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The Ring-tum Phi

VOLUME 98, NUMBER 18

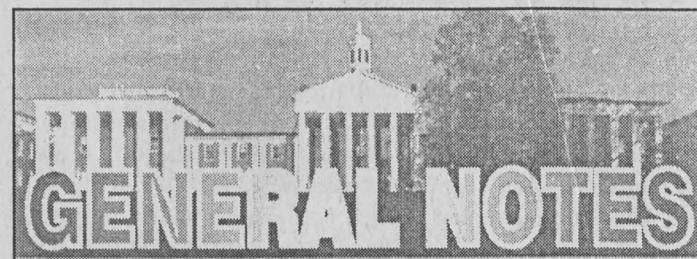
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KATHEKON APPLICATIONS DUE:

Rising juniors and seniors, don't forget to turn in your Kathekon applications by Wednesday. Applications, interview sign-ups and information packets are available outside Carol Calkin's office in the University Center. Interviews will be held next Tuesday through Thursday.

POET GIVES READING:

Fans of award-winning poet Kathleen Norris won't want to miss her reading on Tuesday in Northern Auditorium. Norris will follow the reading with a book signing. The reading will begin at 4:30 p.m.; the public is invited to attend.

LAW SCHOOL HOSTS SYMPOSIUM:

The law school will hold a one-day symposium on "Minorities in the Legal Profession: Agenda for the 21st Century." The symposium will take place on Friday. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a panel discussion on "Minorities in the Judicial Sector." Panels on "Minorities in the Private Sector" and "Minorities in the Public Sector" will follow at 11:25 a.m. and 2:25 p.m.

Discussions will focus on how minorities have succeeded in the legal field despite the problems they face and on how these problems can be solved in the future. For registration, contact Margaret Williams at 463-8509.

RUSSIAN NOVELIST VISITS:

Visiting Russian novelist Vladimir Sharov will speak twice during his visit to W&L, once this Wednesday and once next Wednesday. He will address the topics "Russia, the Bible, and the Jews" and "From Under the Rubble: One Writer's Journey."

Anna Brodsky, W&L professor of Russian, will translate. Both lectures begin at 7:00 p.m. in room 221 of the C-school.

PBK SCHOLAR SPEAKS:

Rachel Jacoff, the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar at W&L, will speak on the topic of "The Poetics of the Afterlife" at 8 p.m. Monday in Northern Auditorium. Her talk will consider the poetry of Homer, Plato, Virgil, Dante, Montale and Merrill. Jacoff is a professor of Italian at Wellesley College.

AUDITION FOR ZOO:

Open auditions for Edward Albee's "Zoo Story," directed by senior Dan Tipton, will be held in duPont auditorium 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, March 30.

Scripts are available in the Lenfest Center.

CCC REQUESTS W&L INPUT:

The Concerned Citizens Coalition invites students and faculty to attend their meeting 5:30 p.m. Sunday in the County Administration Building, 150 S. Main St. The CCC will discuss their current work and ask citizens to voice their concerns.

For further information please call Darrell Lee Croson at 291-3276.

ATTEND MUSIC RECITAL:

Music students will perform 8 p.m. Tuesday in the Lenfest Center. The public is invited to attend.

TEACH HOW TO WRITE:

Professors David Novack and Robert Strong will host a writing program activity on how to teach writing in introductory social science classes 3:30 p.m. Thursday in Fairfax Lounge of the University Center.

LEARN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT:

Jack Jordan of Bethlehem Steel and Rick Armstrong of Wachovia Bank of Georgia will speak at the Annual Strategic Management Seminar in room 327 of the C-school 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

—COMPILED BY PEGGY STUNTZ

The Inside the Ring-tum Phi

OPINION

Who are the winners and the losers in the democratic fundraising scandal. Another dull FD article. W&L: the living college brochure.

FANCY DRESS SUPPLEMENT

Interview with the Fancy Dress Chair. Band profiles. FD theme timeline. History of the circus. Memorabilia sale in the University Center.

FEATURES

The Glasglow Foundation will sponsor a reading by Kathleen Norris, essayist and poet. Vladimir Sharov, a Russian novelist, will read from his work. David Keeling ('73) critiques the lecture of Professor Arthur Dante. Alex Christensen tells how a movie becomes an 'event.'

Themes 'spice up' normal D-hall cuisine

BY ERICA PROSSER
PHI STAFF WRITER

Evens Dining Hall was filled with the strains of 50's rock 'n' roll announcing another Dining Service theme Thursday night.

"It was a great success," Director of Dining Services Gerald Darrell said about the 50's dinner theme. He said that he was not sure the students would know the songs, but after watching the diners on Thursday, the younger generation is indeed familiar with "old-time rock 'n' roll."

Dining hall dinner themes are a regular sight at W&L. Darrell said that the staff tries to do several different themes each year, usually about one "big event" per month. Wok Night, though still technically a theme, "isn't anything special anymore," but it remains regular nonetheless. He said that the themes rely a lot on student input, since the purpose of the themes is partially to break the monotony that sets in after a while.

Other colleges and universities have themes, he continued. The National Association of College and University Food Services holds menu competitions for the dinner themes created by participating schools like this one, and W&L has often brought home awards from the competition.

Darrell pointed out the "front wall by the double doors" just outside the main dining hall where W&L's dining service ribbons hang. As an example of the honors this staff has earned, he mentioned a second place last year and two first place finishes before that in the national competition.

The preparation behind the themes is extensive. Darrell said that the planning begins every summer when the calendar for the year's themes is created.

Ideas come from both student input and brainstorming sessions among the staff. The menus for the themes are prepared a month in advance, and the decorations are applied on the day of the event. The catering department, staff and others involved help out on the day of the theme to keep things running smoothly. "It's a



D-hall workers display their "talents" at Thursday night's wild theme dinner.

real team effort," Darrell said.

Students seem to welcome the theme nights. Sophomore Rebecca Fitzsimmons called the dinner themes "entertaining" and "a relief from monotony." Her favorite theme, which is actually a theme week, is finals week. During finals, the dining hall offers little treats and pick-me-ups to studying students. Theme nights, she has observed, are popular and more upperclassmen attend than usual.

In spite of her support of the theme night concept, she lamented the lack of alternatives for those who do not like the theme. On Wok Night, for example, she is "forced to go out or starve" because the dinner does not include choices that aren't Chinese food. She suggested a pasta or vegetarian selection that remains present even on theme nights so that no student is forced to forgo dinner.

German director to address theater 'structural differences'

FROM PHI STAFF REPORTS

The Washington and Lee University departments of German and Russian and the Theater Department will sponsor the visit of German theater director Rainer Lewandowski from March 23-25. The visit is part of a two-week American speaking tour organized by West Virginia University, which also includes the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University, as well as W&L.

Mr. Lewandowski is the director of a famous theater in the Bavarian city of Bamberg. In commemoration of the Romantic composer and writer E. T. A. Hoffmann's 220th birthday in 1996, Mr. Lewandowski published a study about Hoffmann's years in Bamberg, wrote and staged an original play containing familiar characters from Hoffmann's Fantastic Tales, and adapted several Hoffmann stories for the stage. The Bamberg Theater also produced Hoffmann's musical masterpiece, the opera Undine.

Most recently, the Theater traveled to Kiev, Ukraine, to present its stage production of Hoffmann's Mademoiselle de Scuderi. In the U.S.A., Hoffmann is perhaps best known as the author of the story on which Tchaikovsky based his ballet, "The Nutcracker."

Mr. Lewandowski is also an accomplished drama-

tist. His play, Today Neither Hamlet, has been successfully produced by different theaters throughout Germany and was recently translated into English. He may work with it in one of his appearances at W&L later this month.

On Monday, March 24, at 8:00 p.m., Mr. Lewandowski will speak in Room 221 of the Commerce School about structural differences between the theater in Germany and in the United States, and about his own work as artistic director of the E. T. A. Hoffmann Theater.

On Tuesday, March 25, at 8:00 p.m., Mr. Lewandowski will again speak in Room 221 of the Commerce School. His topic will be: "How Artistic Imagination Came to Console Hoffmann: The Imaginative Realist E. T. A. Hoffmann and his Relationship with the Romantic Movement in Germany." Both presentations are open to the public and free of charge.

During his two-day stay, Mr. Lewandowski will also visit several German classes to speak to students. Anyone who understands German is welcome to sit in one of these classes. For more information on Mr. Lewandowski's schedule, please contact the German Department Professor David B. Dickens (ext. 8830) or Professor Roger A. Crockett (ext. 8825); for theater-related information, contact Professor Al Gordon (ext. 8003).

Sports highlight

Swimmer places sixth in nation

BY TOM WADLOW

PHI ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Freshman Brooke Stanley attended the NCIA Division III Swimming Championships at the Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Seventy schools were represented at the event which consisted of about 220 swimmers.

"This is a big deal for me," Stanley said Sunday after coming home with a 6th place in the 50-yard freestyle and a 7th place in the 100-yard freestyle.

"I was nervous at first," said Stanley, "but after I swam the first event, I was just excited."

Assistant Professor of Physical Education and Swimming Coach Kristin Jacobs said she was very pleased with Stanley's performance. "She did really well," Jacobs said. "It's hard to go there by yourself, especially as a freshman."

Senior Nathan Hottle will represent Washington and Lee University in the men's division this weekend.



Photo by Mollie Messimer

Spring cleaning on the Maury Students beautify river

FROM PHI STAFF REPORTS

Fifty Washington and Lee University students participated in a Maury River clean up project March 8, sponsored by the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council (RACC) and the James River Basin Canoe Livery.

The students represented six campus organizations: Outing Club, Freshman Leadership Council, Alpha Phi Omega, Catholic Campus Ministry, Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Chi. From Lexington to Buena Vista, the students hauled over four tons of trash and debris from the flood plain of the Maury River to the Chessie Trail. RACC volunteers carted 14 pick-up truck loads of material off the trail to a pile that rivaled Mt. Trashmore.

"We are most appreciative of the W&L students' efforts to help beautify the Rockbridge area," RACC's Executive Director Mollie Messimer said.

"Our community clean-up slated for March 22 has had a fantastic head start. Thanks to The James River Basin Canoe Livery who offered clean-up participants a free canoe trip along the same stretch of river the following weekend. What a great reward for their hard work!"



Washington and Lee: the living college brochure

Other than an incredibly gray Friday, last week was absolutely beautiful. I don't think I will ever encounter many sights more lovely to me than Washington and Lee on a sunny day. The colonnade and

GreenLand
Betsy Green '97

every other part of campus are picture perfect. In fact, almost too perfect. W&L last week looked exactly like a college brochure.

Remember all those brochures you got after you took the SAT's? At first, I was really excited to get them. Those colleges saw my test scores, and they wanted me. ME! Clearly, I was something special. I eagerly filled out the reply card in the back of each one, just to let them know I was interested, not to hurt anyone's feelings. That attitude lasted all of a week, until I found out that all of my friends were getting the exact same brochure in equal quantities.

It was around that time that I decided to be creative with all of those useless brochures. I'd make collages, or use pictures from brochures for mix tapes. The Iowa State brochure had lots of pretty trees, I remember, and the University of Chicago brochure had way cool gargoyle pictures.

Other colleges, inexplicably, took a shine to me. If I didn't get something from Sarah Lawrence College at least twice a week, I worried about them. Come to think of it, the Victoria's Secret catalog is now stalking me with a similar fervor. Coincidence? I think not.

All of those brochures had common elements, most of which I could see on campus last week: happy students reading under trees, dedicated professors teaching outside, flowers blooming. And I think in every single brochure of every college in the United States, there is a picture of ethnically diverse students, one wearing a sweatshirt with the name of the school on it, one leaning on a bike, all wearing backpacks, standing under a tree.

I'm pretty sure I spotted that last week, when photo opportunities abounded. Joyous

young students played frisbee with friends and dogs all over campus. Perfectly choreographed squirrels romped through impossibly green grass. My high schoolaged self would have seen all that and thought it looked incredibly fake, but I know now that it is real.

W&L, I think, really lends itself to brochure photo ops. Not only do we have a beautiful campus with actual ivy on the walls, but we are a freakishly good looking group of people. Don't be made you know it is true. All of us have nice hair and perfect teeth; it makes you wonder what criteria the admissions office is really applying to us. Maybe we should use that our advantage and include Gator Shots in our brochures, maybe we could be the first college to send prospectives a swiss issue.

It has been a dream of mine for a long time to get my picture in a brochure, calendar, catalog. I thought I had the chance last term when a photographer came into my photo class to take pictures of us.

She told us just to pretend she wasn't there, which was easy to do considering that she kept holding light meters in front of our faces and snapping a picture every time Professor Grant-Thomas gestured. I tried my hardest to raise my hand and to look thoughtful, intelligent, happy, and smart. I considered running quickly to the bookstore to pick up a W&L sweatshirt or a lovingly tattered looking notebook to increase my chances of getting in the brochure. Maybe I should have since I didn't make the cut.

Maybe I should spend the rest of my time here (other than while I'm in that spring PE class so I can graduate) picking for pictures and trying to get Patrick Hinley's attention. Look around and you'll find me reading outside the Co-ops, sniffing the daffodils outside the Lee House, climbing the McCormick statue and pretending to be asleep outside with a book on my chest.

Look for me in next year's calendar!

Quote of the Week

"President Elrod will be hitting the bong – I mean gong?"

- an astonished W&L student on learning about President Elrod's activities

Presidents Gingrich and Thurmond?

The Democrats' fund raising scandal supplies some interesting winners.

The story thus far:

The Democratic National Committee engaged in questionable, and possibly illegal, fund raising activities. President Clinton and Vice President Gore were also heavily involved.

From the Right

Jason Zacher '98

Ring-tum Phi Editorial Editor

engaged in these activities. The Justice Department is trying to find the line between what is legal and illegal, since many "soft-money" contributions are legal.

Is this the 90's equivalent of Watergate? An illegal act may have been performed, with full presidential knowledge, to secure re-election. There are many political games to be played, so who are the potential winners and losers in this scandal?

The Losers: 1. Vice President Gore. Though Clinton participated in questionable activities, it is highly unlikely he would be impeached — his popularity rating has barely felt this scandal. Gore, on the other hand, stands to lose everything. He is potentially the top presidential front-runner for the 2000 election. Currently, most people in the country see him as boring and clean. It might turn out that he is simply boring. His easy nomination could become a serious race.

2. The Media. An ad-industry research firm, Competitive Media Reporting, said the top 75 media markets made \$400 million from political ads in the 1996 campaign. *U.S. News and World Report* reported that television stations in Raleigh, N.C., made \$8.5 million,

and one station received more money from politicians than from all the Ford and Chevrolet dealers combined.

3. President Clinton. He could lose but not for the reasons you may think. His defense in the Paula Jones case before the Supreme Court is that he was too busy with his duties as President to handle a civil case. But if Clinton was cutting back on his policy briefings to raise money, what does that say to the Supreme Court, which has not ruled on the case yet. Clinton may not be able to withstand the firestorm that could surround that case.

4. The DNC. Though the Republican Party is by no means clean on this subject, the DNC is at the center of this scandal. The nationwide popularity could take a hit heading into the 1998 and 2000 elections. The Democrats could lose the congressional seats they gained in the 1996 election.

The Winners: 1. Senator Fred Thompson. He is spearheading the bipartisan commission to study this scandal. If he can play the role of the responsible crusader, he can win wide public support that could translate into a Republican nomination for president in 2000. Thompson stands to gain the most from this. He has been bucking the Republican leadership so his investigation can be truly bipartisan. He is already seen as the "good guy," the popularity is his to lose.

2. The Republican Party. If the Republicans can keep these investigations from becoming a media circus, they could win the popularity the Democrats stand to lose. It is imperative that the Republicans have a goal in these investigations, and do not draw them out if there

is no wrongdoing.

3. Senator Strom Thurmond, Secretary of the Treasury Ronald Rubin and Secretary of Defense William Cohen. Last week, William Safire outlined a humorous scenario in his column in *The New York Times*. Should Clinton be impeached, it is possible that Gore would follow. The presidency

"There are powerful people in this country who want to see their man elected, so where is the justice in saying they cannot do so?"

would fall into Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich's lap. It is conceivable that he would not stand above the fray on several issues.

This drops the presidency on Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, President pro tempore of the Senate. Since his age and health would certainly be a serious problem, he would possibly pass the presidency on to our first woman president, Secretary of State Madeline Albright. Albright is not a native citizen, so she is automatically ineligible for the presidency.

This passes the office to Secretary of the Treasury Ronald Rubin.

He is also involved in several shady dealings, and if he could not withstand the investigations, Clinton's Republican choice for Secretary of Defense William Cohen, would be president.

Of course this scenario is silly, but as with silly things in politics, it seems far too likely also. Will campaign finance reform really happen? Probably not, or at least, not the kind we want. There are simply too many legal issues, special interest groups and constitutional issues to make campaign finance reform an easy subject.

Why do we need campaign finance reform? We simply have the workings of a democracy clearly upon us. There are powerful people who want to see their man elected, so where is the justice in saying they cannot spend their money to do so? No matter what happens, political campaigns will live off of money, and the wealthy and powerful will continue to hold a lot of power in politics.

The Supreme Court ruled on this issue in the complex case *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976). One of the Court's rulings was that people could spend their money on politics however they want, and the government can not restrict someone's spending. The Court was deeply divided, but a precedent was set: Any such law passed by Congress might not hold up under judicial scrutiny.

Which brings us to the ultimate losers in any scenario, the people. If reform is not passed, we may continue to have influence bought by special interest groups, but if the reform is passed, a liberty to spend one's money how they wish will be eliminated.

Nobody said politics is fair.

Former W&L student tried for forgery

She could have been a typical Washington and Lee University student, blond hair, blue eyes, medium height. A nice girl from Florida. She got good grades, and was slated to become a dorm counselor this year. Then on August 29, 1996 the police arrested her for forgery.

Life on the Hill

C. E. Miller '98

Jennifer Murphy's story is bizarre. Her actions are in direct violation of what everyone knew about her. She had several good friends and a steady boyfriend. Not only was she well liked by the faculty, but after an intensive interview and application process, she was chosen to be a dorm counselor. She was chosen to represent the ideal W&L student, to be a model for the class of 2000. No one expected her to lie, cheat or steal, and yet she did.

She fooled her roommates, her boyfriend and her professors. Dean Dennis Manning, a man who is

disappointed, but never surprised, was shocked at her arrest. So many people who trusted the W&L student body were shocked to discover a student had been arrested for forgery, and the checks she passed in the guise of the W&L

"Murphy claimed not to know anything about it, when in reality the checks were in her possession."

honor system were no good.

Her story begins with a missing book of checks. Murphy's roommate asked her if she knew anything about it. Murphy claimed not to know anything about it, when in reality the checks were in her possession. School ended and her roommates left for the summer. Sometime later, Murphy decided

to use the book of checks to purchase items such as a stereo.

She was again confronted by her roommate. This time she admitted to writing one of the checks, when she had written several others. When word of Murphy's arrest got out the rumors began to fly: "I always thought there was something strange about her," or "She was fake, you could just tell." Eventually the rumors died down and people forgot about her, for better gossip, better stories. But for Murphy, the ordeal was just beginning.

Forgery is a felony in Virginia, mandating time in jail. Last Monday morning, Murphy faced Judge George E. Honts III on four counts of forgery and four counts of "uttering" which is signing someone else's name to a presented check.

Her lawyer had served subpoenas to several character witnesses including Manning. He had become well acquainted with Murphy her freshman year. This was his first time in court and his first time testifying. He told the court that Murphy had been an

exceptional student and forging these checks was an anomaly.

The Commonwealth's attorney, Gordon Saunders, felt Murphy should face the felony charges and take the punishment for her crime. Having prosecuted other cases, he felt that Murphy was no exception to facing the felony charges.

So here she is in a tight spot. Time in jail at 20 years of age, all for stealing a few checks and buying some toys. Poor judgment. Would Honts let her off with a slap on the wrist like Kurt Richter, or would she face years in jail?

And so Murphy's bizarre story comes to an end. Judge Honts reduced her felony charges to eight misdemeanors and suspended her two years in jail for 24 months of unsupervised probation. Unless Murphy violates her parole by breaking the law, she'll have managed to violate not only the Honor System without repercussion but also a felony charge on her permanent record.

The Ring-tum Phi

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Glasgow hosts reading by Norris

BY DAVID BALSLEY
PHI FEATURES EDITOR

It may seem strange to some that a married woman would be attracted to the monastic life. For Kathleen Norris, however, living as a monk was only one step in her journey back to faith.

Norris, essayist and poet, has made her re-discovery of Christianity the topic of her most recent works. She will be here on Tuesday for a Glasgow Reading.

Norris' spiritual journey began when she and her husband, poet David Dwyer, moved to Lemmon, South Dakota, according to a July 1994 article published in "The Christian Century." While living in Norris' late grandmother's home, the two came to appreciate the silence and vast expanses of western Dakota.

For Norris, returning to her grandmother's home also meant examining her faith. Memories of her religious upbringing re-emerged. Confronted with her past, Norris was forced to admit that she was largely ignorant of the faith which she had rejected. She began to attend church and, with the help of some minister friends, started to see Christianity as "a communal thing."

Norris has won critical acclaim for her works. She can

bring alive the old desert fathers and mothers, the saints of the calendar, the idiosyncrasies of community life, the travails of small-town living, the joys and pains of marriage and old age," according to a "Commonweal" May 1996 article.

Professor W. Lad Sessions, Professor of Philosophy, also praises Norris's ability. Based on his reading of "Dakota," Sessions characterizes Norris as "a very poetic writer" who employs "a wonderfully spare use of language." According to Sessions, Norris has the ability to look beyond surface matters.

"There is a depth to this world which she appreciates," Sessions said.

Sessions encourages students to attend her appearance.

"I'd urge anyone that I could to come and just listen to the sound of her language," Sessions said. "[Norris is] a woman who has taken a path which many Americans do not: a path to the spiritual, and not just to the flashy, materialistic world."

Kathleen Norris will appear on Tuesday, March 18, at 4:30 p.m. in Northen Auditorium.

Thanks to Professor Cathleen Cuppet for her help in writing this article.

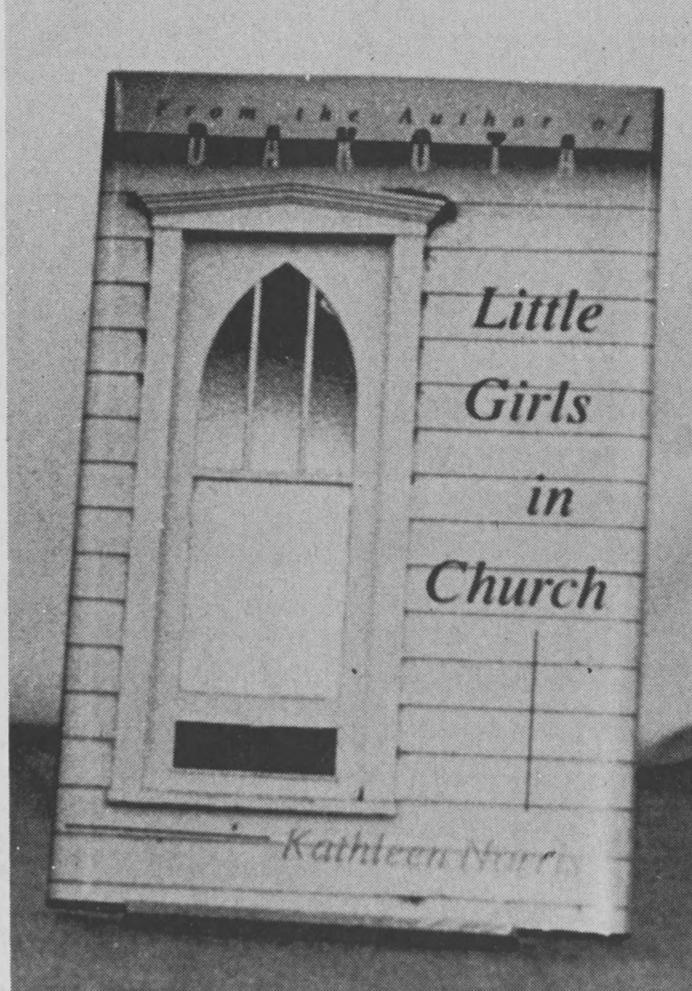


Photo by Mark Slomiany

Tracing her return to spirituality:

Kathleen Norris's "Little Girls in the Church" is a volume of poetry set in the Dakotas, New Jersey, and a monastery. Norris will appear on Tuesday, March 18, at 4:30 p.m. in Northen Auditorium to discuss "Little Girls," as well as her other works.

Vladimir Sharov scheduled to speak

FROM PHI STAFF REPORTS

Vladimir Sharov, visiting Russian novelist, will make two presentations at Washington and Lee University. In the first, scheduled for March 19 at 7:00 in Room 221 of the Williams School, he will read from his work and speak on "Russia, the Bible and the Jews." Sharov's second lecture, "From Under the Rubble: One Writer's Journey," will be held a week later, on March 26, at 7:00 in the same location.

The first two novels of Vladimir Sharov were initially banned by the Soviet government but finally came into print six years ago. "Treading in the Tracks" was published in 1991, and "Rehearsals" in 1992. Then "Before and During" appeared in 1993, and "And Should I Not Pity," in 1995. All four were nominated for the prestigious Booker Russian Novel Prize for best novel in the year of their publication.

Sharov has resided in Moscow since his birth there in 1952, but has spent the last half year here in Lexington, where he has just finished a new novel entitled "An Old Girl."

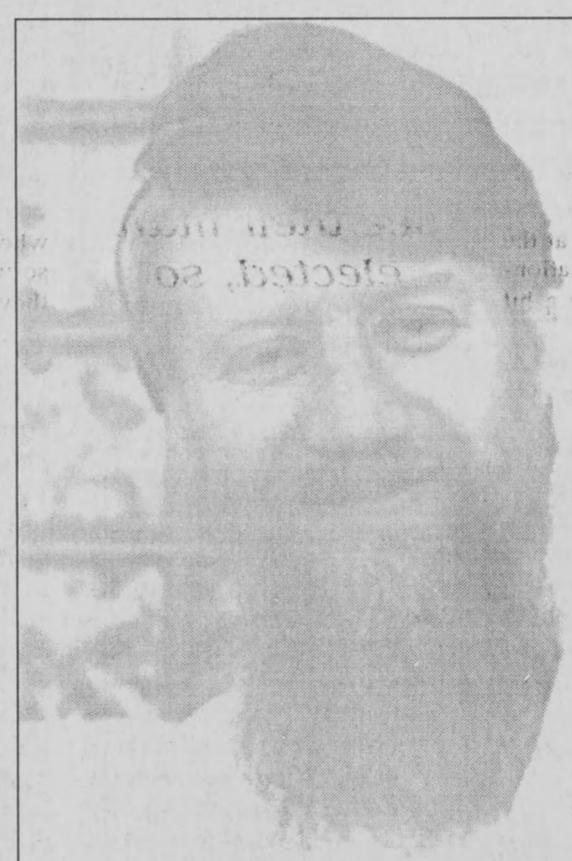
The plots of his novels are very complex. On the simplest level, "Treading in the Tracks" mirrors the history of modern Russia through the history of a family originating with a step-brother of Jesus Christ. "Rehears-

als" portrays recent Russian history through the story of exiled Siberian actors attempting to perform the Passion of Christ in order to bring the Second Advent. The action of "Before and During" begins with the people inhabiting the "Department of Senile Sclerosis" of the Genushkin Hospital, and unfolds their destinies as a mad history of twentieth-century Russia, while drawing parallels with the Tower of Babel and the biblical Deluge. This last novel has provoked a great deal of heated debate. Commenting on this, the literary critic, M. Nekhoroshev, wrote, "This eternal masquerade of history, a vaudeville with much dressing-up, which more often than not turns into a tragedy, represents the subject of Sharov's novels. With Sharov, historical, philosophical, and theological problems are woven into the lively narrative.... Sharov's novel precisely hits the sore place of present-day society."

Both of Sharov's lectures are open to the public. The first is sponsored by the Weinstein Fund for Jewish Studies and the second by the Russian Studies Program of Washington and Lee University.

Vladimir Sharov will appear Wednesday to read from his work. Sharov will present a second lecture, "From Under the Rubble: One Writer's Journey," one week later.

Photo courtesy of The Religion Department



De-mystifying Saint Patrick's Day

BY ANDREA EWING
PHI FEATURES EDITOR

Would you like to kiss my Blarney stone?

Happy St. Patrick's Day. If you don't wear green on Monday, prepare to be pinched. March 17 is the day that we all become Irish for just 24 hours. Or at least you claim to be so you can drink more beer.

But why do we things like put green food coloring in milk or wear pins that say "Kiss me I'm Irish?" And what about the fact that every city in the country has a St. Patrick's Day parade even if the community has no

Irish heritage?

What is the purpose?

St. Patrick's Day is an Irish holiday honoring St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Although not actually Irish (St. Patrick was born in either Roman Britain or Scotland in 385 A.D.), he is believed to be responsible for converting the Irish people to Christianity.

St. Patrick's real name was Maewyn Succat. He took the name Patrick when he became a priest. At 16, St. Patrick was kidnapped by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. During six years working as a shepherd, Patrick began to have religious visions and took strength from

his faith. He escaped to France after a vision told him where he could find a getaway ship. There he became a priest and later a bishop. While in captivity, Patrick became driven by the idea of converting Ireland to Christianity.

Sent as a missionary to Ireland by Pope Celestine I, Patrick founded over 300 churches and converted over 120,000 people.

Legend has it that he used the shamrock, which resembles a three-leaf clover, as a metaphor to explain the concept of the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. Another legend associated

with St. Patrick states that he gave a sermon from a hilltop which drove all the snakes in Ireland into the sea where they drowned. The snake is a pagan symbol and this legend may allude to the fact that he drove paganism out of Ireland. A third tale includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead.

Patrick preached in Ireland until his death on March 17, 461 A.D.

Originally a Catholic holiday, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a more secular celebration. Followers of St. Patrick adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The first celebration of St.

Patrick's Day in the New World occurred in Boston in 1737. Over 100 cities now hold St. Patrick's Day celebrations, the largest in New York City.

St. Patty's Day has become an excuse to wear green and party! On this day "everybody is Irish!"

Green is associated with St. Patrick's Day because it is the color of spring, Ireland, and the shamrock. Leprechauns are also associated with St. Patrick's Day, but it is difficult to understand why. The leprechauns of legends are actually nasty little critters.

Perhaps St. Patrick's Day is only another excuse to go out and have a beer or wear some really tacky green outfit, but hey why not do it—everyone else does.

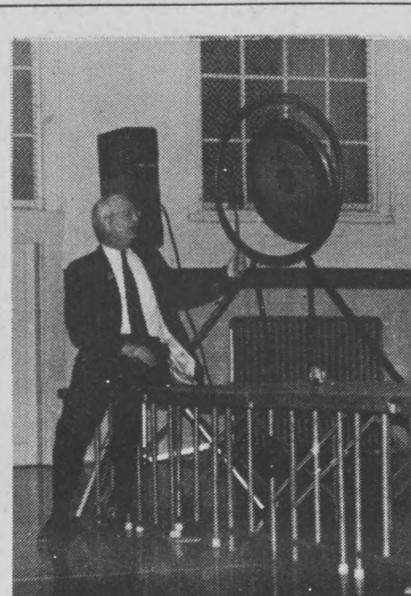
Fridays! gave students and faculty alike a chance to showcase their talents in "The Gong Show" last Wednesday.

Left: Burr Datz plays his guitar to "Gong Show" victory.

Center: Wes Armstrong who acted as the evening's host, begs the audience for more acts.

Right: President Elrod, who acted as the evening's gongmaster, fulfills his duty.

Photos by Mark Slomiany



'The English Patient' depicts how a movie becomes an 'event'

★★★ 1/2
of 4 stars;
fails to
"ravish"

The pitch:
"It'll be like
'Lawrence of
Arabia' meets
'Mississippi
Burning.'"

Photo by Mark Slomiany

It's hard to separate a movie from the hype surrounding it. I had been waiting to see "The English Patient" for a long time before it came out. "Truly, Madly, Deeply," by director Anthony Minghella is a great little film that has had a great deal of favorable attention on video (if you thought "Ghost" was great, "Truly, Madly, Deeply" will blow you out of the water). Ralph Fiennes has had a singular meteoric rise since "Schindler's List" and through one of last year's best films, "Strange Days." Kristin Scott Thomas owned "Four Weddings and a Funeral." And Juliette Binoche took us through real heartbreak in Kieslowski's "Blue." Furthermore, critics and others described the film in glowing terms, as a magnificent love story with the scope and fire of "Casablanca" and "Lawrence of Arabia." Now it's going to win Best Picture at the Academy Awards.

Can any film live up to that hype? Probably not. "Secrets & Lies" does this year, as does "Fargo." "The English Patient" does not. In fact, it didn't even crack my top twenty for the year. I'd like to take this opportunity to list films that were better than "The English Patient" just this year. Hopefully, somebody out there might seek them out on video and see what the Academy overlooked this year. In addition to the aforementioned "Secrets & Lies" and "Fargo," "Big Night," "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," "Sling Blade," "Beautiful Thing," "Jerry Maguire," "Heavy," "Dead Man," "Set It Off," "Kids in the Hall Brain Candy," "Get on the Bus," "The People vs. Larry Flynt," "Evita," "William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet," "The Cable Guy," "Flirting with Disaster," "Stealing Beauty," "Heaven's Prisoners," "Twister," "Lone Star," "Antonia's Line," "Emma," "Swingers," and "The Young Poisoner's Handbook" are all better, more complete films than "The English Patient."

The problem, it seems to me, is that the Academy is obsessed with finding a film with huge scope. Instead of looking for what's the best film (and, admittedly, they've done better than they have in previous years this time), they want an "event." And "The English Patient" has all the elements of a critics' darling event film. Love, war, sex, death, loyalty, betrayal, hopeless loss, and blah, blah, blah.

Some people have recently criticized the film, as they criticized "Ghosts of Mississippi" earlier in the year, for having an improper political focus. That's a valid criticism, but I still feel that if a film works, this kind of pernicious fictional/historical revisionism is a secondary issue. Certainly, "Ghosts of Mississippi" fell down on these grounds, but it wasn't ruined. Neither is "The English Patient."

What ruins "The English Patient," or keeps it from ascending to the four-star range, is that the main love story is so bloodless and boring that almost everything else in the movie transcends it. The sweep and scope of the film keep bumping up against this huge barrier to enjoying the film. Kristin Scott Thomas looks uncomfortable through most of the film. Her usual ability to bring deep undercurrents of emotion to the screen, best exemplified by her telling Hugh Grant she loves him in "Four Weddings," is completely missing here. There's no chemistry with Ralph Fiennes. And Fiennes himself seems to be sleepwalking. Whoever thought he deserved a Best Actor nomination for this oddly detached loser character was probably wacky on the junk. If this were his first film, he would have gotten no recognition for it whatsoever. Not that it would have killed his career; he's been brilliant and will be again. But it's really nothing spectacular. Forget the fact that his character, Laszlo de Almasy, was really a Nazi sympathizer who ruined lives and betrayed his friends—Fiennes can't even make him fall in love. And that's what's necessary.

That said, the film is absolutely gorgeous. The desert and the geography of the human body coincide provocatively. War and the people involved in it are intertwined in a profound way. And the underlying love story, between nurse Hana (Juliette Binoche) and bomb defuser Kip (Naveen Andrews) is charming, and would have been the perfect compliment to the main story if Fiennes and Scott Thomas had been up to it. Sadly, they weren't, and the film misses its big opportunity. "The English Patient" is well worth seeing for what's there, but it can't come together with this huge flaw.

Photo courtesy of Miramax Films



Danto's lecture 'over before it began'

By DAVID KEELING
W&L CLASS OF '73

Professor Arthur C. Danto's lecture last Wednesday evening at duPont Hall concerning cognition and the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was over, in my opinion, almost before it began. This Columbia University professor, highly esteemed in the field of cognitive and aesthetic philosophy, in impromptu comments prior to reading his lecture, said that it is only by writing about a painting that a work can be understood.

Professor Danto earns his bread and butter by the quantity and quality of the words he delivers in the classroom and publishes in text, so he may be expected to have a bias toward verbosity. Indeed his mastery of language is of the highest intellectual standard. However, to say that a work of art cannot be understood unless one writes about it, is simply wrong.

There is a limit to the power of words. Each defines, explains, pro-

vides understanding, but is unable to give the full, complete meaning necessary to describe some works of art. Words such as magnificent, supreme, sublime, do their best to rise to the heights of wonder or beauty in a Michelangelo fresco, but they fail to do it justice. That is the greatness of the painter—he is superior to our best attempts at verbal description. The words themselves, however well used, fail to describe the vastness, the subtlety, the strength of the painting. The artist takes us to heights which are literally "beyond understanding."

There is a sense of awe in the spiritual realm which some people experience—moments when they are overcome, so impressed, perhaps so humbled, that they are literally "dumbstruck." Attempts to use words or to express thoughts at such times are unnecessary, trivial. One is speechless. The mind, which chooses the words, which reasons and calculates logically, is at such moments silenced, humbled in its inability to describe.

Those who are masters of the mind, of the intellect and of its tools—the

words which do their best to describe—are often unable to appreciate this higher realm of spiritual awareness which is beyond the cognitive mind. The greatest artists help us to see this vision, this place which once glimpsed, or felt, seems so powerful that it is said by some to be the true reality. It is a place beyond cognition, beyond understanding, beyond words; a place which if Professor Danto had once sensed, he seems to have forgotten.

Professor Danto gave a lecture which he read verbatim from his text. His melodious voice and sophisticated diction, delivered in a monotone, was tiresome. Much of his lecture was devoted to the old argument about the cleaning of the Sistine Chapel ceiling, in which he suggested that his opinions were at least as important as those who care for the Chapel itself. He ended his lecture with comments about Immanuel Kant and Friedrich Nietzsche, among other standard philosophical icons. During the brief question period, Professor Danto was asked to enlarge upon his notion of "cognitive pollution," which he explained.

What is good luck on St. Patrick's Day?

- * Finding a four-leaf clover (that's double the good luck it usually is).
- * Wearing green. (School children have started a little tradition of their own—they pinch class mates who don't wear green on this holiday.)
- * Kissing the blarney stone.

Glossary O' Terms

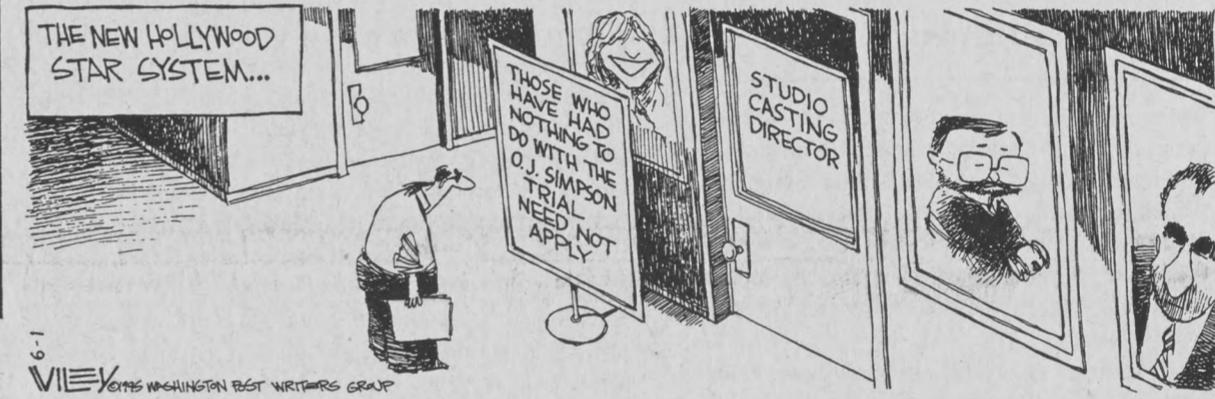
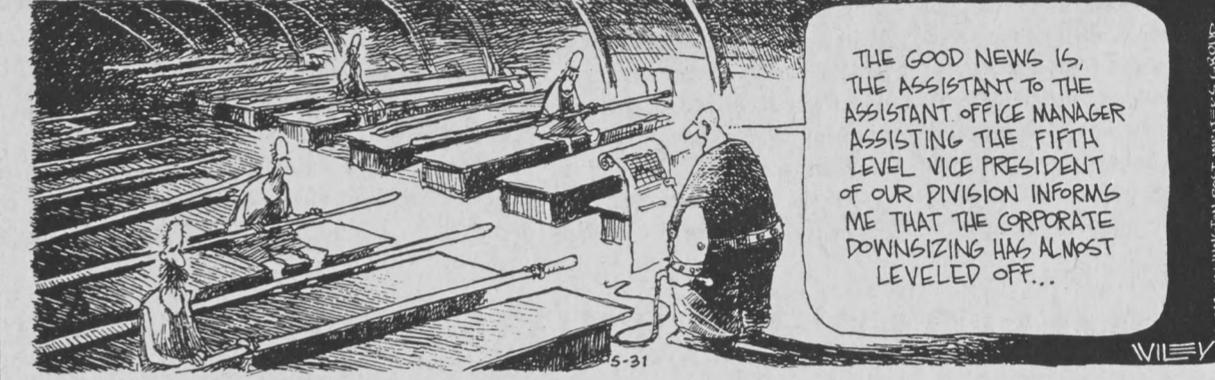
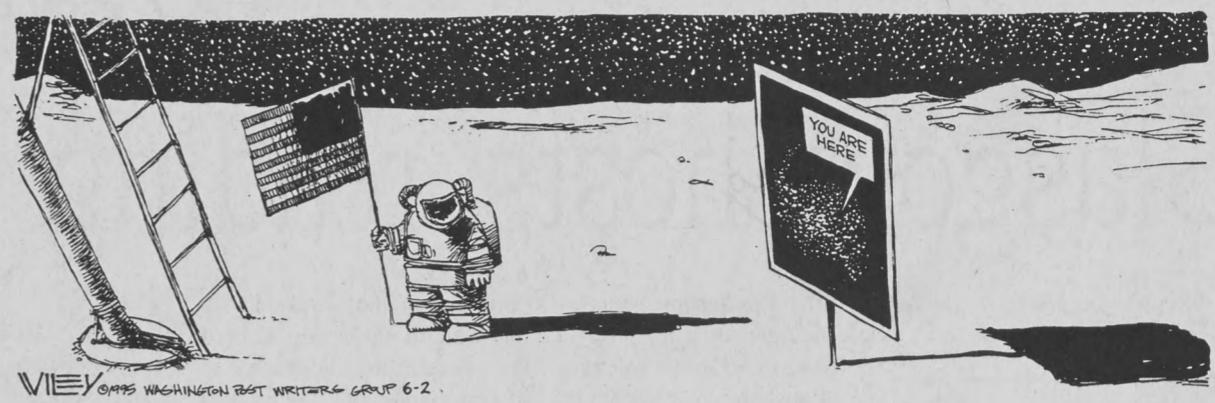
Leprechaun:

Irish fairy. Looks like a small, old man (about 2 feet tall), that is often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and a leather apron. According to the legend, leprechauns are aloof and unfriendly, live alone, and pass the time making shoes... they also possess a hidden pot of gold. Treasure hunters can often track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If caught, he can be forced (with the threat of bodily violence) to reveal the whereabouts of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him every second. If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun (and he often tricks them into looking away), he vanishes and all hopes of finding the treasure are lost.

Blarney Stone:

The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence (blarney). The castle was built in 1446 by Cormac Laidhiv McCarthy (Lord of Muskerry)—its walls are 18 feet thick (necessary to thwart attacks by Cromwellians and William III's troops). Thousands of tourists a year still visit the castle.

From www.nand.net/toys/stpaddy/stpaddy.html



The Phi apologizes for omitting sophomore Greg Bunk and juniors David Gentry, Jake Sewall and Melissa Parker from last week's article on the Keck geology scholarship. Congratulations on all your hard work.

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