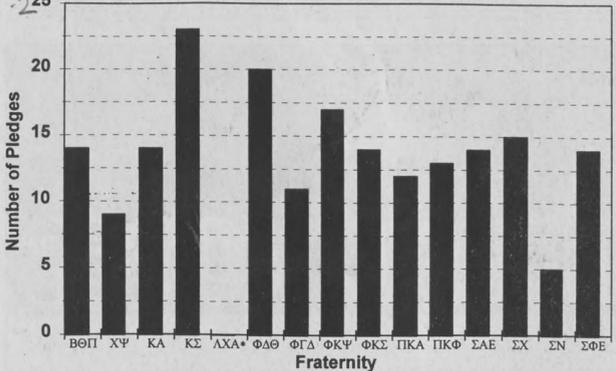


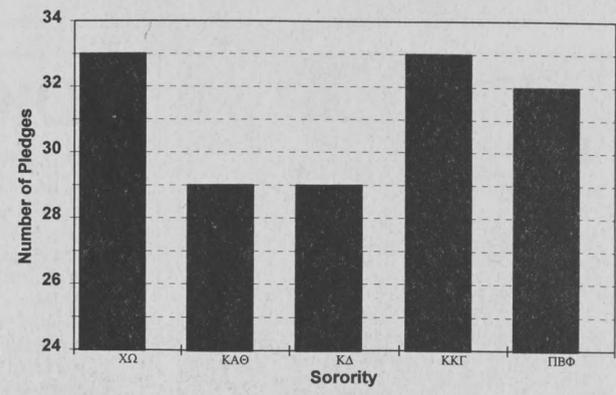
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1998 Winter Rush: The Numbers Never Lie

Approximately 80 percent of freshmen males accepted fraternity bids. Kappa Sig snagged the most pledges, 23. *Lambda Chi didn't tear any pledges. (See related page one story.)

Approximately 70 percent of W&L women pledged a sorority. This was KD's first rush conducted by W&L women. Chi-O and Kappa were the only sororities to meet quota.



The Ring-tum Phi

Washington and Lee University
VOLUME 100, NUMBER 10

Monday
JANUARY 12, 1998

Two male freshmen spend Bid Night in ICU

By HEATHER McDONALD AND WILL HARDIE
ASST. NEWS EDITOR AND COPY EDITOR

"It wasn't this bad [last year], I can tell you that," said Dr. Jane Horton of the Student Health Center.

Ten freshmen, five men and five women, ended women's Bid Night intoxicated in the infirmary Friday.

Three of the men were transferred to intensive care at Stonewall Jackson Hospital with blood alcohol concentrations over .300, a level doctors consider physiologically dangerous. A BAC over .400 can be deadly, possibly leaving the patient unable to breathe.

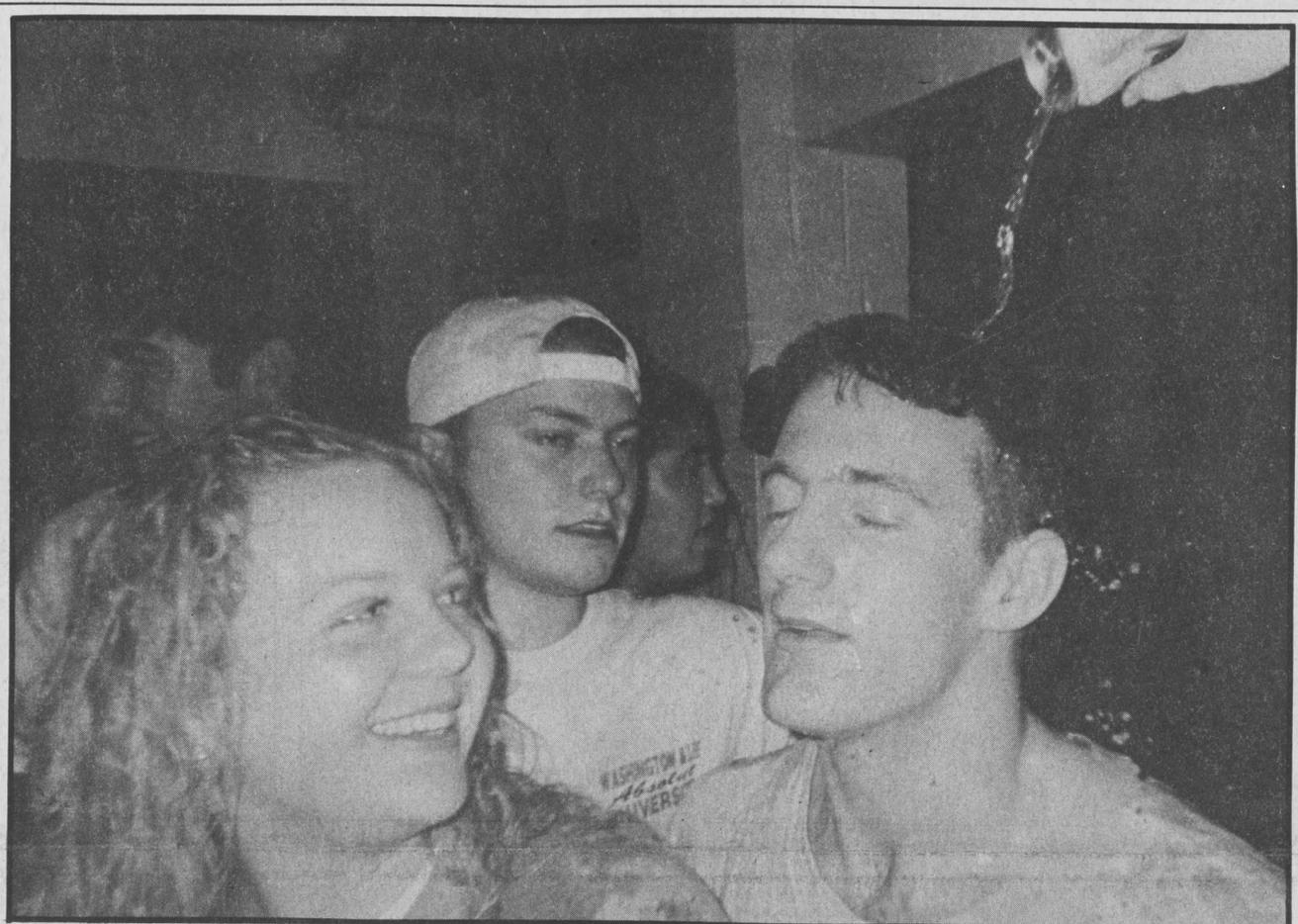
Two of the men were held overnight in intensive care; the third was released back to the SHC.

The casualty figures for Saturday night were unavailable at the time of press, but in previous years Tear Night has claimed more victims than Bid Night. On Bid Night last year only one freshman was taken to the Stonewall Jackson ER, but on Tear Night two freshman women and one freshman man were taken to the SHC, two of whom were transferred to the ER.

On Saturday afternoon, Horton, Security Chief Mike Young, Dean Leroy "Buddy" Atkins, IFC President Jason Callen and the fraternity presidents met to discuss the situation.

"Basically, all we talked about was toning stuff down," said Callen. "Unfortunately, there tends to be a lot of damage to people and fraternity houses on Tear Night, and we wanted to prevent that."

"Traditionally at W&L, Tear Night is a rough night, and we just wanted to make sure everyone had a safe night," he said.



NOTHIN' LIKE A CHEAP CAN OF BEER ...
Brian Cerviva, Phi Psi pledge, is ritually showered in beer, while Adam Ingols, a Phi Psi junior, and freshman Mindee Perdue frolic in the spillover. This year 195 men and 156 women accepted bids from Greek organizations.
HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR

Rush mutual selection process leaves freshmen out in the cold

By KATHIE SOROKA
STAFF WRITER

Rush is supposed to be a time of having fun, making friends and finding a place in a fraternity or sorority. Unfortunately, some people fall through the cracks.

"In a perfect world, and if Panhellenic had its way, no one would fall through, but the way, no one would fall through, but the way the system works, there are inevitably going to be glitches," said Panhellenic Rush Chair, senior Holly Thomsen. "There's a lot of confidential stuff in about. It's a crappy process."

One anonymous freshman only got invited back to one sorority after Open House Night.

"I wasn't very comfortable with the

one I was invited back to, so I considered dropping out of Rush ... and Washington and Lee," she said. "I felt so rejected. I kept asking myself what I had done to make all these girls not like me."

She was told Rush was "laid back" and "not a big deal," yet she does not feel this is the case.

"It's unfair that they cut so many people after one night," she said. "I wanted to be in a sorority my whole life. This was devastating. I've seen so many girls get their feelings hurt."

An anonymous freshman boy was terrified.

"I considered these guys close friends," he said about one fraternity. "I was hanging out with them since Homecoming and had gone to two

formals with them. They were nice about dropping me, but still, I was surprised."

He has chosen to stay independent rather than face the "stigma" of pledging an unpopular fraternity.

"It's not the end of the world; I've moved on," he said. "But, I did entertain thoughts of transferring and I'm not alone. Having frats at a school doesn't automatically make everyone happy."

He feels the dorm counselors didn't do an adequate job of preparing the boys for Rush.

wasn't expecting duplicity," he said. "While you're at their Rush date they say, 'We'd really love to have you back, a lot of the brothers like you,' and then the next day you get a phone call tell-

ing you it's not going to work out."

Two other disappointed freshman girls, identifying themselves as "Francie" and "Rose," were not quite as devastated. These girls were dropped from Rush completely after Skit Night.

"I'm glad it happened to me and not somebody who really cared about it," Francie said. "I mean, I'm not going to be in therapy in 10 years because of this. I know some girls on my hall who this was a life or death situation for."

Francie is a little hurt though.

"I'm not upset that I'm independent, but I wish it was more of my choice than somebody else's," Rose said. "I feel sort of left behind. Everyone's getting all excited and I just have nothing to do."

Francie suggests that Rho Chi's tell their girls more about the possibility of not making it to Pledge Night.

"I was led to believe that they had a spot in the sororities for all the girls pledging," she said. "We never discussed with my Rho Chi about not getting into a sorority. In fact, she said each sorority's pledge class was the number of girls pledging divided by five."

"I didn't know a lot of the upper-classmen girls, but I was under the impression that you can go there and meet people and you still have a chance," Francie said.

Rose agreed. "Everybody says you make so many friends during Rush, but I just don't see it," she said. "You meet people for a second, and they've met the rest of the freshman class that night. By the time you leave, you don't remember the names of the people you met."

Faculty office smoking falls victim to new policy, 'fish bowl' smoking still OK

By KATHRYN MAYURNIK
NEWS EDITOR

The administration has successfully extinguished faculty office smoking, after a heavy crossfire and debate between non-smokers and smokers. President John Elrod released a statement Friday outlining Washington and Lee's revised smoking policy, one that will prohibit faculty smokers from lighting up in their offices.

"It was done in the interest of health and safety," Elrod said.

The smoking lounges in the library will still accommodate smoking studiers.

"I don't see any problems with the smoking lounges, because they are well-ventilated and insulated," Elrod said.

Elrod said that he hasn't heard any negative feedback from faculty members, but Professor of Journalism Ronald MacDonald, a pipe smoker, is slightly steamed about the change.

"I'm not happy about it," he said. "But it is something that I have to go along with it and find a way to survive."

Professor of Journalism John Jennings smokes, but never smoked in his office.

"It really won't affect me," he said. "It was a matter of

weighing the rights between smokers and non-smokers."

"Anyone who broaches the subject of smoker's rights will instantly be told that smokers have no rights," MacDonald said. "So I never really touch that subject anymore."

"All fall, we listened to the views of smokers," Dean Laurent Boetsch said. "We understand that it will be inconvenient for professors to go smoke outside and interrupt their work. But the same goes for non-smokers. A lot of non-smokers were forced to work at home because of the second-hand smoke."

Creating smoking lounges in academic buildings to accommodate professors who smoke was not an option.

"We barely have enough room for professors and students, let alone smoking lounges," Boetsch said.

The committee of deans and Director of Personnel Robert Fox explored the question of second-hand smoke.

"It was the best decision for the majority," said Boetsch. "Those with respiratory problems especially suffered."

In response to more smokers puffing outdoors, the University will provide more outside ashtrays to cut down on littering.

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Once again, frosh break GPA record

By CHRIS KAUFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

The class of '01 is breaking records across the board. The largest ever class, it achieved an average GPA of 2.969, the highest ever, and the lowest ever rate of academic probation. The postponement of Rush until winter term is likely to have contributed to their success.

"The general consensus amidst the faculty is that this freshman class is one of the most academically prepared and intellectually inclined ever," said Dean of the college.

"It's a very, very fine fall-term performance in every respect."

The freshmen's success is due in part to institutional changes, as well as to their dedication and brain power. "The institutional climate is better than it has ever been for freshmen to enjoy academic success," Manning said. "Deferring rush has allowed students to get a feel for the academic challenges

they will be facing at Washington and Lee and enabled them to learn how to manage a college schedule before facing the added pressure of Rushing a fraternity."

Since last year Rush has taken place in winter term rather than in fall term. Last year's average freshman fall-term GPA was 2.869.

Three freshmen are on academic probation, having a GPA of 1.0 or lower. Manning cites poor time management, alcohol abuse, sleep deprivation and poor nutrition as factors detrimental to academic success.

were lower than they had expected before the start of term, higher than they expected after their mid-term exams, and about the same as they expected heading into finals.

"I got about what I expected," said freshman Christopher Lue, "though I think that my final exams may have pulled up two of my grades. But for the most part there were no surprises."

Organization	GPA	Organization	GPA	Organization	GPA
ΠΒΦ	3.371	ΣΧ	3.077	Univ. Avg.	3.078
ΚΑΘ	3.344	ΣΦΕ	3.074	Fraternity Avg.	3.021
ΚΚΓ	3.334	ΒΘΠ	3.072	ΧΨ	3.019
ΑΧΑ	3.291	ΠΚΦ	3.067	ΚΑ	2.994
Sorority Avg.	3.274	ΦΓΔ	3.061	ΠΚΑ	2.990
ΧΩ	3.249	ΚΔ	3.045	ΦΔΘ	2.927
Non-sorority	3.112	ΣΝ	3.043	ΦΚΣ	2.918
ΦΚΨ	3.086	ΚΣ	3.032	Non-fraternity	2.952

Lambda Chi defers rush

By KATHRYN MAYURNIK
NEWS EDITOR

Size doesn't matter. At least not for Lambda Chi Alpha.

Lambda Chi voluntarily tore no freshman Saturday. Since the 21-man house consists of 10 seniors and only four sophomores, some might feel that the fraternity is in a precarious position. The brothers disagree.

"There is no threat of us losing our charter because of our small numbers," said Rush Chairman Dan Hilley. "We've been worse off before."

A group of men want to tear with them immediately, but they want the chance to get to know a few others

Q and A

By Dan Birdwhistell

Freshman year is a time of many changes for students as they learn the ins and outs of the university. These are the things that we as freshmen have learned. These statements have been compiled from comments and observances throughout the year.

- Baner actually does exist—and his vengeance is fierce.
- Late night at Chi Psi gets strange around 3 a.m.
- Wanda is the coolest woman in America.
- The D-Hall has thirty children stored hidden in the kitchen that they only bring out on theme nights.
- “No drinks or food” signs are for decoration.
- Tailgating is a way of life.
- Big pick-up trucks filled with yelling townies are bad.
- The bathrooms on first-floor Graham-Lees are not quality locations.
- The bathrooms on first-floor Graham-Lees are good enough if you live on the second floor and want to keep your bathroom clean.
- Girls' rush is crazy.
- Dean Manning is actually not an agent of Big Brother.
- Getting mail is like Christmas.
- Lee-Hi is always a party.
- The hot dogs at Stop-In seem less appealing after the first month.
- Ten minutes of sleep is more valuable than breakfast.
- Volcanoes don't necessarily have to be made of rock and expel magma.

ODK Inductees

Class of 1998

Byron Bernard Burns, III
Anurag Nunzri Chandra
Timothy Francis Cleary
Jonathan Regan Doherty
Naoh Michael Egorin
David Dennis Foster
Matthew Michael Graves
Catherine Denise Haddock
Joshua David Heslinga
Glenn Frederick Miller
Mary Taylor New
William Edward Olson
Celeste Elizabeth Rasmussen
Anne Carter Shaw
Lorraine Marie Taurassi
John Joseph Thrall

David Andrew Lehman
David Edward Sugerman

Law Class of 1998

Jeffrey Alan Keithline
Timothy Josephy Keefer
M. B. Long
David Tilton McIndoe

Law Class of 1999

Robyn Ereckson Hill
William Owens Lewis
Hutchinson
Ellen Marie Wasilausky

Honorary Members

Laurent Boetsch '69
Ben S. Gambill '67
Linda L. Krantz
Edgar W. Spencer '53

Class of 1999

Mark Wesley Armstrong
Natalia M. Dorofeeva

FOUNDERS' DAY/ODK CONVOCATION

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1998

A - 8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.

B - 8:50 A.M. - 9:35 A.M.

C - 9:40 A.M. - 10:25 A.M.

D - 10:30 A.M. - 11:15 A.M.

CONVOCATION - 11:30 A.M. - 12:55 P.M.

E - 1:00 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.

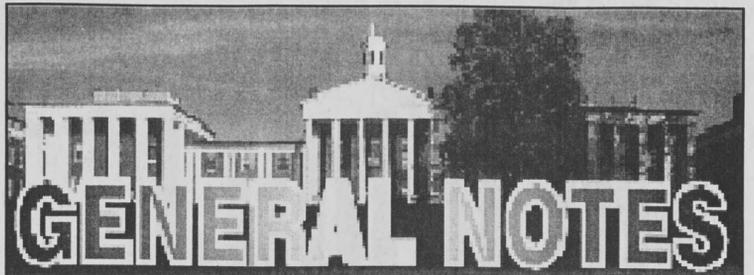
F - 1:50 P.M. - 2:35 P.M.

G - 2:40 P.M. - 3:25 P.M.

H - 3:30 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.

I - 4:20 P.M. - 5:05 P.M.

J - 5:10 P.M. - 5:55 P.M.



LIP SYNCH COMPETITION LOOKS TO RAISE FUNDS, FUN FOR AREA CHARITY ON JAN. 19

The 13th annual Lip Synch competition will be held Friday, January 23, in the Pavilion. Act registration is \$30; there is a six-person limit on acts. This year's competition will be hosted by Matt O'Brien and Wes Armstrong. There will be a mandatory meeting on Thursday, January 22 to determine the order of the acts. The number of acts per group is not limited. All proceeds will go to Students Against Rockbridge Area Hunger (S.A.R.A.H.). Last year, over 8 tons of food were collected for local area food banks. Organizers Matt O'Brien and Gerry Darrell are hoping to surpass last year's record level of participation, when the 20 acts including the Housemothers and Dining Hall staff. Contact either Matt O'Brien at 464-1221 or Gerry Darrell at 462-8596 if you have any questions before the meeting.

FOUNDER'S DAY/ODK INITIATION JAN. 19; DISTINGUISHED CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN TO SPEAK

The 127th observation of Robert E. Lee's birthday will be celebrated Jan. 19 at 11:30 a.m. in Lee Chapel. This year's speaker will be James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., who is widely acclaimed as one of the nation's leading Civil War historians. The title of his lecture is "Lee: The Marvelous Man." He has received every major honor given in the field of Civil War history, and has authored or edited over 20 books. Robertson is Alumni Distinguished Professor in History at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va. Omicron Delta Kappa, the national honorary fraternity founded at W&L, will initiate 20 undergraduate students, seven law students and four honorary members. Founder's Day was instated after Lee's Death, when the Washington College board of trustees declared that his birthday should always be celebrated at the college. ODK was founded in 1914 to recognize superior leadership achievements in various aspects of campus life.

WLUR TO HOLD MEETING TONIGHT AT 7

WLUR 91.5 FM is holding an organizational meeting to organize the winter term radio schedule on Monday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. in Reid Hall 203. No prior experience is necessary. Everyone is welcome.

JOHNNY GRIFFIN JAZZ QUARTET TONIGHT AT 8

The Johnny Griffin Jazz Quartet will be performing at 8 p.m. in the Keller Theatre. For tickets call 463-8000. Tickets cost \$3.00 for students, faculty and staff.

—Compiled by Heather McDonald

RUSH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who they met too late during the rush process, men who fell through the cracks. Instead of extending bids to just anyone to increase their numbers, the Lambda Chis are striving to be more selective, to get pledges that will preserve their basic fraternity policy and redefine their image on campus.

"I don't know how the brothers are going to vote on these men," Hillely said. "We really want to concentrate on getting quality guys, instead of quantity."

"It was really hard to meet all of the freshmen because the majority of our house consists of seniors," Hillely said. "A lot of our seniors are out looking for jobs, so it was really hard."

The freshmen that Lambda Chi will end up initiating will define the fraternity for the next four years, said Hillely. "We're looking for a core group of leaders that will take over most of the house offices in the spring," Hillely said. "Since the sophomores are always the best at rushing guys, we want to be more selective about this year's members, so they can recruit in greater numbers next year."

This way, Hillely says, the fraternity will not be top heavy, because they will lose smaller numbers of graduating seniors in the upcoming years.

"The men that we get this year will define a new character and image for the fraternity, as well as preserve our unique image on this campus," Hillely said.

After Lambda Chi tears the group of freshmen, they will seek out independents in a deferred rush process.

"We are looking for guys who maybe didn't find what they wanted during Rush, and maybe didn't know who we were," Hillely said.

Lambda Chi President Trey Lee admits that image is sometimes a big catalyst at W&L, and that this is sometimes why some men fall through Rush.

"It's bound to happen to some guys out of no fault of their own," Lee said.

Washington and Lee's fraternities, as well as fraternities around the country are in a period of transition, and Lambda Chi feels that it is ready for the change.

"This is a world where there is growing adversity against fraternities because people are falling out of buildings and getting drunk," Lee said. "By our very different nature, we have an edge, an inherent adaptability to a new way of thinking about fraternities. This is probably why Lambda Chi is the fastest growing fraternity in the nation."

However, W&L's chapter of Lambda Chi has not been growing as fast as the national fraternity.

"What we do here is very different and untraditional," Hillely said. "Many fraternities follow a military system with their pledges. They break them down in order

to mold them."

Lambda Chi builds up their freshmen, instead of breaking them down, Hillely said.

The fraternity is proud of their strong stand against hazing.

"People think that because we do not haze, Lambda Chi is just a sign-up sheet," Hillely said. "But that isn't true. These freshmen will have a lot of responsibility. Essentially, we will be training them to run a fraternity."

"We are very excited about getting a core group of quality individuals who are willing to take up this challenge," Hillely said. "It's like starting over."

Wanted!!! Individuals, Student Organizations and Small Groups to Promote 1997 Spring Break Travel Packages Earn Substantial MONEY and FREE TRIPS Call INTER-CAMPUS PROGRAMS 1-800-327-6013

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For more information call Netta at (910) 349-9445 or e-mail mellott@amarog.ces.ncsu.edu

WRANGLER FLY FISHING GUIDE

PRIME MONTANA GUEST RANCH IS SEEKING COLLEGE STUDENTS TO WORK FOR THE SUMMER OF 1998 AS WRANGLERS AT OUR CORRALS OR AS FLY FISHING GUIDES UPON OUR SMITH RIVER. MUST HAVE GOOD EXPERIENCE IN EITHER FIELD AND MUST BE WELL ABOVE AVERAGE IN PEOPLE SKILLS. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO GRADUATING SENIORS.

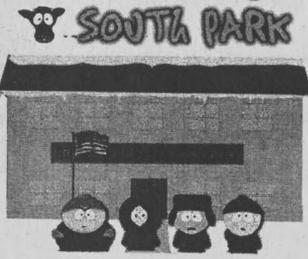
PLEASE CONTACT AMY HITLIN OF THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN MATTINGLY HOUSE FOR INFORMATION, INSTRUCTIONS, AN APPLICATION, AND AN INTERVIEW APPOINTMENT.

PLEASE ALSO WRITE TO ELK CANYON RANCH, 1151 SMITH RIVER ROAD, WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA, 59645 FOR SPECIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THESE TWO POSITIONS.

SPEND A SUMMER WORKING IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS OF MONTANA

PRIME MONTANA GUEST RANCH WILL SOON BE RECRUITING ITS STAFF FOR THE 1998 SUMMER SEASON. BOTH WELL MOTIVATED UNDERGRADUATED AND GRADUATING SENIORS WHO DO NOT HAVE SPECIFIC FALL PLANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INTERVIEW FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. REPRESENTATIVES FROM ELK CANYON RANCH WILL BE ON CAMPUS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS.

PLEASE CONTACT AMY HITLIN OF THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IN MATTINGLY HOUSE FOR INFORMATION, INSTRUCTIONS, AN APPLICATION, AND AN INTERVIEW APPOINTMENT.



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

If you can handle stiff competition, you could be driving the Wienermobile



By STEPHEN PESCE

STAFF WRITER

Many summer internships do not offer any monetary compensation for months of work. While some interns may be happy to accept better understanding of a particular industry and few other benefits, some students yearn for greater things.

Some are awestruck by the raw power of a big, rolling wiener. Some still chuckle as the black-clothed spy sticks dynamite in the white-clothed spy's sandwich in the latest issue of Mad Magazine. Some twenty-year-old eyes illuminate with the magic unlocked by the twist of an Oreo cookie. Some still clearly see the logistics of a talking dog solving mysteries with his friends.

If you are one of those students who wants more than an insider's understanding of a certain industry—even if it is just a few Doritos—read on.

The following internships for the summer of 1998 are all legitimate internships that require hard work and help pave the way for future employment. They also have some odd, interesting or different characteristics. Further information about these and other internships for this summer can be found in the Career Development and Placement Office in the Mattingly House.

ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences offers a highly esteemed, hands-on internship within the television industry. Deadline: March 31.



ANHEUSER-BUSCH

Washington and Lee students may put their uncanny appreciation for beer products to good use in the marketing and distribution departments of the company. Feb. 1.

BAYWATCH

Students will witness firsthand the genius behind the world's most absorbing drama. Rolling Deadline.

COMEDY CENTRAL

South Park!!! April Fools Deadline.

COORS BREWING COMPANY

Interns aid in sensory analysis, product distribution and development while enjoying the mountain recreation of Golden, Colorado. March 1.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY

Interns work in manufacturing and marketing and get to watch the crash test demonstrations. April 1.

FOX INCORPORATED

Interns work closely with movie screenings and get a free video. Rolling Deadline.

FRITO LAY

"Chip heaven." March 31.

HANNA BARBERA

Interns must have a double "o" in their name. Ain't that right, Boo-Boo. Rolling Deadline.

HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Harley-Davidson provides work in marketing and distribution. Interns meet many interesting people. March 31.



HOME BOX OFFICE

Interns with programming of the nation's two most popular pay television stations, HBO and Cinemax. March 31.

THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN

Program admittedly limits interns to secretarial work, but they know the Top Ten List before any of their friends. March 1.

MAD MAGAZINE

"Free pinball instruction from a man who was once known as 'The Big Gun' and 'Gunther.'" Interns participate in brainstorming for upcoming issues. May 1.

MATTEL

Mattel offers internships in product development, marketing and other fields. One intern started her own personal line of the famous Barbie doll. March 31.

MTV

Music Television-Interns get to wear casual clothes and hang out on the beach. Rolling deadline.

NABISCO

Nabisco offers work in public relations, customer service and marketing, not to mention free cookies. Interns generally gain 15 pounds by the end of the program. March 1.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Interns work closely with the decision-makers and top executives of the NBA. March 31.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY

Interns work in various capacities during the internship, including sports, news, comedy, and drama. April 11.



THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Interns work closely with the decision-makers and top executives of the NFL and get free merchandise. April 1.

NIELSON NORTH AMERICA

Someone needs to tell those people what we really watch on television. Rolling deadline.

OSCAR MEYER WIENERMOBILE

The Oscar Meyer Wienermobile is looking for journalism, public relation and advertising students to be spokespersons for the wienermobile. And that's no bologna. Feb. 2.

PLAYBOY MAGAZINE

Interns work in distribution, marketing and other areas, learning the magazine industry in a perky, upbeat atmosphere. Rolling deadline.



REEBOK

Reebok requires attendance at seminars on the importance of not wearing Nike and offers \$5 massages to all interns and employees. March 15.

ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE

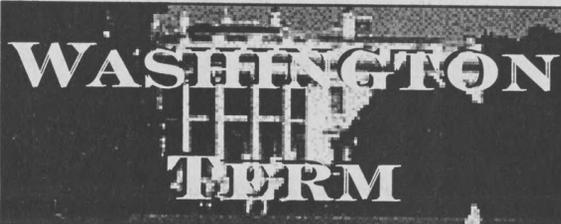
Interns examine the magazine industry through the eyes of pop culture. March 30.

SESAME STREET

This is the only internship that places you next to big fuzzy puppets. Rolling deadline.

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

Walt Disney Studios offers internships in the world's foremost in the animation industry. Interns examine the work of the animation studios. Ask for "Jimbo." He teaches the most effective ways to slip perversions in the cartoons. March 31.



Escape Lex's quaintness for D.C.'s grandeur

By MELODY ANDREOLA

STAFF WRITER

Some 19-year-olds in the nation's capital wake up every morning and head to work at Burger King. Last spring, Jason Hahn, '99, woke up each morning and went to work at The White House. Junior Nathaniel Tencza made the morning commute from his Connecticut Avenue apartment to CBS News headquarters.

Hahn and Tencza took advantage of W&L's spring term internship program in Washington, D.C. During the Washington Term Program run by Professor William Connelly of the Politics department, students intern Monday through Thursday, and attend class and guest lectures on Fridays. They receive credit for their work.

Hahn, a politics major, interned at The White House travel office. "It was really exciting working there," he said.

Although he didn't get to meet President Clinton, Hahn did see him and the First Family. "We used to have Chelsea and Hilary sightings in the hall," he said.

The main component of the six-week program, the internship, is the student's responsibility. With the help of Professor Connelly and his assistant, Danielle Simonetta, students can apply for internships in almost any field. Students find their internships during Winter Term while attending a weekly class aimed at preparing students for the program.

Tencza used the alumni network to land his internship at the newscast division of CBS News. He produced, edited, wrote and conducted interviews for the two-to-three-minute clips used on the evening news.

Tencza covered a variety of high-profile news stories, including man-on-the-street interviews about the controversy surrounding Joe Camel. "It was the hardest thing to walk up to people on the street with a microphone in my hand and a cameraman behind me and get them to talk with me. It was great," said Tencza.

The Washington Term Program is open to all majors. Interns in the past have worked in Congress, think-tanks and lobbying firms, as well as The White House and CBS.

"The Washington Program works well with any liberal arts education because it exposes students to an array of different elements including history, politics, and science," said Jeremy Adams, senior.

"Interns learn by doing," said Professor Connelly.

The course complements each student's internship. Professor Connelly tailors reading assignments to support the student's internship experiences with the related theories. The aim of the course work is to force the student to think more broadly about what he sees and hears in the internship and within the classroom.

"Washington Term is an opportunity to combine theory and practice and forces you to question ideas in the face of competing evidence," said Adams about his experiences.

The last part of the course, the guest lectures, exposes students to a variety of professionals working in Washington, DC. Past lecturers include Mack McLarty, the former Chief of Staff to President Clinton, and Washington and Lee alumnus, Congressman Jim Davis.

To apply, pick up an application outside of Professor Connelly's office in the Williams School. Attach a resume, a writing sample, and an unofficial copy of your transcript. Students must have completed Pol 100, 101 or 111. If you have any questions, contact Danielle Simonetta.

—W&Life Editor Liz Deter contributed to this article.

Proud to be Greek free: Social scene for independents

By SARAH MELDRUM

STAFF WRITER

OK, so maybe the Greek scene isn't your cup of tea. At Washington and Lee, sometimes it seems as if the Greek scene is the only form of entertainment around. The school does throw the occasional lavish party—think FD, Mock Convention—but there are a lot of other weekends when not much appears to happen.

Students who choose to remain independent are not cutting themselves off from their friends in fraternities and sororities.

"The majority of my friends are Greek," Tadzia GrandPre said. GrandPre tried to start an Independent Union with fellow senior Andrew Ruppard a few years ago.

"[We] tried to do it for two years, but there's not much interest in it," GrandPre said. The Independent Union no longer exists on campus.

Maybe independent students simply like being, well, independent.

"It's certainly possible to have a fulfilling college life without belonging to a Greek organization," senior



Milagros Daly said. Daly is a member of numerous clubs, including the International Club, which holds events for all students. Daly said that the International Club plans to host a Polish dance festival later this year.

The Fridays! committee, started by former "Dean of Fun" Michelle Richardson, provides Friday night entertainment. GrandPre, president of the committee, said Fridays! likes to bring in comedians, bands, and other entertainment.

It's certainly possible to have a fulfilling college life without belonging to a Greek organization.

—Milagros Daly

"They're things you can do before going out to parties," she explained. Students are welcome to attend, whether or not they participate in fraternity or sorority Rushes.

Junior Mark Slomiany decided against rushing when he was a freshman. Although he does not regret his decision, he does think there are benefits to belonging to a fraternity, such as having a place to gather with a large group of friends.

"It would be nice if W&L had a student center like other schools," he said. Until the new student center is built, independent students will lack a central meeting-place.

But independents do not lack social options in Lexington. Dorm rooms, apartments, restaurants, and movie theaters are some of students' hangouts.

"I think Greek affiliation definitely loses importance by the time people reach senior year," said Vanessa Hall, senior. "The Palms and the Staircase become the center of the social scene."

VMI cadet enters The Real World

By ERICA PROSSER

STAFF WRITER

TV stardom has beckoned to a cadet, and he has answered. It's a show called The Real World that claims to be about... well, the real world. Now, one VMI cadet will become a member of the MTV show that made viewers understand what reality really is.

Dave Burns, VMI senior, has finished the complex and lengthy interview process, and he has worked his way into the hearts of the executive producers. Confirmation of his place on the show came through the first week of December. Burns is officially a member of The Real World VII, the seventh season of the popular program.

The show consists of seven

strangers picked to live in a house and get along for five months. MTV sometimes puts conditions on the members of the cast, just to make things interesting. The cast of the sixth season had to spend 20 hours each week doing community service. Burns does not yet know what, if any, conditions will be placed on him, but that part does not matter as much as getting to be on camera 24 hours a day.

For Burns, it all began with an open casting call in a Richmond pub.

Burns impressed the show's producers and directors from the first. He endured several interviews, both on- and off-camera, over the course of several months. Interviewers asked him about his life at VMI, his family back in Boston, his future plans and his

personality. They invited him to Washington, D.C., for another interview. Finally, Burns brought the show's directors and cameramen home to Boston with him over Thanksgiving to meet his family. The directors were collecting footage for the premiere episode of the show, in case Burns made the cut. After that break, the executive producers gave him the thumbs-up, and Burns was officially made a member of the cast.

A week in Los Angeles followed his selection. This month, Burns will head off to Seattle to spend five months in a house with six other people, all the while under the eye of a video camera. The complete season will air in July 1998, and Burns will be back in Lexington to see it. Although

his work at VMI is almost complete, he needs to spend a summer finishing up.

The Real World has thrown strangers together in six major cities to date. The first season of the show was set in New York City and aired in May 1992. The other cities selected have been Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, Miami and Boston. Cast members are chosen from across the country and are identified by only their first names while on the show. Like other cast members, Burns will be paid an undisclosed fee for participating in the show. Nothing is yet known about whether MTV will create an eighth season of the show or where such a season would be filmed.

MTV has asked VMI and Burns not to comment on his role in the series.

Cut-it-out

Washington and Lee Film Society Calendar

All screenings are at 7:30p.m. in the Troubadour Cinema at the corner of Main and Henry Streets.



Jan. 23 & 24
Microcosmos
Using specially designed cameras, this documentary tracks a day from dawn to dusk in micro-metropolis of tiny creatures inhabiting a French meadow.

Jan. 30 & 31
The Blue Kite
An epic docudrama about 16 years of birth and death, tears and laughter, and happiness and tragedy in a Chinese home.

Feb. 6 & 7
The Pillow Book
Aroused by having men write on her naked body, a woman chooses lovers who are good calligraphers to satisfy her fetish.

Jan. 16 & 17
Underground
Two entrepreneurial friends hide their families and neighbors in a basement shelter during WWI and convince them to manufacture weapons to sell on the black market.

ONE ACT AUDITIONS

Jan. 17 & 18, 2-5 p.m. in the Johnson Theater
Black actresses and actors are especially needed. Parts are available for one black actress in Alex Christensen's "Raimie" and one black actor in T.W. Leshner's production of Richard Kaliban's "Gladiator." Scripts available at the third-floor Lenfest Center reception desk.

RESULTS

Men's Basketball (5-5)

Mon.: Va. Wesleyan	53
W&L	59
Thur.: St. Mary's (MD)	80
W&L	62
Sat.: Roanoke	72
W&L	62

Women's Basketball (5-3)

Tues.: Eastern Menn.	44
W&L	62
Thur.: W&L	64
Hollins	45
Sat.: W&L	54
Roanoke	61

AHEAD

Monday

Men's Basketball —
Dickinson
7:00 p.m., Warner Center

Tuesday

Women's Basketball —
Va. Wesleyan
7:00 p.m., Warner Center
M&W Swimming —
Buffalo State
7:00 p.m., Twombly Pool

Wednesday

Men's Basketball —
Lynchburg
7:30 p.m., Warner Center

Thursday

Women's Basketball —
Randolph-Macon
7:00 p.m., Warner Center
Wrestling — Anderson
7:00 p.m., Doremus Gym

Saturday

Women's Basketball —
at Lynchburg, 2:00 p.m.
M&W Swimming —
at Goucher, 10:00 a.m.
at Catholic, 4:00 p.m.
Women's Track —
at Va. Tech Invitational
Wrestling —
at Swarthmore
Invitational, 10:00 a.m.

Basketball falls to Roanoke after up-and-down week

By BRENDAN HARRINGTON
STAFF WRITER

The Generals closed out an up-and-down week with a tough loss on Saturday Night at the Warner Center to arch rival Roanoke College, 72-62. The game was full of physical play and ended with an altercation after the final buzzer between players from both sides. The loss concluded a 1-2 week for the Generals hoopsters, who downed Virginia Wesleyan 59-53 in a thriller on Monday night and lost to St. Mary's of Maryland on Thursday, 80-62.

The Generals led Roanoke 37-32 at the half, sparked by the hot shooting of Will Ballard and his 10 first-half points. But the Generals met with disaster in the second half as the Maroons outscored them 40-25.

Roanoke capitalized on the Generals' inability to take care of the basketball, forcing 23 Generals turnovers on way to the victory. The Generals were not able to control the pace of the game as Roanoke forced an up-tempo game, using Generals' turnovers to get out on the fast break.

The Maroons were led by a balanced scoring attack as four players finished in double digits. Junior guard Dewane Bullock led the way with 20 points, back court partner Nathan Hungate finished with 10, sophomore forward Kyle Murphy finished with 10, and Tom Dettloff finished with 12.

The Generals were led by senior Kelly Dyer who finished with 21 points and Scott Hudson who scored 14. The loss brought the Generals to

5-5 overall and 3-2 in the ODAC, one game behind first place Hampden-Sydney, who downed Guilford 102-74 on Saturday.

The win improved Roanoke to 5-5 overall and 2-2 in the ODAC. The loss marked the fourth game of a six-game home stand in which the Generals have gone 2-2 thus far. The Generals return to action Monday night as they host Dickinson in a non-conference battle at the Warner Center at 7:00 p.m.

Washington and Lee 59
Virginia Wesleyan 53

The Generals kicked off the 1998 portion of their season with a thrilling victory over Virginia Wesleyan on Monday Night at the Warner Center, downing the Marlins 59-53 with a huge second half comeback.

The Generals trailed the Marlins 24-13 at the half as they shot a miserable 22 percent from the field in the first half. But the Generals came roaring back in the second half, outscoring the Marlins 46-29 and shooting 59 percent from the field to pull off the upset. The Generals also forced 23 Marlin turnovers throughout the course of the game.

With less than 3:00 left in the game, the Generals again found themselves trailing the Marlins, this time 53-47. But the Generals ended the game with an amazing 12-0 run, including an amazing tip in by Kelly Dyer with 0:25 left in the game and one second remaining on the shot clock. Head Coach Kevin Moore praised the Generals for the amazing comeback.

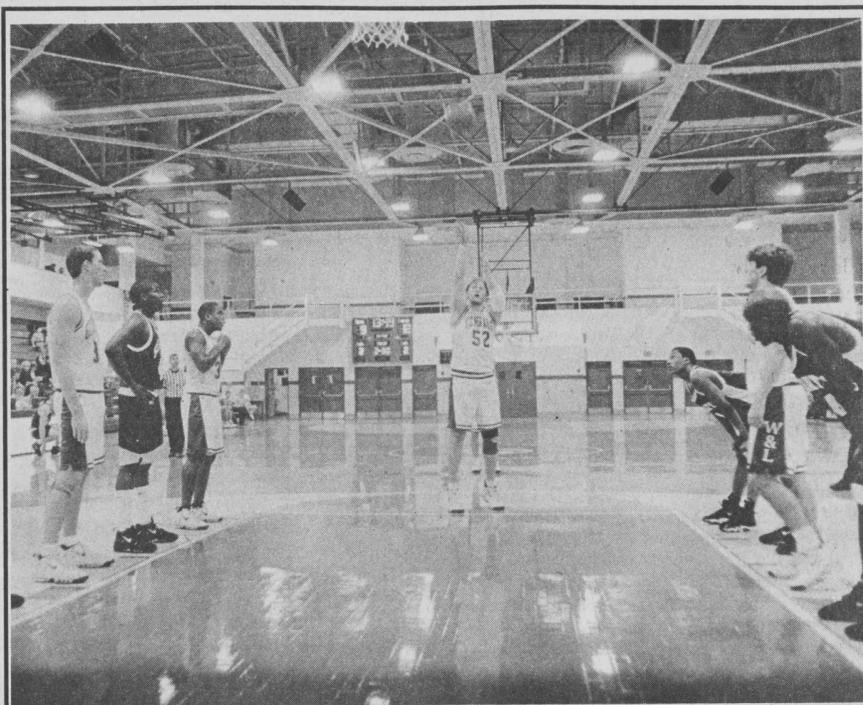


PHOTO BY HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore Rich Peterson shoots from the charity stripe Thursday night in an 80-62 loss to St. Mary's (MD). Peterson finished the night with 12 points.

"An old W&L team would have just given up, but this is a new W&L team," said Moore. "We had a lot of different people step up for us at crucial times."

Moore went on to praise the play of sophomore guard Matt Jackson, who led the Generals with 18 points, and freshman forward Eric Owsley, who played a crucial role down the stretch.

"Matt [Jackson] had a huge game for us and Eric [Owsley] made a lot of plays that just don't show up in the box score," commented Moore. "We don't have a player who is going to carry us; we have a lot of good play-

ers and each game we've had someone different pick up the slack."

Sophomore forward and last year's ODAC freshman of the year, Rich Peterson, made his return from his hand injury and scored 11 points and was 5-6 from the line including key free throws down the stretch.

The Marlins were led by Jason Nickerson, who scored 12 for Virginia Wesleyan. Tim Petrillo added 10 and Troy Walton scored 11 for the Marlins. The win dropped the Marlins to 6-2 overall and 3-2 in the ODAC.

St. Mary's Md. 80
Washington and Lee 62

The Generals couldn't keep up with a tough St. Mary's team and lost to the Seahawks 80-62 Thursday night at the Warner Center. The Generals trailed from the beginning and could never come back to catch the quicker and faster Seahawks.

The Seahawks shot an amazing 74 percent from the field in the second half and finished the game shooting 69 percent from the field. The Generals were outscored by nine points in each half and could not find the mark on offense.

Φ Jock Shorts

• Women's Basketball posts strong week •

Roanoke held Washington and Lee to just 27 percent shooting and defeated the Generals 61-54 in an ODAC women's basketball game on Saturday. The Generals outscored the Maroons 30-5 from the free throw line, but were unable to overcome the poor shooting and 25 turnovers.

W&L (5-3, 3-3 ODAC) was led

by Ansley Miller with 18 points while Chrissy Burghardt had 16 points and nine rebounds. Tonia Dean had a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds, doing most of her damage in the first half with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Washington and Lee overcame a one-point halftime deficit and de-

feated Hollins 64-45 in an Old Dominion Athletic Conference women's basketball game on Thursday evening. Sophomore guard Ansley Miller led the Generals with 22 points, including a six-for-six effort from the free throw line.

W&L trailed 25-24 at the half, but held Hollins to just four points in the first 12 minutes of the second half and outscored Hollins 40-20 in the second stanza. Registering double-doubles for the Gener-

als were Amber Hinkle with 13 points and 10 rebounds and Burghardt with 11 points and 10 rebounds. W&L outrebounded Hollins 48-31, led by Dean with 16.

Washington and Lee held Eastern Mennonite to just 16.7 percent shooting from the floor in the first half to open up an 18 point lead at the half, and then cruised to a 62-44 win over the Royals on Tuesday evening.

W&L would push its lead to as many as 30 early in the second half,

before EMU fought back to set the final tally at 62-44 in favor of the Generals. W&L had a balanced offensive attack, as four players scored in double figures for the Generals. Miller and Burghardt scored 15 points apiece, with Miller also contributing six assists and six steals, and Burghardt added eight rebounds. Also in double figures for the Generals were Dean with 14 points and 11 rebounds and Hinkle with 10 points and eight rebounds.

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Division III Preseason
Men's Lacrosse Poll

Washington and Lee is ranked 11th in the preseason men's lacrosse poll. W&L was ranked 13th at the end of the 1997 season. W&L opens its season at Guilford on February 25th.

1. Nazareth	1,306
2. Washington College	1,265
3. Salisbury State	1,180
4. Ohio Wesleyan	1,087
5. Gettysburg	1,048
6. Roanoke	905
7. Denison	824
8. Middlebury	730
9. Alfred	706
10. Hartwick	640
11. Washington and Lee	610
12. Ithaca	512
13. Williams	415
14. Hampden-Sydney	410
15. Western Maryland	364
16. R.I.T.	361
17. Cortland State	213
18. Springfield	192
19. Franklin & Marshall	174
20. Amherst	169
21. Bowdoin	145
22. Connecticut College	104
23. R.P.I.	89
24. Greensboro	74
25. St. Lawrence	49
26. Whittier	47
27. Randolph-Macon	40
28. St. Mary's, Md.	35
29. Marymount	25
30. Lynchburg	24

Opinion & Editorial

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JAN. 12, 1998

Winter break just a brief pause

"Not long enough." That was the overwhelming response to last week's frequently asked question, "How was your break?"

The brief respite from school known as Christmas Break was a mere two weeks this year. Not that this is unusual; Washington and Lee students get a three-week vacation only during leap years.

While most college students around the nation have a month off of school before returning for classes, the Generals have just enough time to dash home, see the parents, get some presents and celebrate New Year's Eve before rushing back to school.

The short break is a by-product of the trimester system. The same system that created the fabled lazy days of spring term is the reason that the W&L academic calendar is so bizarre.

Classes start later in Lexington than almost anywhere else in the United States. In May, long after friends at other schools have left their books behind for summer jobs and internships, W&L students are starting spring term.

While spring term brings students the opportunity to study abroad, take special seminars and make frequent trips to Goshen, the trimester system also has some drawbacks. The unique schedule poses problems for starting dates for summer work, prevents students from holding semester-break jobs and doesn't allow enough time to relax between terms.

A better way for W&L to keep the traditional advantages of spring term and lose the negative side effects would be to have a four to six week optional term, either in January or in June. Fall and winter semesters could be lengthened and courseloads increased to five classes.

With the extra time off at Christmas, students could actually get a chance to unwind, and return to Lexington rested, refreshed and ready to resume studying.

Quote of the week:

Infirmary Nurse: "Who's the president of the United States?"

Anonymous sorority pledge: "Elrod."

The Ring-tum Phi

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Fraternity pledgeship: a haze of innocence?

"Thank you sir, may I have another?" This, of course, is the famous line uttered by Kevin Bacon during his pledging ceremony in the movie *Animal House*. It's a funny line from a funny movie. But it's not so funny when it's your ass on the chopping block.

As fraternity pledgeship begins this week at W&L, one should note the commonwealth of Virginia defines hazing as just about anything under the sun, up to and including staring cross-eyed at a pledge. When I talk about hazing, I mean beatings, forced drinking and activities of that sort.

From a Bar Stool

Eric Swensen '98

Let's ignore for the moment the harm, the suffering and even the possibility of death that these types of activities can cause. The important question is, what purpose these activities serve. I have been under the impression (a mistaken one, obviously) that pledgeship is supposed to teach pledges something about the ideals of their fraternity or the skills needed to assume leadership positions in the fraternity some day, as well as testing their character. While beatings and forced drinking may test character in some sort of warped way, they certainly don't serve any of these other purposes. After all, if these activities are so valuable, then why will no one stand up and defend them in public? On the other hand, they do serve as excellent training for a career either as Evander Holyfield's sparring partner or as Ted Kennedy's personal assistant.

Why do these activities continue if they serve no discernable purpose? A good person to ask (if you can find him) would be John Taggart, a pledge at FIJI back in 1993. When asked by Dean Manning why he had missed English class that morning, Taggart said he overslept. When asked why he overslept, Taggart proceeded to describe two nights of forced drinking and pushups at the FIJI house. Taggart then depledged. In what I'm sure was merely a coincidence, Taggart's dorm room was broken into later that year. He had stereo and computer equipment worth more than \$3,000 stolen. Unsurprisingly, he decided to transfer at the end of the year. I don't mean to single out FIJI or suggest that members of their house participated in the break-in. It is clear, though, that there is a price to pay for speaking out.

What this boils down to is quite simple. Fraternity members want the pledges who follow them to go through a pledgeship as tough, if not tougher, than the one they went through. After a year of getting your ass kicked, it's only natural to want to return the favor. Making things "easier" is simply not an option.

Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on one's point of view), there is not much the administration can do to stop hazing. A crackdown would simply drive hazing out into the country. There are plenty of places in Rockbridge County where no one can hear a pledge scream in pain.

It's doubtful that hazing will end anytime soon on this campus. I wonder what it might take to change students' attitudes toward hazing. Judging from what it took to make changes to the alcohol policy, I shudder at what the answer might be.

Think the books are bad? Check out their price

I once spent so much money on textbooks that the bookstore ladies gave me a free lollipop.

I didn't know I was going to spend that much money that day. There had been nothing to warn me: no astrological signs of foreboding in my Cheerios; no predictions of devastation in the Almanac; no dead canary at the entrance to the bookstore.

Red Brick Row

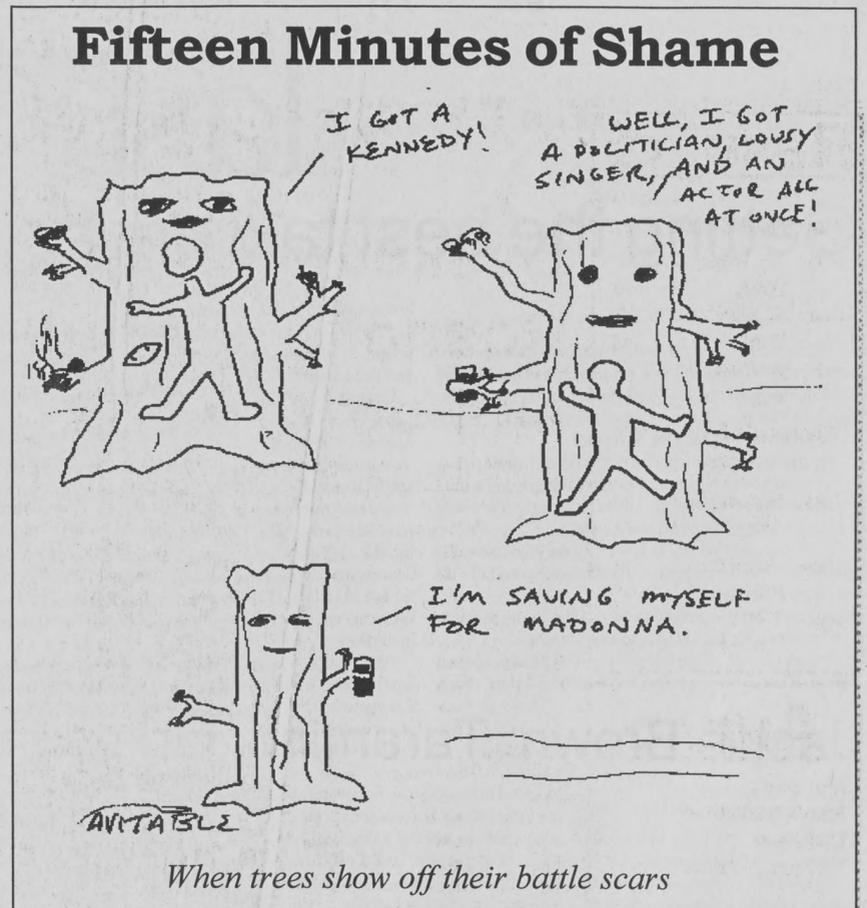
David Balsley '00

I was thoroughly unaware.

I arrived at the bookstore early that day. Students were carrying their drop/add forms from the gym. Professors were disappearing into the C-school. I made my way to the basement of the bookstore and had a look around.

Not too bad, I thought. This must be the one time this entire week when the bookstore isn't hopping busy.

I started to pick out books, double-checking my classes, times and professors. I grabbed a book here



When trees show off their battle scars

Seinfeld's co-stars aren't happy about ditching NBC

<scene: Jerry Seinfeld's apartment. Jerry is eating a bowl of cereal when Jason Alexander comes in.>

Jason: Ho-HO! You've really done it now! Had to quit the show, didn't you?

Jerry: Look, I just felt that we've done enough that the show had nowhere to go but...

The Looney Bin

Kevin McManemin '00

Jason: Nowhere to go? Nowhere to go? Now I've got nowhere to go! If it wasn't for *Seinfeld*, my life would still be nothing more than struggling actor jobs and the occasional off-off Broadway play.

<Michael Richards bursts through the door.>

Michael: (quivering) Say it ain't so!

Jason: Oh it's so, baby. IT'S SO!

Michael: No! (has drastic bodily contortion, knocks some papers off a nearby table)

Jerry: Look, Michael, it's not so bad! I'm sure NBC will give you your own spin-off show. "The Kramer Hour," or "cooking with Cosmo" or something.

Michael: (smiles) Giddy-up.

Jason: Oh sure, SURE! He's a popular character, and he can milk this *Seinfeld* gig for years, but do you know how hard it is for a stocky bald man to get a job on TV?

Jerry: What about Dennis Franz?

Jason: Alright, Dennis Franz is the exception.

Jerry: You know Dennis Franz won an Emmy Award.

Jason: ENOUGH ABOUT DENNIS FRANZ!

<Julia Louise Dreyfuss enters and takes a water bottle out of Jerry's fridge.>

Jerry: Look, don't bother trying to convince me to stay. NBC already offered me five million dollars an episode and I turned them down.

Julia Louise: Get out! (pushes Jerry down)

Michael: (says something unintelligible, like "yibagawawa," while having drastic body convulsions, and knocking over a box of crackers)

Jason: Five million dollars an episode! FIVE MILLION DOLLARS? WHOA-HO! I gotta fire my agent.

Julia Louise: Think about who you're really hurting here! <enter casts of "Suddenly Susan," "Caroline in the City," "Just Shoot Me," etc.>

Brooke Shields: Please, Jerry, don't leave Must See TV. I'm begging you. You know our writers can't write comedy! Without your cushy lead-in ratings, we'll go the way of "The Single Guy!"

Jerry: You know, I've really got to start locking my door. Alright, everybody out! I'm taking my girlfriend to see "Anastasia."

Jason: Jer, hold on, I'm begging you here! Begging! Just give it another season. Stick with the schtick, Jerry! Stick with the schtick!

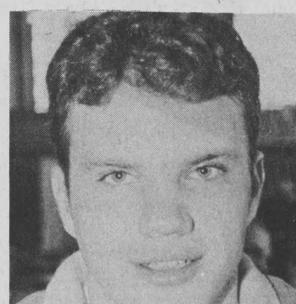
Jerry: It's over! (voice in high pitched whine)

<everyone leaves. Jerry cleans up his cereal bowl, then puts on a cape and flies out through the window into clear blue sky...>



"Clean my bathroom."

— Kathryn Frankle '00



"Force them to take Dean Manning's freshman English class."

— Marshall Sutton '99



"Replace their sport utility vehical with yugos."

— Lisa Brennon '99

Getting the best taxi driver in Chicago for only five bucks

By David Balsley

Staff Writer

This summer, when my brother Stephen left for his first year at the University of Iowa, my parents had not planned on bringing him home for Thanksgiving break. When November rolled around, they changed their minds.

So began my brother's big adventure. My parents bought Stephen a bus ticket and a train ticket. A bus would carry him from Iowa to Chicago, and a train would carry him the rest of the way to Pittsburgh. The whole trip would take an afternoon and a night.

Stephen caught his bus in Iowa City on Wednesday afternoon without any problems. The bus ride was dull. He read most of the way.

When my brother arrived at the bus station, he began to look for a taxi. He did not have to look for long.

A man greeted Stephen at the street. The man sported dreadlocks and a smile and was dressed in a t-shirt, shorts

and sandals. It was 25 degrees outside. "Hey, man, you need a taxi?" the man said in a Jamaican accent. "I'm the best taxi driver in Chicago. I get you where you need to go."

Stephen told the cab driver that he needed to get to the train station, and he responded that the trip would cost my brother ten dollars. My brother said that was a little expensive, but that he was willing to pay five bucks.

The man said, "I'll get you there for five dollars," and started to load my brother's things into the taxi. Stephen got in the back.

The best taxi driver in Chicago, my brother discovered, likes to drive with all the windows down. He also likes to

travel at 60 m.p.h. through crowded downtown streets.

Stephen's taxi raced through Chicago. His driver wove in and out of traffic, steering into oncoming lanes to get around cars stopped at red lights. People swore at the taxi as it went by. The driver swore right back, as though it were their fault that he had almost hit them.

My brother huddled in the back, afraid that this would be his last cab ride ever.

Suddenly, the taxi veered sharply to the left. The driver pulled into a parking garage, took a ticket and drove through the garage to the other side of the block. The driver said to the parking attendant at the exit, "I didn't park here, man, I don't owe you nothing," and pulled back onto the street and up to the train station.

The meter read exactly five dollars.

Stephen's adventure was not over yet. He got out of the taxi, collected his bags and his wits and walked into the train station.

Stephen sat down on a bench, hoping to relax after his harrowing trip. No such luck. Drug dealers offered to get him high. Female hookers propositioned him. Male hookers did the same.

He told them he had no cash, and they left him alone. A little while later, my brother got up to use the restroom. Inside, he found a lady casually eyeing the men as they came and went through the door. She stood as though she belonged there, in the men's room.

"Wow, she's stunning," Stephen thought.

Stephen looked again. He thought, "Wow, she's a man." My brother got into Pittsburgh on Thursday morning, and left again on Saturday evening. He took a train, then a bus, back to Iowa.

His trip back was uneventful. My parents were relieved.

Jackie Brown: Tarantino, Grier, Jackson, De Niro — need I say more?

By Alex Christensen

Phi Movie Critic

The pitch: "It'll be like 'Foxy Brown' meets 'Get Shorty.'"

I have been hesitant in the past to be one of the geek army that worships Tarantino as a cinematic god who can do no wrong. While I have seen everything he's ever written, rewritten, directed, or acted in, including that episode of "The Golden Girls" in which he played a sneering Elvis impersonator at Sophia's wedding, I always took pains to make it clear that it wasn't like I thought he could do no wrong. But after "Jackie Brown," which was preceded by the other two Tarantino-written-and-directed films, "Reservoir Dogs" and "Pulp Fiction," I think I can safely say that when Quentin Tarantino writes or directs something, it'll be great. If that makes me a Tarantino geek, I'll just smile and pull down the brim on my Kangol ball cap.

"Jackie Brown" is a funny, moving

love letter to Pam Grier, the blaxploitation star of the 1970s who made her first mark in such films as Jack Hill's "The Big Bird Cage," "Foxy Brown," and "Coffy" (her best film role), along with gentler actioners such as "Sheba Baby," "Friday Foster," and "Scream Blacula Scream." She's also known for roles in "Fort Apache the Bronx," "Escape to L.A.," and "Mars Attacks," and for her stage work, which has linked her with the works of Sam Shepard. While some view Grier as a B-movie action star, which she was, she's also a much underappreciated actress of the highest caliber, and "Jackie Brown" proves it. If Grier doesn't win the Oscar, it'll be pure Tarantino backlash, and nothing to do with her shattering performance.

Grier plays the title character in this story based upon Elmore Leonard's novel "Rum Punch." Tarantino has changed the character from a white flight attendant named Jackie Burke to our black flight-attendant heroine, to create this stellar part for Grier. The

setting has been changed as well, from the underworld Miami of Leonard's works to the underworld L.A. Tarantino portrays in his films.

Jackie Brown works for a little airline called Cabo Air, flying back and forth from LAX to Cabo San Lucas. Not exactly the best job for a forty-five-year-old woman who has been a flight attendant for 20 years. In order to supplement her income, Jackie has been moving money for a gun dealer named Ordell Robbie (Samuel L. Jackson). When Jackie gets caught, she and bail bondsman Max Cherry (Robert Forster) concoct a scheme to try to play the feds off Ordell's trail in order to keep Jackie out of jail and out of harm's way.

A rough outline can't convey the incredible pace, humor, and depth of character with which the story is told. Other characters include Louis Gara (Robert de Niro), an ex-con who may

the-top violence. That charge is bogus. Tarantino portrays violence, but does not lovingly on it. It's another element which may advance the plot, add humor or a jolt of adrenaline, and which always has consequences. Like real-life violence (like I hang out at gang-fights, right?). But, Tarantino's real talent is a Jane Austen-like attention to manners among the small-time hoods, dealers, and hangers-on he portrays. Who would imagine a film in which the fireworks fly not over verbal gymnastics or gunfights, but over the looks Ordell and Melanie give each other, over the sexual ethics of Louis Gara and over the almost-underground depth of emotion of the love story between the tough Max Cherry, and the even tougher Jackie. It all works sublimely. The characters truly live and breathe.

Of course, in addition to the true, almost believable perceptive writing, the acting is what puts the characters over. In addition to Grier for Best Ac-

tress, I'd like to hereby nominate Robert Forster for Best Actor for his career-changing acting bravado; Samuel L. Jackson and Robert de Niro for Best Supporting Actor; and Bridget Fonda, in her acting debut (not her movie debut) Best Supporting Actress. Somebody told me they were waiting the whole movie for Robert de Niro to do something. They missed the point. They should have watched what Louis Gara was doing — every second he's on screen, De Niro is wonderfully in character.

"Jackie Brown" is one of the most tightly and cleverly plotted films I've ever seen. The Money Exchange sequence takes your breath away with its economy, intricacy and suspense. Characters and relationships have their own theme songs. See also witty reference to Hitchcock's "Shadow of Doubt," "Saturday Night Fever," and "Taxi Driver."

See it. Don't expect "Pulp Fiction 2." Expect Brown. Jackie Brown.



The pitch: "It'll be like 'Foxy Brown' meets 'Get Shorty.'"

have seen some better days, his pot-smoking compadre Melanie Ralston (Bridget Fonda), Beaumont Livingston (Chris Tucker), a hood with a craving for chicken and waffles, and Ray Nicolet (Michael Keaton), the ATF agent after Ordell.

Working in the crime genre, Tarantino has been criticized for over-

I think I'm turning Japanese; I really think so

A fine line separates culinary preparation from knife juggling. At Kabuki, a small restaurant in Roanoke, this line becomes blurred. Seated eight to a table around

a large Japanese grill, patrons watch the showmanship of one of their many fine chefs as he prepares the meal. Flying knives, good drinks, flying food and a different type of atmosphere complete this experience.

For nearly \$20 a person, you get very full on some fine Japanese dishes, prepared right at your table.

We headed down there on a Friday night; it was Andrea's birthday and it seems we end up going to Kabuki at least once a year for someone's birthday. The place hadn't changed much since our last visit. After we were seated, our waitress took drink orders while we waited for other patrons to fill out our table. Andrea celebrated her twenty-first with a frozen margarita, while Doug had a strawberry daiquiri and Robin sipped on bourbon and coke.

On this evening we sat and dined with five people we didn't know. As soon as everyone was seated and enjoying drinks, chicken broth soup and salads arrived. We all opted for the house ginger dressing on our salads, which added a tangy, unusual flavor to the typical iceberg and cucumber fare. We all struggled valiantly with chopsticks to complete our dining experience, and met with moderate success.

As we finished the salads, our chef arrived and the

show began. He double-checked our orders before beginning to cook. Andrea chose Samurai Steak, prepared medium rare. Robin selected Hibachi Chicken, while Doug opted for the Kabuki special, both chicken and steak, prepared medium.

The chef commenced his act with shrimp appetizers. He flipped one of these successfully into Andrea's mouth, although his attempt to toss shrimp tails through the air into a bowl adjacent to Doug was not as well-aimed. The chef tossed knives and various seasoning containers through the air as he prepared chicken, vegetables, onions, and fried rice with vegetables. He doused these thoroughly in oils and various seasonings, and at one point lit the display in an impressive and startling burst of flame.

The chef saved preparation of the beef until last. He repeated the quick moves with knives, seen in his early maneuvers with the chicken, and prepared a portion of meat to each patron's specifications. After completing the show, he quickly cleaned off the grill and retreated, followed by the sounds of applause from our table. We finished our hot entrees quickly, enjoying well-seasoned fare with tasty dipping sauces for the meats.

Then from the distance we heard an unusual song, which vaguely resembled "Happy Birthday" but seemed to be in another language. Our waitress placed a small birthday cake before Andrea, who after making a wish, blew out the candles. A member of the staff even took a picture of us with the birthday cake, and we received a card containing the photo and wishing Andrea a happy birthday in Japanese, before we left the restaurant. We finished our meal with the excellent yellow cake, topped with rich white icing, and pronounced the evening's expedition a success.

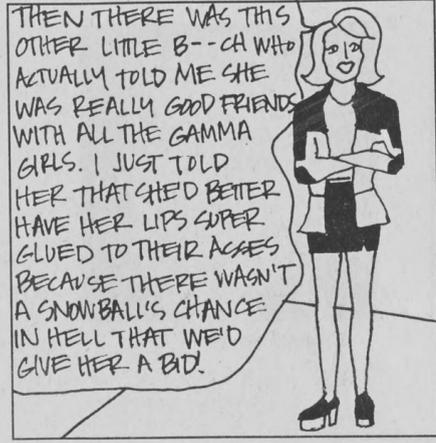
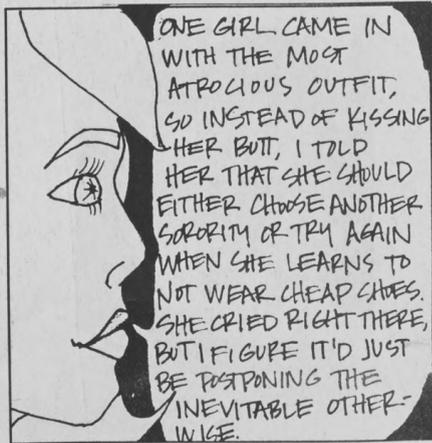
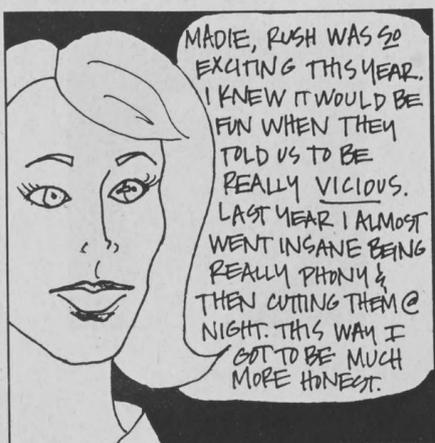
Kabuki Japanese Steak House is located at 3503 Franklin Road in Roanoke. There's another one in the Market Place in Christiansburg. Reservations are suggested, and the phone number is (540) 981-0222.



WANT FUN WITH YOUR FOOD? Watch chefs cook your dinner in front of you. Robin, Doug, and Andrea enjoy dinner at the Kabuki Japanese Steak House. Dinners range in price from \$11-22.

KABUKI
JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE
"A different type of atmosphere."
歌舞伎

Colonnade Club



By Hollister Hovey