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The Phi Awards are in!

Every year we pick five seniors who we think go A and B the C of D. Give them a pat on the back next time you see them.

page 3

Well played, WNL

W&L's own sketch comedy group roasted everyone from the Phi to over-hashtaggers.

A&L / page 6

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897 VOLUME CXV, NUMBER 20

Big Changes for The Phi

Plans for restructuring over the summer and a new system of writing means the '12-'13 Phi will be better than ever

By Jullanna Satterly
MANAGING EDITOR

Another year of The Ring-tum Phi is coming to a close, and while it has been a good one we are always trying to make the paper better. With that in mind, look forward to a whole new paper fall term! Over the summer my editorial staff and I are going to restructure the paper, maybe include some cosmetic changes and biggest of all, we are changing the way we do reporting.

For those of you in the know, we're transitioning to a beat reporting system. If you're not a J-Major, like me, I'll take a second to explain the idea. Basically, currently we have writers who pick a topic and write an article about it. At the beginning of the week our editors come up with several story ideas, and writers can pick-and-choose which they want to pursue. Say "sayonara" to that system. After a meeting with the Journal-

ism School's Alumni Advisory Board, we have decided that it would be much more effective to run a beat system. In a beat system, a certain topic (called a beat) is covered by one reporter (the beat reporter) all year. So each week at our new staff meetings, each reporter will tell their editor what the article's topic will be that week.

A specific beat, for example, would be Greek Life. The reporter covering Greek Life would write an article every week about Pan Hellenic or Interfraternity Council meetings, upcoming philanthropy events, etc. At the staff meetings on Mondays, instead of the editors coming up with story ideas, they will ask each writer what they'll be covering in their beat. This puts a lot more responsibility on the writer and a lot less work on the shoulders of the editors (look forward to an article in the

first fall-term edition explaining exactly what it is that we do here). So, for this new system we are looking for a team of writers who are committed and excited about covering their topic all year! Look forward to the Student Activities Fair next year, where I'll be sitting with a sign-up sheet.

Interested in any of these beats? Interested in writing reviews on movies or food in Lexington? Email me at phi@wlu.edu or satterlyj14@mail.wlu.edu.

It doesn't matter what you plan on majoring in. As long as you are willing to get your hands dirty and report the truth to the student body, then you can cover a beat for The Ring-tum Phi.

Get excited because the new-and-improved paper is coming at you in just 100 and something short days!

WANTED: Enthusiastic and committed writers to cover the following topics each week...

Greek Life

Intercampus Politics

First-year life

Sports

The EC and SJC

Academics & Administration

Student Organizations

Rockbridge County

Inquire to phi@wlu.edu or satterlyj14@mail.wlu.edu

First-year housing upgrades in 2013

Both Graham-Lees and Gaines residence halls are under review for renovations in 2013 to improve first-year life

By Tommy Kent
STAFF WRITER



The maze-like floor plan of Graham-Lees (left) and the isolated suites and tunnel-like halls in Gaines (right) are high on the agenda for the plan to improve first-year residential life.

Renovations are planned for the Graham-Lees and Gaines residential halls starting in the summer of 2013 to help improve residential life for first-year students.

Both Graham-Lees and Gaines were identified in the plan because they both have faults in their design. According to the article, "W&L to Upgrade First-Year Housing as Part of Residential Life Re-

view," by Jeff Hanna, executive director of communications and public affairs, the "maze-like interior" of Graham-Lees due to the joining of Graham and Lees hall in 1940 and the isolation of Gaines due to its suite style construction are factors in the decision to renovate.

Sidney Evans, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, was quoted saying that within Gaines,

"there's no reason for students to come out of their rooms into the hall, which reduces the possibilities for community that are particularly important for first-year students."

John Hoogakker, the executive director of University facilities, said: "The need for renovation in Graham-Lees was obvious during my first visit to that building last summer. I became aware of the shortcomings in the Gaines configuration through meetings with our Student Affairs professionals during the fall."

According to Hanna's article, the renovations target a variety of factors, including "providing more outlets for students to socialize," improving the exterior and surroundings of the buildings, and creating new facilities to "engage students with programs, lectures, and even classes."

Hoogakker said that the plan includes "general renovation/upgrade in Graham-Lees and a new floor plan (with a more Graham-Lees-like room layout) plus upgrades for Gaines." He also said that more features, including lounges, laundry, and more, are planned for both residence halls.

The project cost represents about 4% of the Strategic Plan. Steve McAllister, the University's Treasurer and Vice President for Finance, said: "The First Year Housing project is currently estimated to be in the \$25 million to \$26 million range. It is hoped that over the coming months as design is finalized and logistics of the project settled, that we may be able to reduce this budget."

McAllister added that the renovations will be funded "primarily through additional debt that the University will take on during the next academic year."

In Hanna's article, Evans states that one of the main questions for the task force is, "whether there is a way to provide more opportunities for men and women to interact outside of the classroom and outside of a party."

Evans also said: "Students interact in a very unstructured and informal sort of way throughout their first year, in the residence halls and the dining hall. And

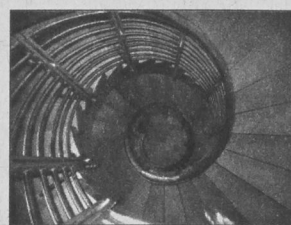
that changes dramatically at the beginning of their sophomore year."

According to Hanna's article, the task force, as purposed by the Strategic Plan, "also is analyzing the current living patterns of sophomores, juniors and seniors and assessing on-campus housing for upper-class students."

In reference to the goals of the First-Year Housing Project, Hoogakker said, "My team will be delighted if we can meet/surpass the expectations of our customers (the students!), colleagues in Student Affairs and the goals of the Task Force."



opinions



Getting the most out of your four years of college

Senior Patrick Smith describes his love for W&L and offers advice for undergraduates in his last article



By Patrick Smith
COLUMNIST

As I sit and ponder a Ring-tum Phi opinion article idea, I look back to last week's issue. Stockton Bullitt provides great input to those interested (or bad) at writing articles for the school newspaper.

His comments about Georgia Robertson's famously stupid fraternity article were spot on. There was no point to the article other than to highlight the negative aspects of fraternity life. The jokes were not funny, and there was a negative

amount of creativity. If I were to write an article being brutally honest about each sorority at our school, I would be thrown out. This is the world we live in, guys, so I digress.

However, for writing that nonsense, Ms. Robertson, I will gather a group of people later today, and we will collectively "boo" you. I hope you can hear us from the country.

The most important takeaway from Mr. Bullitt's article was his first point. When you write an opinion article, actually have an opinion. I will be the first to admit that I have been guilty of this in the past. I have written some absolutely heinous garbage for this paper, and for that I say to you all, "Sorry I'm not sorry."

For my last article ever, I thought I would put in a bit more effort. But not too much more effort because I am on

Spring Option and don't have class. Ever.

The opinion I have for this article is simple: Washington and Lee is a great place. I am being 100% honest, and fully stand behind that statement. This place has treated me well over the years.

The opinion I have for this article is simple: Washington and Lee is a great place.

The fact that I was able to learn at such a great institution, play baseball for four years, and be in a great-fit fraternity is nothing shy of a blessing (or a miracle?). For this, I am very grateful.

Like any other person at this school, I have had many highs and lows. The memories and experiences I have had at

Washington and Lee have prepared me for what lies ahead.

The main thing I learn as I enjoy my Spring Option is that nothing should be taken for granted. Treat every experience you have at this school like it's your last. It will all end at some point

the nostalgia coursing from the plantars of my feet up through the auburn hairs atop my head.

Congratulations to all the seniors graduating on the 24th. It has been a long road and we are nearing the end of it. Remember all of the good times, but most importantly, pay Leonardo DiCaprio to "incept" you into forgetting all the bad memories. If that's not how "Inception" works, careface. That is such a stupid movie.

Goodbye, Ring-tum Phi. I hope that a nonsense-spewing-opinions-article-writing-person springs up. Additionally, I hope Georgia Robertson never graces your print again.

I leave you with one final joke: Crowded elevators smell different to midgets.

Lexington's greatest treasures

Annie Persons describes her appreciation for rolling hills, eating high-priced frozen yogurt at a gas station, and art



By Annie Persons
HEAD COPY EDITOR

As my freshman year draws to a close and I look back on the past few months, I feel as though one of my responsibilities (other than constantly reminding myself that my major is English and not "professional slacking off") is to pay

homage to the little nest that holds our campus: Lexington. Let's face it—when you decided to come to W&L, your first

though wasn't "...and then I'll graduate and become a permanent member of

Rockbridge County!" Professors, forgive me, but as a bright-eyed and bushy-tailed young college student, Lexington doesn't exactly scream ideal post-gradu-

The fact that W&L kids can be seen flocking in hordes to sit in a gas station and eat frozen yogurt is almost poetic juxtaposition.

ate residence...it whispers "good college town." However, even as a mere freshman, beautiful Lexington has grown on me, and while I may not spend the rest of my days here, I feel I must tribute my top three subtle, perhaps more underappreciated or casually fabulous locations that make up the gem that is "Lex Vegas."

The view from outside Walmart

Okay, this one may not be underappreciated, but I can't resist writing about it. I mean, who hasn't stepped off of the

curb outside good ole Wally World and nearly dropped their bags at the sight of the rolling mountains, their emerald peaks cascading across the skyline?

Whoa. Honestly, have you ever had a moment like that in another parking lot? Every time I go to Walmart and trek the parking lot, I have a genuine moment of thanks that I can live in a place where even the local Walmart, maybe one of the most commercial places imaginable, can render me speechless.

Sweet Frog

Again, definitely NOT underappreciated. In fact, I don't think I have ever hopped over (ha) to this place without

running into someone I knew. The reason I include Sweet Frog is to mention the irony of it—the fact that W&L kids can be seen flocking in hordes to sit in a

gas station and eat frozen yogurt is almost poetic juxtaposition. Personally, I find the place charming and weirdly comforting; it is full simple pleasures such as the brick wall wall-paper I noted peeling off of the side of Subway. I was also particularly tickled by the addition of their newest flavor "Maple Bacon Donut" (the handmade label with surprisingly artistic bubble letters).

Studio Eleven

I bet I've got you with this one. Only those of us who have taken poetry classes (pardon me if you somehow just find out about these things) have ever been to Studio Eleven, I made my first appear-

ance last night for a poetry reading, to earn extra credit for class. At the reading, professors and townsfolk came together to share poems they had written. The setting couldn't have been more perfect: soft lighting caressed every corner of this quaint, white-walled room. The walls aren't bare, though—my favorite part about Studio Eleven is the artwork. Paintings of natural scenery such as mountains or grassy fields deck the walls in a way that isn't overwhelming, but rather contributes to the overall relaxing atmosphere in the room.

So, that's my tribute, and I hope that in my final years here, I can continue to discover and appreciate the quirks of our town the way I do the Stars Hollow of Gilmore Girls. Because while it "doesn't have a seedy underbelly...it doesn't even have a parking meter," it is still near and dear to my heart.

Getting ready for the real world

Platt describes how the W&L social scene prepares students for the real world



By Sally Platt
COLUMNIST

At W&L we tend to think of ourselves as living in a bubble. College life, especially in Lex, just seems divorced from the real world. While this may be true, there are surprising exceptions. Our skills can actually take us far in the internship world, if employed well.

To use them, we actually have to have the job. This can be a bit of an issue, with the economy and the competitiveness of good internships. Alumni can help with this but what is really golden is when someone from your frat or srat has the job that you want. They are usually very willing to help you climb the first rung of the lad-

der. Having socialized, drunk, and done crazy things under the same name for four years definitely gives you that personal connection that can put you above the other applicants.

Socializing. Who could possibly know

more about surviving a cocktail party than a W&L student? As it turns out socializing over alcohol is a large part of how people get jobs and keep them. Want that promotion? Better go with the boss to the bar. I intern at the House Budget Committee and we keep a few bottles of good wine on hand, you know, just in case. (Maybe if we broke them out more often the Democrats would like The Path to Prosperity a little more?)

Who could possibly know more about surviving a cocktail party than a W&L student?

People say networking is the key way peo-

ple get jobs. Basically, this means if someone enjoys hanging out with you, they would like to work with you too. It's all about the personal connection. Treat your internship like a rush date. You're there to impress, but also to

show that you would be fun to hang out with on a regular basis. An office is a lot like a sorority, just more men, more pantsuits, and a (little) less drama. We have the skills, now we just have to adapt them to the workplace. So get ready, do your research, and have the dankest summer of your life. (Stockton Bullitt said we were supposed to use that word so I had to put it in somewhere. You're welcome.)

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

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MISSION STATEMENT: It is the mission of THE RING-TUM PHI to accurately, truthfully, and thoroughly report news affecting the Washington and Lee community for students, faculty, parents and alumni. Our goal is to look deeper into news affecting campus life and hold leaders accountable. Through our reporting, we aspire to spark discussions that lead to discovering information that prompts change.

THE RING-TUM PHI is published Mondays during the undergraduate school year. THE RING-TUM PHI is a member of The Media Board, which can be reached at mediaboard@wlu.edu, but is otherwise independent. THE RING-TUM PHI welcomes all letters. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content and length. Letters and advertising do not necessarily reflect the opinion of THE RING-TUM PHI staff. This newspaper observes current court definitions of libel and obscenity.

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and Good Luck to the
Class of 2012



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Pick up your cap & gown
May 16-18 & May 21-22, 9-4
Elrod Commons 301

The Annual Ring-tum Phi Awards

Every year the Ring-tum Phi editorial staff commends five students, professors or deans for their outstanding service to the university. This year, the Phi has nominated Luke Andersen, Franco Moiso, Ashna Sharan, Diandra Spicak and Natalie Stier. Congratulations to all of our winners!

By Cynthia Lam
ARTS AND LIFE EDITOR

"Get involved in whatever aspects of campus life you enjoy. Volunteer, apply for EC committee appointments, run for elected offices, and start organizations you're interested in. Realize that while solid academics are crucial, college is a lot more than just what you do in the classroom."



Franco Moiso

Intramural Soccer, Peer Tutor, Outing Club, Nabors Service League Volunteer, ESOL

Double-majoring in Physics-Engineering and Studio Art has taught Franco Moiso how to find the perfect balance in life. By successfully juggling his intensive course work with various extracurricular activities, Franco has found time to do the things he enjoys most, which include playing soccer with professors, VMI cadets, and local townspeople every week.

Franco has won multiple awards for his outstanding academic achievements, including the Robert E. Atkins Engineering Prize, First-Year Physics and Engineering Department Award, and the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Societies. Earlier this year, he showcased his senior art thesis in Staniar Gallery, which featured a year-long culmination of various videos, collages, and kinetic sculptures. This project was partly inspired by the "Drawing Italy" course he took last spring term. Said Franco: "It was like a dream class, there were no worries apart from art, and as an artist that is like heaven."

Of all his achievements, Franco is proudest of forging powerful connections with everyone he has met here. Said Franco: "It is entering a class with certain professors and feeling happy because it is them that are teaching the class. Having been able to enter their offices and talk with them, maybe not even about class; learn from them; having them as mentors; that is

"Find your passion. If you look for it, you will probably find it at W&L. Once you find it you will be set. It won't let go of you, and you will have no option but to be good in it. There will be struggling times, but they won't be strong enough to make you stop."

"Try to be involved as much as you can in things that are really important to you without spreading yourself too thin. This is something I just learned this year."

Powerful friendships and lifelong experiences have shaped the past four years for Natalie Stier, who has been an inspiration both in and outside of the classroom. A devoted geology major, Natalie has conducted remarkable research on topics like the seismic development of Arctic Alaska and presented her honors thesis in front of petroleum industry leaders at a national conference. She received the Geology Department Award her freshman year and was recently honored with the Frank G. Young Award.

In addition to her extensive academic accomplishments, Natalie was captain of the track and field team and set multiple event records, which led her to receive the Most Improved Award her sophomore year. Earlier this year, the Most Valuable Player Award was renamed the Natalie Stier Award in her honor to recognize the extreme courage and strength she displayed while recovering from a serious car accident that took place during her junior year.

"One of the most memorable things for me was when the students organized the dodge ball tournament for Kevin and me after the accident. I was amazing how supportive the entire student body was of us," said Natalie. "My family and friends are extremely important to me and I love them so much, and I'm going to do my best at anything in life that's important to me."

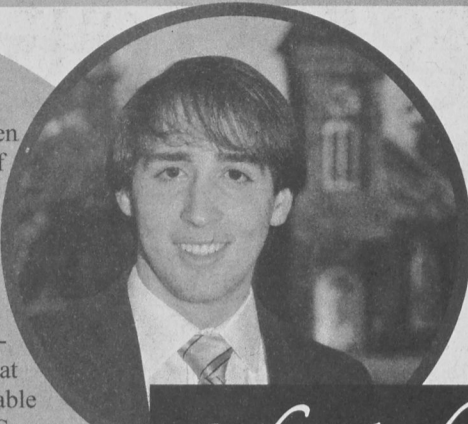
Natalie Stier

Track and Field, Geology Research

During his time here at W&L, Luke Andersen has truly made the most out of his college career. From serving on the Executive Committee and participating in the Student-Faculty Hearing Board to volunteering at Campus Kitchens and organizing activities with the First-Year Leadership Committee, Luke has thoroughly embraced every single opportunity that has come his way. Some of his most memorable experiences include going on service trips to Greece and Jamaica, helping build a home with Habitat for Humanity, and getting two SCUBA certifications.

In addition to his impressive extracurricular achievements, Luke has received numerous awards for his academic accomplishments, including the Johnson Scholarship, General of the Month Award, and Omicron Delta Epsilon and Beta Beta Beta National Honor Societies. His senior capstone project, which studied the effect of de novo banks on home foreclosure rates, was partly inspired by his experiences working with Professor Michael Andersen as an R.E. Lee Research Scholar the summer after his sophomore year.

Said Luke: "I became good or better friends with many people who were also in Lexington doing research and got to explore the area in ways that aren't really feasible during the school year. It was a lot of fun and I was fortunate to get that experience."



Luke Andersen

EC, Student-Faculty Hearing Board, Traveler, FYOC, Reformed University Fellowship, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, Campus Kitchens

Ashna Sharan is not afraid to take a stand. Although her proudest accomplishment in college took place 4000 miles away from campus, the resounding impact of her work has changed her life forever. After receiving the Erik T. Woolley fellowship to volunteer at a domestic abuse shelter in Peru in summer 2010, Ashna organized a powerful campaign against violence and presented seminars in Spanish at local schools to spread the word. In just three months, she had reached out to over 600 million people.

Back on campus, Ashna is a student consultant, Vice-President of Special Events for the Student Recruitment Committee, Peer Counselor, and Peer Tutor. As a dance choreographer for the WLU Repertory Dance Company, she was the first one to introduce Indian dance to the community. In addition, she is a Johnson Scholar, Nu Delta Alpha Honor Society member, and Miss Virginia Dogwood 2012 Competitor.

"This university will be what you want it to be... if you want to do stretch yourself past your comfort zone through volunteering at places like Project Horizon, study abroad, or other extracurriculars, W&L is the place," said Ashna. "While being an ambitious and curiosity-driven girl, I always try to give back to the community, friends and family that have helped raise me."



Ashna Sharan

WLU Repertory Dance Company, Student Recruitment Committee, Student Consultant, Peer Counselor, Peer Tutor

"Take full advantage of all the resources our university has to offer. You have to work hard but if there is a will, the university will grant you what you feel you need to succeed."

A passionate lover of all forms of communication, Diandra Spicak has dedicated her college career to reporting the truth, spreading the word, and keeping the student body informed. Through her work as Managing Editor of The Ring-Tum Phi and President of the Society of Professional Journalists, as well as her involvement in WLUR and the Rockbridge Report, Diandra has helped significantly strengthen the journalism program and elevate its status on campus.

Of all her accomplishments, she is proudest of the documentary she made as a sophomore in Professor Indira Somani's spring term class. Said Diandra: "I learned so much about broadcast writing and editing, I learned so much about myself as a reporter and a person, and I really began to understand the culture here at W&L through another cultural lens."

Even after all these years, nothing else compares to the experience of seeing her own name in print, whether it is in the newspaper, broadcast credits, or website. "There's something just exhilarating about it. I don't know how else to explain it," she said.

"Don't conform, and stay true to yourself. If that means wearing awkward hipster pants or oversized tees, go for it. Don't let others influence who you really are. And, make it a party wherever you go. You can take that however you please."

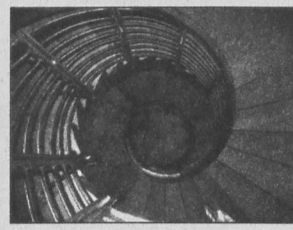


Diandra Spicak

Ring-tum Phi, CONTACT Committee, WLUR, Society of Professional Journalists, Rockbridge Report, Pi Beta Phi Sorority



opinions



All the things I didn't get to say

Surprise! Stockton Bullitt is back with a final article. reflects on his four years and offers advice for younger students



By Stockton Bullitt
COLUMNIST

Graduation season is upon us, which means there will be a ton of stuff directed towards the future for the Class of 2012 (aka the Mayan grade). Now, it is the time to hear what our class can and will hopefully become. If you are unfamiliar

with this type of rhetoric, just YouTube "Steve Jobs Stanford" or "Conan O'Brien Dartmouth" and you'll get your fill of these kinds of speeches.

Thanks to the Internet and previous Washington and Lee graduations, I'm pretty comfortable with these kinds of speeches: a) make a couple of school specific jokes, b) talk about personal life in struggle form and c) bring it back to graduating senior applicable clichés and analogies. I'm not nearly as good as successful people at this kind of rhetoric. Also, as a graduating senior myself, I don't know what the heck is behind the curtain. So I'm not going to say anything to the Class of 2012, other than wasn't it absurd that I didn't beat the RA in that trivia game during O-Week? There was money to be won and they gave it to a guy who wasn't even a freshman. Really?

Anyway, since the "You can do it graduating seniors" rhetoric has been done so much before, there is obviously going to be counter rhetoric because writers always need something original to talk about. Recently, I read Bret Stephens' opinion article "To the Class of 2012" in the *Wall Street Journal*. Before you think that I'm trying to show off that I read the *Wall Street Journal*, I actually saw it on my Facebook feed. In the article, Bret Stephens laments on the problems of the graduating generation. He shares with us facts about life that we obviously don't understand like "in our 'knowledge-based' economy, knowledge counts. Yet here you are, probably the least knowledgeable graduating class in history." This is typical of a 38 year old Middlesex graduate, who just broke his "the kids today aren't like they used to be" cherry.

For some reason, this article has bugged me the last few days. And while I don't appreciate the condescension, I thought I would imitate the patronizing "I know more than you now that I'm older and therefore smarter" Harry Wormwood (the dad in "Matilda") style tone for an opinion article. So, for my last article, I am going to try to give you readers some advice about how to spend the rest of your careers at Washington and Lee. These are things that I either was lucky enough to do, or really wish I had done in my four years in Lexington. And, hopefully, they will be a bit more nuanced than the back of the t-shirt you were given during your pre-O trip.

1 Don't Worry So Much about Who You Are

A common criticism (sometimes a compliment) of W&L is that the social scene can be a lot like high school. Juicy Campus, College ACB and poorly written opinion articles (sorry, but I can't get enough of Georgia Robertson) have

created a socially-aware atmosphere that can sometimes make students feel embarrassed about their identities. This criticism can come from both ends: "Oh you're studying on a Friday?" and "Oh,

generation. Of the little professional advice I have been given, most of it tends to be, "No really, you're not that smart." Now, it could be that I think I'm right a little too much. Stop nodding your head.

No, the reason liberal arts colleges are necessary and the reason I went to one is because liberal arts colleges serve one purpose: they help you find the one thing you really love.

you're going out on a Monday?" usually have the same effect when accompanied by raised eyebrows.

Furthermore, you get people like Mr. Stephens calling your brains "like old maps, with lots of blank spaces for the uncharted terrain." The common lament on our generation is that we have no real knowledge, are much more spoiled than any other generation in history, and we are so addicted to technology that we have no real basis for communication. If you listened to enough people both in school and online (print's not really a medium anymore), you would most likely believe that whatever you are doing and feeling is probably misguided and ignorant.

Do not listen to anything those people are saying. You are in college. You get four years to have your own prerogative. High school is about learning social norms, tricking parents, and getting into college. It's not until you are out of college you start having those dreaded responsibilities. Therefore, the times before and after college necessitate some type of conformity, but college is your time to be selfish. Since it's only four years, you can't waste this free time worrying about who you are. If I could change one thing about my four-year experience, it would definitely be spending less time doubting my own personal validity and letting friends question theirs. You don't have enough time here to think that you are worthless; just remember, you got into W&L and there is someone somewhere who already thinks you're great, so why spend time questioning that person's beliefs?

2 Don't Be Cocky

Now the other side of that coin is to not to take your own personal validity to be superior to anyone else's. I know that I'm starting to sound like a kindergarten teacher, but frankly, I think most problems at this school stem from someone being a little too sure of themselves. You shouldn't feel bad for going out on a Monday or staying in on a Friday, but you certainly are not a better person for making that decision.

It's pretty simple, if you remain overly confident in yourself, three things can happen. One, other people start to detest you. Chicks don't dig the "two truths and a lie" pick-up line. The "I'm god's gift to mankind" freshman always gets shafted on bid night. Professors tend to dislike "I'm going to comment on everything that is said in class" student. The "I'm better than you" upperclassman always gets kidnapped. The social scene tends to give overly cocky people their comeuppance.

Two, you will leave W&L with the exact overly-inflated sense of self-worth that older generations say plagues our

generation. Of the little professional advice I have been given, most of it tends to be, "No really, you're not that smart." Now, it could be that I think I'm right a little too much. Stop nodding your head.

But it could also be that older people are tired of being told how life really is by younger people who do not know what they are really saying. Go on a quick tangent, if you can. Give more time than you already devote to finding a job. Whatever job that is, don't obsess over it, but try and give it more attention.

Three, nothing will happen. There are a bunch of overly-cocky people (both student and staff) at this school who never get what they really deserve. Most of these people will continue to live in the dark and continue to believe they have a direct line to the divine. If you made it this far in the article, odds are you aren't this person. Try and avoid him or her.

3 Cross the Picket Line

At W&L, there is a social pyramid that has a distinct top and bottom. Who is located where on this social pyramid is anyone's guess. Most of the student community at W&L either abides by the rules governing the chutes and ladders dictating the fluidity of this pyramid or abhors and ignores the existence of said pyramid and tries to stay as far away from "that scene."

Whether you are firmly entrenched in one of these two groups or you find yourself vacillating between the two warring factions, this is an element of W&L culture. My advice is not to respect or ignore the existence of this social pyramid, but to get to know people on both sides. You will be so much better for knowing someone at W&L who is not like you that you will probably not notice the change. On both a micro and a macro level, it is absolutely vital that you graduate W&L knowing that people are basically the same, nice people wherever you go.

If you are some loser guy who likes hoodies a little too much, don't be afraid to talk to the pretty girl who wears designer clothing. As long as there is no pretense of creepy flirtation, the girl is not going to shun you. Although it's W&L, it's not actually high school. The social apex cliques at W&L for the most part are filled with genuinely nice people who are down to earth, only they are burdened with the fact that most people like them. Likewise, if you are a frat or frat star, make sure you befriend an independent who could not care less about the Greek system at W&L. Almost every single person I have met outside the Greek system is both incredibly kind and fascinating. You don't really know until you do this, but you learn a lot about who you are by chilling with someone who is not like you, and that's a good thing.

You can apply this to warring W&L factions fighting over anything. If you are a Democrat (and you're probably not), listen to what the Republicans

have to say, and vice versa. Well, except on the gay marriage debate. You don't want to be like the 82% of Americans who disapproved of interracial marriage when it was deemed constitutional in 1967. Sorry, I couldn't resist.

Lastly, if you are not on first name terms with at least one or two international students, then why are your parents paying so much money for you to go here? The same goes for you, international students.

4 Do One Dumb Thing (that doesn't get you kicked out)

Yeah, most of you have already beaten me to the punch here, but for the select few of you who haven't or believe you haven't done one really dumb thing while here, you need to listen. Everyone else can simply indulge me. Let's be honest, there is not one thing short of cheating, lying, stealing and drunk driving that will get you kicked out of this institution. Well, any kind of sexual misconduct will get you kicked out, but if you are the type of person to commit that misconduct, you really shouldn't be here in the first place. Now that we have the bases covered, W&L is one of the few places in life that you get a couple of second chances (three to be exact). Hopefully, the reasoning behind this is because the school recognizes that you learn best when you screw up. If you are one of the minority who has yet to learn this lesson, it's a vital one. College is the best place to find out what doesn't work, and every single success story that I have read contains one experiment blowing up catastrophically. There's numerous clichés to put to end this part with, but I'll just settle for "you don't know how to do something right until you screw it up a couple times." Make sure you do that, and make especially sure you get caught. You won't regret it.

5 Befriend LexPo and the Deans

Keep your friends close; keep your "authorities who choose to pick off mostly innocent low hanging fruit and ignore the more dangerous larger social issues on campus" closer.

6 Befriend W&L's Staff (and maybe a faculty member or two)

During sophomore year, I started visiting friends at different schools. I got to see the variance in how schools are actually run. I began to realize that D-Hall isn't as low on the totem pole as I am led to believe, but I also saw how the students and staff interacted with one another.

As a northerner, I sometimes find the whole southern hospitality thing to be a bit overrated. People in the South aren't necessarily more chipper and polite than their northern counterparts. However, there is a strong element of southern hospitality on campus. W&L is unparalleled in the courtesy and warmth emitted by the people who take the effort to make this school better. I found most of my mid-week early morning hangovers cured by the wonderful Co-op ladies, and although I will never forgive campus security for not letting me park in the admissions parking spots when I really needed to go to the library, they are always looking to help students get out of bad situations rather than putting students in worse situations. Trust me, these are rare for college campuses. Therefore, I find it imperative that we as students

develop strong relationships with these great people. Yes, these people get paid, but anyone can simply go to a job and get paid; people with strong moral fiber go to their job and make life better for the world around them.

Oh, and use office hours, especially with the good professors. You can't really do that enough.

7 Find the Thing You Love

Considering there are so many liberal arts in the country, there must be a point to going to one. Mr. Stephens lamented that our generation only knows how to think without knowing anything specific whatsoever, so the whole "learning how to learn" argument doesn't really check out. Nor does going the liberal arts route help you find a meaningful career, as any graduating senior with a B.A. in B.S. will tell you.

No, the reason liberal arts colleges are necessary and the reason I went to one is because liberal arts colleges serve one purpose: they help you find the one thing you really love. If you already know what you love, then there are many other universities you can go to that provide the vehicles for working on the thing you love. But the nice part about liberal arts schools is that it gives you so many options, you are bound to find something you truly love.

That love does not need to be purely academic. You can fall in love with investing or consulting. You can fall in love with your sport or even Frisbee golf. It can even be the friends you've made in your fraternity or sorority. Whatever that thing is, you only really know it when you have it.

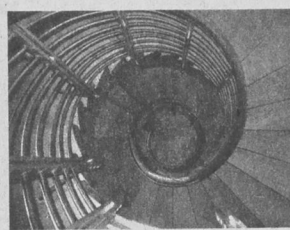
It's that thing you don't mind waking up early for. You're not a big fan of the shitty times your passion can give you, but instead of discouraging you, it somehow makes you work harder. It's the kind of thing you don't realize how much you truly love doing it until about midway through doing it. It seeps its way into dreams, both during the day and night. During the good times, you sometimes have to stop yourself and ask, "How the f*** am I so lucky to be here right now?" It's the kind of thing that brings you from a resting point of five out of ten to seven out of ten just by being present in your life. When there's work to be done, you usually put it lower down on the list, just so you can work towards doing it. It's a nice escape from the worst parts of the day, and it never fails to make a better day even better. Best of all, that passion continuously rewards you for your love, paying infinite dividends on a regular basis.

You won't necessarily find this passion at W&L, and I'm sorry if you don't because that's why you're going here. It's why W&L gets such a sweet endowment, because its alumni (and its alumni office unfortunately for us graduating seniors) know that the love and passion that gave them the guidance and direction to become successful later in life originated in Lexington and not in their respective hometowns.

It took me a while, but I was lucky enough to find that one thing I love while at W&L.

Her name's Caitie.

Thank you for a great four years, W&L. I wish you the best.



opinions

W&L Alumni Weekend 2064

After watching alumni relive their college days all weekend, Burr imagines what the school will be like when she returns



By Campbell Burr
OPINIONS EDITOR

After watching alumni play beer pong, wow students with their dancing abilities, scream every lyric to Motown songs, and (new alums) test their "post-college game" on freshmen girls, I have begun to think about what will be most exciting when I return to Lexington for my reunions. Besides reminding myself how much the real world pales in comparison to college life, my reunions will be useful for learning what careers my classmates have pursued, how many of them have married other Washington and Lee graduates, and how the school has changed in my absence. So, here is a look at what W&L will be like when I return for my

50th reunion (note: this article ignores all of the ridiculous technology that will definitely exist at this point).

by tandems (steered by a sober student) and the bus, a horse-drawn carriage. Every student will be limited to one three-minute, ice cold shower every day.

Despite these efforts, students will continue to drive huge gas-guzzling vehicles, throw beer cans into the woods and have massive bon fires.

1 Sustainable: And you think the library is freezing now? Oh, just you wait. By my 50th reunion, efforts to help the environment will be taken to new extremes. The Sustainability Initiative of 2064 will mean replacing the three layers students currently wear in the library with a full ski suit, mask, and handwarmers during the winter months. The library will even be renamed "Ley-freeze." Classes will be taught with the lights off and students will study by candlelight. Traveller cars will be replaced

Despite these efforts, students will continue to drive huge gas-guzzling vehicles, throw beer cans into the woods and have massive bon fires which will, of course, cancel out all possible effects of the school's initiatives.

2 Mixed: "Gender relations" is one of the most discussed issues on campus. Much of this discussion stems around the fact that boys and girls go from living and eating together freshman year to moving to different sides of campus and eating in separate dining halls

sophomore year.

In 2064, efforts to bring the sexes together will be so extreme that boys and girls will be given the chance to live together in a double their freshmen year. Bathrooms will be coed and large communal showers will be built so students can spend more sober time together.

A couple of brave individuals will attempt to start coed Greek organizations. The school's endowment will drop 20% as a result.

3 Equal: By the time my 50th rolls around, everything about the W&L experience will be equal for females and males. While these plans may require collaboration with national Greek organizations, they will involve dropping specified male visitation hours for the sorority houses, hosting parties on sorority row, and moving double beds into sorority houses. Girls will take to smashing beer bottles down the hall on weekend nights and punching holes in the walls when angry.

Additionally, at this point, the school

will have done away with the double standard, which brings me to my next point.

4 Promiscuous: Let's be honest, our parents would have been horrified if they knew the "hook up culture" would dominate college life within 30-35 years. I don't even want to know what the kids will be doing in 50 years (especially with the extinction of the double standard...)

The school will realize that posters suggesting date ideas are not enough to change the culture, and the school will provide any boy who takes a girl on a date a case of beer for his efforts. After all, how else do you motivate a male college student to do something?

5 More diverse: I don't know how much this says, considering it would be nearly impossible to attract a more homogenous group than the students who currently attend. But, if all of my other predictions fail, I can rest assured that I was right about something.

President Obama on marriage

Wilburn comments on Obama's forced, luke-warm opinion on gay marriage which he believes shows lack of courage



By Yates Wilburn
COLUMNIST

President Obama's Statement on Gay Marriage, May 2012:

"At a certain point I've just concluded that for me, personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."

Yates' Translation from Politispeak to English:

"After being held at gunpoint by Joe Biden's big mouth, I've concluded that I can't continue to have an 'evolving' opinion on gay marriage without looking like an idiot. So, I 'think' that same-sex couples 'should' have the right to get married.

But, so I don't anger my black supporters, I'll leave any legislative action up to the states, criticize Republicans for having this same opinion for the past 30 years, and hope everyone forgets this by November."

A Note to the President:

I'm no fan of yours Mr. President, but you probably should've dealt with this issue earlier. You really expect people—particularly your more liberal base—to believe that your "evolving" position on gay marriage just happened to mature RIGHT after Joe Biden created a firestorm of bad press for your administration by actually speaking his mind on the issue?

Now—contrary to your claim that it would be "hard to argue that this is something [you'd] be doing this for the political advantage,"—you are forced to make a wishy-washy statement on an is-

sue you'd rather avoid, so as to offend as few of your liberal and black voters as possible.

In hindsight, you should have made

Pick a side and either reap the benefits or suffer the consequences at the ballot box.

a statement early in your presidency regarding your opinion on gay marriage, to avoid such damaging publicity so close to the election. Instead, you dragged it out and made it into a campaign issue that you are poorly equipped to handle; as your middle of the road opinion has only made two of your core demographics (blacks and strong liberals) question their support. In addition, you have given Mitt Romney a tool he can use to get closer to Republican evangelicals, something he was having a huge problem doing (thanks for that by the way).

People's opinions "evolve" as children and young adults. My own opinion on this issue could be filed under "evolving." But, if I don't have at least a tendency towards a position on gay marriage in the next 5 years, something's up. By the time someone is your age, a person at least has a gut reaction to an issue or at the very least a bias. Now, it is not uncommon or unreasonable for someone to change an established opinion on something given new information, but to still be formulating one? Please.

This all boils down to an unwillingness to take responsibility for holding a real opinion on a controversial issue. Pick a side and either reap the benefits or suffer the consequences at the ballot box. I understand the difficult position you're in—torn between largely anti-gay marriage black voters and largely pro-gay

any real commitment to anything. Prominent figures on both the right and wrong sides of other dividing issues in history and today didn't cop out like this. Say what you want about them, but people like Martin Luther King, Jr., Strom Thurmond, George Wallace, Susan B. Anthony, George Washington, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Winston Churchill, Angela Merkel, and even Lady freakin' Gaga all did what they thought was right (mostly against popular opinion), proudly took the flak, and accepted the results either way. George Wallace even had the honor to admit his ignorance and wrongdoing in the late 1970's after the success of the Civil Rights movement.

Having said that, I am not trying to put the issue of gay marriage on par with the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's. Many liberal pundits in the media and politics have attempted to do so, saying that anti-gay marriage advocates are in actuality anti-gay rights, and that they are in the same league as the KKK and the Nazis. Last time I checked, no politician of significance from either party was campaigning against gay rights to vote, hold a job without discrimination, speak freely, own a firearm, or be tried fairly—certainly not to the extent blacks were during Jim Crow. My opinion on the comparison of this issue and the Civil Rights movement was summarized per-

fectly by Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus in saying "I think there's a big difference between people that have been murdered and everything else that comes with Jim Crow, than marriage between [two men] and [two women]."

The question of basic rights for gay Americans has been largely settled in my opinion. No functioning member of American society of any authority is making the claim that gays are not people, or are somehow lesser human beings to the extent that such was historically claimed about women and blacks (certainly not as openly or without consequence). Such comparisons distract from the real issue, and serve as an obstacle to any genuine discussion on an institution that's "been historical, religious, and legal in this country for many, many years" (again, Reince Priebus).

My only claim is that in the great social questions of America's past, true leaders of astounding courage chose their side and accepted the consequences. There was no question where the people listed above stood on the issues of their day.

You, however, have opted to take a bystander's position while others on both sides of the issue—Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal—sacrifice their time, careers, and reputations to try and resolve it. Regardless of one's opinion on gay marriage, your actions are ones of apathy at best and cowardice at worst.

*Note from the Author:

I am a voting Republican, and a believing Episcopalian. I have yet to form my own solid stance on the issue of gay marriage. I do, however, believe that the government has no business regulating the institution of marriage via licenses. Furthermore, I am proudly opposed to the policy of "Don't Ask Don't Tell." I do not believe that homosexuality is a

choice, nor that it can be "cured" in any way.

Finally, as a child adopted at birth and after having found a 2005 study by the American Psychological Association and others showing children adopted by same-sex couples are no more likely to engage in homosexual activities, I see no reason same-sex couples should not be given the same consideration as heterosexual couples in adopting or providing foster care for children.

The broken nature of the foster care system, the high prevalence of teenage pregnancy in my home state of South Carolina, and my pro-life stance influence this belief. While I strongly disagree with the continued practice of abortion (barring extenuating circumstances), I find it impossible to stand opposed to it without offering another option for women faced with an unplanned pregnancy beyond abstinence-only sex-ed and a cold, heartless and flippant reprimand consisting of little more than "you shouldn't have gotten pregnant in the first place," which solves nothing. Also, I don't have a uterus and can never speak to the fear, pain, and confusion associated with an unexpected pregnancy.

As such—in addition to a concerted national effort to encourage behavior that leads to fewer unplanned pregnancies in the first place that includes, but is not limited to, expanded sex-ed and abstinence—I advocate for expanded awareness of at-birth adoption and for its presentation to mothers seeking abortion as an equal alternative. However, if this were to take place, more willing parents would be required to fulfill the demand produced by higher numbers of children seeking adoption. This realization has led me to conclude that we cannot afford to turn away qualified homosexual couples seeking adoption without placing thousands of parentless children at risk of a life of sadness and ignorance.

Good luck on finals (if you have one)

and have a fantastic summer!

 The
Phi staff

arts & life

WNL presents live Spring Show

Wednesday Night Live, W&L's best (and only) sketchy comedy group, delivered a double dose of satire and wit

By Gabrielle Tremo
STAFF WRITER

"What did the farmer say when he lost his tractor?" Pause. "'Where's my tractor?'" Cue laughter. This joke set the stage for *Wednesday Night Live's* performance this Saturday night in the Stackhouse Theater. *Wednesday Night Live* (WNL) is Washington and Lee's most active and only sketch comedy group on campus. Making its last appearance of the year, WNL had a great line-up of student written, directed, and performed sketches.

WNL's chemical equation includes one part *Saturday Night Live*, two parts W&L events, and three parts flawless satire. The plays are written by the students, for the students, and include jabs at awkward friendships, the stereotypical W&L student, broken gender relationships, and even classic internet memes. During its last act, the performance even had a very impressive skit about the poor

writing-style of *The Ring-tum Phi*. After that skit: I went up to Jeb Purcell, first-year author of many of the skits (including the piece about The Phi), and asked him a couple of questions, noting how many of the pieces portrayed classic W&L life.

"It's not necessarily what we want," Purcell said, "but it's what people want. What plays best for audiences is W&L stuff. It's relatable; it has to be universal."

That is exactly what these skits were. Who hasn't had a conversation with someone who keeps using hashtags as if it were part of their language? Or who hasn't had that one "best friend" who you would rather be more than just a "best friend?" Or who hasn't gone through The Phi looking for typos, pretending it's a game? (Find five in my article and I'll give you a quarter).

However, they also had some other skits that—while not as relatable—were absolutely hilarious. What happens when the guy who does every voice over for the Hollywood trailers tries to find a job at Best Buy? Or how will Mike & Ike's come up with a new marketing strategy to get above 6th place in the non-chocolate candy ranking? A particular audience favorite was how would Cleopatra's life been different if she had a Sassy Gay Friend (apparently Mark Antony is a stupid b!@\$)? These were the exact same questions that WNL asked.

Despite having relatively little time to come up with these questions due to being assembled rather quickly, WNL put on a great show. "Spring term's been hectic," Purcell said. "It's been hard to get everyone together."

The night of the performance was the first time the whole troupe had per-

formed some of the skits together as a whole. Regardless, the satire was flawless, the message still pointed, the comedy still brilliant. The wit in some of the skits shone through in both the irony and in the reality.

A particularly provocative skit was one depicting the SJC as a male-dominated, misogynistic committee in which the group judged the students based on hotness of body—and how these customs and traditions were received by the new, singular female representative on the committee.

My favorite was a modern representation of how technology had invaded our lives. It focused on a date between a young man and woman in which the woman would end every sentence with "hashtag [insert punchline here]." Below is a sample piece of dialogue:

"You can't say one thing and then

have it mean something completely different?!"

"I don't think that's what I'm doing—hashtag, duh."

The performance was all-in-all hilarious and well-received. The audience gave a standing ovation to the group of students who had crammed countless rehearsals into busy schedules and braved the stage of sketch comedy—which, as every group from SNL to WNL knows—can be either kind or unforgiving. Congratulations to each member of WNL on a job well done!

Make sure to stay in touch with WNL and look for their first performance of the year next semester.

Beta boasts fine dining experience

Beta takes fraternity cooking to a new level and proves that house meals can be classy. Now there's some food for thought.

By Stockton Bullitt
STAFF WRITER

Fraternity cooking took another evolutionary step this year towards fine dining. On March 28, members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity were treated to a full-fledged restaurant style dinner.

Members of the fraternity were notified a week in advance to schedule a reservation time of either 5:30 or 7:00 pm and were encouraged to bring dates. The dining room was preset with linens on tables and formal place settings, including two different types of forks and spoons. The place settings also included decorative flowers and appropriate plates for appetizers and desserts. The experience also included a full service wait staff.

The meal consisted of three different courses. The appetizer was a Shrimp Escabeche with a side of green peppers, plum tomatoes and Manzilla Olives. The main course was a choice between a Trip Tip Beefsteak with dark onion sauce or roasted duck breast with Amontillado Kirsh, and both were served with a side of lobster and crab risotto and zucchini Provençal. The dessert featured choices of Chocolate Mousse Bundt, Hazelnut Ganache and Raspberry-mascarpone Coppa.

This menu was inspired by the Culinary Institute of America, which Julia Child deemed as the "Harvard of culinary schools." Having recently taken an exam at the institute, Chef John Stallard was inspired to provide the fraternity with a real restaurant experience. The

ingredients were mostly taken from local sellers and a premium was placed on fresh ingredients. As Stallard noted, "Pre-fabricated food doesn't taste as good as fresh made food."

Planning the event was an arduous and laborious task, but also an exciting one. The dinner itself took about a week to prepare, and the restaurant atmosphere and food preparation took the entire day.

Marking the night as a success, Stallard hopes to do another restaurant-themed night next year, and more fraternities will follow suit. Looking for more options in the future as well as a sous chef to help with the heavy workload, Chef Stallard believed that the restaurant experience done in a fraternity house can continue to evolve and expand.

Beyond just a fine dining experience, the restaurant-themed dinner was another step in the continued evolution of fraternity dining. Stallard was one of many fraternity chefs who believed that the food at the fraternity houses was not supposed to simply be a gluttonous afterthought.

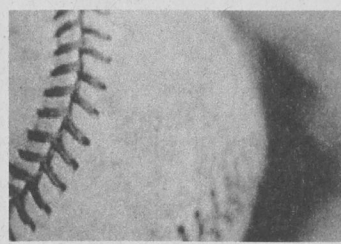
"I want students to experience their food, and maybe chew a little slower to get everything the food is about," said Stallard.

Stallard would also like wine at next year's event, but noted that since alcohol-free wine has yet to become in vogue, the deans might not approve of the complete dining experience.



Beta's first-ever restaurant themed dinner on March 28th. The Betas were treated to fine linens, a real menu, reserved seating at 5:30 and 7:00 pm, and were encouraged to bring dates to the fancy occasion.

STOCKTON BULLITT / staff photographer



sports

JON GUEST

ANDREW RENALDO



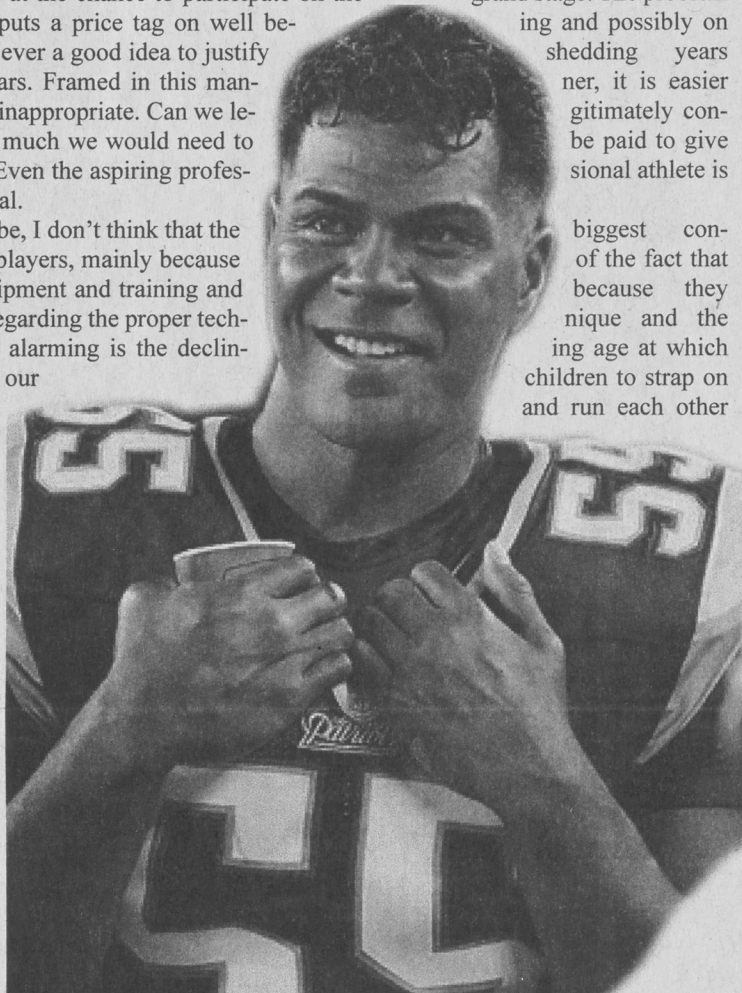
Is football too violent of a sport? After Junior Seau's death the issue is brought to light once again.
Jon and Andrew line up on opposite sides of the issue.

Professional football is a North American tradition. For years, the Super Bowl has reigned supreme in the world of professional sporting events, and for many people Sunday afternoons would seem irrelevant without the opportunity to sit in front of a television set watching their favorite team step onto the field to do battle.

Unfortunately, recent studies have suggested that the term "battle" is more telling than we may have realized; hundreds of current and former NFL players have filed lawsuits against the NFL and equipment manufacturers. Following the tragic death of future Hall of Fame linebacker 'Junior' Seau, the issue of head trauma has resurfaced, and some critics have even suggested that the level of danger is too high to justify the continuance of professional football altogether. As a fan and former high school football player, I understand these issues. I know what it feels like to have the wind knocked out of you, or to feel a little bit dazed after a hard tackle. If the administration is honest with itself, I just don't see how they can counter the argument that player safety is simply not possible.

Football is a contact sport, and NFL players are certainly capable of protecting themselves... most of the time. When given the best equipment and top notch medical staff, they are able to minimize the occurrence of extreme injury. In addition, the millions of dollars that they are paid seem to poke holes in the argument that players are taken advantage of. Surely there are thousands of people who would leap at the chance to participate on the grand stage. The problem with this claim is that it puts a price tag on well being. I don't think that it is ever a good idea to justify off of lives for mere dollars. Framed in this manner, it is easier to see why the situation is inappropriate. Can we consider the question of how much we would need to up one year of our lives? Even the aspiring professional athlete is unlikely to jump at that deal.

As dangerous as it can be, I don't think that the concern is the safety of NFL players, mainly because they do have the best equipment and training and are sufficiently educated regarding the proper techniques of their trade. More alarming is the decline we are beginning to allow our cleats and shoulder pads over. Without the proper education and state of the art helmets, etc., and given their more fragile state children are much more likely to suffer serious injuries. With parents who are unaware of the risks and kids too young to realize that they are not invincible, the consequences can be severe, or fatal.



The recent death of Junior Seau has brought more attention to player safety issues in the NFL and the potentially chronic side effects that players may develop after a career's worth of violent collisions. But while evidence of football's harmful toll on the body grows, there is little that the NFL's rules committee can do without fundamentally changing the game.

Football is naturally a violent sport. Players are prone to horrific contortions and damaging blows to the head and other parts of the body. As players become, on average, faster and stronger through the years, the impact of hits becomes more damaging. Almost every sport entails a risk of severe injury, but football increases this likelihood by emphasizing tackling and physically punishing opponents.

Some former NFL players are now imploring officials to clean up the game. Their concerns stem from an increasing number of players developing chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a debilitating neurological condition, during the latter stages of their lives. The disorder arises from an accumulation of concussions sustained over multiple NFL seasons.

As research reveals more worrying results, certain ex-players like Kurt Warner—who suffered many concussions during his playing days—say they will not allow their children to play football. Others remark that had they known the severity of harm football could do to their bodies, they may have pursued a different career.

Criticism of the game, the league's rules and education of players has notably come from these players rather than fans. While supporters may hate to see their favorite players from the past struggle to complete interviews because their short-term memory is so impaired, they also want to see their favorite sport played every Sunday in all its glory. That is, fans love crunching blocks, ferocious tackles, and players carrying on despite injury.

Football is a game for warriors, and America's obsession with it conveys a tacit approval of the harmful circumstances to which players expose themselves each week. Fans ultimately reinforce the violent nature of the game, because rule changes that might reduce some of the game's physicality would turn them off from the sport. Big hits are big business, and the league wants to keep fans happy with its product.

Rule changes to protect quarterbacks and receivers running across the middle of the field have helped reduce the risk of injury for some players. More cushioned helmets have also helped reduce the likelihood of concussions. Protective legislation and technological improvements, however, can only go so far to protect players when violence remains an essential element of football.

The NFL needs to address its problems by increasing awareness. Just as people who smoke now do so with full understanding of the perils, players need to be fully aware of football's detrimental effects. The benefits will outweigh the risks for some, but the scientific findings that keep arising need to be more transparent.

Players and fans can also help the issue by changing the NFL's culture. Many analysts who used to play in the league explain the pressure on players to play through injuries or rush back from major operations. The body needs time to heal properly. Perhaps empirical evidence showing the benefits of full rest and recovery will help justify players who choose to sit out with a concussion instead of returning to the gridiron and risking further injury.

While overhauling the game to protect players makes sense, the reality is that most fans and players relish the sport's physicality too much for it to go away. Officials, then, must continue to look after players left in vulnerable situations, make more improvements to players' equipment, increase the awareness of potentially debilitating cumulative injuries, and help players become more honest evaluators of their own health.

Generals can't control Eagles

W&L gives up nine to open the second half

By Leigh Dannhauser
SPORTS EDITOR

Washington and Lee fell to Mary Washington 16-8 in the opening round of the NCAA tournament on Wednesday.

The Generals jumped out to an early 4-1 lead on two unassisted goals by senior Christina Benedetti.

The Eagles were able to respond and closed the gap. The Generals were up 6-5 entering halftime.

Mary Washington came out in the second half fighting. They scored nine unanswered goals. W&L was unable to score until Benedetti scored unassisted with 5:12 remaining in the game.

Senior Catherine Kennedy of Mary Washington scored four goals during the streak. Kennedy led the way for the Eagles with a game-high five goals and a game-high three assists. Senior Lauren Callison added three goals while three players each scored two for the Eagles.

One of the biggest differences between the first and second half for W&L was turnovers. The Gen-

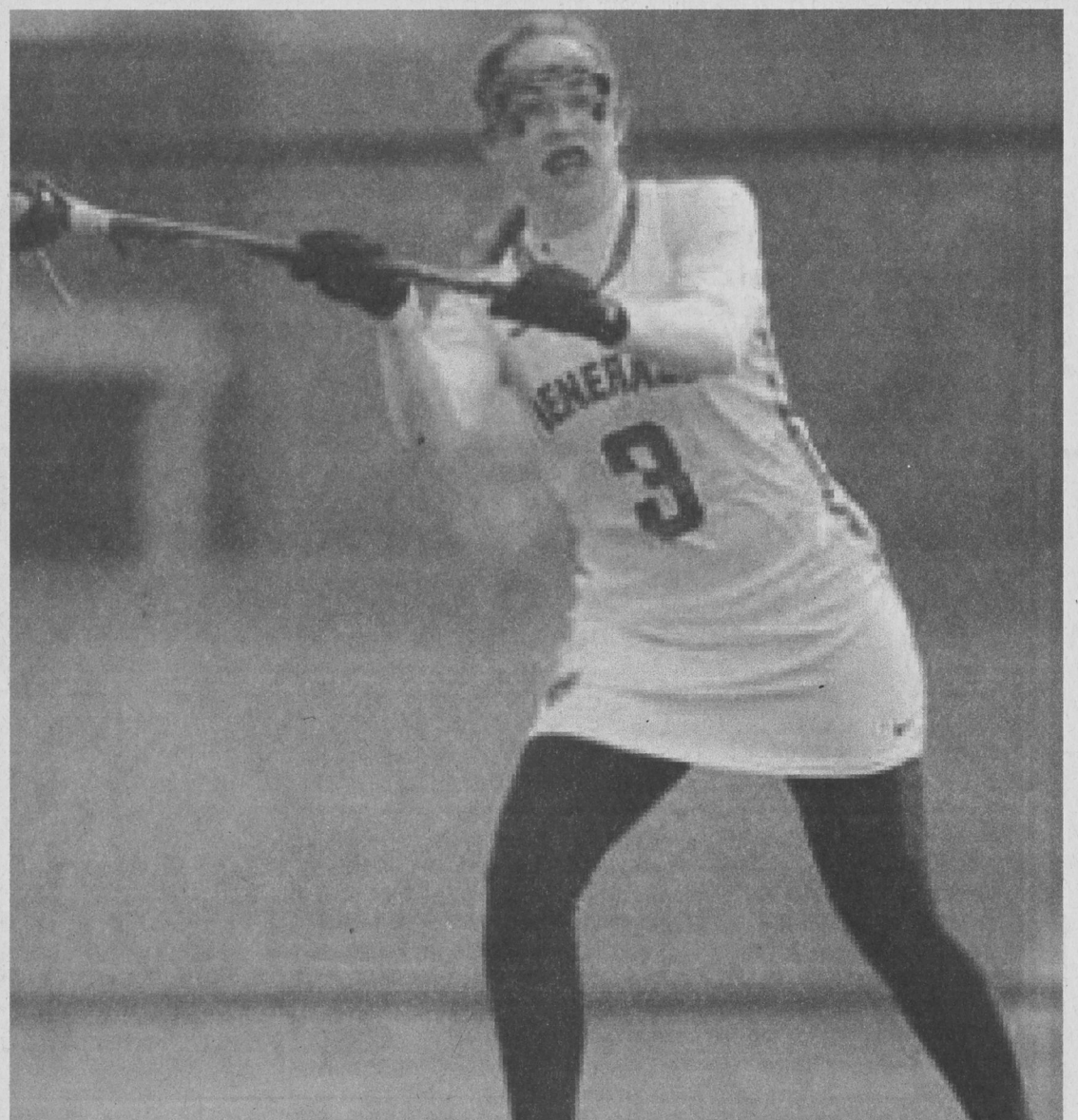
erals turned the ball over just four times in the first half, one less than the Eagles. In the second half alone W&L turned the ball over ten times.

The turnover discrepancy allowed for Mary Washington to take more shots as well. In the first half both teams attempted 12 shots on goal. In the second half Mary Washington outshot the Generals by eight. Mary Washington was able to attempt 17 shots compared to W&L's 9.

In addition, Benedetti led the way for the Generals with a team-high three goals. Sophomores Meade Brewster and Margaret Klein each contributed two goals.

With the loss the Generals are done for the season. They finished with a 15-5 record with an Old Dominion Athletic Conference championship title.

Mary Washington fell to Cortland 12-5 in the second round game. The Eagles finished their season with a 14-4 record.



Christina Benedetti looks to pass the ball

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sports



in the numbers

41

The total number of tennis titles that Serena Williams has won after defeating Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 6-3 in the Madrid Open on Saturday.

4

The total number of home runs that Texas Ranger Josh Hamilton hit in a game versus the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday. He is just the 16th player in MLB history to do so.

85

The total number of first-place votes out of 121 that LeBron James received in the NBA MVP voting. 120 votes come from a panel of sportswriters who cover the league and 1 vote comes from fans on NBA.com. His point total was 1,074. Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder came in second with 889 points.

44

The total number of years since Manchester City won their last English football title before defeating the Queens Park Rangers 3-2 on Sunday. They scored 2 goals in stoppage time in a comeback victory.

soapbox

"This is a team game and I wouldn't be receiving what I've received in the past and now in the present without my teammates and without my family and friends who've helped me to this point."

—Miami Heat LeBron James after winning his third career NBA Most Valuable Player award.

"It does not help that ESPN has all of the sudden become Medical TV with damn near every brain expert on the planet... Since no one is showing any support, I figured I would be the first."

—New England Patriot Chad Ochocinco in a letter to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. Goodell and the NFL have been under fire for the apparent lack of football safety, especially since Junior Seau's apparent suicide.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAMARA MORSE AND CAMILLE COBB FOR BEING SELECTED INTERCOLLEGIATE HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARD WINNERS

W&L can't make magic happen twice

Generals come from behind in first round of NCAAs but can't in second

By Leigh Dannhauser
SPORTS EDITOR

20th ranked Washington and Lee was able to come back from a 3-0 deficit to win 5-3 against University of Texas-Tyler in the opening round of the NCAA tournament on Friday.

The duos of junior Hayden White and first-year Taylor Shamshiri, and seniors Mac Davis and Brian Roberts lost to sophomore Ryan Spencer and junior Kevin Singer, plus sophomore Doug Kierstead and first-year Joey Hendrie, respectively, 8-5. The doubles team of seniors Jeremy Becht and Ben Fass were almost able to reduce the gap but lost in a tie-break 9-8 (7-5) to senior Kevin Wright and first-year Robert Hodous.

But the Generals turned the match around in singles competition. Shamshiri quickly defeated Singer 6-2, 6-0 to open singles competition. White followed suit by defeating Spen-

cer 6-1, 6-1. Fass was able to finally tie the score up by defeating Wright 6-2, 6-2.

W&L's first lead of the day came when Roberts defeated Hodous 6-0, 3-6, 6-0. The victory came in the next competition as Becht came back from losing the first set to defeat Wright 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Sadly, W&L was unable to make the same comeback against second ranked Emory University on Saturday. They lost 5-0.

Eagles junior Elliot Kahler and first-year Ian Wagner teamed up to defeat Becht and Fass 8-2. Senior Dillon Pottish and first-year Brian Kowalski then defeated Davis and Roberts 8-3. Seniors Chris Goodwin and Will Humphreys finished off doubles play for the Eagles by defeating the duo of White and Shamshiri.

Wagner opened up singles play by defeating Becht 6-3, 6-1 to bring the Eagles within one match of moving on in the tournament. Pottish sealed victory for the Eagles when he defeated White 6-1, 6-2.

With the victory Emory advanced to Sunday's Regional Finals.

W&L is out of the tournament, ending their season. They finished with a 16-5 record.

White will continue his season when he competes in the NCAA singles tournament in Cary, N.C. beginning on May 24.

Gennies cruise in NCAAs

W&L easily defeats Ohio Northern in second round after losing the first

By Leigh Dannhauser
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's tennis won in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

After receiving a goodbye in the first round of the tournament, Washington and Lee faced off with Ohio Northern on Saturday.

But once the match was moved to Emory University's indoor facilities due to the rain, the Generals easily defeated the Polar Bears. The final score was 5-0.

The doubles pair of first-years Sonja Meighan and Meghan Buell defeated sophomores Lauren Rife and Carly Olmstead 8-0 to open up the match. W&L never looked back. First-year Patricia Kirkland and sophomore Cameron Dorsey defeated first-years Brittany Miller and Kristin Cellentani 8-4 and seniors Lauren Lukas and Trelsie Sadler defeated sophomore Michelle Tuma and junior Christie Gales 8-3.

The Generals did not slow down once singles play began. Buell easily defeated Ol-

mstead 6-0, 6-1. Lukas secured the victory for the Generals when she defeated Tuma 6-1, 6-1.



Senior Lauren Lukas returning a cross-court shot

COURTESY OF GENERALSPORTS.COM

Two more win NCAA postgrad awards

Stirling and Washnock join Lawson as NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship recipients

By Leigh Dannhauser
SPORTS EDITOR

Seniors Brian Stirling and Chris Washnock were among 29 scholar-athletes from all three divisions who earned the prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship this winter.

Stirling and Washnock join soccer player Kat Lawson, who was a recipient in the fall. Never before has Washington and Lee had three winners in the same year. According to a W&L press release, they become three of 36 athletes who have been given the award since 1970.

Stirling has earned All-American honors five times, and served as the team captain his senior year. Stirling additionally holds three school records. He also holds the 100 butterfly record with a time of 49.07 and was a part of

both the 200 and 400 medley record squads.

In the classroom, Stirling is a neuroscience major and has earned the status of a W&L athlete this past semester with a GPA of above 3.5.

Moreover, Washnock has earned All-American honors five times. He served with Stirling as a team captain this past season. At the Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championships he placed third in the 200 back with a time of 1:49.51.

Washnock is a 2011 Capital One Third Team Academic All-American honoree. He is also was one of 19 W&L student athletes to boast a 4.0 GPA this past winter semester.

Lawson has been named a first team All-

American on two occasions, the first General to achieve that feat. She also served as team captain her senior year.

Lawson plans to use the money to help pay for med school.

NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships are awarded each of the three sports seasons. 29 men and 29 women are awarded a single grant of \$7,500 for each season. Overall, 87 men and 87 women are awarded each year.

W&L wins Wooldridge Cup

Generals take home the award for the ninth straight year

By Leigh Dannhauser
SPORTS EDITOR

Washington and Lee just beat out Lynchburg to win the 2012 Wooldridge Cup. The Wooldridge Cup is presented to the institution in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference who has the best overall athletic program.

"Points for the Commissioner's Cup are based on regular season standings in team sports and championship team finishes in individual sports," according to an ODAC press release early last week. "The total number of

points earned is then divided by the total number of possible points in order to come up with a ranking for each institution."

W&L stood on top of the overall standings with a rating of 0.733. Lynchburg was not very far behind with a rating of 0.714.

W&L won the women's rankings for the ninth time in a row as well. The Generals had a rating of 0.788. Lynchburg finished second with 0.714.

W&L placed third behind Lynchburg and Randolph-Macon in the men's rankings. The Hornets had a rating of 0.714 while the Yellow Jackets had a rating of 0.685. The Generals finished close behind with a rating of 0.670.

Throughout the course of the year, W&L won ODAC Championship titles in women's swimming, men's and women's tennis, and women's lacrosse.

ondeck

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Women's Tennis							
Men's Lacrosse							
Baseball							
Men's Tennis							
Track							
Golf							
Women's Lacrosse							

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