EDITOR

Students, faculty and members of the Lexington community walked in the fight against cancer at Relay for Life this weekend at the Canaan Green. The 394 participants at the event helped generate \$15,119 for the American Cancer Society.

Nineteen teams of organizations on campus, including faculty departments, clubs, fraternities and sororities, raised money by soliciting donations and setting up food stands and activities at the event.

The top three teams at the event were Pi Beta Phi, raising \$2,499, Keeping HOPE Alive, raising \$2,119 and Sigma Nu, raising \$1,907. Top participants were Robert Uhlman from Sigma Nu and Christina and Chuck Winschel from Keeping HOPE Alive.

The event lasted from 5:30 p.m. on Friday until 5:45 a.m. on Saturday and included Zumba activities, raffles, children's activities, a Professor shaved head contest won by Mathematics Professor Carrie Finch, inflatable slides and pillow bashes, DJ music and performances by General Admissions, Southern Comfort, Jubilee, Drew Martin and the Limelights, Washingtons and "The Gatehouse."

The event also included the tradition of lighting luminaries at 9 p.m. in honor of loved ones who lost their lives to cancer and in hope for those continuing to battle cancer.



YASHNA NAIDU / staff photographer

# opinions



## Greek review: Fraternities from a female perspective

*Fraternity stereotypes taken to a new level. Ladies and gentlemen, an introduction to the brotherhoods at W&L*

By Georgia Robertson  
COLUMNIST

Whether or not you are a part of the large percentage of the Washington & Lee community directly involved with Greek life, you are bound to attend at least a few fraternity parties during your four years at this school. With sixteen different fraternities, there are unique traits you can find within each brotherhood. So, in Greek alphabetical order, I present an uncensored female perspective on all IFC fraternities on campus.

### Beta Theta Pi

Fraternity Location: Red Square  
Off Campus Assets: Pole 1, County Seat

Big Parties: Das Klub  
Review: Beta takes brotherhood to a whole new level. Described as being "one huge bromance," they definitely take interest in their own. While they tend to be in emotional relationships with their fraternity brothers, Betas are generally nice guys who can hold their own at a party. They have good cocktail parties on big weekends and welcome pretty much everyone to their parties. They also give off somewhat of an athletic

pulled off nicely year after year. While there are a fair share of jerks in any frat, Beta seems to keep a low concentration while still maintaining fun party guys who aren't overly cocky, weird or nerdy.

### Chi Psi

Fraternity Location: Behind the BDG Quad

Off Campus Assets: None

Big Parties: Late Night

Review: As a freshman, you are generally warned to steer clear of Chi Psi, especially their infamous late night. And while anonymity may be their biggest adversary in the social ladder, they sure can throw one hell of a party where shit is always guaranteed to get weird. The fraternity is making a decent comeback from near extinction but still tends to send out creepy vibes. Their house is in the most convenient location since it's essentially on campus, making Late Night all the more accessible. The truth about Late Night is this: if you're trying to get weird, you're going to go, and so everyone there is down for a good time. It's generally a crazy blackout experi-

Off Campus Assets: Huffmans, Cabins

Big Parties: Dirty South, Shit Kickers, Beach Party

KA is often not considered among the infamous "Big 3" fraternities, although they always seem to be knocking on the door. While each pledge class has a handful of Phi Kap/Phi Delt/SAE rejects, they tend to be your typical meathead-athlete frat bros. Don't be fooled by their lack of country houses, their big draw parties are always in their basement with a great band and a gazillion people. As one student put it, "You are guaranteed to make out with at least one person at their parties - although it may be a townie or a Veemee". While

some of them are the aggressive/predator type at parties and they are certainly not shy about taking you upstairs for a "tour," a decent amount of their fraternity consists of genuine guys that know how to have a good time - although they tend to lack the ability to sweet talk girls. Also, their formal is Old South. Enough said.

### Kappa Sigma

Fraternity Location: Davidson Park

Off Campus Assets: None

Big Parties: Basement Parties

Review: Luckily for Kappa Sig, Phi Kap got kicked off last year and their fraternity lived to see another pledge class. Rumor has it the founding members and new pledge class have tried to mesh but with little to no success since they are essentially polar opposites. No great off-campus houses yet since they're still up and coming, but a would-be Phi Kap pledge class is a

promising sign for the fraternity's social future. They've had a few basement parties this year, which have been successful and met with positive reviews from girls. However, if they do end up being the next Phi Kap, the stereotypical asshole lax bro will still have a place to call home. Joy.

### Lambda Chi Alpha

Fraternity Location: Davidson Park

Off Campus Assets: Old House, Tropical

Review: Every freshman starts their W&L career at Old House. It's the first off-campus (even though it's basically on campus) house that every freshman can name, know the frat and be able to navigate to within a week. While they're definitely not at the top of the food chain, they are really nice, smart guys who genuinely want you to have fun at their parties. They're definitely host to a large number of guys with political aspirations, and while some describe them as nerdy, that's the extent of bad comments associated with Lambda. Tropical is by far their biggest party and always turns out an absurd goldfish-hungry crowd, but as the year goes on they don't follow through with on-par parties and become socially indifferent. Although I hear Old House is always welcome to host those wanting to party.

### Phi Delta Theta

Fraternity Location: Red Square

Off Campus Assets: Pumpstown, Hogback

Big Parties: Jell-O Wrestling, Haloween (Real and Phi Delt)

Review: If you're looking for a good party, Phi Delt is usually a fair bet. And luckily what they lack in the nice guy department they make up for in attractive-

ness. Having admitted looks is a factor in their rush process, it's no surprise that they generally house most of the heartthrobs from each grade. They're another athletic frat with representatives from baseball, basketball and football. Their pledge class this year was definitely on the small side, but as long as they don't repeat that next year it shouldn't be a real factor. While the Sweet Delt tend to come off as complete assholes, generally speaking they are actually nice guys - if you can get them away from their pledge class.

### Phi Gamma Delta

Fraternity Location: Jackson Ave (block behind Post Office)

*If you're trying to get weird, you're going to go, and so everyone there is down for a good time.*

Off Campus Assets: Sloop

Big Parties: Fiji Islands, Dirty Jersey

Review: Fiji by far has the nicest fraternity house, although it's underutilized because it's off by itself and they don't throw any big or memorable parties. Largely composed of cross country runners and Phi Psi rejects, they are definitely quirky to the point of bizarre but are sincerely sweet guys that just don't get the social scene at W&L. They definitely house their fair share of exceptions, but for the most part aren't much to write home about. Although they don't have any big country houses or yearly parties, you can always manage to have a good time and meet a few nice guys you wouldn't have otherwise.

### Phi Kappa Psi

Fraternity Location: Davidson Park

Off Campus Assets: Cabins, Bushwood

Big Parties: Rave, Phi Psi-cadellic

Review: Easily most-improved after this year's rush since they got a big pledge class composed of great guys. Generally throw good parties and are easy to talk to and fun to hang out with, but even their biggest parties of the year are average at best. Another big draw back is the amount of petty drama within the fraternity. Still, you will be hard pressed to find a socially awkward Phi Psi, and if they keep their formal at the Greenbrier, they are sure to continue moving up in the ranks.

### Pi Kappa Alpha

Fraternity Location: Red Square

Off Campus Assets: 9 Tucker

Big Parties: Brights & Tights

Review: PiKA is one of the few fraternities on campus that is hard to stereotype. There is definitely a faction within the frat of nice, fun guys who just happen to either be a little weird or friends with people who are a little weird. But an even larger amount of them tend to be losers who think they are much cooler than they actually are. With little to no respect for girls and a drug-related disciplinary past, PiKA is quickly becoming socially irrelevant. For the handful of decent guys, I'm sorry to lump you in with the rest since you are worth thirty times over the collective worth of the rest of your fraternity.

### Pi Kappa Phi

Fraternity Location: Davidson Park

Off Campus Assets: Landing Strip

Big Parties: Face Fuck, Bombass

Review: Pi Phi is sort of a misfit mix, but it strangely works heavily in their favor. On nice days you almost always see them out on their lawn playing corn hole and just day chayin' the day away whether it's a Tuesday or a Friday afternoon. They are chill, easygoing guys who are a blast to hang out with and get to know without any pressure which stems from their enthusiasm surrounding drinking games, such as thunderstruck, which are easily inclusive and great icebreakers.

They don't throw any particularly memorable parties and tend to have a handful of hard drug users in every pledge class, but are generally good for a hang out. They have a lot of big guys since they draw from both football boys KA didn't want and rugby. Into Ja Rule.

### Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Fraternity Location: Davidson Park

Off Campus Assets: Hooterville, Most of Windfall Hill

Big Parties: Toga Party, Paddy Murphy's, Tequilaville

Review: SAE will hold a permanent spot in the Big 3 because they are always able to fill a pledge class with attractive, well-off, southern guys - a triple threat almost no girl is immune to. They project a social elitist attitude that is either genuine or a front for their insecurities. However, they throw good parties and will always be considered "cool". One last thing: Coke.

### Sigma Chi

Fraternity Location: Davidson Park

Off Campus Assets: Cabins, Pole 3

Big Parties: MTV Grind, Filthy Rich, Derby Days

Review: Although in recent years their numbers have significantly declined, believe it or not, Sigma Chi used to be a good fraternity. Luckily with consistently good annual parties and the tradition of Derby Days they probably aren't in danger of extinction, especially since the guys they do have generally know how to have a good time. This year has solidified their social downturn, and while Pole 3 parties used to always guarantee a fun night, they are now just a sad turnout of girlfriends and groupies.

### Sigma Nu

Fraternity Location: Red Square

Off Campus Assets: Westland

Big Parties: Shipwreck

Review: SNU is your typical nerdy nice guy frat. They are in no sense of the word "bros," for better or worse. They put a lot of effort into mixers, which is always appreciated, and are always approachable and talkative. Every girl loves to be treated like a princess, and at SNU you will be treated like a queen. Shipwreck is a fun party and they are definitely working towards having a few more big mixers to draw crowds. You will also always, without a doubt, find the best drinks here.

### Sigma Phi Epsilon

Fraternity Location: Davidson Park

Off Campus Assets: None

Big Parties: Paint Party

Review: One Question: What the fuck? I honestly could name probably two Sig Eps and have never attended or known someone who has attended a party. Probably nice guys, if you can meet one.

### "Skull Society"

Fraternity Location: N/A

Off Campus Assets: Pole 4, River House, Downwind

Big Parties: Miami Vice

Review: Stereotypical frat/lax star. Skulls are full of themselves, but not without reason. Although they are mostly huge douche bags, they are intelligently witty and have an uncanny ability to entertain. They have a multitude of "-isms," which allows them to make fun of people to their face without them knowing. They also have a strong preference for anything that is "dank." Although not officially recognized by the school (or anyone not in the society itself), they are extremely dedicated to advertising themselves i.e. turning off the lights and music at every party and chanting "skulls" for an uncomfortable amount of time. Really only two words come to mind: Douche. Bag.



vibe with a significant amount of basketball and soccer players, as well as representation from a few other sports teams. While they don't host too many big annual parties, Das Klub is a must and is

ence since I'm positive no one wants to go there sober. Chi Psi draws crowds from every nook and cranny of campus.

### Kappa Alpha

Fraternity Location: Davidson Park

## WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI.

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# opinions

## YOLO: Thank you, Drake

Is an important message becoming a joke? Persons suggests taking Drake's motto to heart and living life to the fullest



By Annie Persons  
COLUMNIST

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"—Mary Oliver

"You only live once, that's the motto, ni--a Yolo

We bout it every day, every day, every day, like we sitting on the

bench, ni--a we don't really play Every day, every day, f--k what anybody say

Can't seem 'em cause the money in the way"—Drake

Yolo. "You only live once." This phrase, coined by Drake in his recent song, "The Motto," has become a common vernacular phrase almost overnight. And why shouldn't it? "Yolo" is essentially just another version of the cliché

that urges one to live their lives to the fullest, because "each day is a gift, that's why they call it 'the present,'" and "you never know if today could be your last." These phrases are clichés for a reason, too—despite sounding trite and overused, it is true that we as humans have no real control over our ultimate living or dying...so why not live life to the fullest while you can?

What is disturbing is that rather than be simply added to the vault of aforementioned clichés, the phrase "Yolo" has become almost a joke in youth culture. For example, the other day I was at a party and overheard a friend wondering if she should take one more shot...the response of the person next to her was "Do it, YOLO!!"...I, for one, am a proponent of living life to the fullest, don't get me wrong, but where does one draw the line between living vivaciously and living recklessly? Likewise, there is even a twitter account now in existence called simply @YOLOjokes. Examples of tweets include "reenacting the titanic scene with rose and jack in a bathtub

#YOLO" and "trick or treating even though it's not Halloween #YOLO." While these tweets are certainly intended as jokes, if someone wants to do something silly that would perhaps break a social norm, why shouldn't they? If I want to wear a fanny pack out to a frat party (seriously though, why did those things go out of style?) why should I let fear of judgment by people I honestly don't know or care about, or even people I do, affect me? Yolo has become a sarcastic phrase tacked onto the proposal that someone do something stupid. It is used to justify in a humorous way an action that has been deemed by the public as unacceptable or even just insane. But in all seriousness, what has happened to society when the notion of living one's life to the fullest has been reduced to joke form? Am I missing something, or do we not really only live once?

I'm not saying that people should live by following their every whim, and of course common sense is a factor. I am admittedly the last person you will ever see shirking responsibility for the sake of

doing something without abandon. But it is this rigidity within me that makes me pause to reconsider the notion of YOLO. Instead of looking at life in such a black and white way, crazystupidYOLO or so called 'reality,' we should think of

gations to the people in my life and society at large. As a freshman in college, living to the fullest should incorporate respect for the opportunities offered to me here—academically as well as socially. In other words, while I won't go

*I, for one, am a proponent of living life to the fullest, don't get me wrong, but where does one draw the line between living vivaciously and living recklessly?*

every act as an opportunity to live life to the fullest in a way that satisfies the demands of day-to-day life and the demands of enjoyment. I would shudder to look back on my life and see only an endless parade of grey days filled with studying and nights 'stayed in.' However, I would shudder equally as much if I felt I squandered my life away by acting selfishly and without regard to my obli-

as far as to suggest "laying in a puddle and screaming 'I'm drowning!'" or "using white paint on my teeth so you never have to brush them again," I urge you to find a balance in your daily life, and consider the true meaning of YOLO, jokes aside. Wear your fanny pack out. After all, you do only live once.

## Adventures of an au pair

Looking for a summer of travel, child care, and partying? Columnist Sally Platt thinks you should be an au pair



By Sally Platt  
COLUMNIST

Let's face it, the summer after freshman year is really the last year you can afford to mess around. After sophomore year it's into the big world of internships, CV-padding summer "experiences" and the like. So what to do with the last three months of pure freedom? Well, you could sit around your parents' house and hang out with your old high school friends or....

You could go to a foreign

country and have a fun adventure! Specifically, you could become an au pair. Now some would argue that "au pair" is just a fancy way of saying "nanny" that is supposed to make the job of watching small people appear a bit more enticing. I would disagree. I spent the last summer in Madrid, Spain, hanging out with a Spanish family. It was literally the best summer of my life. Being an au pair is more than just watching kids for a few hours a day. If you're lucky, it can be educational, fun, and party-filled. So if you don't have plans for the summer yet here are a few reasons to check it out.

Firstly, the application process can be really fast. Agencies differ, but it is totally possible to apply and be accepted and matched with a family within two to three weeks. Plenty of time from now until May.

Secondly, kids actually kind of rock. I got matched with a family with one 3-year-old. His name was Marco. I seriously can't overstate how cute this kid was. He had huge brown puppy dog eyes, was about a foot tall, and didn't speak any English. Adorable. Needless to say he had me wrapped around his finger in no time and I actually came to love playing kid games again. It was like second childhood. That being said, coming back to school after having spent all summer with crayons, bubbles, and rubber duckies was a bit of an adjustment.

Location, location, location. This matters so much when choosing where to be an au pair. Big cities are the way to go. While a family may own a lovely villa in the country-side this place is likely to be isolated. So unless you never want a break from the fam (which you

will, naturally), cities are the way to go. As long as you have that you are pretty good to go; most families who get au pairs are rather wealthy. I lived in a high rise apartment in the middle of Madrid. There was a pool right outside our door.

time I stayed out till 6am, congratulating me on "fitting in" and "adjusting to the Spanish way of life."

All this being said, this is not for men. Agencies don't accept them because families just don't want them. I guess

*My family was ecstatic the first time I stayed out till 6am, congratulating me on "fitting in" and "adjusting to the Spanish way of life."*

It was a ten minute walk to Sol, the Prado, Retiro, and the Royal Palace (basically the highlights of Madrid).

Another great reason to go au-pairing is the language factor. Countries all over the world have au pair agencies (although they are more common in Europe). So whatever language you are trying to learn, you can become really fluent from a summer of doing this. Many families will speak little to no English so picking up on the language is really an imperative. That being said, you hear it non-stop so it isn't hard. I came back practically fluent in Spanish.

Families in Spain, Europe, and I hope everywhere else love vacations. This means you go on a lot of vacations. I went to the Mediterranean coast one week, Santander for another, and even made it down to Africa for a bit. Luckily for me all the aunts and uncles of the kid, Marco, came along too. While they were all oohing and awing over how cute their little nephew was I got loads of free time to lie on the beach and sample the ample nightlife that Spain is so famous for.

People in Europe love partying. Even old people. There is absolutely no taboo over drinking or staying out all night. My family was ecstatic the first

aprons haven't quite made it across the gender divide yet. The only male au pair I met was, shall we say, a little more than south of pink.

So if you want a sweet summer filled with new people, parties, and adorable small people you should apply to be an au pair. You'll have your language requirement in the bag and not be bothered by your parents telling you to "get a job" all summer. Adventure is there for the taking!

## Self-preservation.



By Andrea Siso  
COLUMNIST

**I push myself to forget you.  
When I walk to the fields, my hands  
Are restless.  
They grasp at the empty air,  
Cupping the twilight in eager palms.  
It's dark, now. I trip—  
A log you would have seen.  
My cheek of dirt,  
My opened palms and knees;  
I am lifted by a gust of storm-smelling  
Breeze.  
Quietly, I push myself  
To forget you.**

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# arts&life

## Energy issues, addressed

Professor lectured last Tuesday on the future of energy and how we can invest now

By Colleen Moore  
STAFF WRITER

"The IQ of people drops about 20 points when they are talking about energy," joked Professor Jim Kahn at the opening of his lecture last Tuesday night.

Kahn said a coordinated policy to address future energy use should be based on four ideas:

1. Quit crying about gasoline prices
2. "Drill baby drill" is not an energy policy
3. Corn is evil
4. End the use of coal in the next ten years

Energy use is one of the most pressing problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we must begin making difficult and compromising choices for the long run now.

In order to begin to frame the discussion about energy policies, Kahn said, we need to recognize the role of government in facilitating research and development

as well as technological innovation.

"With a problem as vexing as the energy problem, with solutions as complicated as the energy problem, we need policy," said Kahn.

Kahn's comprehensive plan to address our energy problem rested on several issues.

First, with any change we make or any technology we improve upon, there is a possibility of irreversibility.

"We are stuck with the negative consequences of the old technology, even if better technology comes along," said Kahn. One example of this is the "drill baby drill" policy, which results in irreversible increases in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Even sources of alternative energy, including hydro-power and nuclear power, have long lived environmental costs.

The second issue is diversification.

There will always be capacity constraints with any policy. Kahn suggests diversifying our energy portfolio to reduce this limitation.

The third issue Kahn talked about revolved around externalities, which are the unintended consequences of our energy use. Unfortunately, these externalities are huge – global climate change, environmental problems and even national security. For every \$500 billion dollars spent on the military, the social cost per gallon of gas increases about ten additional dollars.

The other points Kahn spoke on were the directionality of wealth and carbon, greater innovation potentials, the sequence of the effects of our choices and finally, alleviation of poverty. Kahn pointed out that in the last five years we have doubled our estimates of solar energy limits, but we still need to be aware

of the consequences of our decisions.

"Our choices in the short-run are going to affect our options in the medium and long-run, and our choices in the medium run will affect our option in the long-run," said Kahn.

Professor Kahn's recommendations for a policy that addresses each of these points involves correctly pricing fossil fuels, investing in alternative technologies and developing partnerships with other countries. "The future of the global planet depends on what the rapidly industrializing countries are doing," said Kahn. The United States can't simply deal with these issues domestically – the energy problem is a global problem.

More specifically, Kahn believes that moving to biofuels is a real possibility. United Airlines and TAM Airlines have both experimented with this recently. We also need to invest in rechargeable

hybrid cars and penalize the destruction of ecosystems while rewarding carbon cycling and sequestration. Kahn argues, "We need to make it costly for people to convert ecosystems."

The key is to think long-term and not expect immediate payback of energy investments. Many of our energy actions have social costs that we don't fully recognize. Moving forward with a structured and coordinated policy plan requires the aid of the government to sponsor research and development for technological innovation and for expansion our energy options.

How can we afford to do all this? Kahn responds, "How can we afford not to?"

## Spotlight on a student director

Student directed "Two Rooms" involves Mindbending and the entire W&L Theatre department

By Lauren Howry  
STAFF WRITER

For the first time ever, the Washington and Lee theater department and Mindbending, a student organization, have joined together to present a play. "Two Rooms" by Lee Blessing will show tonight and tomorrow night at 7 p.m. in the Maslansky Rehearsal Hall.

Mary Rodriguez '13, theater major and vice president of Mindbending, di-

rects the play with a crew and cast made up of both faculty and fellow students.

It is atypical to have a student director, because it's like trying to juggle with no hands. Mary said, "Directing is a lot of responsibility. You are in control of every aspect of the play, but not directly. So you have to find a way to shape it all without stifling it."

But Mary isn't putting on a one-woman show. She has a cast of talented actors to help bring Blessing's work to life: Jeni Pritchett '12, Jesse Mozingo '13, and two first-years, Nick Lehotsky and Caroline Crichlow-Ball. They have all contributed hours of effort to bring this production to fruition.

It is a play that tugs at the audience's

nerves as it delves into the emotional fallout of a hostage situation in Beirut. As Mary describes, "The show is very sad—but cathartic—and very relevant to what's happening in the world today". The plot is wrapped in political motivations that speak to a broad audience.

The entire show is a collaborative effort by the Theatre Department to

show support and openness to hands-on learning experiences. All the behind the scenes action, including costumes, lighting and publicity, is being done by pairs made up of faculty members and students.

No tickets are necessary to attend the show.

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# sports

**ANDREW RENALDO**

Between finishing term papers and preparing for final exams, this is one of the busiest times of the year for students. In addition to caffeine and the promise of an upcoming break, sports are keeping me going. That's because April is thankfully the best sports month of the calendar year.

Let's start with March Madness. After watching our brackets go to shambles during the hectic and always enjoyable first few rounds of the tournament, we are ready to a crown a tournament winner in April. We look forward to the best players cementing their one-year legacies and laying the groundwork for Nike to re-release their college jerseys as cool collectibles from their "amateur" days. The final contestants will hopefully treat us to some spectacular plays that will feature prominently in future YouTube compilations set to epic music. This is April's appetizer.

We then move to the Masters. Cue CBS's commercials with sappy piano chords and Jim Nantz reminding us that this is a tradition unlike any other. The history, azaleas and green jacket make the Masters the best golf event of the year and a reminder of why sports and beautiful spring weather are a great match.

If golf is not quite your thing, the major league baseball season also starts around the same time. With everyone starting the year on level ground in the standings, opening day is always full of excitement and optimism. The start of baseball season is also a reminder that summer and lazy days in the nearest ballpark are just around the corner. It means that SportsCenter will begin to feature an obnoxious amount of baseball highlights as well, but this is a small concession.

As we get further into April, the NBA and NHL playoffs begin. Any fan of these two leagues knows that the playoffs are like a new season with higher stakes and chippier action. The best players start performing at the peak of their powers, the most rugged players start growing the gnarliest beards (in hockey's case), and coaches start doing more awkward in-game interviews with Craig Sager (in basketball's case). It's incredibly entertaining, and there are games to watch every night.

Unfortunately there's no football in April, but we do get treated to the NFL draft. Besides being Mel Kiper's pièce de résistance, the draft is also a well of hope for fans of every franchise. Will that quarterback that your team is drafting lead his teammates to greatness, mediocrity, or ruin? We usually never know the answer until several years down the road, but we still love digesting analysis that less than half of the time proves to be correct.

If that's not enough for you, the Champions League of European soccer plays quarterfinal and semifinal matches in April. If you're not familiar, this competition features the best club teams in Europe. The final is the Super Bowl of club soccer. The possibility exists this year that Barcelona will play archrival Real Madrid in the final. This would be like Duke playing UNC for the national championship in basketball, if Durham and Chapel Hill were cosmopolitan cities that fought on opposite sides of a civil war less than 100 years ago.

April thus brings not only a multitude of sports action, but very meaningful sporting events. It marks the culmination of some sports' seasons and the exciting beginning of others. So as you get back to your mountain of schoolwork, rest assured that the best sports month of the year is here to help you cope.



What's the best sports month of the year?

Andrew and Stephen debate which month is better in terms of sports, April or October.

**STEPHEN PECK**

For a sports fan, I don't know how much better it can get than the month of October.

It's an interesting argument. On one hand, and as Ricky Renaldo so eloquently put it, you have April with the Masters, the NFL draft, MLB opening day, and NBA and NHL playoffs. Being from Michigan, April is also the month where the sun actually begins to show its face after another dismal and seemingly endless winter. So that's nice.

But the month of October is the one time of the year when you physically do not have enough TV's to watch every sporting event that is on.

First off, October belongs to Major League Baseball. Baseball usually manages to cram all three rounds of its playoffs in October, resulting in some of the sport's most memorable moments when the games matter most.

Don Larsen's perfect game. Kirk Gibson's hobbled pinch-hit home run. Bill Mazeroski's walk-off bomb to lift the Pirates over the Yankees. All iconic October moments.

Reggie Jackson's heroics in the 1977 and '78 playoffs earned him the lifelong distinction of Mr. October. Mr. April just doesn't have that same ring to it.

October also owns four (sometimes five if we are lucky) weekends of professional and college football. For a nation that decidedly revolves around football, this is nirvana, and something that April lacks.

Last October, we saw the Lions beat the Bears on Monday Night Football and start 5-0 for the first time since 1956. We saw surprisingly hot starts by the Bills and 49ers. We saw the Packers roll through the entire league. We saw Jim Schwartz and Jim Harbaugh almost get in a fistfight. And we saw the emergence of some guy named Tebow.

In the collegiate ranks, last October gave us a host of upsets (Auburn over South Carolina, Wake Forest over FSU, UVA over Georgia Tech, GT over Clemson, Texas Tech over Oklahoma) and memorable games (Michigan State's hail mary to beat Wisconsin, Oklahoma blows out Texas in the Red River Shootout, Stanford's epic triple-overtime win over Southern Cal).

And of course with all this football, comes tailgates, fantasy football, endless Tim Tebow talk, Lee Corso swearing on the College Gameday set, Erin Andrews, and NFL Redzone.

Just for good measure October marks the beginning of the NBA season, allowing us as fans to once again direct our unwarranted but wildly intense hatred at LeBron James, listen to Charles Barkley destroy the English language, and watch Javale McGee do something unbelievably dumb.

The NHL season also begins, but the good people here in Virginia are probably more excited about the four NASCAR races in October than they are about watching Canadians and Russians ice skate.

Although October marks the end of summer, it also brings us the best holiday of the year: Halloween.

Although W&L may not celebrate it as well as other larger state schools do (for reasons that the gentlemen of this school understand), Halloween at its very essence, is an incredible holiday.

What other time can you dress up as a superhero and get free candy from neighbors?

Never. The answer is never. There is nothing like October.

## Men's swim coach resigns

*Coach Shinofield intends to pursue other professional opportunities*

By Leigh Dannhauser  
SPORTS EDITOR



Washington and Lee's men's swim team coach Joel Shinofield officially resigned last week.

Shinofield first came to W&L as a student. He graduated as a biology major in 1994. He returned less than ten years later after becoming W&L's men's swim coach and the director of aquatics.

Shinofield told GeneralSports.com, "I am grateful to Athletic Director Jan Hathorn, former Athletic Directors Chuck O'Connell and Mike Walsh, as well as President Ruscio for giving me the opportunity to coach the sport I love at my alma mater."

Shinofield has made the most of his opportunity since his return in 2003. In his very first year he won the Bluegrass Mountain Conference Coach of the Year. Other accolades include being a recipient of the American Swimming Coaches As-

sociation Award of Excellence in 2008, as well as coaching W&L to Bluegrass Mountain Conference championship victories on four occasions.

This season his team placed fourth at the BMC Championships. Many of his athletes moved on to a qualified for nationals. That group placed 16<sup>th</sup> overall in Indiana two weeks ago. Three athletes earned four separate individual All-American certificates while three separate relays teamed up to earn All-American certificates as well.

Shinofield has said that he has been honored to coach his athletes at W&L for nine years.

"They have had a great deal of success in and out of the pool," Shinofield told GeneralSports.com. "I'm proud of the way that they achieved their goals."

# GOOD LUCK ON FINALS, Y'ALL!

Love,  
the Phi Staff

It's

April...



Have you stopped by  
Career Services  
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Plans for Summer  
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Career Services

# sports

## in the numbers

### 6

The total number of weeks that the New York Knicks expect Jeremy Lin to miss due to a meniscus tear. Lin, who injured his knee in a recent game versus the Detroit Pistons, is going to have surgery next week. He is expected to miss the rest of the regular season and is only expected to return this season if the Knicks make a run in the playoffs.

### 36

The total number of first place votes out of a possible 40 that Baylor women's basketball player Brittney Griner received to win The Associated Press' women's college basketball Player of the Year award. Second place went to Delaware's Elena Delle Donne who received two of the remaining first place votes. The voting occurs before the women's NCAA tournament begins.

### 3:48

The total amount of time that the Kansas Jayhawks were leading in their Final Four game of the NCAA tournament on Saturday night. They defeated Ohio State 62-59 and will face the University of Kentucky in the final on Monday.

### 105

The age of Allene Wynn who celebrated her birthday by being a guest of the Los Angeles Lakers at their game versus the New Orleans Hornets.

## soapbox

*"This is my 10<sup>th</sup> world championship and I can't really describe how it finally feels to reach that dream. Deep in my heart I knew I had a chance to win. I trained so hard and I have beautiful programs, my main goal was to show how much I love figure skating.*

**— 25-year-old Carolina Kostner after winning the women's world figure skating title. Last year she placed third and in 2008 she won the silver medal, from SI.com**

*"I am 100 percent committed to building the Bobcats into a contender and have no plans to sell the team."*

**— Michael Jordan, majority owner of the Charlotte Bobcats, after it was reported on Sunday that he is thinking about selling the team due to their poor performance this season. So far they have the NBA's worst record at 7-43.**

## ondeck

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Women's Tennis							
Men's Lacrosse			vs Roanoke 7 pm				
Baseball	at Bridgewater 4 pm	vs Ferrum 5 pm	vs EM 5 pm				
Men's Tennis							
Riding					ODAC Champs	IHSA Zones	
Golf	at Piedmont Spring Invite	at Piedmont Spring Invite					
Women's Lacrosse			at Bridgewater 4:30 pm				

## Generals slay Wildcats

### Means scores five en route to victory

By Leigh Dannhauser  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Washington and Lee men's lacrosse team allowed just two goals on their way to defeat ODAC opponent Randolph at Wildcat Stadium on Saturday.

The Generals led in nearly all aspects of the game. They outshot the Wildcats 54-12, grabbed 24 more ground balls, and won 18 of 27 faceoffs.

As a result the Generals led on the scoreboard after 60 minutes of play. The final score was 21-2.

Washington and Lee struck first with two early goals by junior attackman Mac Means.

The Wildcats responded with a goal from junior midfielder Jon O'Hara in the first quarter, but they were unable to answer any more of the Generals' assault until another goal by O'Hara in the fourth quarter. Between Wildcat goals, the Generals scored 18 goals over the about 47 minutes of play.

Means led the way for the Generals. Means scored five goals and grabbed six ground balls.

Just 3 of the shots for the Wildcats were on target. First-year goalie Warren Berenis made the sole save for the Generals while playing the first half. Sophomore Dylan Florig did not

face a shot while playing the third quarter and fellow sophomore Patrick Jennings allowed one goal while playing the fourth quarter.

For the Wildcats, senior Kevin McCracken played the full game in goal. He stopped 17 of 38 shots that he faced.

The Generals are now 6-6 overall and 2-2 in the ODAC.

Washington and Lee will play their next game at 7:00 pm on Wednesday when they host 13th-ranked ODAC opponent Roanoke.

## Washington and Lee outdueled by Bridgewater

### Generals get just two hits in pitchers' battle

By Eric Wisotsky  
STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee baseball team came out on the losing end of a pitcher's duel on Wednesday, falling to Bridgewater College by a score of 2-0.

Despite allowing only one run through seven innings on the mound, senior pitcher Jody Davis was charged with the hard luck loss. The 22<sup>nd</sup> ranked Eagles pushed across their run in the top of the sixth inning. Two singles and a walk loaded the bases for Christian Armstrong, who lifted a fly ball to left field to score Jonathan Mason from third base.

Bridgewater would add an insurance run in the top of the ninth by way of a two out single by senior catcher Devin Snow.

The Generals' bats were quieted by Bridgewater starter Jonathan Lucas. The senior southpaw allowed only two singles in seven innings of work. He was followed by freshman lefthander Corey Armentrout, who earned the save by pitching the final two frames. Armentrout held the Generals without a hit and surrendered only one walk.

At the plate, the Generals were led by junior third baseman Chris Nault and senior center fielder Mike Decembrino, who each went 1-3 with a single. Junior shortstop Jonathan Stutts finished the game with three walks.

The Generals returned to action on Saturday afternoon as they squared off in a double header against Randolph-Macon. The first game began at 1:00 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENERALSSPORTS.COM

## W&L stays undefeated in ODAC

### Women's lacrosse wins three in one week

By Leigh Dannhauser  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Washington and Lee women's lacrosse team went 3-0 this week in ODAC play. They played both Sweet Briar and Randolph on Tuesday and then won at Virginia Wesleyan on Saturday.

The Generals traveled to Sweet Briar for an afternoon contest that they won 23-2. They were led on the scoreboard by three who scored three goals apiece. Sophomore Meredith Lavin and seniors Maddie McKaig and Alli Shearin each got three past Sweet Briar goalies first-year Caroline Baker and sophomore Megan Link. Four other Generals also found the back of the net multiple times.

Sophomore Olivia Hurt and junior Jessie Edington scored the lone goals for the Vixens.

For Washington and Lee senior Jennifer Linder and first-year Cara Mulligan split time in the net, allowing one goal in 30 minutes of play apiece.

Immediately after the victory, the Generals

re-boarded the bus and rode to their 7:00 pm game against Randolph.

The Generals won handily for the second time of the day. They beat Randolph 21-2.

Washington and Lee scored 15 in the first half, before cooling a little bit and netting six in the second.

First-year midfielder Taylor Klevenz scored one in each half for Randolph to be the lone Wildcat to score.

Six Generals found the back of the net multiple times. Shearin led the way with four while sophomore Katie Hagen scored three times. Senior Christina Benedetti, McKaig, sophomore Margaret Klein, and first-year Catherine Klienedinst scored two goals apiece.

The Generals continued ODAC play on Saturday when they traveled to Virginia Wesleyan and won 16-5. After the third ODAC victory of the week, the Generals are now 5-0

in the conference and 9-3 overall.

Washington and Lee finished the first half up just three, but the team was able to score five unanswered goals en route to scoring ten in the second half.

Mulligan allowed three in the first half and just two goals in the second as Washington and Lee took a commanding lead.

Once again the Generals were led by the strong performances of Benedetti, who scored two goals and had game-high four ground balls, McKaig, who scored a game-high four goals, and Lavin and Shearin, who scored three goals apiece.

Junior Taylor Harding scored a team-high two goals for the Marlins. Senior Michelle Mace spent a little over 40 minutes in the net, allowing ten goals and saving four. Senior goalie Brittany Macknew saved two and allowed six goals in a little less than twenty minutes of play.