

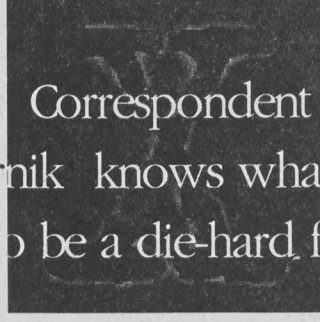
The Wal-Mart Garden Center transforms into a haunted house for children of all ages for a price that isn't scary.



Water polo wins third place in the Mid-Atlantic Championships in true varsity fashion, and women's soccer bounces back from first loss.



X-Files Correspondent Kathryn Mayurnik knows what it takes to be a die-hard fan.



The Ring-tum Phi

Washington and Lee University VOLUME 100, NUMBER 5

Monday OCTOBER 27, 1997

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Dorm counselors reprimanded

By KATHRYN MAYURNIK NEWS EDITOR

Three dorm counselors were reprimanded by Dean of the Freshman Program Dennis G. Manning last week for not enforcing the University alcohol policy in the dorms as strictly as he had hoped.

On the night of Friday, Oct. 17, three dorm counselors and a large group of freshmen were socializing in a Gilliam second floor/infirmar-side room.

A freshman girl was drinking a beer when a fourth dorm counselor walked into the crowded and noisy room. The dorm counselor gave the freshman the penalty for drinking in the dorms and reported the other three dorm counselors in the room to Manning.

The three dorm counselors told Manning that they were not consuming alcohol at the time and were not aware that there was alcohol in the room.

"It was a really crowded room and they were on the other side of it from where the freshman girl was drinking the beer," said Chaz Frank '99, head dorm counselor.

Since they were not drinking with the freshmen in the dorms and since they were unaware that alcohol was being consumed, the dorm counselors

have been put on a probationary period instead of suffering stricter penalties, Frank said.

The probation entails a review of their position on the dorm counselor staff by Manning at the end of the term.

"I was not pleased," Manning said. "I don't expect the dorms to be a police state, but I felt that they should have been more vigilant about enforcing the alcohol policy."

"I think that alcohol offenses in the dorm have existed since alcohol and dorms have existed," Manning said.

Manning thinks that the dorm counselors are doing a good job overall of enforcing the alcohol policy and hopes that they aren't getting soft.

Dorm counselors sign a contract specifying that they will enforce the University's policy on alcohol in the dorms.

"I think we have an effective alcohol policy in the dorms," Manning said.

The first offense for an alcohol infraction is six hours of work in the Dining Hall and a \$50 fine. The second offense is another six hours in the D-hall, a \$100 fine, referral to an alcohol education program, referral to Dean Manning and notification to parents. A third alcohol offense means expulsion from University Housing.

Swiping for safety?

By HEATHER McDONALD STAFF WRITER

"Excuse me, can you let me in? I forgot my card."

This is not an altogether uncommon phrase at W&L. But how do you know that person is a student and even has a card in the first place?

Such is the dilemma concerning University cards, better known as "swipe cards." As on-campus thefts skyrocketed this year, many are wondering whether or not the swipe cards are doing their job.

"This year has eaten us up," W&L Chief of Security Michael Young said about the thefts that have occurred this year. The system has cut back on thefts overall, although this year is an exception, Young said.

"The thefts have been mostly from residence halls and the library," Lexington Police Chief Bruce Beard said there have been at least 12 on-campus thefts this year.

"I can't explain the increase," Beard said. "I hope we're able to apprehend the person or people who are responsible for these thefts."

Dean of the Freshman Program Dennis G. Manning had a different perspective on the thefts.

"I would hardly call [the thefts] a

trend," Manning said. "But you can lock your door and practice good sound personal security without betraying the Honor System. We live in a town of 7-8,000 people and more in the surrounding county, who are not a part of the Honor System."

He added that there is no way to connect the this year's thefts to the use of swipe cards.

The swipe card system was first installed in the freshman dorms in the fall of 1995. The year before, there were approximately 30 thefts in the dorms, according to Young. After swipe cards were installed, the number of thefts in the dorms dropped to about 3, said Young.

Gaines Residence Hall and Woods Creek Apartments had the swipe card system installed last year, and the number of thefts in the dormitories was about the same.

"One (of the perpetrators) in Woods Creek was in the building as a guest of someone else," said Young about one of the thefts two years ago. "That's something we can't control. It's up to you if you let a thief stay with you."

This fall, the old Delt House was

SEE SWIPE PAGE 2

Educating through the tap

By COURTNEY MILLER EXECUTIVE EDITOR

It was free beer, Beam and cokes and screwdrivers for the over-21 participants at Washington and Lee's controlled drinking experiment last Wednesday.

Sponsored by Peer Counselors and Lifestyle Information For Everyone, the evening was designed to educate students about tolerance.

Zach Lee, senior and LIFE member, was pleased with the evening's turnout.

"You can always hope for more, but we got people to participate and there was a good size audience sitting around hanging out and listening to music," Lee said.

This is the second year Dr. Jane Horton has been involved in the experiment. She introduced several changes, including serving hard alco-

hol in addition to beer, differentiating between men and women and inviting Catholic Campus Ministry Chaplain Burr Datz's band to entertain the students.

Seniors Kelly Dyer and John Osborne enjoyed the evening of free drinks.

"To be honest, I'm here because I wanted to know how much I could drink," Osborne said.

After two cups of bourbon and Coke in an hour, Dyer had the lowest blood alcohol concentration of the participants.

"I know I have a pretty high tolerance," he said.

Three Lexington policemen were on hand to administer breathalyzer tests, which determine a person's Blood Alcohol Concentration, or a

SEE BEER PAGE 2



DOING THE MONSTER MASH ...

Lambda Chi Alphas have turned their fraternity house's main floor and basement into a haunted house every Halloween for as long as the brothers can remember.

"It requires a lot of preparation," Jeff Mitchell '99 said. "The whole house gets together that afternoon and puts things up."

Each room of the house has its own theme, and the brothers who work in the room dress up to match the theme.

Lambda Chi will probably spend about \$75 on candy, make-up and a few new props for the house, Mitchell said. The Lexington Police Department usually donates \$50 to the project.

"The haunted house has the double

effect of doing something fun for the kids and giving all the proceeds to the United Way," Scott Kees '98 said.

The Lambda Chi haunted house usually raises more than \$200 for the United Way. It runs from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Oct. 30. Admission is around \$1.

By Hillary Coombs

Giving up the ghost: Rumors of W&L spooks abound

By KATHIE SOROKA

STAFF WRITER

Fail any midterms this past week? According to Washington and Lee folklore, it is probably because you walked between the two center columns in front of Graham-Lees dormitory.

This legend is just one piece of the ever-evolving local mythology and ghost stories which surround the W&L campus and the Lexington area.

Stories of Robert E. Lee and his family occasionally float around campus.

One of the most eerie stories is that Lee still visits the Payne Hall 21 classroom in which he was inaugurated.

Professor Sanders, University Historian, heard of a spectral sighting in Lee Chapel. This time, it was not Lee himself, but his nephew who was spotted with a woman on the chapel's stage.

Sanders doubts Robert E. Lee is actually haunting any

part of campus.

"If anyone passed over to the other side, it was Lee," he said.

The most famous Lee legend deals with Traveller, Lee's trusted horse. The current garage to Lee House was once Traveller's barn, and the doors were always left open. After both Lee and Traveller passed away, the doors were closed, but not for long. Legend has it that Traveller was heard bucking and making a ruckus that night. The doors have never been closed since.

Professor Brian Richardson recalls a recent story of a Pennsylvanian student returning to campus after vacation.

"Something freaked him out so bad, he jumped in his car and drove back to Pennsylvania," Richardson said. "He stayed there until his roommates came back to school."

Lexington is full of ghost stories outside of W&L, as well.

SEE GHOSTS PAGE 2

Study reveals faculty salaries

Elrod calls the Chronicle of Higher Education's report of faculty income "unseemly."

By WILL HARDIE VISITING EDITOR

A report naming President John Elrod as the third highest-paid private higher institution president in Virginia has touched some raw nerves on campus.

The paper also divulged the salaries of the top five university officials, all Law professors.

Elrod called the report "unseemly," and Director of Personnel Bob Fox branded it "a violation of confidence and a violation of privacy."

The study in this week's Chronicle of Higher Education is based on data from the federal tax returns of 477 private colleges and universities nationwide.

President Elrod received a total of \$177,500 including benefits in the year 1995-96. He refused to comment on the figures.

"I find it unseemly having salaries flaunted in print, and as unseemly for me to talk about my own salary," he said.

Elrod made no objection when similar figures were published last year.

Fox objects to the publication of employees' salaries.

"Talking about the salaries of individuals is a violation of confidence and a violation of privacy," he said.

Other than Elrod, the top five paid W&L employees are all law professors. Barry Sullivan, Dean of the Law School, received \$199,079 including benefits; professors Bezanson, Kirgis, Rendleman and Groot earned between \$150,000 and \$180,000 in 1995-96.

"If you want a law school with competitive professors you have to pay competitive salaries," Professor Doug Rendleman said. "A successful lawyer in a similar position would be getting several hundred thousand dollars."

For the last decade, state law has required private institutions to submit the salaries of their five most highly paid employees, to review the tax breaks available.

Public schools are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and so

SEE SALARY PAGE 2

Drifter convicted for theft from W&L student's car

By JASON ZACHER

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Area resident Kmus Kessler began serving 70 days in jail last Friday, in part for the theft of 38 cassettes and nine CD's from senior Chris Baldwin's car February 27.

Kessler, who goes by the name "David," received 30 days for the thefts, 30 for a trespassing charge and 10 for an assault and battery charge. He was originally charged with felony grand larceny, since the original value Baldwin gave the police was \$315. However, the charge was changed to a misdemeanor before the trial when the court determined the value to be less than \$200. Both the trespassing and assault and battery charge were also originally felonies, but were dropped down to misdemeanors. They were unrelated to thefts.

Kessler was arrested after trying to sell the items to Wayne Raynal, owner of Night Owl Music, who had

been tipped off by Baldwin with a list of the stolen items.

Almost 30 of the cassettes and four of the CDs were rare and valuable Dave Matthews Band bootlegs.

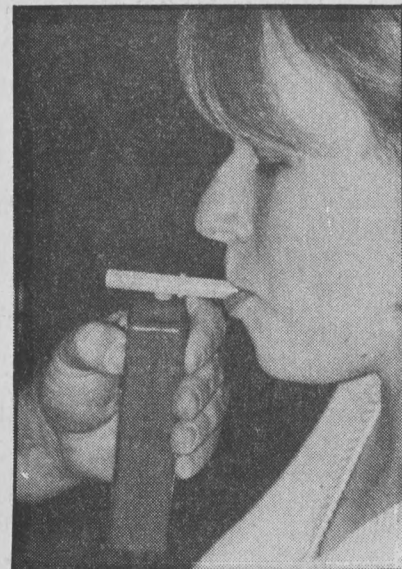
"At first I thought I had misplaced them," Baldwin said, "but then I realized they must have been stolen."

Baldwin's car showed no sign of forced entry, according to police reports. It was parked in front of the Baker-Davis-Gilliam quad when it was broken into.

"I did think this could happen in Lexington," Baldwin said. "For that reason, I usually lock my car when I park off campus. I just didn't do so on that night."

All of the items were returned to Baldwin after the trial, except for two CDs which never surfaced.

Before the trial, Kessler told the Phi that he was leaving Lexington and going out west to visit friends after the trial. Kessler quit his employment at Evans Dining Hall after his arrest in early March.



Senior Sunda Wells takes a breathalyzer test during the Controlled Drinking Experiment. WILL HARDIE/RING-TUM PHI



# CD SALARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

must release all salaries. Randleman argues that the release of only the top five figures for private institutions is misleading.

"It would be more palatable if this was universal," he said. "That is, selective release of such figures lacks context."

A handful of private schools defied the law and withheld their data last year. Some religious schools felt it was not appropriate to have salaries made public. Other schools with no federal funding reasoned that the government has no reason to know this information.

Although W&L resents having to give up salary information, it will stop short of such drastic action because it is illegal and punishable by substantial fines.

The University has no objection to the publication of aggregate figures, because individual salaries are not divulged. The average W&L full professor earns \$76,900, 14 percent above the national average. Associate professors earn \$53,500, 7 percent over the national average. Fox said that such competitive wages attract high caliber professors.

The Chronicle study uncovered much larger salaries nationwide. Dr. John A. Curry of Northeastern University in Boston received almost a million dollars in compensation.

"That is a lot of money for anyone, certainly for a college president ... it is hard to imagine how he could deserve it," Elrod said.

# CD SWIPING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

equipped with the swipe card system.

The fraternity houses do not yet have the system, but, "that would be excellent," Young said.

However, the system is not cheap; the original installation of the central system in Security and in the freshman dorms in 1995 cost about \$800,000. The Gaines and Woods Creek systems cost about \$100,000, Young said.

Although rumors have circulated that residents who are not connected with the University obtain swipe cards to use the weight room, Young says this is untrue. Only students and staff members can obtain swipe cards.

Each card is specifically programmed with the identification number of the student or staff member. The scanner in the swipe station found outside a dormitory door reads that number individually.

This database of ID numbers is updated regularly. As soon as one graduates or leaves the staff, the number is discontinued, but the name of the person and ID number remain in the database for identification purposes.

Young gave the example of a student who graduated two years ago.

"This man came back for a visit, and tried to enter Graham-Lees," said Young. "The door wouldn't open for him, but his name, ID number and year of graduation showed up on the main terminal, in addition to the exact door which he tried to get in."

# It's a hard-knock life

By ERIKA PROSSER

STAFF WRITER

"Orphans" foreign and domestic will have somewhere to hang out Saturday night when the International Club hosts the Orphan's Dinner.

Club President Bill Overbaugh said that the dinner is held for club members whose parents can't make it to Parents' Weekend.

The Orphan's Dinner will be held at the home of Japanese professor Ann Rogers. It will be a catered event and is only open to International Club members who have been invited. The party to follow is open to the public. "We're having a Halloween party afterwards in the I-house," Overbaugh said. "There's going to be a fortune teller and everything." The party should begin around nine or ten in the evening.

# Blakelock stuns Birdwhistell in bocce debut

By DEAN DAVID HOWISON  
SPECIAL TO THE RING-TUM PHI

The first round of the Class of 2001 W&L Bocce Tournament produced a stunning upset as Carly Blakelock led her Graham-Lees team to victory over the pre-season favorite Birdwhistells. After splitting the first two min-games, the Blaklocks and Birdwhistells locked up in an epic decisive third game. Facing match point elimination with only one throw left, Blakelock launched a shot from thirty feet that struck the pallina and blocked Birdwhistells' wining position. Following Blakelock's effort, the Birdwhistell team of Dan Birdwhistell, Hugh Rabb, Brent Walker and Brian Eachus fell apart, throwing several balls off the Lee-Jackson Filed in frustration. The final score was 12 to 3.

In a magnanimous gesture, W&L Bocce Ball Commissioner David Howison granted the Birdwhistells a special dispensation and permitted the team of Carly Blakelock, Alexis Berstein, Carin Ritter and Nathan Urquhart moved to the second round and established itself as the team to beat.

The next match will pit the Trey Overdyke team against the Jennifer Strawbridge team on Wed., Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. on the Lee-Jackson Bocce Ball Field.

# CD GHOSTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The building on the northeast corner of Nelson Street and Lee Avenue, now Mountain Copy Graphics, is also famous for its superhuman sightings. An anonymous faculty member who has been here for "500 years" calls this the "Home of the Uncooperative Ghost." He attended a séance there, but no ghost appeared.

A friend of Lexington resident Katie Letcher Lyle had a supernatural experience in one of the apartments above that building.

"He was terrified one night to wake up to see a man peering over him," she said.

The apparent ghost then descended into the floor as if he were descending down a staircase. A search for the previous owner revealed that a stair case was once located at that spot.

More stories of local myth and mystery can be found in Anne Knox's book, "The Gentle Ghosts," published by the Brandon Publishing Company of Lexington, Va.

# CD BEER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ration of alcohol to blood and sobriety tests.

After the first hour, most of the participants' BAC's were lower than projected. Many students also passed the sobriety tests which included following the tip of an officer's finger and standing on one foot for 30 seconds.

"People lose the ability to judge and they feel more in control as their alcohol level gets higher," Horton said.

Officer Mark Riley said most of the students he catches on drunken driving charges have been drinking for several hours. He said although having one drink greatly increases a person's chances of having an accident, that those planning to drive should drink no more than one drink per hour.

After the second hour of controlled drinking, more than half the participant had BAC higher than .08 percent, which is the legal limit for operating a motor vehicle in Virginia. The highest was .14 percent and the lowest .044 percent.

The levels depend on a person's weight, sex how long it's been since he/she last ate and what they are drinking. Typically carbonated mixers speed the alcohol absorption process, said Horton.

Since alcohol is distributed in body water, and women have less body water than men, a woman's BAC will be greater than a man of equal weight.

Overall the participants and organizers felt the evening was a success.

"I would like to have had more demonstrations," Horton said. "Students need to know how a standard drink is measured outside of this school."

Senior Sunda Wells agrees.

"Most people pour beer with a splash of coke, or a vodka drink with a pinch of O.J.," she said.

A standard "mixed-drink" contains 1 and 1/4 ounce of alcohol per glass. At W&L this can vary greatly depending on who pours the drink.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FALL 1997 PHI ETA SIGMA INITIATES

- Brittany Anne Ahlstrom
- Robert Renton Baldwin, Jr.
- Taylor Beaupain
- Shannon Elizabeth Bell
- Suzanne Miriam Blum
- James Andrew Browne
- Erin Ashley Buck
- Jordan Bulger
- Colleen Ruth Calvey
- Joshua Eben Carpenter
- John Brandon Chalk
- Lance V. Clack
- Edward Cantey Clarkson
- Michele Kim Connors
- Rebecca Renee Cuny
- David Jason Damiani
- Lee Patrice Dunham
- Christopher Charles Dyson
- Sean Craig Eddy
- Lora Mason Ellison
- Brian Jeffrey Eutermoser
- Jennifer Carol Fisher
- Riley Erickson Greene
- Warren Elijor Hedges
- Robert Lewis Hendricks, Jr.
- Stephen Day Hopkins Jr.
- Carolyn Elizabeth Hudson
- Sula Beatrice Jacobs
- Mary Virginia Jernigan
- Christopher Patrick Johnson
- Cynthia Ann Johnson
- Amy Cathryn Kane
- William Alexander Kanner
- Jill Elizabeth Kosch
- Edward Jason Mahon
- Spehanie Ann McKnight
- Ansley Carnochan Miller
- Mathew Thomas Mills
- Jason Allyn Nichols
- Roshni Mona Nirody
- Jennifer Pinyan
- Heather Melcher Reid
- Nancy LeAnne Reinhart
- Leah Camille Schaefer
- Timothy Norman Showalter
- Ashley Elizabeth Shreves
- Susan Neisler Smith
- Steven Charles Straub
- Khanh Don Nhat Vo
- Meredith Lynn Welch
- Emilie Beth Wiesner
- Manry Elizabeth Winfrey
- Courtney Catherine Yevich
- John Philip Zimmer



# PARENTS' WEEKEND DESCENDS UPON US YET AGAIN FRIDAY OCT. 31

Washington and Lee University will observe its 43rd annual Parents' Weekend on Friday, Oct. 31 and Sat., Nov. 1. Activities will begin on Friday morning with open classes held by many of the academic departments; parents are welcome to attend.

The Phi Eta Sigma initiation for sophomores, parents and advisors will be held in the Leyburn Library's Northern Auditorium Friday at 3:30 p.m. The speaker will be Theodore C. DeLaney, Jr., assistant professor of history at W&L. Other Friday afternoon activities include scheduled appointments with faculty and an open house for freshmen and their parents from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Lee House. At 8 p.m. the University Chorus and Chamber Singers will present a concert in Lee Chapel. Saturday, parents are invited to attend a 10 a.m. report of the deans titles "Academic and Student Life at Washington and Lee" in the Commerce School Room 327 featuring Laurent Boetsch, dean of the College and David L. Howison, dean of students. President John Elrod will deliver the annual report to parents Sat., at 11:30 a.m. in Lee Chapel.

# ENGLISH PROFESSOR DABNEY STUART PUBLISHES SHORT STORIES

Dabney Stuart, S. Blout Mason Jr. professor of English at W&L has published his 15th book and second collection of fiction, The Way to Cobbs Creek. The new work is a collection of short stories, and has been called "a book replete with wonders, of place, of character, of feeling, a dynamic meditation on the mysteries of family, judgement, mercy, being. These are works of poetry and power by a writer in full command of his art."

A volume of Stuart's poetry was published recently by the LSU Press, Long Gone (1996). It was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, the fourth such nomination for Stuart.

# W&L ALUMNUS PRESENTS ONLINE BANKING LECTURE

James S. "Chip" Mahan III '73, founder and chief executive officer of Security First Network Bank, will speak in Room 327 of W&L's Commerce School on Thurs., Oct. 30, at 7 p.m.. His lecture is titled "An Introduction to Cyber Banking," and the public is invited to attend. Prior to becoming CEO of Security First Network Bank, Mahan worked for Wachovia Bank & Trust Company for 10 years until he returned to his home state of Kentucky to become the president of a Lexington community bank. Security First Network Bank, www.sfnb.com, is the country's first entirely "online" bank, meaning that it has no physical location except for the back offices that maintain the network.

# BAC

.05 - .06 percent

Slight sedation; feelings of warmth and relaxation; mild euphoria; loss of shyness. Driving is risky.

.10 - .12 percent

Recognition of impairment is lost; inhibitions are gone; in males impotence may occur.

.20 percent

Dazed and confused; appears to be a "sloppy drunk," nausea and vomiting may occur; blackouts likely.

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Fertilizer, shovels, plants and ghosts

# Wal-Mart's horticultural house of horrors



By HILLARY COOMBS

MANAGING EDITOR

Raven House (It's Haunted) is not as scary as the construction mess around the soon-to-be Lexington Super Wal-Mart, but it's certainly a lot more fun.

"It was cool when the spiders were coming down and stuff," said Chris Hall, 9. "I don't think there was any really scary stuff, though."

Whether there's any "scary stuff" depends on who you ask. All Keith Burley, 5, could do when he came out of Raven House was repeat, "It was scary."

Ghost guides greet visitors to the haunted house, which opened Oct. 3 in the Wal-Mart Garden Center. Each guide tells the funny story of his demise and then leads visitors through the 30-by-60-foot house.

Local artist R.J. Ogren, whose studio created Raven House, describes the project as "a cross between Disney's 'Haunted Mansion' and R.L. Stein's 'Goosebumps.'"

"It's all based on a script, ghost guides, a lot of humor and fun scares," Ogren said. "The way you really scare people and make it funny



A FRIGHTENING TOWNIE welcomes guests into the Raven House, Wal-Mart's haunted Garden Center. HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR

without making it disgusting is to set them up purposefully and have something happen they don't expect."

Ogren spent four years working for Walt Disney World as an animation artist. He and his wife, Suzanne, moved to the county after he decided to open his own studio. They relocated to Lexington out of a love for the Shenandoah Valley and the accessibility of interstates 64 and 81.

There's no blood or gore in Raven House because Ogren believes that they're desensitizing. Instead, the ghosts and ghouls he thinks were the traditional stars of Halloween come alive in the house through black-light special-effect painting.

"What we're creating is a haunted house in the family tradition," Ogren said. "Kids can go through it."

And they have. Ogren says that in the week they've been open, only two children have refused to enter Raven House. People of all age groups, from infants to the elderly, have taken the guided tour.

Most of the guides are local high school students.

"It's like getting paid to have fun," said Leslie Gordon, a Rockbridge County High School student. "I like to scream when I know something's coming up just to make them scream."

According to Ogren, Raven House averages about 100 guests a night. Many are people who came to shop at Wal-Mart. The store makes an announcement about the haunted house every 15 minutes.

The house has had visitors from as far away as Charlottesville. Ogren attributes that to Raven House's ad in "Visiting Lexington and the Rockbridge Area," the Lexington Visitor Center's guidebook. He plans to run local radio spots advertising the house during the last week in October and hopes that by then the haunted house will be averaging 400 to 500 visitors per night.

Raven House is open from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Some of the "scares" work best with a crowd, so go during the peak times of Friday and Saturday night. Visitors can get \$1 off the \$3 price of admission when they bring in a canned good for the Rockbridge Area Relief Association.

Raven House closes on Oct. 31. It will reopen from Nov. 7 to Nov. 15 as a black-light special-effect Christmas attraction. Guests will follow guides through the scenes of an adventure story featuring the wicked Professor Frost. Santa Claus, his elves and reindeer will also make appearances.



MARIA (Megan Johnson '98) tries to prevent a confrontation between Vanya (Zach Hanks '98) and Professor Serebryakov (Professor George Ray). LOUISE UFFELMAN/SPECIAL TO THE RING-TUM PHI

By ANDREA EWING

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The search for inner peace is the theme of *Uncle Vanya*, presented by the Washington and Lee theater department this week.

Issues of fidelity, feminism and environmentalism are woven through the story of a family in late nineteenth century Russia. The audience feels the characters' unease as they deal with jealousy, love and hatred. As Chekov writes, "There is something wrong in this house." The unsettling feeling established in the first scene lingers until the final bows.

Chekov's play centers on the concerns of the intellectual elite. An elderly professor and his young wife come to stay with the professor's brother-in-law on his estate in the country. In the ensuing drama, conflicts arise as people fall in love.

I saw the dress rehearsal for the show October 23rd and was duly impressed. The acting ability of the students amplified my fascination with the play. The entire cast was well chosen and did a splendid job. Appealing time-period costumes and a remarkably simple set added to the performance.

The staging enhances the tension of the play



Sellers

PLAY REVIEW

# Uncle Vanya

Johnson Theatre recreates 19th century Russia



Mitchell

by bringing the audience in touch with the lives of the characters. The show is staged in-the-round style with the stage in the center and the audience on all four sides. This allows everyone in the audience to have a better view, but calls for the actors to play to all sides.

The principle character is Uncle Vanya, played by senior Zach Hanks. Vanya is a doleful man who cannot find love and puts his life on hold for his brother-in-law, the professor. Hanks plays a believable embittered old man and makes the audience feel the pain of the character.

Dr. George Ray plays professor Alexander Serebryakov, an old man who believes he is the center of the household. A hypochondriac, he makes his wife and family wait on him hand and foot. Ray's portrayal adds comic relief to an otherwise very serious production.

I was perhaps most impressed by Erin Mullaney, senior, as the professor's young wife, Yelena. Mullaney's talented performance conveys the frustration of an idle woman trapped in a loveless marriage. Yelena's situation derives from her sense of duty to her husband, which prevents her from leaving her marriage.

See VANYA page 4



DR. ASTROV (Drew Higgs '99) tries to win the love of Yelena (Erin Mullaney '98). LOUISE UFFELMAN/SPECIAL TO THE RING-TUM PHI

## Basking 'In November Sunlight'

Alum Michael Sokolowski releases debut instrumental album.

By ML GOOCH

STAFF WRITER

"In November Sunlight," the debut CD of the instrumental group "Soko," reveals a style of music similar to the Charlottesville scene where it was spawned. The listener hears traces of the jazz-rock experimentalism which has dominated the Charlottesville scene since the late '80s.

In fact, Leroi Moore and Tim Reynolds of Dave Matthew's Band has often played with "Soko" and Dave himself performs on "In November Sunlight." The debut album is a refreshing mix of upbeat piano melody paired with a solid blend of inspiring bass and drum rhythm.

Michael Sokolowski, the band's composer and pianist, believes that pure instrumentalism gives the artist freedom to communicate emotionally with the listener without the distraction of words. His music exudes a unity derived from the trio's organ playing.

Although occasionally the music seems drawn out and vague, it always reforms to a

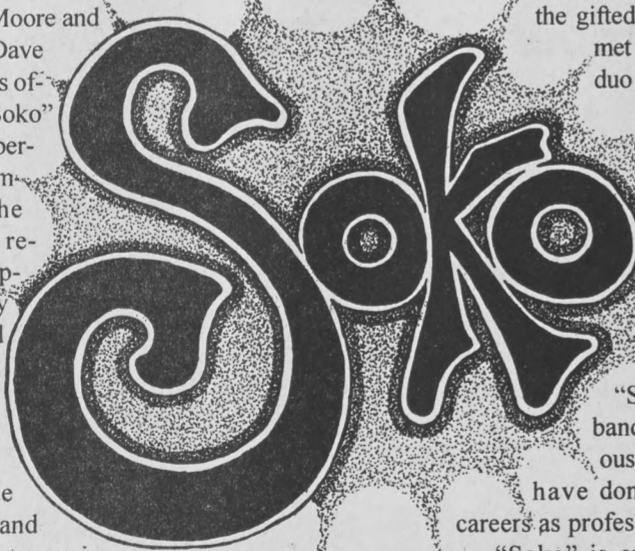
soothing and uplifting theme. "Soko" should receive its highest praise for its true originality. For although the band's sound can be traced to the Charlottesville genre, "In November Sunlight" departs from the standard regurgitation of the modern music industry.

The history of "Soko" begins when Sokolowski, '83, started out playing in a band called "405" while he was a student here at W&L. It was during his college years that Sokolowski discovered the style of music that he plays now.

After a nine year hiatus from this style, the gifted composer and pianist met a bass and drum rhythm duo that had played together for two decades. And so, in Charlottesville in 1991, Michael Sokolowski, Johnny Gilmore and Houston Ross formed the band who eventually called themselves "Soko." Since 1991, the band has played with various artists and its members have done much to launch their careers as professional musicians.

"Soko" is enthusiastic about the prospect of returning to Lexington for a gig, and their laid-back style of music would certainly present a healthy change from the token fraternity bands.

"In November Sunlight" is now available in Lexington music stores.



## W&L'S WORLDWIDE CLASSROOM



Students who have done it agree, you can broaden your mind with a trip

By GINGER PHILLIPS

STAFF WRITER

Do you ever wonder if all those things you stay up way too late at night studying will ever have any real significance? What better way to find out than to experience those cultures once seen only in postcards and pictures. Washington and Lee offers a wide range of opportunities for students to study and work around the world — from learning Spanish in Madrid to studying Shakespeare in London.

W&L presents several study abroad programs during the six week spring term, which begins in mid-April and ends in late May. Students can travel to countries such as Germany, Italy, Spain, France, Poland, and England. The university also has a limited number of exchange programs with universities in Japan, Denmark, Hong Kong, and England.

Generally, over 100 W&L students study abroad each year. The majority go abroad during the spring term, and a relatively small number of students choose to leave for the full academic year. "Students enjoy being here at W&L so much that they are often afraid of being gone too long," Director of International Education William Klingelhofer said.

This fall, W&L students are studying in such disparate places as Ireland, Israel, Ecuador, Austria, Madagascar, Hungary, Denmark, and France. Students studying abroad for the full year have gone to South Africa, Venezuela, Scotland, and Taiwan. If a student desires to study in a country which is not part of any W&L program, numerous colleges in Virginia and around the nation offer programs which are accepted by W&L.

Despite the fact that W&L offers a greater variety of opportunities than other universities, only a small number of W&L students actually study abroad. Klingelhofer believes that the financial requirements for these trips are one reason for this tradition.

And because of the International Education Office was established only this year, it has not been as easy for students to access information about study abroad programs in the past. Since international study has not been a part of W&L's past culture, there has been little communication between students who have studied abroad and those who might be interested in such an opportunity if they only had more information.

Klingelhofer says, "Study abroad opens up the world for students in very concrete ways."

Senior Kelley Totten learned this fact on her trip to France during the

Study abroad opens up the world for students...

-William Klingelhofer

See ABROAD page 4



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OCT 28 1997

# College circuit star hits W&L Friday

By SYBIL PRINCE  
STAFF WRITER

What do Michael Jackson, Garth Brooks and Alanis Morissette have in common? They are three people whose styles add to the extraordinary show of Mike Rayburn.

This Friday Washington and Lee will be introduced to the man who *Campus Activities Today* magazine voted "America's Best Acoustic Act" (1994, 1995, 1996) and "America's Best Solo Performer" (1996). He also won "Coffeehouse Entertainer of the Year" awarded by the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) two years in a row.

Just who is Mike Rayburn? Take a Bachelor of Music degree with a concentration in classical guitar from Virginia's James Madison University, add comic talent and spontaneity, a dash of charisma and charm and a musical aura of Rod Stewart and Bruce Springsteen. The result is pretty close to Rayburn. His unique style has to be seen to be believed.

Rayburn's shows are a combination of humor and seriousness. He captivates his audiences with songs that range from lighthearted to touching and insightful. His many humanitarian endeavors add to his ability to reach people with his words.

Adding a comic element to his show, Rayburn draws in the audience with hilarious parodies of everyone from Michael Jackson to Garth Brooks to Alanis Morissette. Rayburn says that he wants to help people look life in the face



and come out laughing.

"I like college audiences because of their responsiveness, their general willingness to laugh and their openness to new stuff," he said.

When not on the road, Rayburn is recording music or writing songs in his home in Nashville. He volunteers his time promoting Compassion International, a Christian organization dedicated to giving needy children around the world a real chance in life. Rayburn is known for requesting shirts and sweatshirts from the venues he plays and shipping them to an orphanage in Mexico.

Rayburn's latest release is "Postcards From the Road." A collection of live recordings, it captures the essence of a Rayburn show: the comedy, the songs and the energy. It was recorded live and produced with the help of students. To show his gratitude to students' support, Rayburn donates a portion of the album proceeds to a scholarship fund each year.

Some of his other recordings include "Better Days," "Wooden Voices," "What a Bargain" and "Eleven." "Eleven" includes original songs by Rayburn with accompaniment by Garth Brooks, Journey, Toto and Dire Straits. His adaptation of "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" impressed audiences.

Rayburn performs 9 p.m. Friday in the GHQ. His show promises to be a night of music, laughter and expert guitar playing.

## ABROAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

winter and spring terms last year. She took classes not offered here at W&L, and her learning extended beyond the four walls of the classroom to the history, art, and architecture of France.

"The cultural approach gave me a different perspective on what I was learning in class," she said. "When I came back to W&L I could see a parallel between my experiences in France and the classes I was taking here."

Totten made the decision to become a French major after her experience abroad. This supports Klingelhofer's theory that the best way to reinforce language study here at the university is language study abroad.

Study abroad also provides an excellent opportunity for personal growth. Heather Cook, '98, studied at the University of Reading in England last fall. "The experience definitely made me more independent, and I had the best time," Cook said. She believes that studying abroad is an excellent chance to meet new people from all over the world.

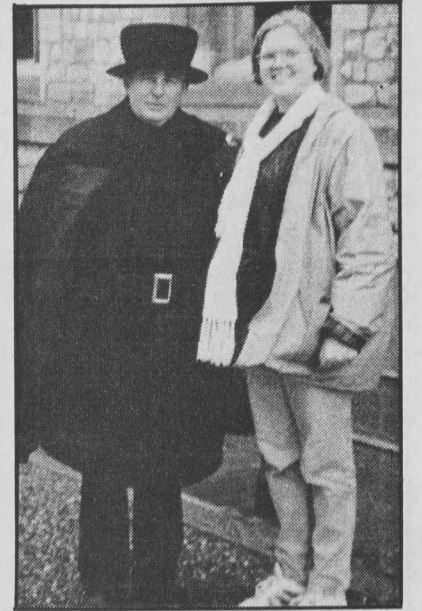
Students who study abroad on non-W&L-sponsored programs will receive credit for the courses which they take in foreign countries; however, the grades themselves are non-transferable. Tuition is paid directly to the program, not to W&L.

For all W&L-sponsored programs, fees are paid in addition to regular university tuition, and financial aid is applicable. Certain programs require students to undergo specific preparation for their upcoming trips abroad. Those programs involving foreign language study often require students to meet with native language assistants and participate in

cultural information sessions before they go abroad.

The international education office is doing a great deal to increase participation in the study abroad programs. Students can access the library of study abroad materials available in the IEO in the office, located on the second floor of Tucker Hall. A web site is in the works which will make information on international study more accessible to students.

Klingelhofer hopes that students will think of international education in a broad sense and consider internships and job opportunities as well as university study. "A real understanding of other people's cultures and societies gives students the international perspectives and skills to help them in the marketplace," he says. "There is virtually no market in which international skills are not important."



SENIOR HEATHER COOK met a Yeomen Warden at the Tower of London when she studied abroad. PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER COOK

Φ SONYA  
(Shelley Adams '98) comforts Vanya (Zach Hanks '99) after everyone has left them. LOUISE UFFELMAN/ SPECIAL TO THE RING-TUM PHI



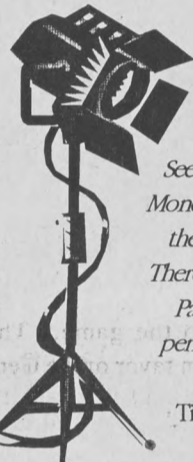
## VANYA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The doctor, portrayed by junior Drew Higgs, is a tired, sensitive man who longs for a different life. Dr. Astrov drinks incessantly, his only way of dealing with the unhappiness he feels.

Junior Shelley Adams plays the plain Sonya, Vanya's niece and the professor's daughter. She is in love with the doctor, but he does not know she exists. Adams' moving monologue reveals a girl who longs to be beautiful, yet who knows she is not.

Only a few tickets are left for the Saturday of Parents' Weekend, so reserve yours now. The show is held in the Johnson Theater, because of the staging.



See the play 8 p.m. Monday or Tuesday in the Lenfest Center. There will be a special Parents' Weekend performance 2 p.m. Saturday. Tickets: 463-8000

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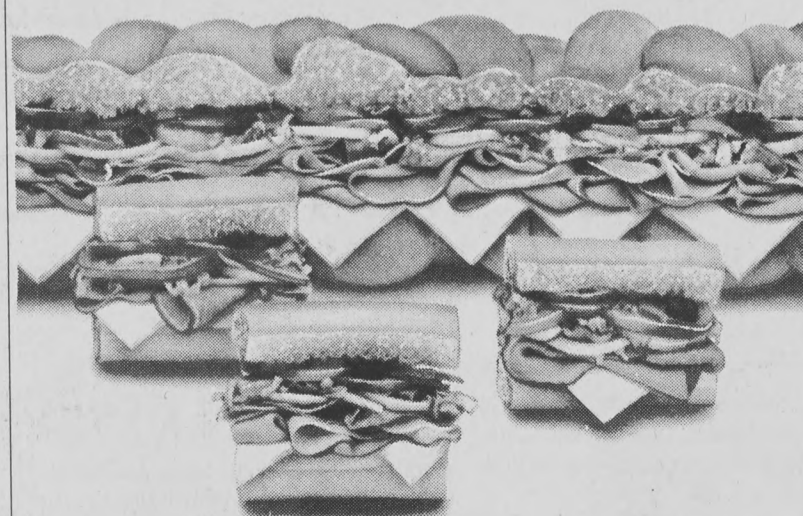
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# sports

## RESULTS

**Football (2-5)**  
 Sat.: Sewanee 48  
 W&L 14

**Volleyball (10-8)**  
 Tues.: RMWC 0  
 W&L 3  
 Thu.: W&L 3  
 Sewanee 3  
 Sat.: W&L 3  
 Averett 2  
 W&L 3  
 C. Newport 1

**Women's Soccer (13-1)**  
 Wed.: W&L 10  
 E&H 0  
 Sat.: RM 0  
 W&L 1

**Men's Soccer (7-2)**  
 Tues.: VMI 0  
 W&L 1  
 Sat.: W&L 1  
 RM 2

**Men's X-Country**  
 9th of 25 at Gettysburg Invitational

**Women's X-Country**  
 16th of 25 at Gettysburg Invitational

## AHEAD

**Football**  
 Sat.: Home at 1:30 vs. Bridgewater

**Volleyball**  
 Sat.: at C. Newport

**Men's Soccer**  
 Wed.: Home at 3:00 vs. Roanoke  
 Sat.: Home at 1:00 vs. Denison

**Women's Soccer**  
 Wed.: ODAC 1st Round

**Men's & Women's X-Country**  
 Sat.: ODAC Championships

# Women's soccer withstands first loss

## Suffering its first loss to Lynchburg, the Generals come back strong, setting new record of 13 season victories

By FRANCES GROBERG STAFF WRITER

It's been a down and up week for the women's soccer team. Last Wednesday, the team suffered its first loss of the season to Lynchburg, but came back strong to win the remaining three games. As a result of the Generals' efforts, the team ended their regular season 13-1 overall for the season and 8-1 in the ODAC tournament.

This past weekend against Randolph-Macon, the team set a new school record of 13 wins in a season by defending the six-time defending ODAC champion by a score of 1-0. With the win, the Generals broke RMC's 69 game ODAC unbeaten streak, which dates back to 1991. The last game RMC lost prior to Saturday was also against W&L. In defeating the Yellow Jackets, the Generals also set a new school conference win record of eight.

The game was scoreless until the final six minutes, until freshman Margaret-Hunter Turner passed the ball to senior Erica Reineke, who booted it past the RMC goalie Carrie Plunkett. Despite the fact that RMC outshot the Generals 14-6 and won 13 corner kicks to W&L's one, the team was still able to pull out the victory. When the final buzzer sounded, the scoreboard showed 1-0 in favor of W&L. Sophomore Stephanie McKnight and freshman Lauren Harris, W&L's two goalies, recorded a combined seven saves and recorded their sixth shutout of the season.

To celebrate the momentous victory, the Generals decided to "bare all" and participate in a ceremonial run of the colonnade.

Against Emory and Henry on

Thursday, junior co-captain Karin Treese boosted the number of school records she holds to four as the Generals defeated the Wasps by a score of 10-0.

With her four goals and three assists of the game, Treese set a new W&L single game point record with 11 and a record for the most goals in a season with 22. She also broke the record for most points in a season with the game with 49. Treese holds the record for all-time goals as well.

In the game, W&L took control at the very beginning and held onto it for the duration. Less than 10 minutes into the game, the women had already extended a 3-0 lead with a goal from Treese in between two from Ginny Jernigan. By halftime, the lead was increased to 8-0 with goals from senior Erica Reineke, senior co-captain Lorraine Taurassi, two more from Treese, and one from freshman Lindsay Williams.

This still wasn't good enough for the Generals. Treese and freshman Courtney Nolan would each net a goal in the second half to give W&L their second 10-0 victory of the season.

Last Saturday, during the reading days, the team played against Notre Dame of Maryland. Though the score was a little closer than that of Emory and Henry, the Generals pulled out a 3-1 victory.

It was Treese, who once again started the team on the right foot, scoring an unassisted goal just over 10 minutes into the game. The score stood 1-0 in favor of the Generals at halftime and through the first part of the second half until Nolan scored another unassisted goal to put W&L up 2-0.

Notre Dame didn't give up, however, and rebounded with a goal from

Casey Hentz to decrease the Generals' margin to 2-1. Erica Reineke sealed the victory as time expired with a goal off a pass from Nicole Johnson.

Sophomore goalie Stephanie McKnight played the entire game, recording five saves in the non-conference win.

Wednesday the 15th was a clash between two undefeated teams—W&L and Lynchburg. Someone had to win, to break the other's record. Unfortunately for the Generals, it was Lynchburg who came out on top.

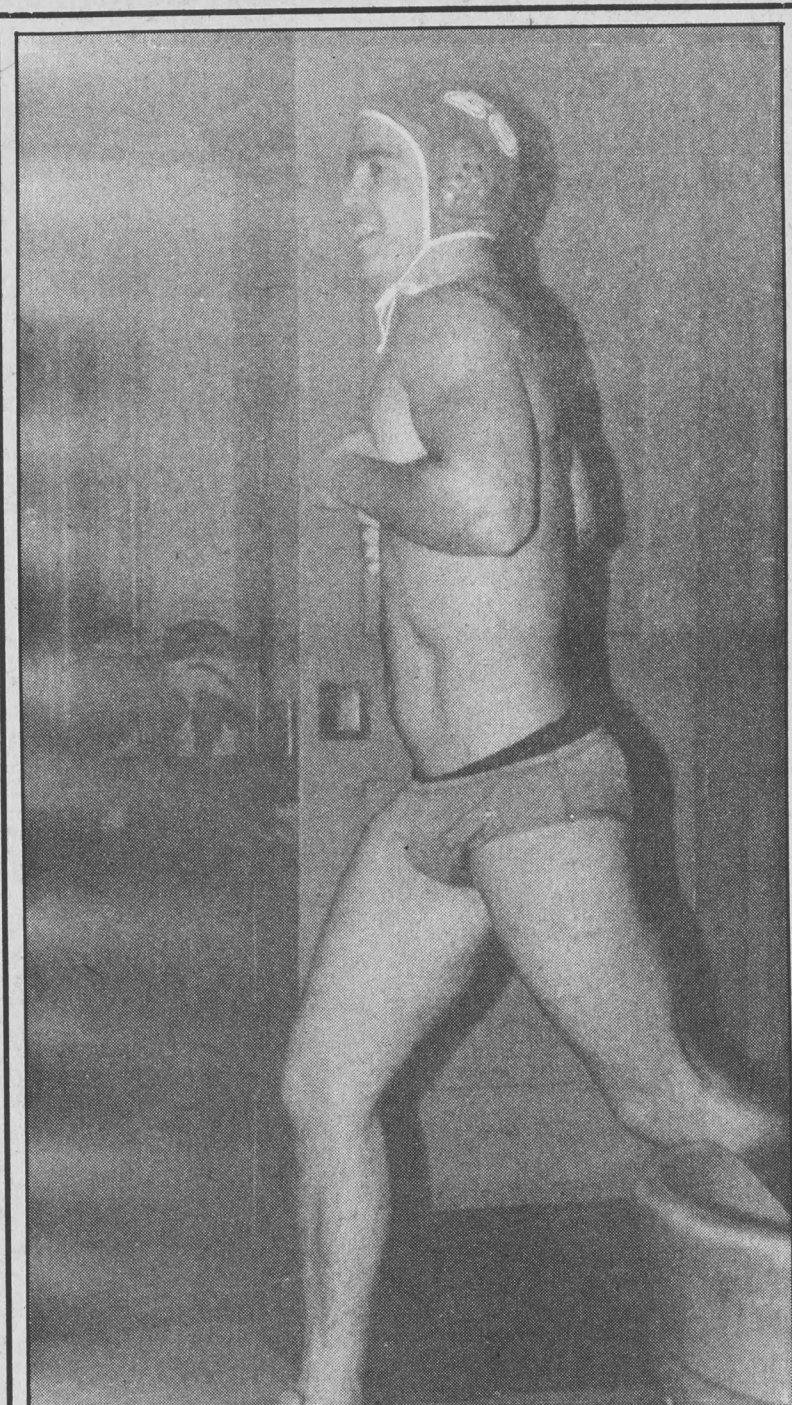
For just the second time this season, W&L failed to get on the scoreboard first, as Kerrie Swarts of Lynchburg scored from the top right corner of the penalty area to give LC 1-0 lead 14 minutes into the game. Latrisha Wahe scored for Lynchburg just six and a half minutes later to extend their lead to 2-0.

The Generals mounted a comeback with a goal and a successful penalty shot from Treese off a foul on freshman Margaret-Hunter Turner, tying the game at 24:32.

The tie was broken midway through the second half as Swarts of Lynchburg scored her second goal of the game. Then, after numerous chances for W&L to tie the game once more, Lynchburg counterattacked on a failed W&L corner kick, and Kristen Kowitz sealed the game at 4-2 with her goal.

"What it came down to was that (Lynchburg) played 90 minutes and we didn't," said co-captain Taurassi. "I think we needed the loss to wake ourselves up a little. Lately, we'd been just settling for the win. Now we're back to playing our game."

Next on the schedule for the Generals is the first round of the ODAC championships.



**FRESHMEN WATER POLO** players took a jog around Evans Dining Hall in their uniforms on Thursday to raise support for this weekend's Mid-Atlantic Championships. After crushing UVA, 24-5 on Friday, the Generals dropped a thriller to West Chester, 9-10 on Saturday. They claimed 3rd place yesterday by beating Georgetown, 16-8. In their first year as a club team, the General's 12-2 record forcefully demonstrated their ability to compete on the varsity level. Let's hope someone noticed. HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR

# Sewanee rolls over the Generals, 48-14

By BRENDAN HARRINGTON STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee proved their record to 2-4 after they destroyed Hampden-Sydney 29-7 last Saturday. Leading the way for the Generals was running back, Hanley Sayers, who gained 112 yards on 20 carries and also had two touchdowns. Sophomore quarterback Christian Batcheller followed up his record breaking performance against Davidson with another fine game. He was 12 for 19, completing for 141 yards and two touchdowns, a 49 yarder to J.T. Malatesta, and a 6-yard strike to freshman Wes Hardy.

Washington and Lee took the lead late in the second quarter with a safety and they led 16-0 at halftime. The Generals would add 2 more touchdowns in the second half and Hampden-Sydney would get their lone score in the fourth quarter on a 19 yard touchdown pass to Thomas Ransom from Karl Tuhey. The loss dropped Hampden-Sydney to 0-6.

The Generals saw their two game winning streak disappear on Saturday as longtime rival Sewanee rolled over the Generals 48-14 in Sewanee, Tennessee. Sewanee gained an impressive 539 yards on the ground as the Generals defense simply could not stop the Tigers running game.

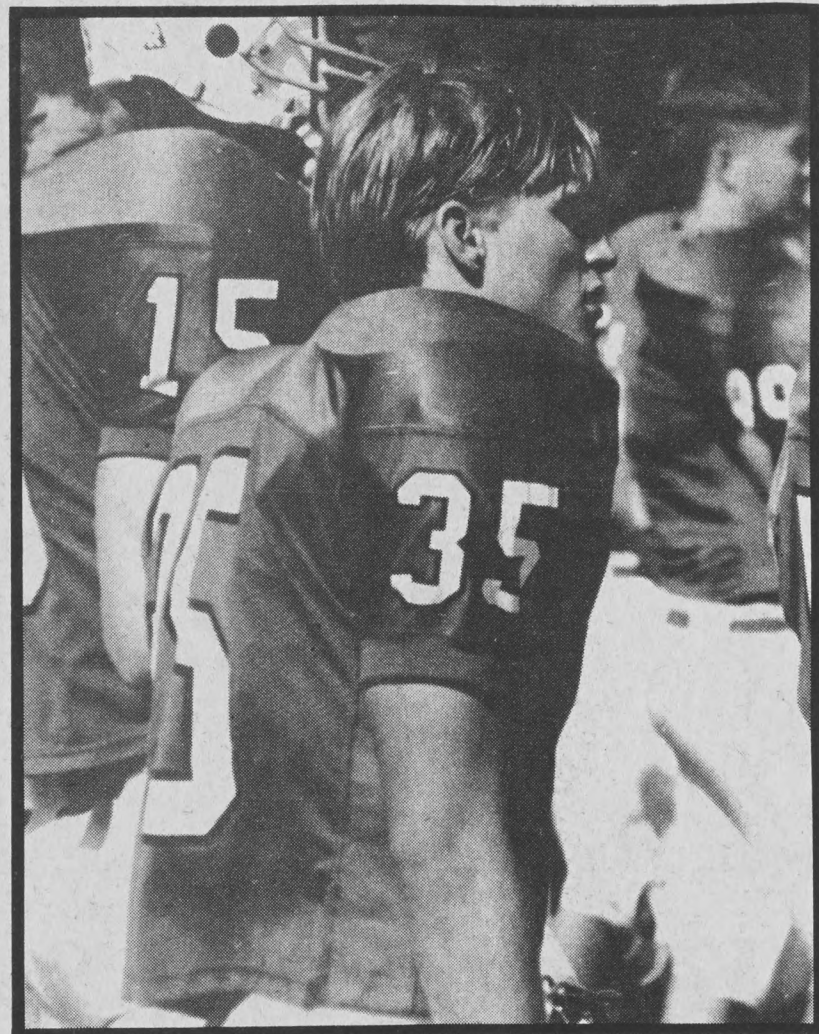
The loss dropped Washington & Lee to 2-5 and Sewanee improved to 4-3 with the win.

The game was close early as the Generals took a 7-6 lead after freshman Hanley Sayers scored on a 39 yard touchdown with 9:01 left in the first quarter. That would be the last time the Generals would see a lead however, as Sewanee tallied 35 consecutive points on their way to victory. The Generals were kept out of the endzone until the fourth quarter when Sayers scored his second touchdown of the game, this one from 2

yards out. Sayers finished with 143 yards on 27 carries and 2 touchdowns, a lone bright spot in an otherwise dismal Generals performance.

The Tigers dominated virtually every major statistical category. Tigers players rushed for more than 98 yards, including Craig May who rushed for 121 yards on 9 carries, an impressive 13.4 yards per carry. All in all, the Tigers ran the ball 68 times, passed only 9 times and averaged 7.9 yards per carry as a team. The Tigers strategy was simple: run the ball right down the General's throats and see if the General's defense could stop them. The answer turned out to be an obvious no and Sewanee ran on the Generals all day long.

Washington and Lee will see if they can get back to their winning ways when they host rival Bridgewater next Saturday, at Wilson Field at 1p.m. Next week is parent's weekend and like homecoming, the Generals will have some extra incentives to do well.



**FRESHMAN ANDY ROBINSON (#35)** and junior **Trey Carr (#15)** watch anxiously as the Generals drop their first game in three weeks to Sewanee 48-14. This loss came after an impressive streak of two victories against Davidson and Hampden-Sydney. HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR

## Game Stats

W&L vs. Sewanee

	W&L	S
1st downs	13	26
Rushes/yds.	37/173	68/536
Passing yds.	87	104
Off. plays/yds	65/260	77/643
Time of Pos.	28:41	31:19

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## THE BIG FAN

BY SCOTT BOOKWALTER

# The Frozen Field of Dreams

Call it baseball's version of the Ice Bowl.

The 1997 World Series will be remembered as much for the elements than for any of its on-field action. It was so chilly in Cleveland (a balmy 38 degrees during Game 4) that the Jacobs Field fans must have thought that the Browns were back in business. Rumor has it that Bart Starr was warming up in the bullpen and hockey legend Gordie Howe was on the on-deck circle, trying to make his token appearance in yet another decade.

Strangely enough, the warm-weather Florida Marlins took two of the three in Cleveland despite the raucous crowd and the teams. The epic Game 4 lasted

so long (four hours and 12 minutes) that Thanksgiving turkeys were on the clubhouse tables. The longest World Series game ever without Mitch Williams also featured the wackiest ninth inning in Series annals.

Aided by three Cleveland errors, the Marlins scored seven times in the ninth to take a commanding 14-7 lead, then watched the Indians storm back with four runs in the bottom of the ninth before the final out was recorded. Despite network executives moaning about two small market teams and horribly low ratings, this was a very competitive World Series. Cleveland and Florida were not the best teams in base-

See BIG FAN page 6

## JOCK SHORTS

- Men's soccer loses tough OT battle •
- Volleyball collects two key victories •
- X-country runs them over at Gettysburg •

### Men's Soccer

With the rain falling like the anger of the soccer gods, death came suddenly to the men's soccer team in overtime play on Thursday.

A messy, bitterly fought battle with Randolph-Macon had resulted in a 1-1 tie at the end of regulation play. During the game, the Generals had fought back from a 1-0 lead with a head goal from sophomore Ben Thompson. After the goal, Washington and Lee had produced several chances to put the game away, but fate decreed that a win for the Generals was not to be.

With only four minutes expired in sudden-death overtime, Randolph-

Macon's Scott Eley fired a shot which proved to be the death blow for Washington and Lee. Like a poison arrow, it flew straight and true to W&L's far post, beating both the defense and the goal-keeper.

The 2-1 loss to Randolph-Macon came as a big let down for the W&L team, who had just come off of a huge win against crosstown rival Virginia Military Institute. Ben Thompson (who has been on a scoring spree as of late) scored the game's only goal in the second half. The shot was a hard, low liner from outside the eight-teen yard line that beat VMI Keeper Jonathon Cabrera to the far post.

While it looked as if VMI would

See JOCK SHORTS page 6



**JOCK SHORTS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

score an easy goal on an open net just three minutes later, All-American Mikel Parker made an incredible play, clearing the ball and saving the game. The more physical VMI team out shot W&L 14-10, but keeper E.J. Murphy proved magnificent with nine saves, putting a plug on VMI's attempts to score.

The men's soccer team will play their final regular season league game against perennial power-house Roanoke on Wednesday. A win against Roanoke could give the Generals the spark they desperately need as they prepare to enter post-season ODAC play.

For the Generals, the key to beating Roanoke and winning in the ODAC tournament rests in the ability of goal scorers Sam Chase, Jamie Parker, and Ben Thompson. The defense anchored by Mikel Parker can keep the games close, but the Generals must now turn on the offense if they wish to win.

Junior Sam Chase became the all time leading Washington and Lee point scorer and tied the mark for the most career goals last week in a game against Savannah College of Art and Design. However, Chase and fellow forward Parker were held scoreless in the last two games against VMI and Randolph-Macon. If the Generals hope for ODAC success, these two must find a way to score

**Volleyball**

It was an up-and-down week for the General's volleyball. On the Thursday during Reading Days, they lost their first regular-season conference match in over two years to Guilford 16-14, 11-15, 4-15, 15-8. They re-entered the race for the ODAC championship, however, by defeating Randolph Macon, which was tied for second in the conference with W&L, on Tuesday night 15-6, 15-11, 15-8 and Hollins 15-4, 14-16, 16-14, 15-7 on Thursday night. Those two wins set up the match of the season Thursday night in the Warner Center against league leading Eastern Mennonite, who the Gen-

erals have already defeated once. A victory would ensure a third-straight regular season conference championship for the Generals.

The loss to Guilford snapped a 23-game winning streak in ODAC regular season play, which dated to a 1995 loss to Bridgewater. The match was also significant in a positive way, though, in that senior Hilary Martin's team leading 11 kills made her the first player in school history to record 1000 kills in a career. With that loss, the Generals dropped into a tie with Randolph Macon for second in the league with a 6-1. They took sole possession of second in their subsequent victory over RM. Despite the 3-0 margin, each game of that match was a well contested affair. In game two, in fact, the Generals had to rally from a 9-1 deficit to claim victory. In game three, 5 service aces were the biggest difference, three of which were by sophomore Nancy Reinhart. Overall, the Generals were led by junior Megan Snodgrass, who was particularly dominating in game two, and Reinhart with 8 kills apiece. Senior Holly Thomsen had 7 kills, while Martin tallied 6. Ali Beard, senior, had 24 assists.

Following that victory, the Generals traveled to Roanoke, where they defeated Hollins in four games. Snodgrass was again dominant on offense, tallying a career high 18 kills. Katherine Kline, a freshman setter, had a career high 33 assists, as well. With the win, the Generals improved to 8-1 in the conference. The squad left the ODAC over the weekend when they traveled to Christopher Newport. The Generals finally broke through against a regionally ranked school, something they have failed to do all season, when they defeated #8 Avarett 11-15, 16-14, 8-15, 15-11, 16-14. Beard had 46 assists, while Reinhart had 23 kills and 21 digs. Martin and Snodgrass also contributed with 20 and 16 kills, respectively. They then defeated host Christopher Newport in four, winning 15-9, 16-14, 13-15, 15-12. Reinhart again led the offense with 21 kills, and Snodgrass added 13 kills and 3 service aces. Both these strong wins against tough regional competition should give the Generals boost of confidence when they host Eastern Mennonite in the final game of the season on Thursday.

**X-Country**

Washington and Lee's men's cross country team traveled to Gettysburg, Pa. on Saturday to compete in the Gettysburg Invitational. With a team score of 296, the men chalked up an impressive 9th-place finish out of 35 teams. The leading runner for the Generals was Jason Callen who finished 20th out of 223 runners with a time of 25:36. Other top runners for the men were Will Olson, who finished 28th overall with a time of 25:49, and Greg Ruthig, who finished 38th with a time of 26:06. The team will return to action on November 8th, when they make a run at the ODAC championship.

The women's cross country team, like their male counterparts, also traveled to Gettysburg to compete in the Gettysburg Invitational. The women finished 16th out of 33 teams with Natasha Dorofeeva once again leading the way with a time of 18:21 and a 15th place overall finish. Other top runners for the women's team were Carson Flowers, who finished 63rd with a time of 19:23, and Lisa Brennan, who finished 81st with a time of 19:49. The ladies will take this weekend off and resume competition November 8th at the ODAC championships.

**BIG FAN**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

ball this season, but who cares? They won the games when it counted most and put on a good show for the fans. After all, when was the last time there was an exciting World Series?

It is just too bad they couldn't play in better conditions. Cold weather will become the norm in future World Series unless the owners reduce the season from 162 games to 154 games or axe a playoff round. The current situation doesn't work. With the season starting at the end of March, several games this year were postponed because of snow or cold temperatures. (Fortunately for baseball, the Rockies were not in the World Series this year amidst the major snowstorm in Colorado.) And having eight teams in the playoffs instead of four makes a long season useless.

Of course, if the TV bigwigs had their way, they would cancel the season and put the Braves and the Yankees in the Series every year. They would also consider starting postseason games at 11:00p.m. in order not to disrupt Must See TV.

College football pollsters are at it again. Three years after they

slighted Penn State for the national championship in favor of Nebraska, history could repeat itself. Each time, it has happened in similar circumstances. In 1994, Penn State led at Indiana 35-14, but the Hoosiers scored two late touchdowns to make the score deceptively close at 35-29.

Pollsters looked at that score and then saw Nebraska hammer Colorado, so they dropped the Nittany Lions to second. Earlier this year, Penn State lost a share of No. 1 after Florida beat another opponent 82-6. After regaining the top position for one week, Penn State got knocked around at home last week by an undermanned Minnesota team, trailing 15-3 midway through the fourth quarter.

The Lions could and should have lost, but they rallied late to win 16-15. But after watching Nebraska blast a similarly mediocre Texas Tech team at home, the pollsters voted the Cornhuskers No. 1. What makes it worse is that because of the bowl alliances, Penn State and Nebraska could both go undefeated and not meet for the national title, like in 1994.

This madness has got to stop. In most sports, a team remains champion until it is beaten. Margin of victory and quality of play counts

for nothing. But not in Division I football. While Nebraska and Penn State may argue over No. 1, teams like Florida State, North Carolina, Michigan and Washington State may wonder why they're not ranked higher. The easy solution would be to eliminate the polls and institute a playoff system similar to most other levels of collegiate sports (including DII and III football). It would be an improvement in college basketball.

Again, unlike basketball, Division I football has no power poll in place to determine strength of schedule, so teams are almost encouraged to schedule non-conference cupcakes and win brownie points by running up the score. Coaches like Joe Paterno who will not annihilate other teams are usually burned. As knowledgeable about football as the coaches and writers who vote may be, the championship should be decided on the field. A 16 or 32 team playoff over four or five weeks should be instituted, along with scaling back the regular season by one game.

To make everyone happy, the bowls could be used to stage the playoff games. The bowl game to establish the true, not mythical, national champion could then be held every New Year's day, right after Game 7 of the World Series.

**The W&L Riding Team**

**Results vs. Hollins College**

**Beginner Walk Trot**  
Windy Kimble - 1st  
**Beginning Walk Trot Canter**  
Stacey Parris - 6th  
**Advanced Walk Trot Canter**  
Cassie Shaner - 4th  
**Intermediate Equitation on the Flat**  
Lindsay Gatling - 4th  
**Intermediate Equitation over Fences**  
Christing Starer - 6th

Lindsay Gatling - 4th  
**Open Equitation on the Flat**  
Sarah Rector - 1st  
Lydia Nichols - 4th  
Britta Gaffey - 4th  
Anna Lowden - 6th  
**Open Equitation over Fences**  
Britta Gaffey - 3rd  
Sarah Rector - 4th

**OVERALL SCHOOL PLACEMENT - 6th**

**Results vs. Virginia Tech**

**Beginner Walk Trot**  
Windy Kimble - 4th  
**Beginning Walk Trot Canter**  
Stacey Parris - 5th  
**Advanced WalkTrot Canter**  
Cassie Shaner - 3rd  
**Novice Equitation on the Flat**  
Ryan McDaniel - 2nd  
Kim Russel - 6th  
**Novice Equitation over Fences**  
Kim Russel - 6th

**Intermediate Equitation on the Flat**  
Christine Starer - 1st  
Lindsay Gatling 5th  
**Intermediate Equitation over Fences**  
Lydia Nichols 2nd  
Christing Starer - 3rd  
**Open Equitation on the Flat**  
Sarah Rector - 3rd  
Lydia Nichols - 4th  
Britta Gaffey - 4th

**OVERALL SCHOOL PLACEMENT - 6th**

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Eagle's Eye  
Pendleton  
Woolrich - Ladies  
Corbin - Ladies

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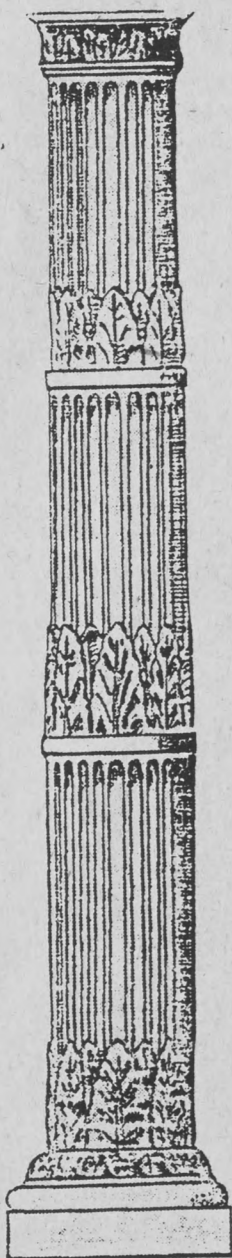
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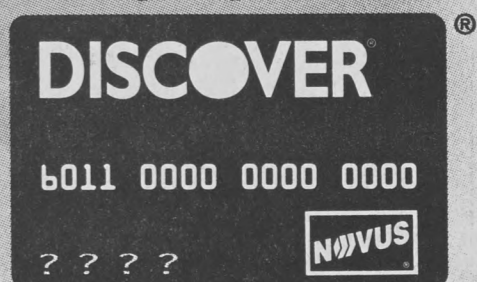
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# Opinion & Editorial

PAGE 8 OCT. 27, 1997

## We are always representatives of W&L

An incident recently came to our attention that greatly disturbed us and made us realize that even when we leave Lexington, we bear the burden of either holding up or breaking down the reputation of Washington and Lee.

On the drive up Interstate 81 over reading days, a group of W&L students almost ran one of our staff members off the road. They proceeded to weave in an out uncontrollably, almost running everyone else off the road as well. They passed people on the shoulder and came within inches of tractor trailers.

Our staff member lost them for a while, only to see them pulled over on the side of the road, urinating in broad daylight.

This car was a menace to the road and could have very well injured or killed anyone on it. The W&L sticker and a fraternity sticker were prominent on their vehicle, and anyone driving on Interstate 81 saw that these irresponsible young people were students at W&L.

When we leave this campus, we do not cease to be W&L students. It is a badge that we carry wherever we our travels take us. Last year, the White Book Review Committee and the Executive Committee clarified the concept of honor outside the Lexington area.

In short, if a W&L student commits an honor violation when at home or on vacation, this is grounds for dismissal. The idea behind this is that we should always conduct ourselves in an honorable manner. Although reckless driving is obviously not an honor violation, it is not honorable.

Honor should exceed the guidelines of lying, cheating or stealing and should permeate every aspect of our lives. Merely the threat of getting kicked out of school should not be the reason for acting honorably.

Washington and Lee has become a popular place to apply in past few years, as it becomes increasingly more difficult to get in.

As we gain more public attention, this also puts us more in the public light. *US News and World Report* ranks our school No. 8 in liberal arts colleges.

It's about time that we starting acting it.

## Quote of the week:

This is supposed to be controlled drinking, but there is puke in two of the urinals.

- controlled drinking experiment participant

## The Ring-tum Phi

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The Ring-tum Phi welcomes all responsible submissions and letters. All submissions must be in the Phi office, room 208 of the University Center, by noon on Saturday to appear in that week's edition. The Ring-tum Phi reserves the right to edit submissions for content and length. Letters, columns and "My Views" do not reflect the opinion of *The Ring-tum Phi* Editorial Board. Advertising does not reflect the opinions of *The Ring-tum Phi* or its staff. This newspaper observes current court definitions of libel and obscenity.

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## 'Pine'ing for Pole Position

I played a lot of Atari 2600 when I was growing up. I loved those games. Pole Position was the first Atari game I owned. I could sit and play for hours, racing around the same track six times per game while yellow rectangle opponents slid by.

Red Brick Row  
David Balsley '99

The games were dirt simple. Pac-Man, Donkey Kong and countless other games presented the same challenge over and over again. Baseball games had three players, basketball had just two and some tennis games didn't have any.

I had just gotten an Atari track ball controller when Nintendo came along. It changed everything. Games now had levels with different challenges to overcome at each turn. War games now had real soldiers with real guns shooting real bad guys. Sports teams started to field all of their players.

I found someone in my neighborhood who had a Nintendo and said goodbye to the Atari. The Nintendo games were just better. Although Nintendo meant leaving behind my favorite games, it also meant having more fun. I learned to enjoy the new games even more than the old ones.

A lot of other people made the switch as well. Although Atari still has its place on the Internet, Nintendo and Sega rule the arcade. The popularity of the newer systems dwarfs that of Atari.

This is why I don't understand why so many Washington and Lee students don't like the new network system and Pegasus e-mail.

I know a lot of people who are frustrated with their new access to shared and personal drives. I also know a lot of people who have not tried Pegasus because they feel that Pine is enough for them.

It's the same as the switch from Atari to Nintendo. The new campus-wide network system has many advantages over the old system. Now, all students enjoy what only students who could use the science server enjoyed in the past.

You don't have to carry diskettes anymore: you have your own H: drive to save your files. If you save a file in the H: drive somewhere on campus, you can get to it anywhere on campus without having to deal with an intermediary diskette.

Depending on your professors, you can now turn in your files electronically and have them returned to you in the same way. Professors can put files you need in public folders, rather than post them at websites and require you to download them. You now have another way to communicate with your professors.

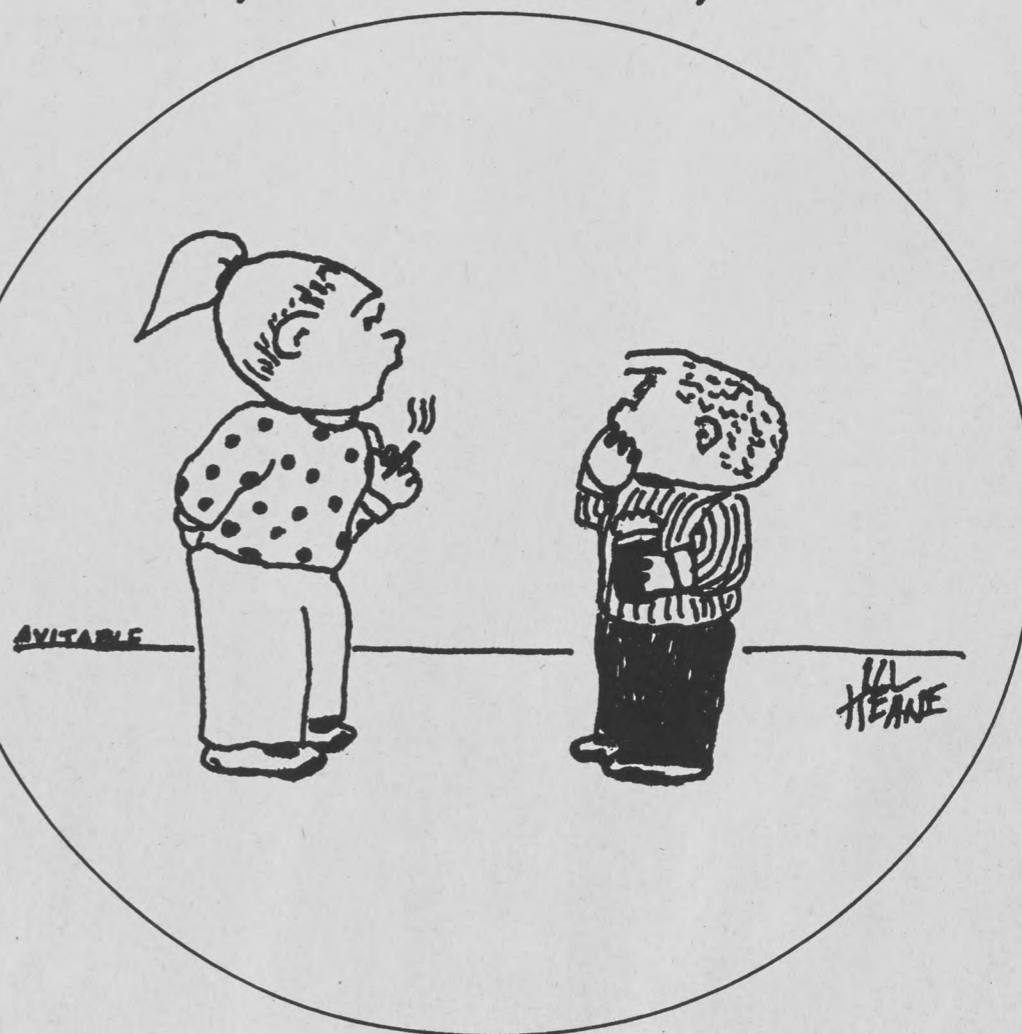
The new Pegasus e-mail system also represents an improvement. It has all the features of Pine, but uses a friendly point-and-click interface. It's more like other Windows programs you would use. It includes some other improvements over Pine as well, such as an easier means of downloading attachments to your letters.

Just as we had to give up our Ataris to enjoy Nintendo, we have to give up our obsessions with "the way things were" and the Pine e-mail system to enjoy the new computer configurations on campus.

Do you think that Pine e-mail is good enough for you? Was Atari football, with four players on each side, good enough? Try Pegasus e-mail. Stop playing "Sea Battle" and start playing "Contra." You may enjoy it more. Besides, if you try it and decide you don't like it, you haven't lost anything.

Make the switch, or at least give the new systems a try. You may end up looking back on Pine the same way you look back on Atari: it was great while it lasted, but the newer games are always more fun.

## The Dysfunctional Family Circus



"So, I said, take your f#@!ing hands offa him, he's mine! And the wench slapped me!"

## Third party publication great for procrastination purposes

In attempts to find copies of *The Ring-Tum Phi* or *The Trident*, many procrastinating students might have

The Left Point of View  
Laura Knapp '99

noticed the appearance of a third newspaper on campus.

*Liberty*, as it is called, is not a W&L publication, but its arrival on campus can be attributed to a student-run organization. The politically aware might have already known of the existence of another political group besides the Young Democrats and College Republicans on campus. The College Libertarians have taken it upon themselves to engage in forms of ideological warfare and brainwashing in attempts to win members to their cause.

I admit to procrastinating and actually spending time reading this publication. Even beyond attempts to divert my attention away from schoolwork, I was suspicious about the intentions of this newspaper. I immediately thought that it was the work of the College Republicans, a

step even beyond their absurd pestering of Virginian freshman. But two pages into this periodical, it became apparent who wrote it and what it aims was. It is no more than a brilliant piece of propaganda.

I find the way in which this periodical was disseminated - anonymously and furtively - completely disturbing. More profoundly, its content and the way it is presented are its most unnerving aspects. Its purpose is to look like a newspaper.

Newspapers, according to mainstream norms, should (and normally do) provide information in an unbiased and critical manner. By using this logical progression, readers of this periodical associated the information in *Liberty* with "truth" when in reality, it certainly is not. Since the publisher of *Liberty* is not clearly acknowledged in the periodical, it exemplifies that the purpose for this publication is to remain secret.

It is obvious that its target audience is college students. The front page article, using Generation X jargon, states: "Social Security: A Raw Deal." It uses scare tactics to suggest to its audience that the government has ineptly caused the end of Social Security through fiscal irresponsibility and that a privatized system would be the best way to sal-

vage the program. The sources of their information are murky at best.

*Liberty* includes a number of other articles which try to orient students with the ideas of Libertarianism. The articles deliberately focus on topics about which members of Generation X have the most concerns and interests, like the Internet, school choice and the environment. Upon reading these articles, it is obvious where the writers stand on these issues.

Libertarianism, in general, demands Constitutional literalism, and consequently the end of the Federal government control and influence over all aspects of American life. Republicans find these ideas appealing for obvious reasons while Democrats are attracted to its laissez-faire attitude towards government imposed social values.

However, the goals of Libertarianism are contrary to and a subversive of the American political and legal tradition, clearly seen in their position on gun control. They demand the repeal of laws which ban or seek to control the sale of weapons to anyone, meaning criminals are Freeman groups as well. Yet this fundamental tenet of Libertarianism was not included in *Liberty*. Anyone want to guess why?

## Don't bother — your parents already know you

If your parents bring you a gift-wrapped bottle of Jim Beam and dance at a band party until the cops break it up, Parents' Weekend is the perfect weekend for you. Of course, if your dad has an affinity for knee-high striped socks and floral shirts, then you may be searching right now for a light fixture sturdy enough to hang yourself from.

From a Bar Stool  
Eric Swensen '98

Most parents fall somewhere in between these two extremes, and most students have similarly mixed emotions about Parents Weekend. Sure, mom and dad bring money and shell out for food better than Domino's and the average D-hall delicacy, but then again, didn't we spend 18 years waiting to get out from under their thumbs? To help you cope this weekend, here are some handy suggestions.

- Make dinner reservations... for next year.

The chances of finding a table at a restaurant in Lexington that doesn't have a drive-thru window are slim to none, so go to Roanoke or Staunton. If you enjoy talking to your parents, it's a nice chance to catch up. If not, it's a long enough trip to enjoy a nap.

- Don't bother cleaning up for your parents.

Remember, you grew up with your parents, and they remember if you were a slob or not. Parents can smell a last-minute cleanup from miles away. But if they can smell your dirty clothes from miles away, it might be a good idea to do a little cleaning anyway.

Generally, though, last-minute cleanups fall into one of two categories. In the first case, your room is so spotless that your parents immediately figure out that this is the only time all year you've cleaned your room. In the second case, your room is spot-

less, except for one minor detail, like forgetting to sweep the dust off your unused history books. Either way, your parents will mock your feeble attempt, so don't worry about it.

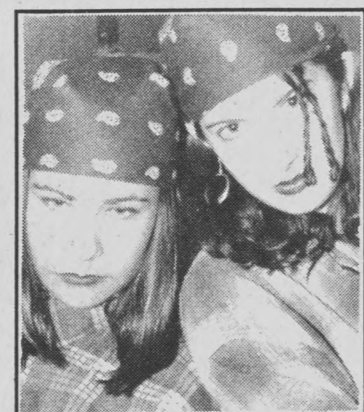
- Be honest with your parents.

Don't waste your time trying to convince your parents that you spend every night in the library studying until 2 a.m. (However, if you do study in the library every night until 2 a.m., please go out this weekend in order to spare this university's fine party reputation.) Sooner or later, no matter how much you beg, cajole or bribe your friends, they will let it slip about the time they found you slumped over a toilet, passed out. If you've gone out to band parties every weekend this year, go this weekend too.

Show your parents that college parties aren't drunken orgies filled with loud music. On the other hand, maybe you should just tell them to stay home.

## TALKback:

What are you going to be for Halloween?



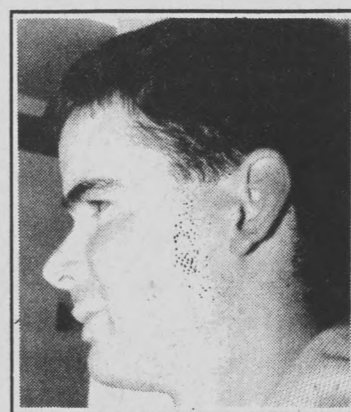
"Gansta Bitches."

- Jenny Webb & Lora Ellison '00



"Balkie."

-Riley Greene '00



"Cousin Larry."

-Jack Alford '00



"A Roman Princess"

-Heather Schwenger '97



## Letters to *The Ring-tum Phi*

### "Coming out" is a lifetime thing

*Editor's note: The author wished that this letter be printed on October 11, National Coming Out Day. The letter was not delivered to our office until this past week. We apologize for any inconvenience this might have caused.*

I am a Gay Father. I am a Gay Grandfather. I am a Gay Alumnus of W&L—Class of '53. I am a Human Being!

For me coming out was not and has not been a one-time thing. It is and shall continue to be a lifetime thing. The process consists of an endless series of baby steps. Each step taken contributes to rebuilding my self-esteem, my self-worth, and most importantly, unconditional acceptance of myself.

There was a time in my life when I made my left hand a fist, shook it in the air while yelling as loud as I could through the tears streaming down both sides of my face:

WHY ME?... WHY ME?... WHY ME, LORD?

Today, and particularly this National Coming Out Day, I can stand tall and erect in front of a mirror, look into the depths of my eyes while feeling the contours of my face with my fingers and the palms of my hands, and say with heartfelt Pride and Humility to the image reflected back:

YES!... YES!... IT IS ME!... IT TRULY IS ME!

-AND-

I LOVE YOU. YES... LOVE YOU...  
JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.

- Alan Weber, J.D. '53

### W&L women narrow-minded

The recent staff editorial mentioning "Road Cheese" came to my attention last weekend while attending Washington & Lee's Homecoming. As a Hollins College student, I was deeply hurt to see mention of many women across Virginia, including myself, thought of in this way by other females in the co-ed academic world. The mention of Washington & Lee's women as intelligent (as stated by the author) might be accurate by published SAT scores; however, narrow-minded comes to my mind as well.

I, along with as many as 3300 other female stu-

dents in Virginia, attend an all-women's college for its educational benefits. Not, as insinuated by the author, for the weekend hook-ups or even the slander from other females who attend co-ed institutions. It has been proven in study after study that women who attend single-sex colleges are more likely to attend graduate school, earn a more competitive salary, and take on upper-level management positions with greater ease. From all these benefits, I elected to not be surrounded by men seven days a week and attend Hollins College, of which I am a proud resident. I did not elect to attend Hollins and sit in a social cave for four years either.

I fear, however, that from the article the author is stereotyping women who attend all-female colleges as ignorant, "easy" women, which truly is not the case. Women who attend all-women colleges are bright, polite, hard-working females. I encourage anyone who disagrees with this notion to come for a visit, and even dare speak with a student. You will quickly see that we are not sexually repressed, mindless girls.

Hollins College, just like every other all-women's college, has socials and formals, which men are invited to attend. If we invite men from other Universities to attend, does that mean we are not welcome back at their respective schools just because we are not a student there? That's what the author leads me to believe. I enjoy visiting other schools (road tripping) on the weekends, at both co-ed and single-sex colleges, for the benefits of meeting new people and seeing something different than what I saw Monday through Thursday. I have never felt unwelcome anywhere, except at W&L, and that is from the female students unfortunately.

I challenge the author of the published editorial to open her eyes and ears to what college women ALL across Virginia truly represent; beauty, intelligence, and respect. Come and visit Hollins and spend time with us, morally upstanding women. Hollins students have a lot to offer to other women and men all across the state, as well as the world. Let's alleviate the narrow-mindedness and stereotyping that has grown in the female population of Lexington and realize that Hollins, as well as every other college and university across Virginia, is apart of an all-inclusive team, not a women-at-W&L against everyone else community.

- Kate Reid '00  
Hollins College

## Microsoft satellites, Bill Gates, and the Jefferson server

The new network. Just mentioning it can turn students and faculty alike into Jell-O. Stand on that special spot in front of Lee Chapel, and not only will you hear someone in front of Washington Hall talk, you'll

satellites observe Janet Reno, not W&L students.

It might surprise you that the third statement is true. Buy some flash cards, memorize your name, class year, and password of your choice, and you can login successfully.

Hopefully, everyone knows how to login as themselves after two months. Those of you that have been using the guest login actually do need to login as yourself now, since the guest login has been severely limited in number and capabilities.

Speaking of passwords, if you know your password but want to change it, you can from any non-lab network computer. Use a friend's personal computer (in any dorm room) or stop by the HelpDesk in Tucker Hall. Choose Start, Run, and then type "setpass" in the box. Once you're logged in, everything becomes easier. You don't care about new features? Fine. Just choose Liberty or Netscape from the Start Menu, and nothing's new.

What good is all this new stuff? Remember when you had to be in a certain lab to use one of 20 university hard drives? Now there are only three network drives, available in any program across campus, and almost all programs can be used from any lab.

The H (or Home) drive points to a "home" directory that's your personal space. To create a web page, just create a directory called public\_html and save all of your web files there. People can then access your page at <http://student.wlu.edu/~yourname/>.

You should save your main page as index.htm, the default file for the Web address above. Since you can save directly to the H drive from any program, using Jefferson for your Web page eliminates the cumbersome FTP process necessary on Liberty.

You can also save other files to your home directory on the H drive and stop

carrying a floppy disk. Be careful — there is a limit of about seven megabytes here. If you try to store large sound files of Obi Wan Kenobi's advice, you'll run out of space quickly.

The K (or Shared) drive is open space. Need your friend to proof-read that fund-raising letter to female alumni from Alaska who played lacrosse? Just put it here, and he can open it, change it, or copy it from any computer on the network. One word of caution: this isn't long-term storage. The K drive is deleted about once a week.

The L (or Work) drive is for class work. Techno-savvy professors can set up a class directory and save assignments for you. Note: if the assignment will take time to do, save it to a floppy disk or your home directory first. Once it's saved to the L drive, you've turned it in. And there's no way for your friend with arms like an anorexic gorilla to pull it out of your professor's electronic inbox.

What else is new? Each lab has laser printers you can use at 10 cents a page from Netscape, WordPerfect, or whatever. You even get \$20 from the University to start out. (If you multiply \$20 by the number of students at W&L, it amounts to one person's yearly tuition increase.) You can check your balance when logged in by moving the mouse over the little dollar sign in the bottom right corner.

There's also Pegasus e-mail, which lets you cut and paste, not to mention send and receive e-mail attachments. There is a limit on the size of e-mails that pass through Jefferson, so you must exchange large files via the Shared drive. When you're done, just choose Start, Shut Down, and then Restart the Computer.

Finally, remember the most important thing: if you have problems, dial the HelpDesk at xHELP. All they've ever wanted to do with their lives is help people. Give them a chance.

### My View

Josh Heslinga '98

hear voices all over campus asking things like: "I put my Net where?" and "Isn't it ironic that Jefferson is slowly eliminating Liberty?"

Take this simple true/false test to see if you too have an acute case of network-itis.

1) DVA stands for the new Digital Video Adapter that you can use from any networked computer.

2) Jefferson is just the first step to the REALLY powerful servers, Hamilton and Adams, which come on-line next year.

3) All you really need to know to use the new network is your name, class year, and any word over five letters long.

4) In exchange for switching the campus to Windows 95, Bill Gates bought W&L a super-secret satellite capable of locating and electronically tagging students who forget to log out.

As you might guess, the first, second, and fourth statements are false. DVA stands for Dirk van Assendelft, a man you should get to know well, as he is the new student network administrator and your first resource if you forget your Jefferson password.

Second, while the faculty will soon have a server similar to Jefferson named Madison, reliable sources say the rumors of more centralized Federalist computers to be run out of a secret room in the Commerce school are totally unfounded.


Finally, any of you following the news would know that Bill Gates' spy

## University College, Oxford & Washington and Lee University Student Exchange Program

It has recently been determined that Washington and Lee's student exchange program with University College, Oxford, will continue to operate, although areas of study supported by University College will be more limited than in the past.

Rising juniors who are interested in this program may contact:

Professor Carl Kaiser  
Williams School of Commerce  
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## Colonnade Club, Hollister Hovey

By Kathryn Mayumik  
X-files correspondent

Last year, my roommate broke her nose. I think she wanted me to take her to the hospital, but she ended up walking to Stonewall Jackson in the snow. The fact of the matter was that this was in the middle of Super Bowl Sunday--Super Bowl Sunday's episode of the X-files, that is. And I wasn't about to miss seeing the freak who can regenerate his entire body and afterwards bathes in tubs of iodine.

OK. I know it's a little psycho to be that obsessed with a TV show, but I assure you that I'm not alone. The X-Files, and shows like it, are becoming a national pastime. Science fiction used to be reserved for socially inept people whose entire wardrobe consists of Mr. Spock T-shirts, but it has now infiltrated the mainstream population. Our society in general has become obsessed with little green men with big heads and big eyes, and government conspiracy. At Six Flags Great Adventure this summer, the most popular prizes were 10-foot fluorescent green aliens in black cloaks.



And think about the some of the past year's most popular movies: "Independence Day," "The Arrival," and "Contact." I call this the "millennium syndrome." Because the end of the century looms before us, people are becoming more and more fascinated with and paranoid about the supernatural. By the year 2000, Washington and Lee students will be suspecting that Professor Brian Richardson is an alien from Vulcan.

And then there's the phenomenon of science fiction actors. Miraculously, they appear in other freaky shows after they've been cancelled. David Duchovny, X-files FBI agent and babe, played a transvestite FBI agent on the most bizarre show of all time, "Twin Peaks." Four other "Twin Peaks" veterans have made token appearances on the "X-Files" including the dwarf who danced and spoke in really messed up jargon. He appeared in an episode that I saw last night, along with a man who was covered in jigsaw puzzle tattoos and ate live animals.

Next week is the much-anticipated conclusion of last season's finale of the "X-Files." It also happens to be the night that we lay-out the *Phi*. I know what my priorities are.



**The pitch: "It'll be like 'Harvey' meets 'The Birdcage.'"**

By Alex Christensen  
*Phi* Movie Critic

Boy, if nothing else has ever driven it home to me, "In & Out" sure did: tailoring any work of fiction to a political viewpoint sucks all the life out of it. I should have known before.

And I'll take almost any try at comedy over "In & Out." Sure, it has its moments, but overall, the tone of the film is one of nervousness. You can actually conjure up images of one of the most talented screenwriters around, Paul Rudnick ("Addams Family Values," "Jeffrey"), sitting at his laptop thinking, "How far will Hollywood go?" Instead of using that guideline to push the limits, as he might have done to some effect, he has let it keep the film from saying anything much at all, and also cut away most of the real drama and humor that the film's situation would seem to suggest are ripe for exploitation.

In case you don't know, the situation of the film is based on the real-life Oscar acceptance speech made by Tom Hanks after his first win, for "Philadelphia." In it, he thanked some of his gay teachers by name. The makers of "In & Out" recognized a great premise when they heard it, you've got to give them that much. Their inspiration was to ask what might happen if a teacher was outed who wasn't out, maybe not even to himself. So we have the story of Howard Brackett (Kevin Kline), outed in a similar way by his former student, Cameron Drake (Matt Dillon) just a few days before Howard's planned marriage to his girlfriend Emily (Joan Cusack). Though Brackett denies being gay, he is finally forced to confront the truth after being dogged by questions from tabloid reporters, including the openly gay Peter Malloy (Tom Selleck).

So Rudnick sits down with a bunch of 3x5s and starts free-associating. "What would be great movie scenes we've never seen before?" And, oh, he has a bunch of ideas. Spoof the Oscars. A Kline-Selleck kiss. Drama at the altar. Bing, bing, bing, the ideas are coming like sausages off the conveyor belt. Unfortunately, because of the way he thinks he has to write the movie for Hollywood to accept it, he knows he can't get at any truth. He has to skim the surface, go for easy conflicts and situations, and, in the process, he doesn't write in a main character.

And that's the main problem. The politics preclude creating a three-dimensional main character, the necessary ingredient for any successful dramatic enterprise, up to and including a broad farce, which "In & Out" wants to be. That's why it fails. Howard Brackett is a cipher. Not a Capra-esque everyman or a comedy-of-errors scapegoat-a-cipher. The humor of such a character lies in his being able to deceive himself for so long and then suddenly being able to "discover" he's gay without hardly even blinking. It's essentially a Jimmy Stewart role, Theodore Honey of "No Highway in the Sky" or Elwood P. Dowd of "Harvey." But the Brackett of the film has no comic depth with which successfully to pull off this kind of non-transformation transformation, which would trigger the comedy. And it's not Kevin Kline's fault. He has nothing to work with except his physicality, which he uses to full effect. Rudnick just hasn't been willing to let the audience feel Howard's pain, to coin a phrase, and so no one else in the film can respond honestly, either. He thinks it would be too uncomfortable-for Hollywood, for mainstream moviegoers. He's wrong.

Still, there are many things to like about the film. In general, the supporting performances are top-knotch. Selleck's likability and magnetic screen presence bring to his character a weight lacking in any of the others. Selleck and Kline's kiss is a wonderful moment all the way around. Joan Cusack steals nearly every scene she is in, especially her inspired breakout sequence at the wedding. Bob Newhart and Debbie Reynolds are also standouts, as the school principal and Howard's mother, respectively.

All in all, "In & Out" is a good time at the movies. There are enough laughs to keep you in your seat and there's enough good-heartedness to leaven the timidity, but there's not nearly enough honesty and wit. Watch it, but then go rent "Beautiful Thing."

Doug and Robins  
**R**estaurant reviews

## Oh, the places you'll go with parents in tow

Parents' Weekend means shopping, parent's questions, and eating out with mom and dad.

We have quickly become familiar with the best (and worst) dining options in the Lex Vegas area, and thus we proudly present a brief list of suggestions: Doug and Robins' "Parents' Weekend Greatest Hits."

For varied fare, we suggest the **Sheridan Livery Inn**, conveniently located downtown. Dinner meals typically include salad and bread, and entree options range from the delightful spinach chicken with pesto to steaks and seafood.

The dessert menu offers delicious choices, and the Inn boasts a subdued atmosphere, with soft music and the soothing sounds of a fountain.

If you seek a boisterous atmosphere, you might investigate the options at the **Palms**. In addition to sandwiches and drinks, the Palms has several delectable entrees, including the excellent filet mignon and tasty seafood dishes.

Robin recently tried the chicken stir fry: a spicy, hearty dish with a choice of baked potato, mashed potatoes or vegetable on the side.

The Palms is also an excellent place for your parents to meet with you and your friends later in the evening for cocktails.

The **Southern Inn** offers good food within easy walking distance. Under new ownership since last fall, the restaurant has changed its offerings and improved its quality dramatically. The soups, salads and appetizers are excellent beginnings for any meal.

An expanded entree menu is available on weekends; the crispy chicken, barbecue pork chops and steak are among our favorites, but there are many additional options. Portions are extremely generous, and the staff is friendly and helpful.

**Maple Hall** offers fine dining if you are willing, or able, to make the drive out past Lee-Hi on Route 11. For big weekends the restaurant typically offers a special menu with three to four entree options.

Salad and dessert are included with each choice, and the atmosphere is extremely elegant.

Prices exceed those at most in-town options, but the experience promises to be memorable. We suggest advance reservations.

If none of these options pique your interest, venturing outside the Metro Lexington area is an excellent option, whether to Staunton, Roanoke, or elsewhere.

The big thing to keep in mind is to avoid the unknown; your parents are paying, have them take you somewhere that you know and love. For all the good places to eat in Lexington, there are two more that are bad.

PARENTS' WEEKEND



SWEETHEART, WE KNOW... WE REMEMBER LAST YEAR!!!



LATER AT THE RUINS



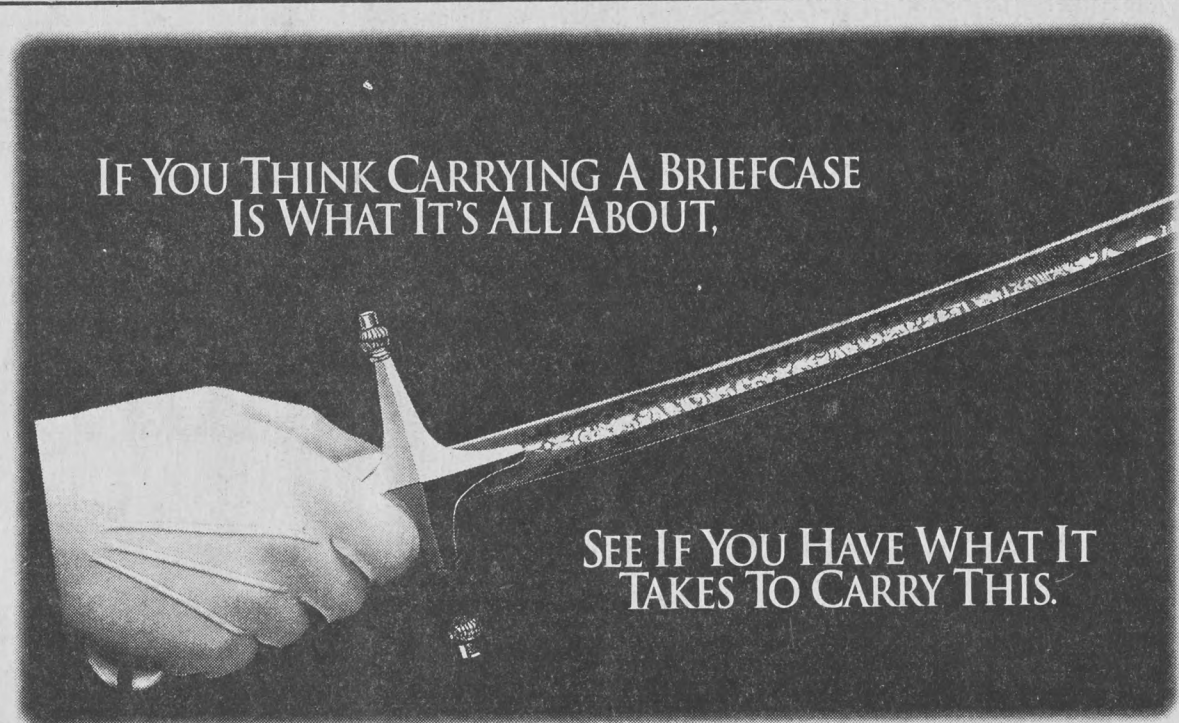
NOT MUCH LONGER AFTER THAT...



# 24 seven

## Parents' Weekend

MONDAY & TUESDAY 8 p.m. *Uncle Vanya* in the Johnson Theater WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY nothing as interesting as the bands this weekend FRIDAY SX has Doug Clark; EN jams with Doxy's Kitchen; SAE has Voltage Brothers; XΨ-Right On SATURDAY KA-Doug Clark; KE-The Convertibles; ΦΔT-Midnight Movers; ΦΚΣ-Blues Jones; ΠΚΦ-R&B All Stars; ΦΚΨ-TFC

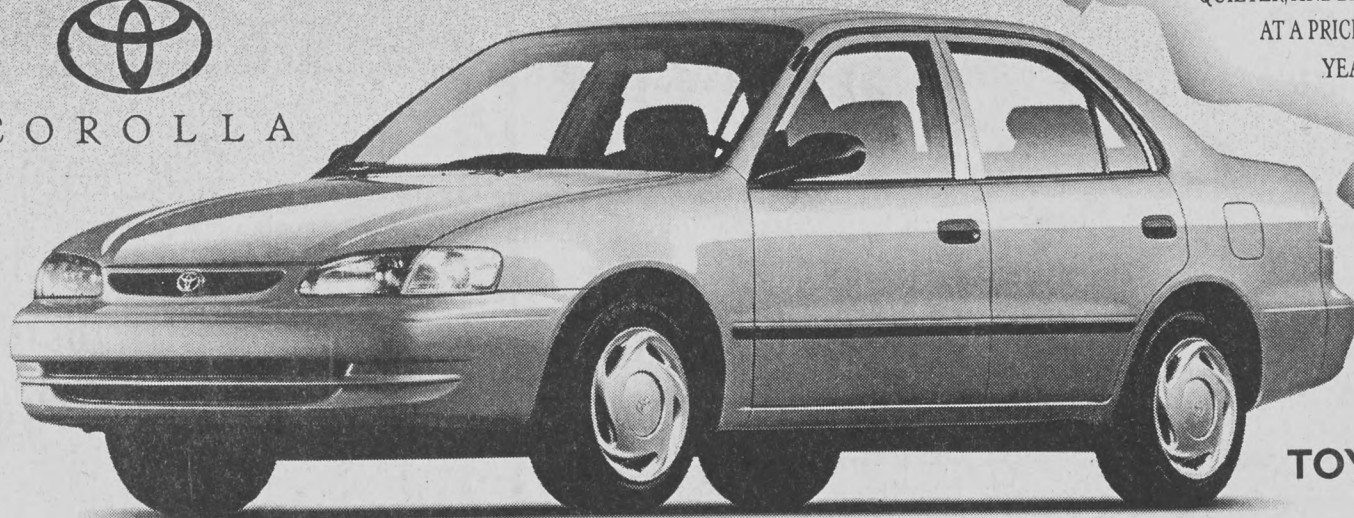
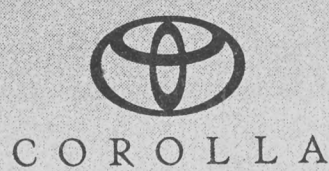


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