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The Ring-tum Phi recalls the past 120 years of Homecoming traditions and keeps W&L up to speed on the upcoming festivities. From our glory days of football to the fizzling out of traditions in the 1960s to the new tradition of banners in the D-hall, Homecoming has survived.



PAGES 6-7

The Ring-tum Phi

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Cadets engage in forbidden kiss, receive stiff penalties

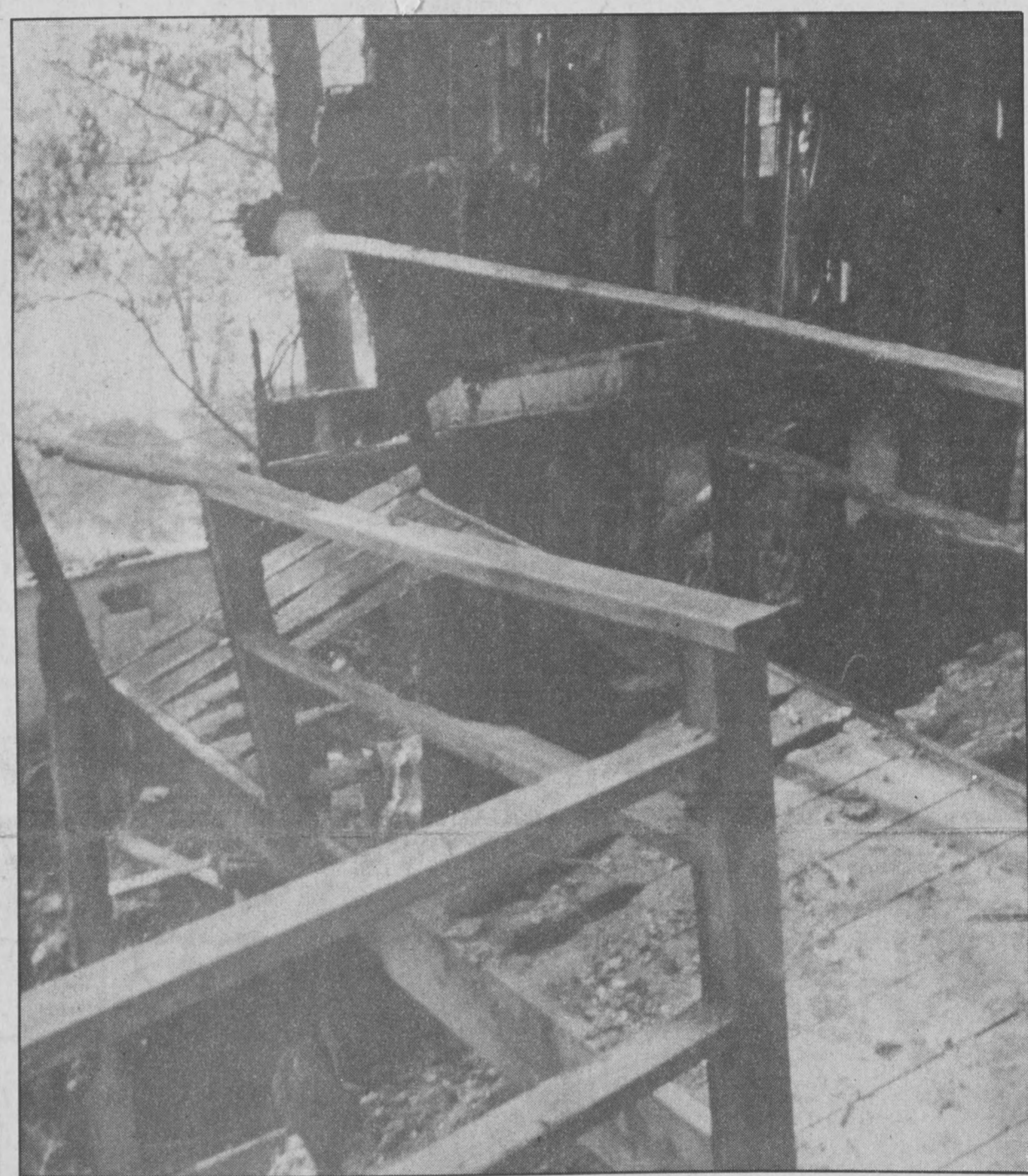
Two freshmen were caught kissing under a desk in the dark, despite regulations prohibiting cadets from dating while on the rat line.

By HEATHER McDONALD
STAFF WRITER

The inevitable happened at Virginia Military Institute last week. A male rat and a female rat were caught kissing Saturday Sept. 20, an act that is explicitly forbidden. Sometime that night, a member of the guard team walked into the rat's room to perform a routine room check. Finding the room dark, he turned the lights on and found the two kissing under a desk. The two offenders were immediately placed on report; their actions were reported to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee handed down their decision and possible penalty Oct. 2. Both cadets were placed on four weeks of confinement, and were each given 30 penalty tours. Penalty tours are 50-minute marches from one end of barracks to the other. These situations were considered when VMI went co-ed, Director of Public Relations Col. Michael Strickler said. "Visitation with the lights out is prohibited," said Strickler. "This was added to the rule book this year before the female cadets arrived."

Strickler describes the incident as "not a big deal," but says the cadets must receive the appropriate punishment. "With the military system and structure of VMI, we must be careful. The message had to be sent because of the close confines that we are in," Strickler said. "It is simply a part of military discipline, like the training of troops. We do not condone this kind of behavior because of the intimacy of barracks. It is even closer here there; can be one room with three to four guys and next to them are three to four girls." The incident does not come as surprise to most people at VMI. "You have men and women, boys and girls. You aren't going to keep that from happening," said Strickler. "It's human nature, and I expected something like this to happen," a VMI junior said. "But I do think that we need to stop things like this before they get out of control." Letting things like kissing on the rat line get out of control increases the risk of sexual harassment, the cadet said. "If sexual behavior is not curbed, it might get to the point where if you look at a person the wrong way, or give them a friendly pat on the back, it could be construed as sexual harassment." Cadets are forbidden to date each other while on the rat line. After the rat line, male and female cadets can date each other, just as long as their partner is not in the same company. -Kathryn Mayurnik contributed to this article.

Fire destroys English professor's house



ASSISTANT ENGLISH Professor Edward Adams' country cabin was destroyed in a fire the afternoon of Sept. 28. HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR

By WILL HARDIE
VISITING EDITOR

Fire gutted the country cabin of Assistant English Professor Edward Adams last Sunday. By the time the three fire crews brought the blaze under control, the house and all of Adams' possessions had been destroyed. Adams was unavailable for comment. The fire broke out early Sunday afternoon at the four-apartment wooden country cabin, about 10 miles north of Lexington. The emergency services were called at 1:24 p.m. The Kerrs Creek fire truck arrived within two minutes, followed by Lexington and Buena Vista fire crews and the Lexington Rescue Squad. Kerrs Creek Fire Department Chief Southers said that by this time "the fire was well advanced." Flames had engulfed two of the four apartments and were starting to scorch through the back walls of the other two. Firefighters entered the house and attacked the blaze through the two unaffected apartments. They brought the flames under control within half an hour, but darning down and clearing up took until 7:45 p.m. Luckily, none of the inhabitants were home, but two firefighters were taken to the hospital and were treated for smoke inhalation and chest pains related to exhaustion. Neither was kept overnight. Southers said the fire took hold fast and was hard to fight because the building was wooden. Authorities believe the fire started accidentally but have no clues as to the precise cause.

PiKA won't appeal ruling

By ERIC SWENSEN

STAFF WRITER

Pi Kappa Alpha has decided for now not to appeal the social probation handed down by the Interfraternity Council, choosing to correct its mistakes. "We haven't decided yet, but we probably won't appeal in the short term," PiKA President Andrew Curry said. "We want to take positive steps and not repeat the mistakes we've made." PiKA was fined \$2,500 and placed on social probation for the remainder of fall term by the IFC last week for two violations of the IFC's alcohol policy. The positive steps will include presenting new guidelines to the IFC that will govern how PiKA's parties operate. "We're in the process of drawing up new guidelines concerning alcohol, security and guest lists," Curry said. "We want to present the guidelines to the IFC to get their input and help and make sure these guidelines comply with IFC regulations." Also important, is educating the chapter members on alcohol-awareness, Curry said. "We want to make sure that everyone knows what their responsibilities are and what the consequences are for failing to follow the rules." PiKA will schedule a mandatory speaker on alcohol awareness for its chapter members and hopes to sponsor an alcohol awareness speaker for the entire Washington

and Lee community. Curry is hopeful that the social probation won't have an adverse effect on rush. "It won't help," Curry said. "But we're not looking for the kind of guy we've seen just once at a party and who's pretty cool when he's been drinking." PiKA's can still socialize with freshman when in groups no larger than five brothers, Curry said. "Actually, the smaller groups might help us get to know the freshmen better." While PiKA deals with the consequences of failing to follow the new BYOB policy, many fraternity men said they haven't noticed much of a change under the new regulations. "Not much has changed," junior Roy Burns said. "I brought my own alcohol out to a party, and some girl asked me, 'Are you really following the BYOB policy?'" "People aren't more concerned about the welfare of others," sophomore K.D. Vo said. "They're more concerned about breaking IFC rules." Doug Peddle, a junior, doesn't think the BYOB policy has had much effect in curbing binge drinking. "I think it's interesting that more freshman have gone to the infirmary this year than last," Peddle said.

EC dishes it out: 39 organizations receive cash

By JASON ZACHER

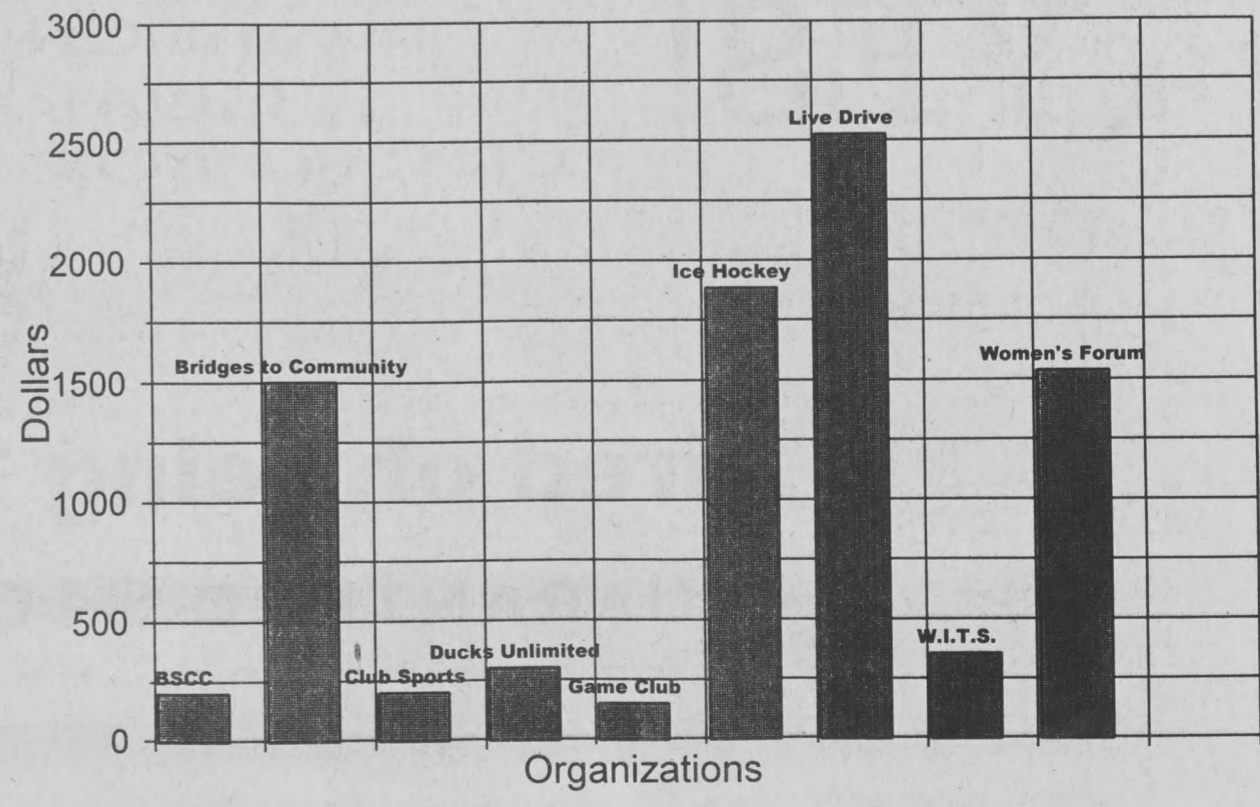
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Forty-two campus organizations begged and pleaded their cases over the past two weeks to the Executive Committee in a desperate attempt to receive funding. Thirty-nine were successful. "We had about \$450,000 worth of requests," said EC Vice-President Chris Baldwin. "The only problem was we only had about \$330,000 to give out. We had to shave more than \$100,000 off the requests." The club Ice Hockey team asked for money for the first time this year. After being suspended last season

from the league, senior Dave Bruett is trying to get the club started again. The \$1,885 they received is already spent paying for ice time at the Roanoke Civic Center, where the league plays. "We asked for \$2,400 for fees, jerseys and pucks," Bruett said. "I'm happy, though we'd like to have a little more. We could have purchased the jerseys and re-used them every year." Baldwin argued that the EC tries to give the club sports the money they need to field a team, but with the increasing number of clubs and organizations striving for their piece of the

EC pie, the allocations become harder each year. Some organizations came out of this year's process unscathed. Women in Technology and Science, a recent addition to the W&L campus, received every penny of the \$355 they asked for. W.I.T.S. Vice-President Laura Goodwin was excited to receive the money. "We were really lucky," Goodwin said. "We think that we got it because we asked for a modest amount and we itemized everything."

SEE BUDGET PAGE 3



University Computing takes heat, Students criticize new system

By KATHRYN MAYURNIK
NEWS EDITOR

The new computing system at Washington and Lee came under fire in the last few weeks in a series of letters on the newsgroup wlu.computing. The controversy began with a letter from senior Adam Avitable and four words: "George Orwell was right." "I don't like logging on through

Netware and having every move I make recorded in the history file," Avitable wrote. "It's no one's... business. What's next? A retina scanner at the corner of the computer to verify who the user is and a three hour a week limit for checking e-mail?" Avitable's other gripes include the "inconvenience" of waiting for the computer to restart each time a user logs

off and the "stingy" \$20 per year print subsidy. Avitable complained about the disappearance of the dot matrix printers, which were always free. Senior Jason Sorens responded to Avitable's letter, agreeing with most of his points. "The new system makes all file management very

SEE COMPUTING PAGE 2

COMPUTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

difficult," Sorens said.

Student Computing Coordinator Dirk van Assendelft wrote a letter in response to Aitable's scathing comments. "On most new systems, the reboot time is less than 30 seconds," van Assendelft said. "This seems to be a reasonable time to wait to insure that your personal information on the network is secure."

Looking for ways to minimize the reboot time is an ongoing project, van Assendelft said.

In response to Aitable's gripe about "every move he makes" being recorded in the history file, van Assendelft said, "We do not keep any history files of your Netware activity."

"As a matter of fact, it would be simpler for us to record your every keystroke on Liberty than it would be to monitor your Netware use."

Executive Committee Vice President Chris Baldwin wrote a letter in reponse to the crossfire. "... I find the new system very frustrating to those who are accustomed to liberty," Baldwin said. "I'm still uncertain as to what was so wrong with Liberty ... it accomplished all of my e-mail needs."

"I'm sure that there are a few students out there who are adept enough to take advantage of the new system's perks. However, for the overwhelming majority of returning upperclassmen, I don't believe that they have any clue what these perks are or how to take advantage of them."

Van Assendelft also responded to Baldwin's letter, stating that W&L was lagging behind similar universities and was well behind the "real world" last year, and the change was needed.

Phi lunchtime poll: Yet another week of total randomness

By DAN BIRDWHISTELL
STAFF WRITER

going. When it stops, it means that the lunchworkers forgot to whip him.
— J.C. Waldren

We have once again decided to stalk people in the D-Hall in search of the most profound, meaningful thought of W&L students.

If someone from the Phi came up to you during dinner today and asked you a question for the newspaper, what would you do?

I'd probably ignore them and walk away.
— Bryant Adams

Who is your favorite lunch worker?

Wanda, cuz she takes care of me. She helped me one time when I was choking. She calls me Texas Boy.
— Nathan Urquhart

Why didn't you eat the turkey dogs tonight?

I'm not that bold.
— Rives Granade

Why did you eat the turkey dogs tonight?

I just love turkey.
— Josh Globber

Do they have turkey dogs in Turkey?

No, we do not eat turkey.
— Didem Akyel

How were your turkey dogs?

They are eating my stomach!!!!
— Patrick Wright

Did you ever wonder exactly what was at the end of the conveyor belt in the D-Hall?

Yes, I have. I think there is a small man running in a wheel that keeps it

How do you pick the best banana in the D-Hall?

They are long and bright yellow.
— Beth Meyers

What is that? (pointing to a rounded, yellow, mushy thing in a bowl)

It's Polenta. Want me to spell it? P-O-L-E-N-T-A. It's not very good.
— Alexis Yee-Garcia

If, after a long night of partying, you returned to your room to notice that your roommate had brought his pet goat over, would you stay or leave? Why?

Ah, \$#!%, I can't think of anything witty.
— Aaron Knoll

Are you excited about Bruce Hornsby coming for Homecoming?

Yes, more thrilled than I have been in my entire life!!

What does he sing?

I dunno
— Keenan Weston

If that guy over there offered you a piece of candy, would you take it?

Warily
— Shari Henderson

If you woke up one morning duct-taped to Old George at the top of the Colonnade, what would you do?

I'd yank out a stogey and smoke it.
— Matthew Gooch



UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATES IN NATION-WIDE PROGRAM TO SCREEN FOR DEPRESSION

University counseling psychologists will offer anonymous, free screening and confidential interviews as part of a nation-wide program on Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The screening is designed to provide information about the signs, symptoms and treatment of depression. Staff, faculty and students will be given the opportunity to find out if their loved ones may be suffering from depression. The screening is not meant to provide them with a diagnosis, but to detect symptoms.

WALK TO HELP THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Chi Omega and the Catholic Campus Ministry are co-sponsoring a "Making Strides Against Cancer" fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 12. The walk begins, rain or shine, at the Harris Teeter parking lot at 1:30 p.m. Participants are invited to seek pledges from friends, professors, family and others for the five mile walk through and around Lexington. People who turn in the most money on the day of the event will receive prizes at a ceremony held after the walk. The dormitory hall or residence section most represented will be taken to lunch at the Willson-Walker House by Dean of Freshmen and Residence Life Dennis Manning. There is also penny voting for the "Favorite Dog Contest," which will be held outside the Co-op this week.

The American Cancer Society will use the money for research, education and treatment of cancer. Three out of four Rockbridge County families will have a member affected by cancer, according to a pamphlet distributed by the Virginia Division of the American Cancer Society.

FILM SOCIETY CANCELS SCREENINGS

The W&L Film Society has chosen the following additional films for Fall Term: "In the Company of Men," (USA, 1997), directed by Neil LaBute, "Ridicule," (France, 1996), directed by Patrice Leconte, and "Shall We Dance," (Japan, 1997), directed by Masayuki Suo. Due to the absence of their projectionist, the Film Society canceled the screenings of "Looking for Richard" and "Everyone Says I Love You."

YOUNG DEMOCRATS SPONSOR TALK

The Young Democrats will sponsor a talk entitled, "Global Warming, Clean Air, and the Fight for Clinton's Environmental Soul," delivered by Dean Ruscio of the Commerce School. The talk will focus on the President's upcoming decision on global warming and this past summer's dispute over the Clean Air Act. The talk will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in Newcomb 7. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jason Hahn at 462-4141.

-Compiled by Kathryn Mayurnik

Correction

Last week, The Ring-Tum Phi incorrectly reported that the influenza vaccine will be offered at the Health Center from noon to 1 p.m. daily and 6 to 7 p.m. The vaccine will be offered daily except from noon to 1 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m.

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PAINTING THE town red... Virginia Military Institute displays its school spirit with the gigantic banners, despite their big loss in football to Georgia Southern Saturday. After the game, restrictions were lifted and cadets on confinement were able to venture out into Lexington. *HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR*

EC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

W.I.T.S. is an organization made up of almost 30 W&L women who bring in girls from the middle schools to try to interest them in science. Their program will run nine labs throughout the year, and the money W.I.T.S. received will be used for purchasing items like glassware, lab coats and even sharks and cow eyeballs for the dissection lab.

According to Baldwin, the EC uses four general criteria to determine the allocation for each group. First, an organization must show how they are using the money, and second, how much of the money has been spent in the past. Though this is easy to determine for some organizations, it is difficult for those who generate their own revenue.

All of the money the EC disburses comes from the \$155 each

student pays as the student activities fee. Because of this, the EC examines the reach of the group as the third criterion.

"We really try to see what a group gives to the W&L community and who their activities include," Baldwin said.

The fourth criterion is the strength of the group. First-year organizations and publications typically do not receive funding because, according to Baldwin, the EC wants to make sure the group will use the money.

In addition to the money disbursed for organizations, the EC keeps part of the money for their operating expenses and it keeps a reserve in the event of an open honor trial.

The EC also keeps a portion of the money set aside in case of emergencies, and according to EC Treasurer Taylor Shultz, the University requires the EC keep part of the money set aside in case of transfers or withdrawals.

IS YOUR FRIDGE OLDER THAN YOU ARE?

DO YOU HAVE CARPETING IN YOUR KITCHEN?

HOW LONG DID YOU HAVE TO WAIT TO GET YOUR TOILET TO FLUSH?

ARE YOU GOING TO FILE SUIT AGAINST YOUR LANDLORD WHEN YOU GRADUATE?

DOES YOUR LANDLORD DESERVE THE MEDAL OF HONOR OR THE BONEHEAD OF THE WEEK AWARD?

IF IT'S ANY OF THESE, OR SOMETHING MORE INTRIGUING, CONTACT KATHRYN MAYURNIK AT:

KMAYURNI@WLU.EDU.

More upcoming events

Project Horizon will sponsor a candlelight vigil Monday, Oct. 6 at 6:30 p.m. The vigil will take place at Hopkins Green in Lexington and will honor the survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse, those still living with the trauma and those killed at the hands of their abusers. Survivors and those whose lives have been touched by domestic or sexual violence will speak in addition to a lighting of the candles in honor of survivors and victims. Music will be provided by Catholic Campus Minister Burr Datz. The guest speaker will be Joan Meier, Visiting W&L Law Professor. The rain site will be at St. Patrick's Catholic Church at 221 W. Nelson Street.

W&L women interested in sororities should attend the "Meet the Greeks" casual "cookies and cokes" social sponsored by the five sororities. The social will take place Wednesday Oct. 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Liberty Hall Ruins.

This Week's Weather:

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High: 83° Low: 56°	High: 79° Low: 56°	High: 77° Low: 56°	High: 74° Low: 54°	High: 74° Low: 51°	High: 71° Low: 50°

Courtesy of the National Weather Service

GOOD MORNING.

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CINNAMON ROLLS * SCONES &
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SATURDAY 8:00-5:00 * SUNDAY 9:00-4:00



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RESULTS

Football (0-4)		
Sat.:	W&L	3
	Randolph-Macon	24
Volleyball (9-4)		
Tues.:	RMWC	0
	W&L	3
Thu.:	W&L	3
	Bridgewater	2
Women's Soccer (8-0)		
Thu.:	Sweet Briar	0
	W&L	4
Sun.:	W&L	3
	SW Texas	1
Men's Soccer (6-1)		
Thu.:	E. Mennonite	1
	W&L	4
Sun.:	W&L	4
	Guilford	0
Water Polo (8-0)		
Fri./	W&L	19
Sat.:	UVa	3
	W&L	14
	JMU	6
	W&L	15
	Georgetown	11
	W&L	15
	Rutgers	3

AHEAD

Football		
Sat.:	Home vs. Davidson	
Volleyball		
Tues.:	Home vs. Lynchburg	Warner Center at 6:30
Fri./Sat.:	Emory Tournament	
Men's Soccer		
Sat.:	Home vs. Hampden-Sydney	at 2:30pm
Wed.:	at Lynchburg	
Women's Soccer		
Thurs.:	at Roanoke	
Sat.:	Home vs. Goucher	at 11:30am
Men's & Women's X-Country		
Sat.:	10/11.:	at VA St. Meet

Volleyball silences Bridgewater

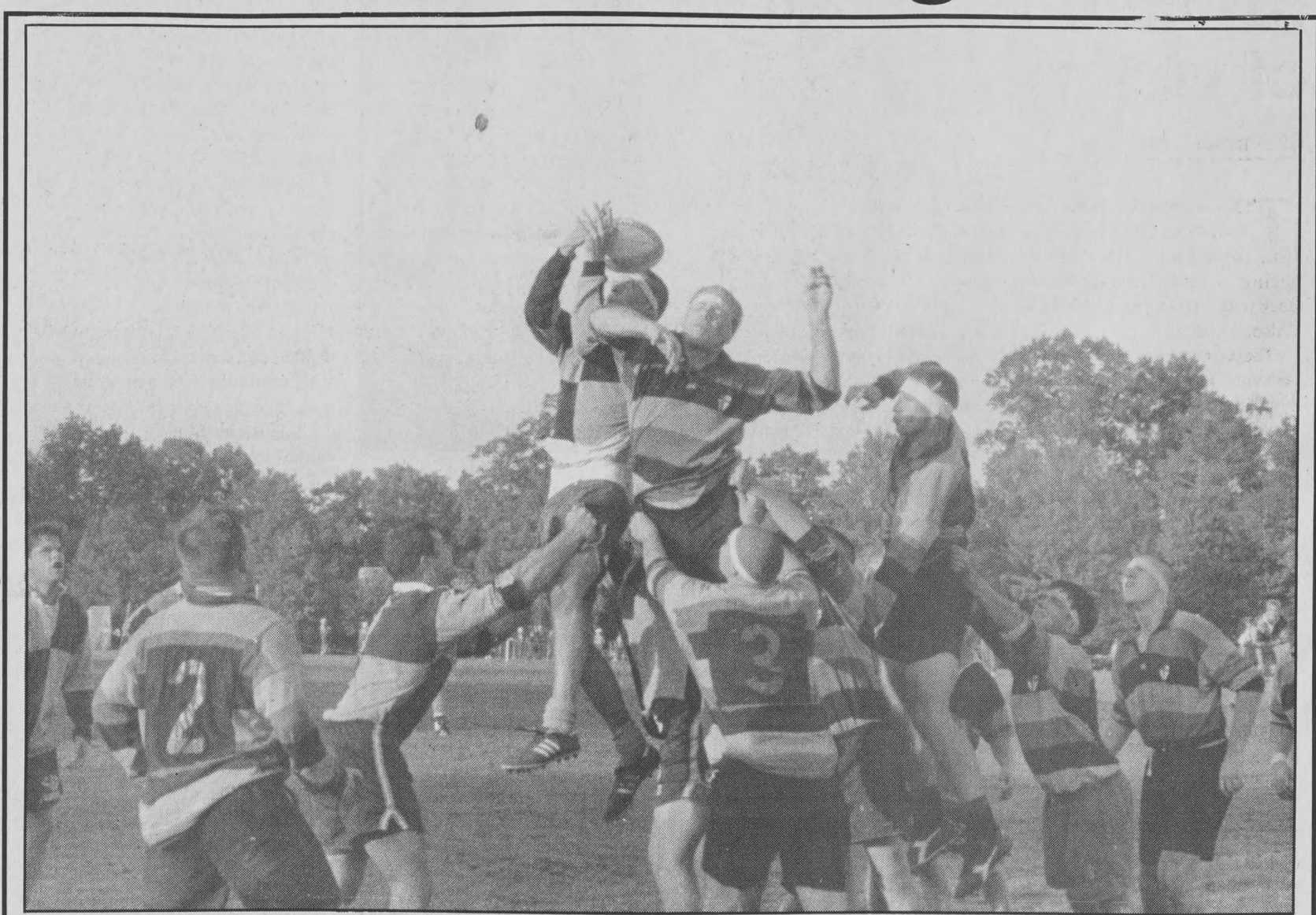
Generals stretch their ODAC winning streak to 22 matches

By KIETH WIDNER STAFF WRITER

It was a milestone week for head volleyball coach Terri Dadio, who collected her 100th victory in Tuesday's defeat of Randolph Macon at the Warner Center. Dadio has compiled a 100-34 record in five seasons at W&L. As well as guiding the Generals to their lone ODAC championship in 1995, the Generals currently have a 22-consecutive-game regular-season conference winning streak.

The Generals won their 21st on Tuesday with a 15-4, 15-4, 15-5 win over the Wildcats. The match featured the two most potent offensive players in the conference, W&L sophomore Nancy Reinhart, who leads the ODAC with an average of 3.53 kills per game, and Randolph Macon senior Ginger Raymond, who is second in the ODAC with 3.45. Raymond won the statistical battle, compiling 10 kills compared to Reinhart's nine, but lost the war. In the first game, a well played game despite the lop-sided score, senior Holly Thomsen started strong, scoring a kill in the initial set and then serving to make the score 2-0. After trading points, Nancy Reinhart's serving sparked another W&L run and a 5-1 score. Randolph Macon then ran off two straight, but could do little more as junior Megan Snodgrass, senior Hilary Martin and Thomsen served to make the score 14-4. After several sideouts for both sides, Reinhart finished the game off with an unreturnable serve.

In the final two games, Randolph Macon could not muster much resistance to the W&L attack. After the teams fought to a 1-1 tie in the second game, Reinhart served three straight to make it 4-1. After a service point by freshman Mary Beth Brookby made it 5-1, senior Ali Beard, who had 21 assists for the match and is currently sixth in the ODAC for assists per game, ran off five straight serves to blow the game open. The Generals subsequently cruised to a 15-4 victory, with sopho-



TOWER OF POWER

Although the Generals got to the top of this mountain, they dropped their season opener to VMI in a grueling and bloody battle of brute strength. HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

more Megan Macy earning the kill on the final point. In game three, the Generals, behind four kills from Reinhart and two kills from freshman Melissa Williams, again had little trouble against the Wildcats. Snodgrass did most of the service work and earned a kill on the last point as the Generals closed the match 15-5.

On Thursday, the Generals traveled to Bridgewater, the defending ODAC champions and the last conference team to defeat W&L in regular season play, albeit in 1995. Bridgewater, ranked 4th in the conference in the preseason, gave the Generals all they could handle. After losing the first two games 12-15, 12-15, the experienced players on the W&L roster stepped up and refused to let their winning streak vanish.

Reinhart had a season-high 19 kills, 14 of which came in the pivotal games three and four, when the Generals faced elimination. Ali Beard had a season-high 42 assists and a career-high 23 digs. Thomsen had three service aces in game three, while Megan Snodgrass had four of her seven kills in game four. The final score was a General's victory 12-15, 12-15, 15-9, 15-6, 15-10. This is the second straight year that the Generals have come back from a two-game deficit against Bridgewater. With the win, the W&L improves to 9-4, 5-0 in the ODAC, while Bridgewater falls to 8-2, 2-1.

The Generals will next play October 7 in the Warner Center against Lynchburg.

Women's soccer is still unbeatable

Generals set new W&L winning streak record with most recent victories

By FRANCES GROBERG STAFF WRITER

At the outset of the season, Coach Jan Hathorn expressed her wish that this year's women's soccer team repeat some of the accomplishments of last year's squad. This season, the Generals have not only matched their feats of 1996, but surpassed them. With their two wins in the past week against Sweet Briar and Southwest Texas, the Generals set a new school record for most consecutive wins to start a season with their impressive 8-0 start. "Down the line, we hope to be the ODAC champions," said junior co-captain Karin Treese. "Collectively, the team believes that we can do it, especially this year."

Sunday's game against Southwest Texas proved to be the most difficult for the team thus far. The score remained 0-0 throughout the first half and most of the second half, until Treese scored off of a deflected corner kick with 3:09 left in the game to give the team a 1-0 victory. Treese, who is W&L's all-time leading scorer, has 13 goals on the season and has scored seven out of the eight game-

winning goals for W&L. Thursday's game against Sweet Briar proved not so taxing for the Generals, and they cruised to a 4-0 victory. Before the game, Treese expressed her feeling that this would be an important game for the team, and that a win was crucial.

Evidently, she didn't have much to worry about, as she put the team ahead midway through the first half off a cross from Margaret-Hunter Turner. The score remained 1-0 until the second half, when sophomore Ginny Jernigan took a great pass from junior Elizabeth Richey, blasting it past Sweet Briar goalie Carol Skrifloff. The Generals also got goals from senior captain Claire Bowers and freshman Liz Olson in the final five minutes to set the final score at 4-0. "Thursday's game was good for us. It was one of those games we needed to win, and we all pulled together for the victory," said Treese.

The Generals will play at Roanoke on Thursday, October 9, and will be back at the Liberty Hall Field for their game against Goucher on Saturday, October 11, at 11:30.

Generals remain winless heading into Homecoming with 24-3 loss to RMC

By BRENDAN HARRINGTON STAFF WRITER

The Generals continue to search for their first victory of the season, as they lost 24-3 on Saturday to Randolph-Macon College in Ashland.

Two touchdown passes from Randolph-Macon quarterback Sidney Chappell to wide receiver Michael Becker led the Yellow Jackets to a decisive victory and improved their record to 3-1 on the season. The loss dropped Washington & Lee to 0-4 for the season and 0-2 in the ODAC.

The Generals' offense continued to struggle as they picked up only 187 total yards compared to Randolph-Macon's 460 total yards. The only W&L points came on a 32-yard field goal from senior Matt Holbrook after senior Matt Luka returned and interception 44 yards to put the Generals deep into RMC territory.

The Yellow Jackets got off to a quick start as midway through the first quarter Sidney Chappell threw a 72-yard touchdown strike to Michael Becker to give Randolph-Macon a 7-0 lead. The Yellow Jackets would not strike again until late in the second quarter when tailback Michael Hurt dashed 13 yards for a Randolph Macon touchdown. RMC also added a 22-yard field goal with 0:53 left in the first half to take a 17-0 lead into the locker room.

The Generals pulled to within 14 after Holbrook's 32-yard field goal following Luca's interception return, but that would be as close as the Generals would get. With 6:04 left in the game Randolph-Macon

put the Generals away after Becker scored his second TD of the game on a 5-yard pass from Chappell. Becker finished the day with 114 yards on 4 receptions and a pair of touchdowns while Chappell finished with 302 yards passing and 2 touchdowns. The third piece of the Yellow Jackets balance scoring attack, Michael Hurt, rushed for 96 yards on 16 carries and he also scored a touchdown.

For the Generals, tailback Seth McKinley had his best game of the season as he rushed for 73 yards on 15 carries. However, this was the only bright spot for an otherwise nonexistent Generals offense. Quarterback Christian Batcheller completed nine of twenty-five passes for only 102 yards and 2 interceptions.

The Generals continue to miss the presence of junior WR Chas Chastain who has missed the last two games with a knee injury and whose return for the remainder of the season is doubtful.

The Generals' offense could only muster up 10 first downs on Saturday compared to 23 for Randolph-Macon. The Yellow Jackets also dominated time of possession; they held the ball nearly twice as long as the Generals.

The Generals will try to regroup for next week as they face Davidson College for homecoming. The Generals hope for a little extra inspiration in front of a homecoming crowd as they will attempt to make it into the win column for the first time this season. Kickoff is at 2p.m. at Wilson Field.



League Standings

Team	ODAC record		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Guilford	2	0	3	1
Emory & Henry	1	0	4	0
Randolph-Macon	1	0	3	1
Bridgewater	1	1	1	3
W&L	0	2	0	4
Hampden-Sydney	0	2	0	4

Results

Randolph-Macon 24, Washington & Lee 3
 #8 Emory & Henry 37, Greensboro 3
 Guilford 25, Davidson 22
 Bridgewater 24, Hampden Sydney 0

Game Stats

	W&L vs. Randolph-Macon	
	W&L	RM
1st downs	10	23
Rushes/yds.	32-85	43-151
Passing yds.	102	309
Off. plays/yds	57-187	79-460
Time of Pos.	22:02	37:58

Also in this issue:

Page 5: A preview of next week's Homecoming game against Davidson

Pages 6&7: The rest of the Homecoming activities including Homecoming Queen nominations and the list of band parties

THE BIG FAN

BY SCOTT BOOKWALTER

Realignment could be headed for Lex

You know that your friendly campus sports columnist must have had a rough week when he hardly watched any of the scintillating first round baseball playoff action. Since I've been trying to dig my way through a stack of resumes and cover letters to send out, I could care less what Wilson Alvarez's pitch count is. Not that I would normally care. Fortunately, I can log onto the Internet from a computer lab or check the Headline News SportsTicker at 2 a.m. to see what I missed.

So far, it hasn't been much. Both of the NL first round series ended in sweeps, and Baltimore is preparing to do the same to Seattle in the AL. Only the Yankees-Indians series may go the full five games.

Although Atlanta and Florida were clearly the two most talented teams, I was still surprised that Houston and San Francisco were swept. The Astros and the Giants were two of the most pesky teams in baseball all season, and both held off late challenges to win their di-

visions. Yeah, all Houston had to do to capture the lousy NL Central was hold off penny-pinching Pittsburgh, but the Astros appeared on the verge of total collapse at several points this year only to somehow right their ship. After finishing last in 1996, the Giants' 1997 campaign was remarkable. They got hot at all the right times to outlast Los Angeles. It also helped that the Dodgers, the Titanic of baseball teams, collapsed in the last couple of weeks of the season.

The Orioles, meanwhile, were busy drubbing Randy Johnson and the Mariners in Seattle, which is nothing short of incredible. This just might be the Oriole's year. While the O's try to reach the World Series for the first time in 14 years, Atlanta will attempt to make it back for the fifth time in the past six postseasons. The Braves-Marlins series should be the classic. Both teams have solid starting line-ups and feature closers

See BIG FAN page 5

HOMECOMING PREVIEW

Generals hungry for their first taste of victory

By BRENDAN HARRINGTON
STAFF WRITER

The big Homecoming football game this weekend features two teams which are hoping to get back on the right track with a victory on Saturday at Wilson Field.

The Generals enter the game with an 0-4 record and are seeking their first victory of the season. The Davidson College Wildcats, an independent Division I-AA school, will enter with a record of 2-2 but have lost their last two games, including a 25-22 loss to Guilford. Guilford defeated the Generals 34-20 on Sept. 20 in Lexington.

Washington and Lee has failed to win a game thus far, but hopes to turn things around on Saturday. The Generals have especially struggled on offense as they have averaged a dismal 16.3 points per game.

The recent loss of junior wide receiver Chas Chastain has not helped their cause. Chastain's career was ended after he re-injured his knee against Guilford. "Chas is a very big loss; he's a great ballplayer and a great kid," commented Head Football Coach Frank Miriello.

Chastain is expected to stay involved in the program as a wide receivers coach, but his presence on the field will definitely be missed. However, the Generals are hoping for the return of senior wide receiver and team captain Nick Hodge, for Saturday's big game. Coach Miriello hopes that the return of the three-year starter Hodge might help jump-start the

struggling Generals' offense.

"Our offense is very young; we have a lot of freshmen and sophomores," said Miriello. "We need another big threat on offense and hopefully the experience and the ability of Hodge will help."

Despite the 0-4 start, there still seems to be a positive attitude among the players and coaching staff. Sophomore quarterback Christian Batchellor describes the team as positive and optimistic.

"The season isn't over, we still have six games left," said Batchellor. "We tend to finish strong, and I think it's just a matter of time before things start clicking."

The sentiment was similar on the coaching staff, as Coach Miriello describes his team as "hungry for their first win."

"We're used to coming into Homecoming with a losing record. We tend to rebound well from setbacks, and I know one will drop for us soon," Miriello added.

As for the upcoming game, Miriello describes Davidson as an "experienced team with an explosive offense." However, Miriello feels that Davidson's two recent losses showed some unexpected vulnerability, and he feels confident heading into Saturday's game.

"Our offense is coming around, and our defense is back playing typical Generals defense," said Miriello. "I think it will be a very competitive game."

For a listing of Homecoming activities, please see pages 6 & 7.

BIG FAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

with 100-mph fastballs. Although Atlanta won the NL East, Florida took 8 of the 12 games in the season series and has the best home record in the league.

Atlanta will probably prevail in this series because of its starting pitchers. Kevin Brown, Al Leiter, and Alex Fernandez are good pitchers, but they're not Maddux, Glavine and Smoltz. And, Tony Sanders isn't in the same hemisphere as Denny Neagle.

The other big issue in baseball lately, besides the Pete Rose case, is that realignment continues to fall

through. For all their dissension, the owners are unanimous on two things: realignment needs to take place, and no owner wants his team to move. The first plan was to put Arizona in the NL West and Tampa Bay in the AL Central, and move Kansas City to the AL West. But Kansas City didn't want to move (although under the current format, it would play more games outside its division than inside it). Then a radical plan, which would have completely geographically aligned the major leagues, apparently made too much sense, so the owners shot it down. Another plan involving seven teams switching leagues was also put on hold, so now the situation is back to square one.

Never fear, for I have come up with the solution: send 'em all to Vir-

ginia. There would be no more geographical complaints if everyone played within 100 miles of each other.

Minnesota, Milwaukee and Colorado would move to the AL Central and Seattle, Arizona, and the five remaining California teams would form the AL West. The remaining 16 teams would be split off into four NL divisions:

NL Skyline: Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Staunton, Fairfield

NL Maury: Goshen, Rockbridge Baths, Natural Bridge, Glasgow

NL I-64: Lexington, Buena Vista, Clifton Forge, Covington

NL Deep South: Buchanan, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Blacksburg

This new format would create intense rivalries. Can you imagine the bad blood between the Goshen Red

Sox and the Rockbridge Baths Yankees? How about the Lexington Kegs (renamed from the Devil Rays) visiting the BV Marlins with the division crown on the line? And wait until Albert Belle and the Lynchburg White Sox get their first glance at the raucous Buchanan Indians' crowd. The possibilities are endless.

Don't laugh too much, because anything could happen at this point. The Twins are already talking about relocating to North Carolina, so major league baseball could be coming to Rockbridge sooner than we think. Maybe some wealthy alumnus could chip in a few million dollars so Lexington can enter the expansion draft and begin construction on 50,000-seat Natty Light Park. After all, if you build it, they will come.

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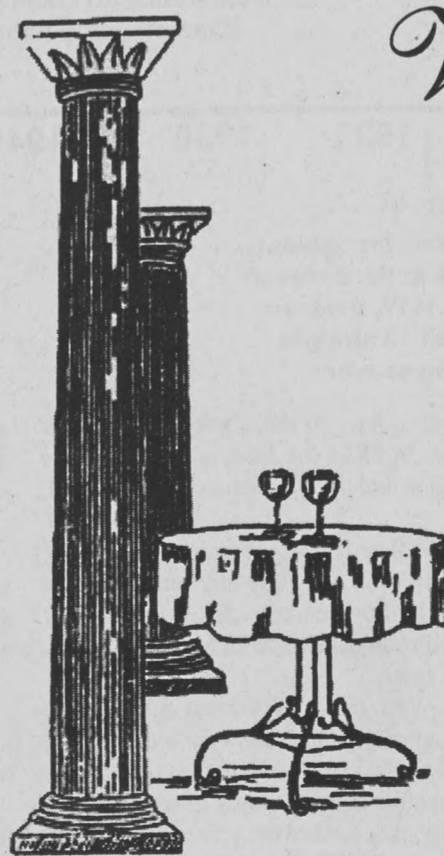
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Traditions

This is the way things were, back when pajama-clad freshmen paraded Lexington's streets carrying torches, when football was great and Homecoming drew thousands of people to the bleachers at Wilson Field. This is how it was.

COURTNEY MILLER
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

1925 — The Bonfire

"Get Virginia, Get Virginia, Get Virginia..." Friday evening, 1000 students, alumni and faculty gathered for a pep rally. Bonfires roared, the band played and supporters' yelled out.

The first speaker, Cy Young, graduated in 1916 and earned 16 varsity letters during his time at W&L and led the first of the university's truly dominating teams — teams that are part of the 13 winning seasons from 1905-1914. He traveled from Helena, Ark., and continued to travel to each of the Generals' games during the 1920s.

The second speaker, G.H. Denny, a former W&L president who had gone on to become president of the University of Alabama, which was criticized for stealing the W&L Swing and calling it the Alabama Swing. Denny, still fond of W&L, told the crowd, the alumni, "Strip the Washington and Lee Campus of every building and every dollar, and are left some things more precious than silver and gold."

The Game

On a cold, wet Saturday, thousands of people crowded Wilson Field to watch the Generals play University of Virginia. It was, as the 1925 Alumni Magazine announced: "The First Official Annual Homecoming Day."

Tickets were \$2 and seats were reserved. Students were advised that extra seats were added at each end of Wilson Field — enough to accommodate 10,000 people. November was selected for the annual game because it was the most convenient time of the year for alumni to return. Fraternity House managers opened the houses to visiting alumni. The railroads offered special rates from all over the state, tickets for the game were sold in Roanoke, Lynchburg and Staunton.

Local merchants were asked to

close their stores during the afternoon so that everyone in town could attend the game. It seemed the whole state of Virginia turned out for W&L's first homecoming.

It was wet day, but the Generals played well. As one reporter in the *Ring-tum Phi* wrote:

"Sloshing around in the mud, though, did not dampen the ardor of either the Generals or their enthusiastic supporters so that for the third consecutive time Washington and Lee triumphed over her traditional foe, the University of Virginia."

The final score was 12-0.

The Dance

They held the first after-football dance that night. Southern Collegians, the school's orchestra, provided the music. According to the *Phi*, "A large crowd from Virginia are expected to attend the dance, and an equally large number of girls."

This dance, soon evolved into an event called "Openings." The gymnasium would be lavishly decorated and sometime during the dance, the Homecoming Queen would be crowned.

Big-time Football

Those were the early years, the years traditions began. Between 1925 and the mid 1960s these traditions and other traditions such as Fraternity decorations, freshmen parades, the 13 Club, pep rallies continued.

For years at Homecoming the Alumni Association awarded a prize to the fraternity with the best decorations. Fraternities decorated their front lawns (if they had them) or their houses. They made banners and carried them during the Freshman Torchlight Parade.

The bonfire and pep rally eventually expanded to include a parade. The night before the game, freshmen in their pajamas and other students gathered in the gym for a pep rally. W&L's (male) cheerleaders would lead students in cheers and speeches would be given by the coaches and players.

After students became enthused and spirited, the freshmen, pajama

clad, would carry torches through Lexington's streets.

Another group of football supporters, known as the 13 Club, used Homecoming as a marker for initiation. Thirteen days before Homecoming, the 13 Club would begin its initiation period of its 13 new pledges (who had paid their initiation fee of \$13.13) from 13 different fraternities. At some point during these 13 days, it was usual for the statue of Cyrus McCormack to be tarred and feathered and the base covered with little 13s.

The 1960s

The frivolity of these traditions soon clashed with the serious state of the country. Most of the traditions died in the late 1960s when the Vietnam war was more important than traditions.

But it was also a time of new traditions, Keith Shillington, professor of chemistry, began his own. He crowned the Homecoming queen and planted a big kiss on her cheek at the football game. In 1990 he was unable to participate because of a stroke, and he retired the next year.

The last mention, in the *Phi*, of a house winning a decorations award was Lambda Chi in 1969. The writer stated: "It seems that for the most part, an alumnus returning to campus is a lonely experience."

In 1970, Homecoming received only passing attention in the *Phi*. Besides noting its existence, the article informed students of the Friday night concert, a tradition continued today, and the Saturday game.

After the game there was a grain party in Red Square. Startling when contrasted with the 1955 Homecoming issue of the *Phi*. In which the E.C. stated its policy on drinking in public would be strictly enforced.

The class of 1925, had their reunion that year.

1990s

After Shillington's retirement in

1990,

a new tradition was born.

The crowning of the queen was turned over to the student body. They in turn created a spectacle of skydivers and a sealed envelope.

In 1992, the Homecoming parade was restored. It looked a little different: no torches, just floats. But was its first appearance in a quarter of a century. Kathekon, the student-alumni relations committee, is responsible for reviving the Homecoming parade.

The parade featured a variety of participants. Non-W&L parade members included fire departments, marching bands, and Mayor Homer E. Derrick.

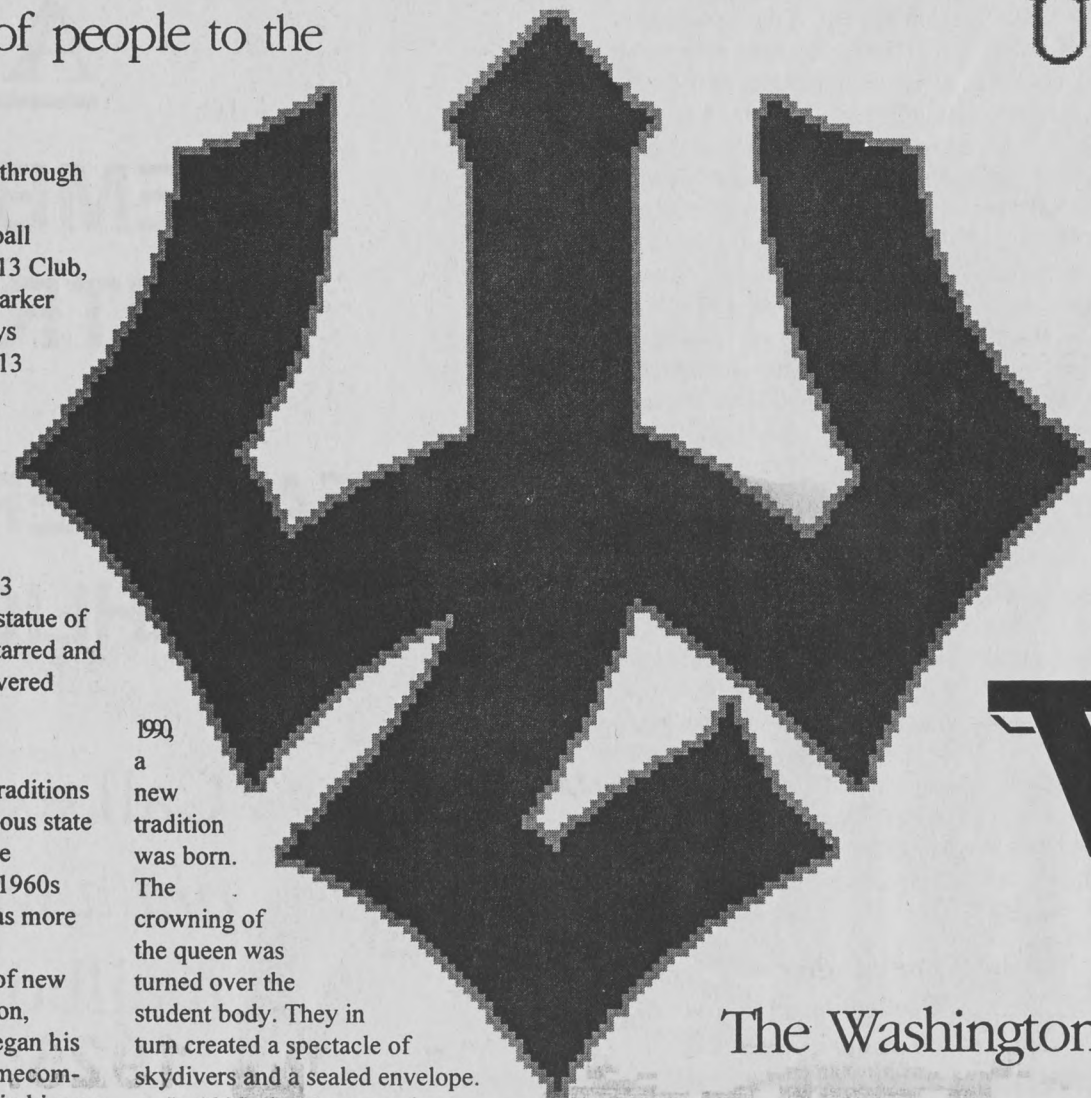
Alumni groups involved in the event included the Five-Star Generals, and the class of 1938 complete with the mysterious Hotchkiss Llama. Various campus organizations and every W&L sorority and fraternity also participated.

1997

This year marked the loss of the traditional parade and the introduction of a new tradition — the banner.

The crowning of the Queen will continue during half-time. The best things never die.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



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The Washington and Lee Swing

Come cheer for Washington and Lee,
We're going to win another victory;
The White and Blue will ever wave in triumph,
For the University. RAH! RAH! RAH!
Fight to the finish we are with you,
Break thru the line on every play;
rush the ball on down the field
and we will win this game today.

When Washington and Lee's men fall in line,
We're going to win again another time;
For W&L I yell, I yell, I yell,
And for the University, I yell like hell
And we will fight! Fight! Fight! for every yard;

Yes by God! RAH! RAH! RAH!



1873
The Generals open their first football season — making the team older than the Phi

1934
The Generals went 7-3 with a 4-0 mark in the Southern Conference to claim the championship flag.

1968
Following Coach Lee McLaughlin's tragic death, W&L goes 10 years without a winning season.

1997
The Generals fight for their first win this season against Davidson. The Wildcats beat W&L 23-12 last season.

THE HISTORY OF

W&L FOOTBALL

1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990

1917
The Generals first golden football era ends. Between 1905 and 1917, the team reeled off 13 straight winning seasons.

1954
W&L football changes forever — the Board of Trustees abolishes athletic scholarships in order to emphasize academics.

1981
The Generals, under Coach Gary Fallon, win their first ODAC championship. It is the first of six straight winning seasons for the team.

COURTNEY MILLER

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Washington and Lee's football tradition began 124 years ago in a game against Virginia Military Institute.

Not only was it the first meeting between the two schools, it is recognized by many historians as the first college football game ever played in the South. W&L's first official season began in 1890. The schedule expanded to include other southern schools and annual games against VMI became a battle for bragging rights.

In the early part of the century, the Generals experienced a golden era of football. The team had thirteen consecutive winning seasons from 1905 to 1917 and in 1914 picked up their first title by winning the South Atlantic Championship. The team continued

to win, but it was another 20 years before they picked up another title. In 1934 the Generals claimed the championship flag under the direction of coach W.E. "Tex" Tilson.

During World War II, the program stopped, but resumed action in 1946. By 1950 the team was back on the gridiron. Led by quarterback Gil Bocetti and future NFL All-Pro linebacker Walt Michaels, W&L won the league title.

A year later, W&L made its first and only trip to a post-season bowl game. On New Year's Day 1951, the team played against Wyoming in the Gator Bowl. Michaels was unable to play because of appendicitis, the team lost 20-7 and finished the year ranked No. 18.

The glory days of W&L football ended in 1954. Two players were caught turning in tests with exactly the same responses. The Executive Committee began

an investigation and when the dust settled, incriminating evidence forced 14 football players and one cheerleader to withdraw.

The scandal, coupled with a debt incurred from athletic scholarships forced the Board of Trustees to stop awarding athletic scholarships. Although most alumni protested, the Trustees decided to emphasize academics over athletics. Big-time football had to go.

This decision left the football team decimated. Freshman recruits decided on other schools as did most of the remaining scholarship players. The winning stopped.

And it didn't start until Lee McLaughlin was hired as head coach. His excellent coaching skills turned the forgotten team into a powerhouse of football again.

The 1959 Generals turned in back-to-back immaculate seasons. The 1961 undefeated team was rec-

ognized as the best small team in the nation and *Sports Illustrated* devoted six pages to the team.

The team continued to win under McLaughlin's coaching, but after his tragic death in 1968 the team lost its magic. The Generals didn't have another winning season for 10 years.

In 1978, Gary Fallon arrived and woke the team up. In 1981 they won the school's first ever Old Dominion Athletic Conference championship. Fallon and the Generals won it again in 1985.

After Fallon's unexpected death in 1995, his defensive coordinator, Frank Miriello, began coaching the team. He has led W&L to back-to-back winning seasons or better seasons and was named the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1996.

The team has yet to win this season.

This year it's banners not floats

Staff Writer
ington and Lee is
ed for its traditions
us it's fitting that
ring witnesses the
parade, and the be-
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ars ago, the Home-
composed prima-

rily of Greek floats built by pledges, was revived as one of the activities for the first big weekend of the school year.

Kathekon, the student-alumni relations committee, revived the parade with the help of the Alumni Office. The parade tradition dates back to the first Homecoming in 1925 and was discontinued in the 1970's

labor to build the time-consuming floats. Although all four sororities and two non-Greek floats sauntered along Lexington's streets, only two fraternities entered. This lack of participation sent a tacit message to the Alumni Office. The floats were not a top priority with the students.

Assistant alumni director Frances Smith, class of 1996, said "For a Homecoming parade to be a success, it needs to be student owned and really desired as something to rally around. Students need to want to participate, but as it was last year, it was too much of a struggle trying to get students involved.

As an alternative to the parade, there will be a banner competition. Kathekon will provide the Greek organizations and various other clubs with most of the necessary materials; each group is encouraged to decorate its banner in a way which expresses its individuality, and at the same time, supports Homecoming.

The banners will be displayed in the Dining Hall tomorrow morning, and then

moved on Friday afternoon to the fence surrounding Wilson Field. In an effort to help freshmen feel included in Homecoming activities, freshmen will judge the banners in the Dining Hall on Thursday and Friday.

"I think that the banners area good idea because they will show support for the football team during the game," said senior Berry Blankinship.

Many students are unaware of the preparations that an event such as Homecoming requires. Preparations for Homecoming are handled entirely by a three-person staff in the alumni office, with little student participation; planning begins in July, and it entails working with the Lexington Police Department and other organizations in the community.

Thus, "When the police department wanted a guarantee of good

student participation, we (the alumni planners) had to rethink whether the parade would be in everyone's best interest," said Smith.

Additionally, planners had noticed that the annual Homecoming parade was taking some of the excitement away from the Mock Convention parade.

"With a student body as small as W&L's, there just wasn't enough support to justify having that many parades," added Smith. As a result, it was decided to skip the parade this year.

Next year, a 250th anniversary parade is planned, and it will be run solely by a student committee in an effort to make the parade a student activity again.

Most students seem to support the planners' decision. "I think not having a parade is a good idea. The floats were a waste of time and no one went to the parade anyway," said Ryan Jancaitis, sophomore.

As for the future of this latest twist on Homecoming, Smith says, "The banners are an easy tradition to continue because they do not take 100 percent participation, and yet they can still be a success."

FRESHMAN!
Be sure to vote for the best banner either Thursday or Friday in the Dining Hall.

AND LEE
Y
IDSON



The Bands

- ΒΘΠ The Convertibles
- ΧΨ Fighting Gravity
- ΚΑ Liquid Pleasure
- ΚΣ Belizbeha
- ΛΧΑ Bobby Messano
- ΦΔΘ Phunk-o-Matic
- ΦΓΔ Closed
- ΦΚΨ Closed
- ΦΚΣ Deep Banana Blackout
- ΠΚΑ probation
- ΠΚΦ Spit Shine Nine
- ΣΑΕ Stayin' Alive
- ΣΧ Uncle Mingo
- ΣΝ Lovestone
- ΣΦΕ Funky Soul Symbols

1925: The first Homecoming story

THIS ARTICLE IS TAKEN FROM THE NOVEMBER 7, 1925 ISSUE OF THE RING-TUM PHI. IN CONTINUING OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, WE ARE LETTING OUR READERS KNOW WHAT WE'VE DONE IN THE LAST 100 YEARS.

Home-coming and the annual clash of the Generals and the Cavaliers will undoubtedly attract a record breaking crowd to Wilson field this Saturday, according to the advance sale of tickets recorded in the graduate manager's office. Mail orders for tickets have been swarming in to the office from all parts of the state and from other states. Several blocks of good tickets have been put on sale in Roanoke and other surrounding towns.

Extra seats have been added at each end of Wilson field and every available foot of space will be converted into seating capacity by Saturday afternoon. There are accommodation for more than 6,000 now and it is expected that there will be plenty of room for a crowd of over 10,000.

A petition will be made to the local merchants to the effect that they close their stores so everyone may attend the game.

All students who do not have tickets by Thursday night will have to pay the regular price of \$2.00.

The Phi Delta Phi goats and the Lexington High School football team will serve as ushers for the game. Special rates to Lexington from all parts of the state

are being given by the railroads for the game. A special train will run from Charlottesville, arriving here just before the game. The entire student body of the University of Virginia will

be present for the occasion, occupying the stadium seats, while the Washington and Lee students will be located on the opposite side of the field in the new bleachers recently purchased by the athletic association.

Most of the fraternity houses here are planning to receive their alumni this week-end, to help in the celebration for the big game, and to participate in a general reunion.



SING IT BABY "The Washington and Lee Swing" has remained for 80 years the most popular and most widely imitated fight song in collegiate history. It is the first victory song ever composed for a university by its students.

A copy of it was carried into space on the Shuttle Columbia by U.S. astronaut and W&L graduate, G. David Low. In 1958, Louis 'Satchmo' Armstrong played at a W&L Homecoming "and ended on a screaming note with the 'Washington and Lee Swing,'" according to the Ring-tum Phi - 1958.



THE QUEEN Natalia Garcia, 1996 Homecoming Queen, with her date Glen Miller. File Photo

And the nominees for best female at a Washington & Lee Homecoming are ...

- ΒΘΠ Ashley Penkava, sophomore
- ΧΨ Enid Dean, junior
- ΚΑ Laura Wareing, senior
- ΚΣ Miller Wild, senior
- ΛΧΑ Catherine Quinn, junior
- ΦΔΘ Ericka Shapard, senior
- ΦΓΔ Mary New, senior
- ΦΚΨ Sarah Nash, sophomore
- ΦΚΣ Anne Lamar Brown, senior
- ΠΚΑ has other things on their mind
- ΠΚΦ Erica Reineke, senior
- ΣΑΕ Kathy Kitchens, senior
- ΣΧ Christian Adams Stevens, senior
- ΣΝ Amy Scott, sophomore from Sweet Briar
- ΣΦΕ Berry Blankinship, senior
- ΚΔ Caroline Keen, junior
- ΠΒΦ Dana Hood, senior
- ΧΘ Jennifer Justema, senior
- ΚΚΓ Carter Shaw, senior
- ΚΑΘ Jennifer Owens, senior
- ΜSA Tonia Dean, senior
- I-Club Diana Vaamonde Martin

Ms. Etiquette

SIMPLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE SOCIALLY CHALLENGED



Miss Etiquette's tip of the Week: Be careful of what you say to potential dates; choose the right pick-up line for the right person. For a more in-depth look, see below ...

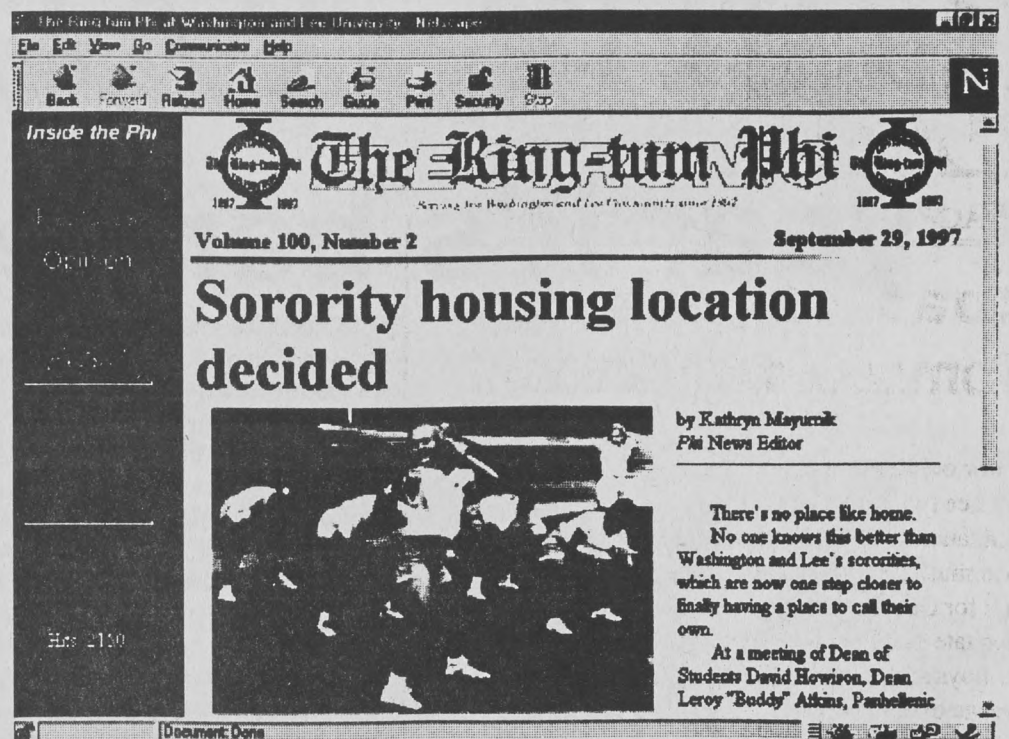
Dear Ms. Etiquette, I've been here less than a month and I'm already bored with the Lexington night life. Don't get me wrong — I love the frat parties; they just have become a bit monotonous. How can I spice up my life?
-Bored in Lex

Dear Bored, A weekend escapade could be just what the doctor ordered. After spending a weekend at another university, you'll come to appreciate W&L's small-town charm. Here at W&L, you don't have to worry about someone throwing up on your feet or getting trampled to death by a mosh pit. Appreciate it while you can. Your four years will be up before you know it and you will no longer be able to view boys dancing like animals on a regular basis!

- For all y'all who still haven't snagged a Homecoming date, here are Ms. Etiquette's most successful pick-up lines:
1. Are you in my _____ class?
 2. Didn't I see you on the Hill yesterday? (This could be dangerous if said to someone who doesn't go here.)
 3. Are you a freshman? (Be careful — recipient may find this insulting, especially if not a freshman.)
 4. Did you do your _____ homework yet? (While a good conversation starter, this can make you look nerdy.)
 5. Where'd you get those khakis? Eddie Bauer or J-Crew?
 6. You've gotta stop by sometime and see my new confederate flag. (Warning — could scare off unsuspecting Northerners, Westerners or Liberals.)
 7. Would you buy for me tonight? (Never ask this of a potential beau. This is tres-embarrassing.)
 8. So, what'd you think of the vote today in Congress? Do you think the new Campaign Finance Reform legislation will pass? (This will not make you appear smart; move on, C-School junkie.)
 9. Can I get you a Nattie-Light?
 10. Do you want to come over and see my awards from High School? I was Valedictorian, you know! (Bad idea. Here at W&L, you're just another general in khakis.)

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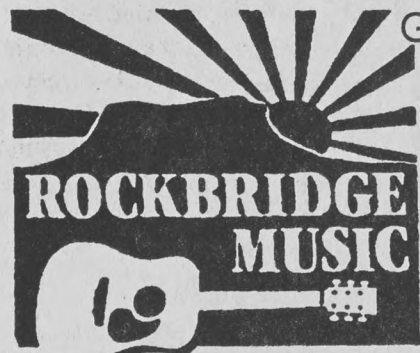
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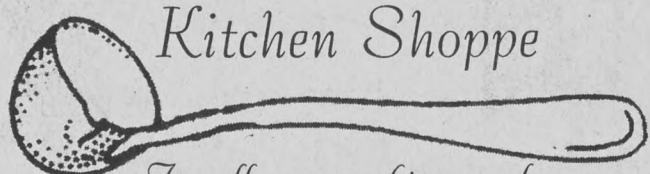


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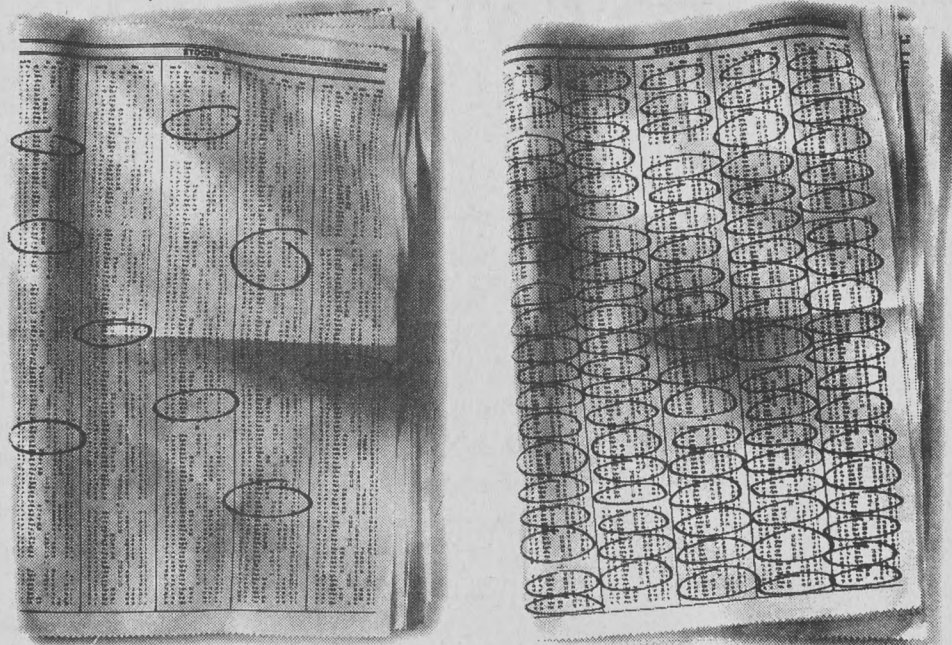


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Opinion & Editorial

PAGE 9 OCT. 6, 1997

Road-cheese Homecoming Queen?

For over a decade now, the boys at Washington and Lee (we're not referring to the general male population as "men" because that is a title that boys must earn) have not had to go as far to find girls for date functions ... but wait! Despite the adequate number of women right here on campus, our boys still hop in their sport-utility vehicles and voyage over to Sweet Briar, Hollins and Mary Baldwin to entice those girls (who aren't lesbians) to come to W&L for various parties, date functions and, yes, even Homecoming.

Although some W&L women dream of someday being Homecoming Queen, their chances are limited because a number of the fraternities in the past (only ONE fraternity, and you know who you are, nominated "road cheese" this year) have nominated "road cheese" for the W&L Homecoming Queen title. Let's say that one more time: W&L Homecoming Queen. This is our school, and that means that one of our women should be Queen. We do not refute the fact that some of the girls from the all-female schools are attractive and nice, but guys, wake up! Look around you. There are hundreds of attractive, friendly, intelligent women right here at W&L. Or do intelligent women intimidate you?

We also do not refute the fact that most of the "road cheese," since they lack the presence of males at their schools, are more than willing to come to W&L frat parties, hook up and/or spend the weekend (we know of girls who claim to be coming for a party, yet they have three-days' worth of luggage secured in the trunks of their cars ... how convenient!)

Guys, don't get us wrong; we don't expect every boy here to find the woman of his dreams here as well. But we would ask that you stop overlooking the incredible females right under your noses (no, not literally ... that would be a Hollins girl) and ask some of us to functions at our own school for a change. Many wonderful females are left dateless or must resort to asking VMI cadets.

If the tables were turned, and W&L was surrounded by all-male schools, how would you boys feel if you weren't able to get a Homecoming date? Take a walk in our shoes for a change ... those heels hurt you feet, don't they?

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

I can't take any more country music! It's melting my brain!

— Anonymous foreign student

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Girls, Girls, Girls on Broadway

I have never met an expert on erotic dancing, but at least twelve Roanoke citizens have.

On Tuesday, jurors in the trial of "art" establishment "Girls, Girls, Girls" met Judith Hanna, a doctor of anthropology and "expert on erotic dancing," according to *The Roanoke Times*. Hanna testified that stripping is an art form and that

Red Brick Row

David Balsley '99

the obscenity charges against the club were unmerited.

In court, Hanna compared stripping to ballet and argued that erotic dancing requires artistic skill similar to what you would see at a circus.

I admit I was unaware that circus performers have artistic skill. I was also unaware that erotic dancing is a possible topic of research.

For Dr. Hanna it is; she has spent 37 years researching dance, apparently including the kind which involves a runway, a pole and flashing lights. Her work has taken her to 23 striptease clubs across the country. Her expertise has been requested in numerous courtrooms, according to *The Roanoke Times*.

The nature of Dr. Hanna's work raises a few questions.

First, how did she decide that this was what she wanted to do with her life? At a young age, when all the other little girls told their kindergarten teachers that they wanted to be doctors and lawyers, did she run around screaming, "I'm

going to spend my life in strip bars!" Is she following a pattern of behavior which she learned from her father/mother/sick Uncle Leroy?

Second is Dr. Hanna's book, "To Dance Is Human: A Theory of Non-verbal Communication," only sold in stores which also feature private viewing booths? Does it consist mostly of pictures? Would other "scholars" frequent such stores in order to do "research"?

Third, where would Dr. Hanna take her friends? On Friday night, if she turned to you and said, "I know about this great little club across town, do you want to go?" what would you say?

Dr. Hanna's testimony from the trial is even more interesting than her line of work.

At the trial, Dr. Hanna argued that the female body is of special interest to many because we all come from the female body, according to *The Roanoke Times*. Men like strippers, then, because they remind them of their mothers. That would explain why, among the cries of "Hot damn!" and "Yeah, baby, yeah!", men frequently shout at strip clubs, "Hi, Mom, I did well on my math test."

Dr. Hanna also compared the stripping at "Girls, Girls, Girls" to a Broadway production. If Broadway is anything like a strip club, I'll skip "Cats."

Dr. Hanna's 37 years of research was not enough to convince the Roanoke jury. "Girls, Girls, Girls" was found guilty and fined the maximum possible punishment, despite Dr. Hanna's efforts.

The owner of the establishment has vowed that the club will remain open, however, and that the dancers will keep dancing.

"Art" marches on.

The grinch who stole Saturday night

In a far away land, with the yellow-nosed zouses, Live happy fratboys in their happy frat-houses. The Phi Dels, the Fijis, the PiKAs and Pi Phis, The Phi Kaps, the SPes, the Snus and the Chi Pisis. They party all day, they party all night. They party with gallons of Natural Light.

The Looney Bin

Kevin McManemin '00

But a grouchy old grinch lived right next door. He getting quite sick of no sleep before four. The grinch wanted peace and he wanted some quiet. (He would get better sleep in a thirty-block riot.) But the grinch had a devious thought in his head — Steal all their beer and they'll then go to bed.

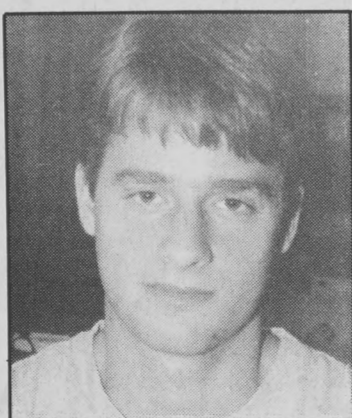
The very next morning, passed out on the floor, They missed the grinch sneaking in through the door. He took the hard liquor and drained all the taps. He stole all the Coors, the Bud and the Pabst. He smashed all their bottles of rum and of gin, And flushed all the Becks and the Killian.

Still, that night, the grinch heard a sound — The thumping quake of a DJ shaking the ground. They party without liquor, they party without beer! They party with smiles and with laughter and cheer! They laugh without drinking, the miserable lot! They ... oh, I see, they're all smoking pot!

The fratboys partied without beer in their mugs. The fratboys moved on to more powerful drugs. The true spirit of getting wasted lived on, With their crack and their smack and the weed in their bong. And so, the grinch learned, through this miserable verse, That trying to change things just made it all worse.

Author's note: This is no way a condemnation of the BYOB policy, which is really not so much an attempt to irradiate alcohol as an attempt to see just how silly and ineffective a policy the IFC can come up with. The BYOB policy is so funny that making jokes about it is unnecessary.

TALKback: Who is Bruce Hornsby and can you name his songs?



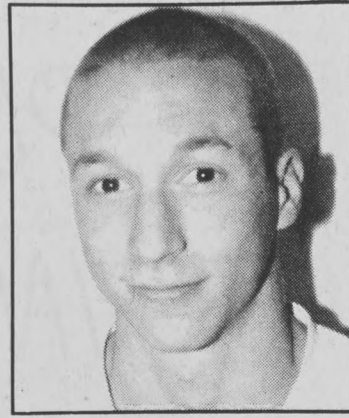
"I know something about a 'piano man,' but I don't think that's his him."

—Johnny Bubb '00



"Yeah, we do. We're his biggest fans."

—Vanessa Chen '01,
Megan Mulligan '01



"Not before I read the titles."

—Kenneth Ervin '00



Drinking not solely a fraternity experience

"The answer, I think, is for colleges and universities to do away with the selective campus fraternities and sororities that have bullied, insulted and hazed their students for generations." —Walter Kirn, *The New York Times*, October 3, 1997.

From a Bar Stool

Eric Swensen '98

I don't know how many of you read *The New York Times*, so it's likely you missed Kirn's column. In light of the alcohol-related deaths of two fraternity pledges in the last few weeks and his own experiences as an undergraduate at Princeton, Kirn believes all fraternities and sororities should be abolished, saying that fraternities and other social clubs "exploit students' desperate hunger to fit in" by encouraging, even pressuring them to drink heavily.

Kirn is sadly mistaken if he believes the pressure to fit in and the pressure to drink are restricted solely to college fraternities. My first year-and-a-half of high school was miserable, basically because I didn't drink, while everyone else did. Once I was more or less dragged out of my house by some teammates on the basketball team to drink with them, the last two-and-a-half years of high school was a wild ride and a crazy time. Alcohol opened the door to all that fun.

Kirn also cites surveys that show fraternity members drink more and are more likely to engage in binge drinking. I have no surveys to back up my claims, but rather some powerful anecdotal evidence I've picked up on my visits to other college campuses, places Kirn probably hasn't been to in 20 years.

Two years ago, during Thanksgiving break, I went to see a friend of mine at Marist College. I arrived at his dorm room around 4:30 on a Saturday afternoon. My friend asked me if I wanted to go to a "drink-up" at a bar in town, which consisted of all the beer you could drink for five dollars from 5-10 p.m.

We were the first two customers in the bar at

five after five, and we stayed until the bouncers kicked us out at five after 10. Suffice to say, this kind of offer doesn't encourage the average college student to merely sip his beer. Later that night (or so I was told by my incredulous friend the next morning), I dove head-first off a bunk bed onto the concrete floor. Yet, strangely, I didn't see a fraternity man all night or go anywhere near a fraternity house.

However, Kirn's column makes a more damaging assertion, at least indirectly. What he is saying is that fraternity and sorority houses are nothing more than places to drink and party. I don't believe this is true. Being an officer in a fraternity or sorority can provide excellent leadership or financial experience.

As far as I know, every fraternity on this campus maintains a cold test file, designed to help their brothers succeed academically. Many fraternities do fundraisers or other community service projects. Last weekend, for example, Beta held a football tournament to help pay the funeral expenses for their cook, who died over the summer.

So why, then, are fraternities' reputations so poor? The potential to do the positive things mentioned above go untapped more often than not. Think about how fraternities sell themselves to potential new members. Rush is often nothing more than one long party.

Once these freshmen pledge, what do fraternities do to show pledges that there is more to fraternity life than band parties and kegs in the country? Fraternities make themselves easy targets by encouraging portrayals of themselves as nothing more than a place to party.

Fraternities are under siege. I guarantee that there are college administrators throughout the country reading Kirn's column and agreeing wholeheartedly with what he proposes. Fraternities here aren't threatened. Not yet, anyway. Fraternities need to differentiate themselves from two dollar pitcher specials at The Palms. Otherwise, when you come back for Alumni Weekend ten years from now, your fraternity house may be substance-free, and fraternity-free as well.

"Kirn is sadly mistaken if he believes the pressure to fit in and the pressure to drink are restricted solely to college fraternities..."

High school textbooks in Lex?

True story:

Wednesday in my 9 a.m. class, Sarah Meldrum informs me that I should stop by the library to pick up a lost item.

"A what?" I ask.

"You left something there last year,

Red Brick Row

David Balsley '99

and you should go pick it up," she repeats. "Your name is on the list." That's strange, I think. I don't remember losing anything last year. So I forget about it.

Class ends; I do homework, eat lunch, go to lab. An uneventful day.

At the end of lab, Sarah asks, "Are you going to go to the library to get your lost item?"

Yeah, I think I will, I say. I am curious to see what they have waiting for me.

At the circulation desk of the library, I find the list of people who have left things at the library.

My name is on it. It's misspelled, but it's me.

I tell Kelley Joy from across the desk that I lost something last year.

"It's Balsley," right?" she asks.

"Yes," I say, "but it's misspelled."

Kelley walks to a set of shelves,

looks around a little, and pulls down something and hands it to me.

"Here you go," she says.

I look at my lost item.

"What is this?" I ask.

Before me sits a large, burgundy book, about the size and weight of a Bible. I flip through it a little.

Kelley asks, "What?"

Sure enough, "Somehow, I think, my English textbook from my senior year has traveled hundreds of miles from Pittsburgh, Penn... (and) has managed to return itself to me."

I flip through it some more. I recognize short stories and poems.

"What is this?" I ask again.

I turn the book over so I can read its cover. It's the sixth edition of *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense*, edited by Laurence Perrine and Thomas R. Arp. I open it again.

I recognize "Bartleby the Scrivener" by Herman Melville. I recognize "Defender of the Faith" by Philip Roth. Without thinking I start to look for Ernest Hemingway's "Hills Like White Elephants." I have always liked that story — since I read it in high school.

I have always liked that story — since I read it in high school.

"Oh my God," I say to myself.

Kelley again asks, "What?"

I turn to the front of the book again. Inside someone has stamped, beside my name, "PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACT195."

I am holding my English textbook from my senior year of high school.

How did this get here? I wonder. Did I bring it with me? What would I have used it for?

It's possible that I packed it and brought it with me freshman year — no, wait, "Property

of the State of Pennsylvania"; I returned this to my teacher Mrs. Lynch at the end of my senior year.

But the book's here, I think.

Somehow, I think, my English textbook from my senior year of high school has traveled hundreds of miles from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and through the services of Leyburn Library, has managed to return itself to me.

I tell Kelley: "I think my high school textbooks are stalking me."

True story.

the ring-tum phi welcomes letters to the editor

So write to us already! There are four different ways you can get your letter to us!

First, you can e-mail it to phi@wlu.edu, or drop it in the Phi's "Drop Box" on the L: drive of Jefferson.

If computers and e-mail are not your thing, you can put it in our mailbox in the University Center. If you want to walk a little further, you can take it to our offices at room

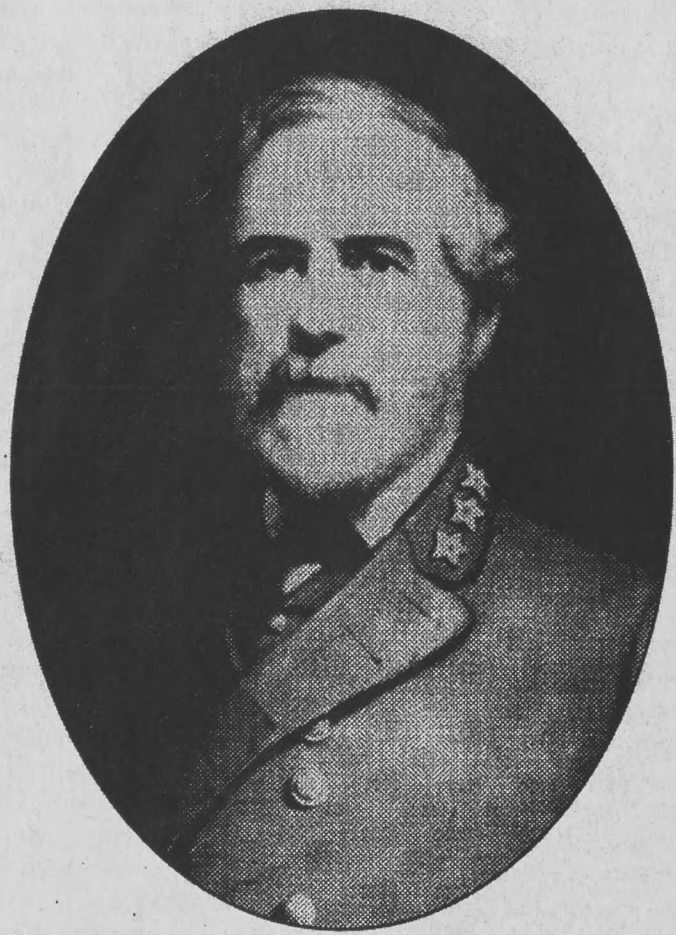
208 in the University Center.

All letters should be limited to 500 words, and we may edit your letter. Anonymous letters will only be published at the approval of the Executive Editors (they look like us, but are secretly powered by a force they call "A.P. Style").

If you have questions, please feel free to call our offices at 462-4060.



SHOE
by Jeff MacNelly



Remembering General Robert E. Lee

*A Memorial Service
Commemorating The 127th
Anniversary of His Death*

Sunday Afternoon, 12 October 1997
at Five Minutes Past Two O'Clock

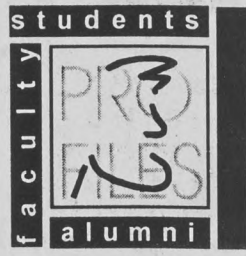
Lee Chapel

Washington and Lee University

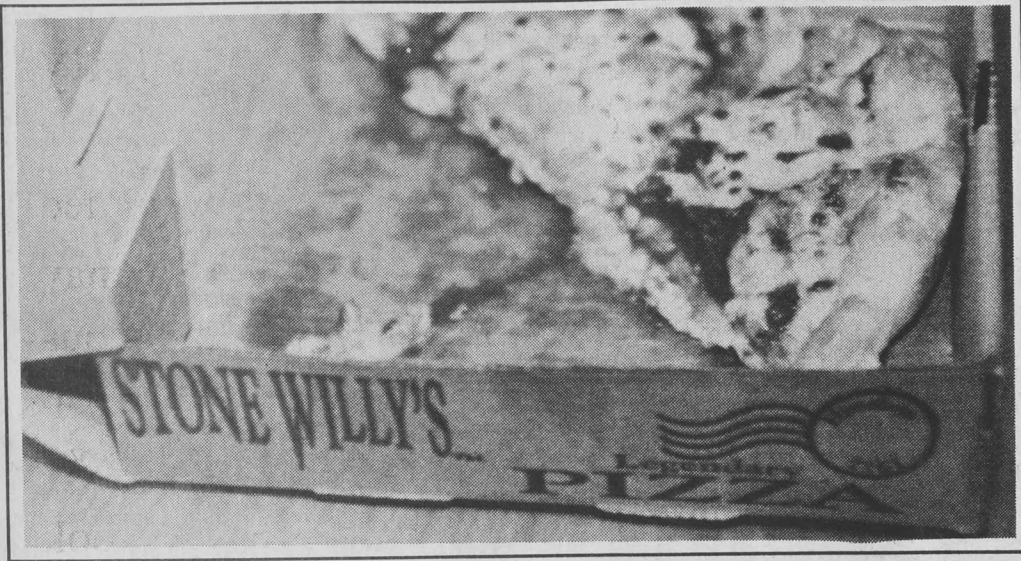
*PUBLIC
INVITED*

GUEST SPEAKER:
Mary Tyler Cheek McClenahan

Pizza in the Co-op: morning, noon and night



A musician in our midst: Senior Mary New finds expression through the cello



MMMM! Stone Willy's Pizza is a popular entree in the Coop. Students and faculty purchase around 900 pizzas a week.

HOLLISTER HOVEY/
PHOTO EDITOR

BY GABRIELLE BEST — STAFF WRITER

Mary may be a typical name, but Mary Taylor New is far from a typical girl. This modest senior may be Washington and Lee's most talented cellist. Born and bred in Richmond, Va., New continued a family tradition by attending W&L after graduating from St. Catherine's School. "My grandfather, father and two older brothers came here, but I am the first girl!" says Mary.



New

BY SYBIL PRINCE

STAFF WRITER

learned long ago: "Leave the cooking to someone else." In past years the Co-op would follow its own recipes to make the dough and sauce for the pizzas. The *chef du jour* might add a little more of this or a little less of that - the result? Less than appetizing.

Move over Domino's — Stone Willy has come to Lexington

It's 10 p.m. on a Tuesday. You have about hundred hours left of studying to do and your stomach is as empty as a beer bottle on a Friday night. Your taste buds are screaming "pizza, pizza," but your wallet is screaming "Hey, don't look at me! I haven't seen anything green for a week."

What do you do? Well, you could join the hundreds of other Washington and Lee students who have discovered the delicious yet "wallet comforting" taste of Stone Willy's Pizza.

W&L's Co-op rescued students from the "I'm too poor to call Dominoes or Pizza Hut" blues. Cheese lovers, carnivores and veggie lovers can satisfy their pizza cravings at the Co-op.

"The sausage pizza was good; I genuinely enjoyed it," said Sonia Hall, sophomore.

This is a 180-degree turn around from the feelings students held about prior pizzas. "Last year's pizza was really bad," recalled, Ezer Bados, sophomore.

What accounts for this sharp contrast? Well, it's a simple concept that kitchen illiterates and couch potatoes

"Now we buy pre-made dough and sauce," says co-op manager Don Burch. "The result is a better quality pizza with a more consistent taste."

W&L students show their appreciation for the tongue-tempting treat by purchasing almost nine hundred pizzas a week. That's a lot of dough!

Probably a lot more than Miss Willia P. Stone ever expected.

According to the legend, Miss Willia P. Stone was the world famous explorer, writer and culinary innovator who founded the Stone Ground Flour and Breads Company.

But not all students are in favor of the flavor. "It tastes average if you're really hungry. I wouldn't eat it if I had another choice," said Colleen Benjamin, freshman.

"Sometimes it's good, sometimes it's not," Senior David Butler adds, "Either way it's too expensive."

The majority of W&L students, however, are thanking the 'pizza gods' for sending Stone Willy's their way.

and appreciate something new."

The striking thing about New is that she is not a stereotypical musician. Most other musicians of New's caliber are studying at music schools.

"They all have friends who are musicians," she says of music school students, "Whereas my friends are not, and well, I am in a sorority."

Although music is a major part of New's life, it is not her life. New practices for two hours every day, not including rehearsals and performances, but this has not affected her social life. Not only is she a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, but she is also a member of Kathekon.

"Music is part of my daily routine," New said. "It always has been and always will be."

Perhaps New's artistic streak runs in the family. "My mother is very

"I attend music festivals every summer," she says. "But although I do not know exactly what I want to do, I know that I do not want to be a professional player."

Most recently, New attended the De Boudoin Summer Music Festival. While there, she was tutored by a professor from the prestigious Julliard School of the Arts. This summer, she realized how much she would prefer to teach than perform professionally.

New finds it challenging and rewarding to perform for children. "I love teaching," she says. "I really want to teach music and I think that is what I will do."

Both at home in Richmond and here in Lexington, she has performed for kindergartens.

"Children come up with the most

brilliant questions and answering them in a way that is not only correct but understandable to them is not only challenging but also very fulfilling."

At 21, New definitely has a long way to go, but she has both the focus and talent to succeed.

"My ultimate goal is to get people to appreciate music even more — not only as music, but how it relates to day-to-day living."

Music is part of my daily routine. It always has been and always will be.

- Senior Mary New

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(Serves 23 to 25)
2 lbs. Roast Beef
1 lb. Kosher Salami
1 lb. Ham
1 lb. Turkey
1 lb. Corn Beef
3/4 lb. Swiss
3/4 lb. Muenster |
| The Continental
\$49.95
(Serves 23 to 25)
2 lbs. Ham
1 lb. Kosher Salami
1 lb. Mesquite Turkey
1.5 lbs. Roast Beef
3/4 lb. American
3/4 lb. Muenster | The Graduate
\$29.95
(Serves 13 to 15)
1/2 lb. Roast Beef
3/4 lb. Ham
1 lb. Turkey
1/2 lb. Swiss
1/2 lb. Muenster |
| Spanky's Delight
\$42.95
(Serves 18 to 20)
1 1/2 lb. Roast Beef
1/2 lb. Kosher Salami
1 lb. Ham
1 lb. Turkey
3/4 lb. Swiss
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\$39.95
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1 lb. Ham
2 lbs. Roast Beef
1 lb. Kosher Salami
1 lb. Swiss
1 lb. Provolone
2 lbs. Turkey
1 lb. Corn Beef
1 lb. American |

Dinner & Buffet

Entrees

- | | |
|--|---|
| Turkey
Roast Beef
Meat Lasagna
Chicken Parmesan
Mesquite Baked Chicken | Baked Ham
Manicotti w/ Marinara Sauce
Vegetable Lasagna
Baked Lightly Breaded Chicken
Knockwurst and Sauerkraut |
|--|---|

Hot Vegetables & Salads

- | | |
|---|---|
| Green Beans
Mashed Potatoes
Boiled Browned Potatoes
Italian Salad
Macaroni Salad
German Potato Salad | Broccoli w/ Hollandaise
Baked Macaroni & Cheese
Coleslaw
Potato Salad
Tossed
Fruit Salad |
|---|---|

Desserts

- Fruit Salad Cookies Brownies Apple Cobbler
Also available, try our cheesecakes & pies available at minimal cost.

Buffet Prices

- | | |
|---|---|
| Option 1 \$7.95/person
Choice: 2 Entrees
4 Veggies/Salads
2 Desserts | Option 2 \$9.95/person
Choice: 3 Entrees
6 Veggies/Salads
2 Desserts or 1 Dessert Tray |
|---|---|
- Either choice includes coffee, tea, lemonade and rolls with butter.

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HAPPY HOMECOMING W&L!!!

THE Last World Give us a band we can rock to

GAME BOY

FRESHMAN JOHN DUNCAN is the founder of a role-playing club. HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR



Club seeks players who love nudity, violence, action

ZACH HANKS STAFF WRITER

When asked to write a story about a new gaming group forming on campus, I was skeptical. I myself started a gaming group my freshman year; we played for a few weeks then split apart because our schedules didn't permit us more than intermittent play.

Freshman "J" Duncan's group has a bit more to offer than mine did—specifically, intense network computer game play with no hindrance to the school's computer network.

The group has two primary foci: role-playing games and multi-player on-line computer games. The role-playing games on which they intend to focus on include *Shadowrun*, a game inspired by the cyberpunk genre which includes such books as *Neuromancer*, and the latest edition of the game that started it all, *Dungeons & Dragons*. I emphasized that his gaming group is not a formal club, in the sense that it has no official membership requirements, but is just seeking students who are interested in getting together on weekends for some imaginative entertainment.

The computer gaming group will focus on such games as *Descent* and *Command & Conquer*. However, I think the game that should have people flocking to their phones to call J, is online multi-player *QUAKE*. In single-player mode it was achingly

repetitive and anticlimactic (despite wonderful graphics and a soundtrack compiled by Trent Reznor), and in multi-player mode it couldn't touch *Duke Nukem 3D*'s raw violence, fast action, and copious blood and nudity. Via Mplayer, players connect to a dedicated internet server through Ethernet, provided by W&L in all the dorms (no more fighting University Computing to play games on the network). Up to 16 players can play, eight to a team, in the vicious game of capture the flag.

An assortment of characters can be played, each with their own unique abilities, aptitudes, and weapons, including soldiers, spies, scouts, snipers and engineers. J's goal is to end up with a group of eight players who work as a team and challenge other teams up and down the East coast.

I was kind enough to let me try the game, called "Two Fortresses," on his roommate's computer. Big mistake, J. Six hours later, I reluctantly managed to pry myself out of the chair and leave his room. He had to open the door for me because my hands were too cramped to operate the knob.

J can be reached on campus at extension 4627. As for me, I want another crack at that sniper that kept picking me off from across the board. That's right buddy, I'm comin' for ya. I've got a grenade with your name on it.

The Student Activities Board recently announced that the Homecoming concert will feature The Bruce Hornsby Band.

The Bruce Hornsby Band? I didn't know that Mr. Hornsby is still alive. Maybe he isn't. Maybe this is the SAB's clever adaptation of "Weekend at Bernie's."

Regardless of my feelings on the washed-up 1980s wannabe rocker known as Bruce Hornsby, which I will keep to myself, what is done is done. With one band scheduled for this year, we should turn our attention to the

Fancy Dress concert.

I, for one, hope that we will not be visited by another rap band. I do not dislike rap: I dislike rap concerts. They are as entertaining as double-entry bookkeeping.

The rap industry's old standbys are getting old. Nearly every rapper, since Grandmaster Flash first entered the industry in the early 1980s, has turned to the audience at some point during his or her concert and said, "Somebody yell ho!"

Who is this ho? What has this ho done to deserve so much attention? Doesn't she get tired of us yelling at her every time the SAB schedules a Fancy

Dress concert?

I know that I grow tired of yelling at her. I also get tired of watching rappers walk around the stage in an effort to appear energetic.

After a while, I begin to feel as though I am watching a track meet. A very noisy track meet. A very noisy track meet where the runners move slowly in small circles.

Rap concerts quickly become tedious. I don't feel obliged to wave my arm because "I am a true player." I'd rather not

up to us, shouldn't it? I am not sure how much influence input can have on the process of attracting a band to campus.

Wherever the student body can play a role, though, it should. I would like to thank the SAB for the work, time and commitment which they dedicate to arranging concerts at Washington and Lee.

Although I have not appreciated the groups which have performed at Fancy Dress recently, I appreciate the work that the SAB put into obtaining those bands.

My personal, subjective opinions on music do not reflect my opinion of the SAB. They deserve the same commendation as any other hard-working group on campus.

I just hope they don't bring back another rap band. Washington and Lee has many traditions; bringing a rap band to FD shouldn't be one of them.

By DAVID BALSLEY

"give it up" for anyone's disc jockey. Rappers' amazing ability to link words which rhyme (see also Dr. Seuss) does not motivate me to

yell "make money money make money money money."

So who should the SAB bring to campus this spring? That should be



GEORGE CLOONEY and Nicole Kidman make love not war in *The Peacemaker*. The action flick has been held over at *The State*. Catch it this weekend. Screen times are 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday; 2:10 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday; and 2:10 p.m. Sunday. M. ARONOWITZ/DREAMWORKS PICTURES

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Today ♦ Spy on the faculty meeting in Northern Auditorium at 4:30 p.m. ♦ Tuesday ♦ UVA School of Medicine presents admissions seminar in VMI Science Building, room 316 at 5 p.m. ♦ Volleyball team faces Lynchburg in the Warner Center at 6:30 p.m. ♦ Wednesday ♦ W.S. Merwin reads poems in Northern Auditorium at 4 p.m. ♦ Eastern Virginia Medical School presents admissions seminar in VMI Science Building, room 316 at 12 p.m. ♦ Thursday ♦ Opening Homecoming Assembly at 8 p.m. in Lee Chapel ♦ Alumni Reception (in guess where) the Alumni House at 9 p.m. ♦ Friday ♦ HOMECOMING WEEKEND!!! (get drunk and vomit in nice clothes) ♦ Film Society presents "Everyone Knows I Love You" in the Troubadour Theatre at 7:30 p.m. ♦ Bruce Hornsby with Agents of Good Roots in the Pavilion at 9 p.m. ♦ Saturday ♦ Women's soccer takes the field at 11:30 a.m. ♦ Homecoming football game at 2 p.m. ♦ Men's soccer game at 2:30 p.m. ♦ Film Society presents "Everyone Knows I Love You" in the Troubadour Theatre at 7:30 p.m. ♦ Sunday ♦ Lee Memorial Service in Lee Chapel at 2 p.m.

Now Clooney's a real star

☆☆☆ of 4 stars — The pitch: "It'll be like 'Mission: Impossible' with a plot."



ALEX CHRISTENSEN

MOVIE CRITIC

I want to like George Clooney. But I must admit that the actual movies themselves, while often featuring good work by Clooney, have been less than stellar. "From Dusk Till Dawn" was sub-par; "One Fine Day" forgettable; "Batman and Robin" embarrassing.

That's why I was so glad to see a movie which is good, solid entertainment and in which Clooney's character both is likable and kicks ass. The Peacemaker, starring Clooney and Nicole Kidman, is one of those rare actioners in which the story is believable, the pace taut, the storytelling lean and the acting above average. "Executive Decision" comes to mind as another good example. Unlike such obvious fakery as "The Saint" and "Air Force One," the admittedly Hollywood-ized political background of "The Peacemaker"

doesn't stretch credulity to the breaking point.

The unique feature of "The Peacemaker" among action flicks is that it plays remarkably like a very smart "60 Minutes" report in which Mike Wallace actually has enough live footage. There is literally no wasted space, even through an extended hijacking prologue some have labeled boring. I found it fascinating to watch. A hijacking is essentially a secret, quiet, eminently physical crime. Most films would cut much of the actual physical activity to focus on the muscular confrontations typical of the genre. Schwarzenegger would grunt, "Your presence on this locomotive has become superfluous!" and throw someone over the side. Mimi Leder, the former "ER" director who helms "The Peacemaker," resists this temptation, and comes up with something interesting and gripping. To see simply the hijacking take place without a lot of talk and bluster is a joy. It's probably stretching things to compare this sequence to Dziga-Viertov's "Man with a Camera," but only a little. The

same powerful kineticism of pure visual storytelling keeps the images from being anything but boring.

And we haven't even seen Clooney and Kidman yet. Clooney plays Lt. Tom Devoe, a sort of an independent operator who specializes in undercover work to discover and contain nuclear weapons smuggling. Kidman is Julia Kelly, the interim director of the White House Nuclear Smuggling Group. When ten warheads are stolen from a train in Russia, and one is exploded, Kelly and Devoe have to work together to get the remaining nine back.

I should mention that George Clooney is very much a television actor. His little mannerisms and facial expressions are very limited. He always plays the same kind of character (when he plays his character well) that is, a sort of a bad boy who is charming and is always being forgiven for his little mistakes and foibles. I don't mean there isn't a lot of room within those parameters for him to have a great career; there certainly is. But this may be part of the reason he hasn't usually burnt up the box office. We'd

rather have him in our living rooms where he can charm us in person. His likability still comes across on the big screen.

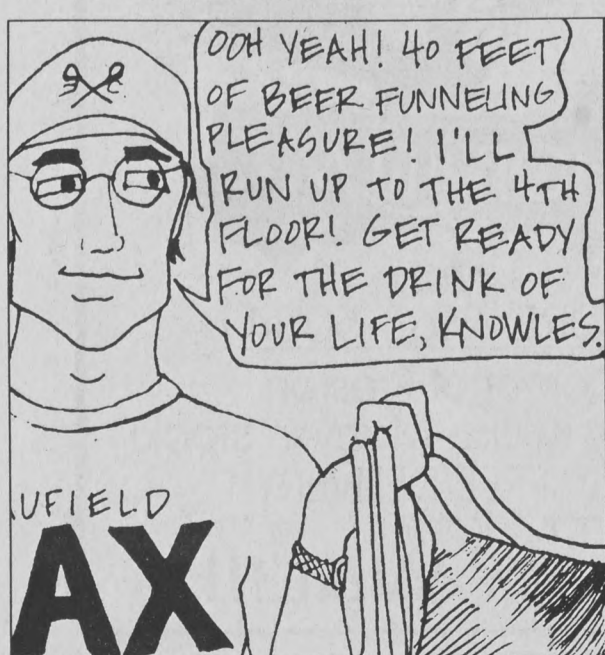
Kidman and Clooney have a real chemistry in the film, though it is never the subject of the film. The last thing I wanted was a "Speed"-like "now we're boyfriend and girlfriend because we went through so much together" ending.

Instead, they have some real conflict and emotional sequences together but focus on their work, as they should. Very little is hackneyed about the plot of this film.

Even the villain is well-portrayed (and I won't spoil it by saying who it is). This is pretty rare. We don't sympathize with him, but we believe him, and that's enough.

Overall, "The Peacemaker" is a promising debut for the new DreamWorks SKG studio. This Christmas will bring "Mouse Hunt" and Steven Spielberg's "Amistad," and we'll see if they can keep dodging convention and making money at the same time.

Colonnade Club



Hollister Hovey