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W&L LIFE

The one act plays next weekend  
promise sex, violence and much more.

PAGE 3



SPORTS

Jared Fribush placed 12th at  
NCAA's, women's lacrosse  
assumes control of the ODAC  
and baseball loses to Mary  
Washington.

PAGE 4

LASTWORD



Kelley Totten disproves  
the common  
misperception that  
watching Fox TV is bad  
for your health.

PAGE 6

# The Ring-tum Phi

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Lexington, Va.

Monday  
MARCH 23, 1998

Washington and Lee University  
VOLUME 100, NUMBER 18

## Students, locals nabbed at police DUI checkpoint

Ⓞ A City, County and State police roadblock caught Saturday night drivers unaware; about 40 were charged with drunken driving.

By WILL HARDIE

NEWS EDITOR

About 40 motorists were charged with drunk driving at a police roadblock on Route 11 in East Lexington Saturday night.

State police drafted in extra officers from Lexington and Rockbridge County police departments to run the checkpoint.

Virginia Military Institute cadet Ryan Weisiger was arrested and charged with DUI at 11:51. Washington and Lee students Megan Mulligan and Robert Tucker were both charged with reckless driving and DUI, though not at the checkpoint.

VMI cadets face a minimum punishment of a year's barracks confinement if found guilty of DUI, and could be suspended for a year or expelled. W&L students face social and conduct probation and 20 hours' community service.

Junior J.R. Leitch was among the many W&L students who made it through the roadblock. "I think it's good to have DUI checkpoints," he said. "But it's pretty nerve-racking even if you haven't been drinking."

Senior Milagros Daly was also stopped. "I thought they were polite," she said, "[but] the whole idea makes me uncomfortable because they are just stopping them without suspicion. But I understand the need for it."

Daly also said she thought the police could have chosen a more effective location on a quiet country road. This is the third checkpoint police have set up in Lexington this year. Previous ones were located on Nelson Street outside Harris Teeter, and on Route 11 at Cameron Hall. Police must apply in advance for approval for a checkpoint, which must be targeted at a specific type of driving offense. Saturday's roadblock targeted alcohol; others have focused on vehicle defects.

According to Lexington Police Officer Keith Haraway, checkpoints are intended both to catch drunk drivers and to deter potential offenders. Haraway said he hopes sober people pulled over at the checkpoint will think twice before drinking and driving in the future. He said that their reasoning might be, "If I decide to drink and drive, they'll be sitting here next time."

Haraway said that the stiff DUI penalties have succeeded in deterring people from drinking and driving. "I have noticed a reduction in DUIs in recent years, and we're glad for that," he said. He also attributed that reduction to cooperation between police and the Interfraternity Council, and to the Live Drive sober driving program at W&L.

## Some W&L students think drinking age should be 18

# Va. creates binge drinking task force

By SARAH MELDRUM  
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this school year, five Virginia college students died within a month because of alcohol. One fell from a dorm window, one appears to have fallen down stairs and three died in drunk driving accidents.

Students and administrators have been paying a lot more attention to campus drinking since then. Members of the public have clamored for action.

Some have even suggested lowering the legal drinking age to 18 to take away the rebellious appeal of alcohol for college freshmen.

Now, the attorney general's office has created a task force to study binge drinking and suggest ways of changing a collegiate culture.

"I do not believe that lowering the drinking age is an appropriate, viable or beneficial public policy. So, let us take that off the table right now," Virginia's Attorney General Mark Earley said in a speech March 9.

That speech launched his Task Force on Drinking By College Students. Initiated by former Attorney General Richard Cullen, the task force will study the negative effects of binge drinking and should make recommendations on how to address binge drinking.

Sophomore Kappa Alpha Christian Batcheller supports the promotion.

"I think that kids drink anyway; if they want to, they will do it," he said. "When you're trying to hide the problem with a 21 drinking age, it makes it more dangerous."

Sophomore Chi Psi Stephen Hopkins also thinks that the drinking age should be lowered to 18.

"If you're old enough to live on your own, you are old enough to make decisions about alcohol."

Death is the most drastic and well publicized consequences of collegiate drinking, but it is far from the most common.

Earley cited a nationwide study done by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, which found that alcohol plays a role in more than 40 percent of academic problems and in 28 percent of college and university dropouts.

Earley said that the task force will hold team meetings and public hearings throughout the state to hear from the public about binge drinking, and to build strong community support for its work.

The 44 members of the task force are divided into four teams, each of which has specific questions to consider. The members

include university and college officials, students, business leaders, parents, citizens and Elizabeth McClanahan, Esquire, Chairwoman of the State Council of Higher Education.

Earley hopes the task force will lead discussion to produce what he calls common sense solutions to change the culture of binge drinking on campuses.

The task will not be easy. Some students fail to take advantage of the academic and character building opportunities.

For them, Earley said, "college is one endless party void of any sense of personal responsibility or self-discipline."

Earley wants to promote talks among students, educators, parents, public leaders and citizens to find ways to change the alcohol-laden culture on many college and university campuses.

A State Council of Higher Education survey found that 38 percent of students at four-year schools in Virginia engage in binge drinking.

A college alcohol study done by the Harvard School of Public Health in 1993 found that "being white, involved in athletics, or a resident of a fraternity or sorority made it more likely that a student would be a binge drinker."

Batcheller disagrees with the national statistic.

"I know plenty of white, male, fraternity members who don't drink," he said. Batcheller, who plays football and baseball thinks the same goes for athlete drinking.

"I seem to think that drinking is more widespread and it doesn't have to do with athletes in particular."

Senior Ericka Shapard, a white sorority member involved in athletics has mixed feelings regarding the statistic.

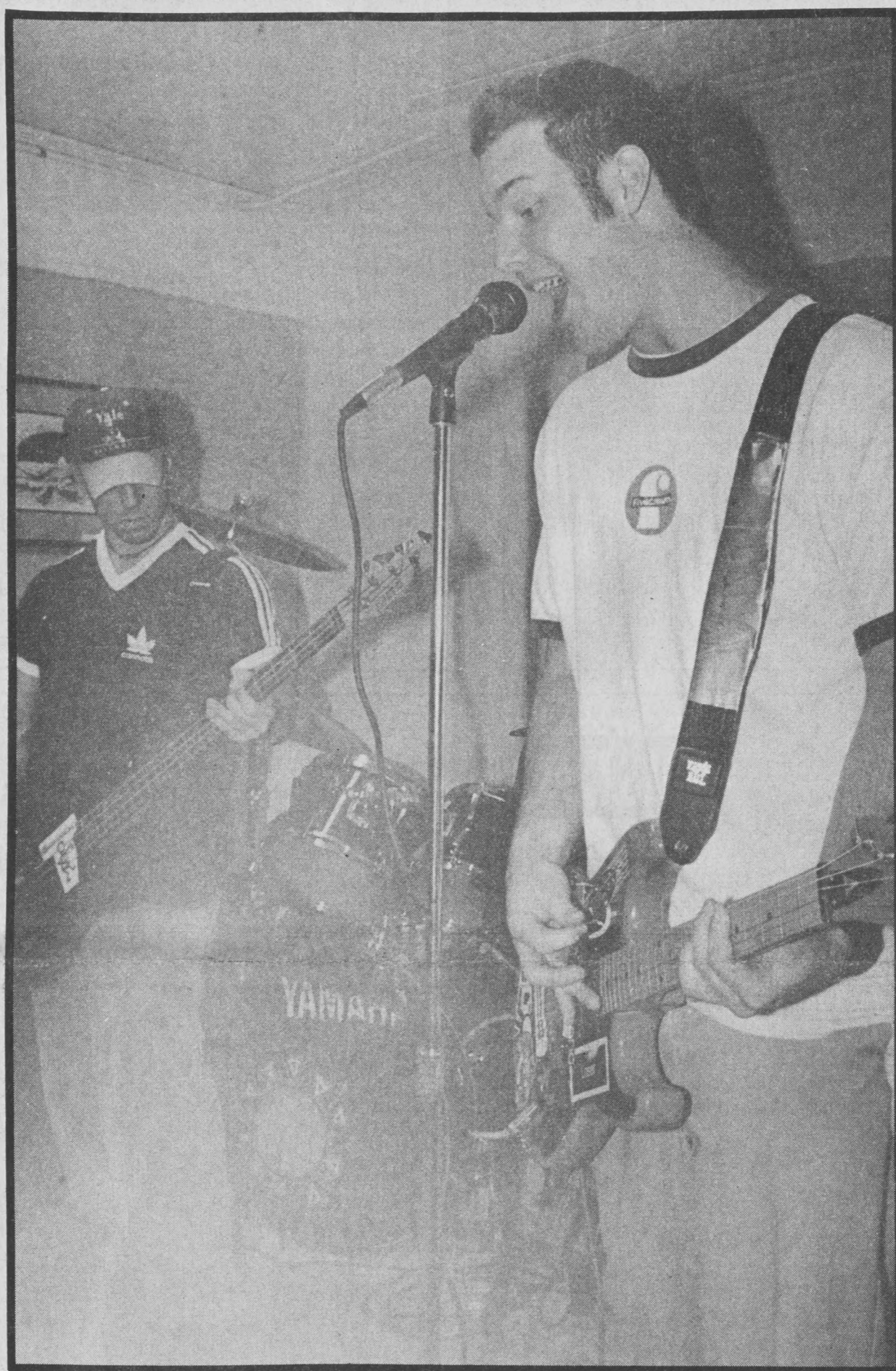
"The high rate of white drinking doesn't surprise me as much as the athlete drinking," she said. "But the fact that athletes drink more on a national level surprises me."

Earley said the way to combat binge drinking is to change the collegiate culture in Virginia. He said he hoped the task force will "dismantle the culture of binge drinking and replace it with common sense."

So far the task force has met only once, at its kickoff. The first task force team will meet and hold a public hearing at Longwood March 31.

After six more meetings, including a national symposium on campus alcohol practices, the task force is expected to present its final recommendations to Earley.

Andrea Ewing contributed to this article.



NIGHT OWL ROCKS as Senior Nate Taylor, a Hopper Genie, performs at the store on Saturday to celebrate the release of their CD. It will be available within a few weeks. HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR

## Housekeeping makes things messy for SNU

Ⓞ When Dean Atkins arrived at Sigma Nu on Monday morning, he said he found two floors of the house covered with eggs, bird seed and what looked like cake icing.

By WILL HARDIE

NEWS EDITOR

All five Sigma Nu pledges worked through the night of Sunday, March 15 to clean up the disaster zone their fraternity brothers had left them. But by morning the mess was still so bad that buildings and grounds workers retreated in disgust.

"They had smashed eggs and thrown bird seed all over the hallways on the second and third floors, and there was what looked like cake icing slung around there too. It was a mess," said Associate Dean of Students Leroy Atkins, who was called in to witness the scene.

"It was a little excessive," Sigma Nu President Dan Hendricks conceded last night. "It was a rough weekend."

The Interfraternity Council gave Sigma Nu a week of social probation, to allow the house judicial board to find the culprits and decide on punishments. Hendricks will report the results of that investigation at tonight's IFC meeting.

"Obviously this kind of vandalism is unacceptable," said IFC President Jason Callen. "It came as a surprise to the IFC — the Sigma Nu leadership has been strong, and it was disappointing to see them slip up."

"I am hoping Dan is going to come in and say what the house has done to punish the individuals who did this," said Callen. Previous vandalism incidents have been punished by several weeks of social probation and a fine of 150 percent of the cost of repair. "There is no strict formula, but we are expecting something along those lines," Callen said.

The "hell week" of intense pledge activity leading up to initiation is supposed to be a cathartic bonding experience, but the Sigma Nu pledges faced a colossal task. "This was the worst I have ever seen," said Callen. B&G workers were "working overtime" through the week to scrub out egg-yolk stains on the walls, Callen said.

When asked whether the pledges had been given an unreasonable task, Hendricks said, "It would have been hard to get it all done. I don't know if it was impossible."

Director of Buildings and Grounds Scott Beebe said that it was absolutely unacceptable for B&G workers to

SEE SIGMA PAGE 2

## King's Dominion offers escape, thrills

By KATHRYN MAYURNIK  
MANAGING EDITOR

Picture this. Spring Term. You want to do it but you're scared, but friends chant, "You'll love it, you'll love it," they chant. Gripping the seat with sweaty palms, you scream and your heart plummets to your lap. You are now ready for the *Volcano*.

For some students, this experience could be indulging in a forbidden volcano at Hunan Garden. But for those daredevils at heart, the new roller coaster at Paramount's King's Dominion might be the first and best quick fix for Spring Term. King's Dominion starts its season Saturday, March 28 with \$25 million worth of new attractions.

According to some W&L students, the new attractions at King's Dominion were a long time coming.

"King's Dominion has some areas that are run down," said junior Erika Woodson. "The old area, Hanna Barbara Land, is kind of delapidated. They add new stuff but don't get rid of old stuff."

The principal attraction is the world's first suspended roller coaster powered by linear induction, meaning that the *Volcano* will utilize electromagnetic energy to blast straight out of the

top of a virtual active volcano.

Fearless riders will begin their tumultuous journey, suspended in their seats with legs dangling free, in the heart of the constructed mountain. At speeds up to 70 m.p.h., electromagnetic energy sends the coaster cars flying out, in and out of the mountain.

The heart-stopping action really starts when the riders travel back into the mountain, are catapulted vertically, then blasted 155 feet out of the center of the crater. The track then follows the first of four heartroll inversion, circling back around the mountain before dropping another 80 feet and returning to the mountain.

Special effects and a multimedia theme experience end this two-minute ride, in an attempt to recreate the experience of being thrust from a volcano.

Other new attractions include James Bond 007: License to Thrill and Nicktoons Block Party.

Regular priced tickets are \$31.99, a little pricey for starving students. However, coupons good for \$8 off are available at Burger King.

Information from this article was taken from a King's Dominion news release.

**SIGMA**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be expected to clean up such a mess.

Sigma Nu was given a pledge violation for keeping its pledges in the house overnight, so their pledgship ended on Monday.

The deadline for pledge initiation was yesterday, and it is unclear whether the Sigma Nu pledges initiated in time.

"They are no longer pledges," said Hendricks. Does that mean they have initiated? "They have,

technically." What does that mean? "There are some technicalities we need to resolve." What technicalities? "These are not matters I want to discuss outside the chapter," Hendricks said.

If the pledges have not been fully initiated, Sigma Nu may face further IFC sanctions.

Because of their social probation, Sigma Nu had to cancel a performance by the band "Right On," which had been scheduled for Saturday night. The band had already been paid for, so they played instead at a private house on Route 39, owned by non-Sigma Nu members.

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Chief Executive Officer

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▲ **BRIAN PRISCO**, Gordon Meeker, Danica Oliver, Patrick Driscoll and Eric Zanolinsky chat in "Businessman's Lunch." PUBLICITY PHOTO

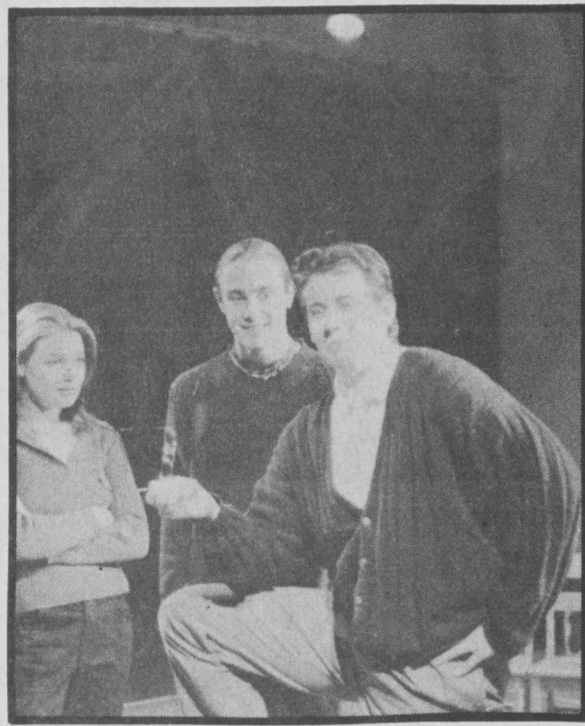


▲ **JOSH CARPENTER** and Francis McWilliams find solutions to their problems in "Philadelphia." PUBLICITY PHOTO

▼ **RYAN TRUAX AND TIM CLEARY** bring violence to the Johnson stage with "Gladiators." PUBLICITY PHOTO



▼ **ERIN MULLANEY**, Colin Tate and Drew Higgs deal with their insecurities in the one-act "Impromptu." PUBLICITY PHOTO



duction. Disappointment. Hilarity. Violence. Paranoia. The seven plays opening this weekend for the annual Festival of One Act plays have it all.

The One Acts are filled with fun and drama, and the short length of each play allows the audience to watch multiple plots unfold without having to wait for hours and hours. Each one-act play has its own unique style, and the best part about the series is that it is a result of all of the hard work done by students. The Theatre Department's directing class chooses and directs the plays in which actors both old and new to the Lenfest Stage perform.

The plays are performed on two separate bills. Bill A, which includes the plays "Impromptu," "Businessman's Lunch," "Here We Are" and "Gladiator" will be performed on March 26 at 8 p.m. and March 28 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. "The Love Talker," "The Philadelphia" and "Ramie," which comprise Bill B, will be performed on March 27 at 8 p.m., on March 29 at 2 p.m. and on March 31 at 8 p.m.

**IMPROMPTU** is "raw, and even terrifying," according to director Shelley Adams. In this play, the actors themselves play actors, and its effect is quite interesting to see. "Impromptu" is about every actor's worst nightmare — being on stage without a clue as to why or what to say. "The actors are stranded up there with nothing more than their own insecurities," said Adams. "Impromptu" stars Erin Mullaney, Colin Tate and Drew Higgs.

**BUSINESSMAN'S LUNCH** is a comedy about corporate America. "It's also perfect for W&L," said director Wes Armstrong, "a school that prepares so many students for the corporate world, often failing to mention what this world is really like." Actors include Brian Prisco, Gordon Meeker, Danica Oliver, Patrick Driscoll and Eric Zanolinsky.

**HERE WE ARE** takes place in the 1930's in a Pullman traincar. John Bubb and Cassie Ritter play a newly married couple who realize that they don't have as much in common as they thought. "Dorothy Parker uses her wit and humor to show how men and women relate, and as a commentary on relationships in general," said director Megan Johnson. She hopes those in attendance will be

as impressed as she by her "wonderful cast" of Cassie Ritter and John Bubb.

**THE GLADIATOR** is an unusual play about a lifetime convict and his "warped" behavior. "The play does contain violence," said T.W. Leshner, director. "Considering that a person cannot turn on the TV without seeing much the same thing, I think it's valuable to try and understand the motives which underlie violent behavior." Ryan Truax and Tim Cleary star in "The Gladiator."

**THE LOVE TALKER** is a story rooted in myth and legend about an evil spirit that seduces men into insanity deep within the backwoods of Virginia. "It appealed to me because it is so twisted from the norm," said director Matthew Kirby-Smith. "The evil in the forest is personified in the Love Talker, an immortal spirit that has driven men insane and to their deaths for ages." The cast of this play includes An Wise, Justine Moncrief, Matt Clymer, and Susannah Carr.

In **THE PHILADELPHIA** Francis McWilliams stars as Mark, a man who is having a terrible day. He consults his friend Al, played by Josh Carpenter, about a solution. "Although the premise is very elementary, the actual situation is ridiculous," said Alyssa Sellers. Also starring in "The Philadelphia" is Erika VanHelden.

**RAIMIE** should also prove to be an interesting play. Its plot involves Wes, a white college student, who meets Raimie, a black woman whom he remembers from his childhood. Writer/director Alex Christensen believes that the Wes and Raimie's "conversation and its consequences" make the play a compelling event to watch. This one act stars Jason Miller and Sybil Prince.

So now that you're intrigued, make sure that you see some, or even all, of these amazing short plays. Tickets are not required for these performances, and since the one acts are always a popular event at W&L, plan to arrive at Lenfest early to snag your seat.

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## Fribrush finishes 12th at NCAA's

Washington and Lee sophomore Jared Fribrush earned honorable mention All-America honors after placing 12th in the 50-yard freestyle at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships at the St. Peter's Rec Plex on Thursday night.

Fribrush matched his career-best time of 21.15 seconds to post the 12th place finish. He swam a time of 21.25 seconds in the morning qualifier and was seeded 16th heading into the consolation finals, and shaved a tenth of a second off his time to move up four spots.

Fribrush also placed 31st in the 200-yard freestyle in a time of 1:47.89, and 38th in the 100-yard freestyle in a time of 48.13.

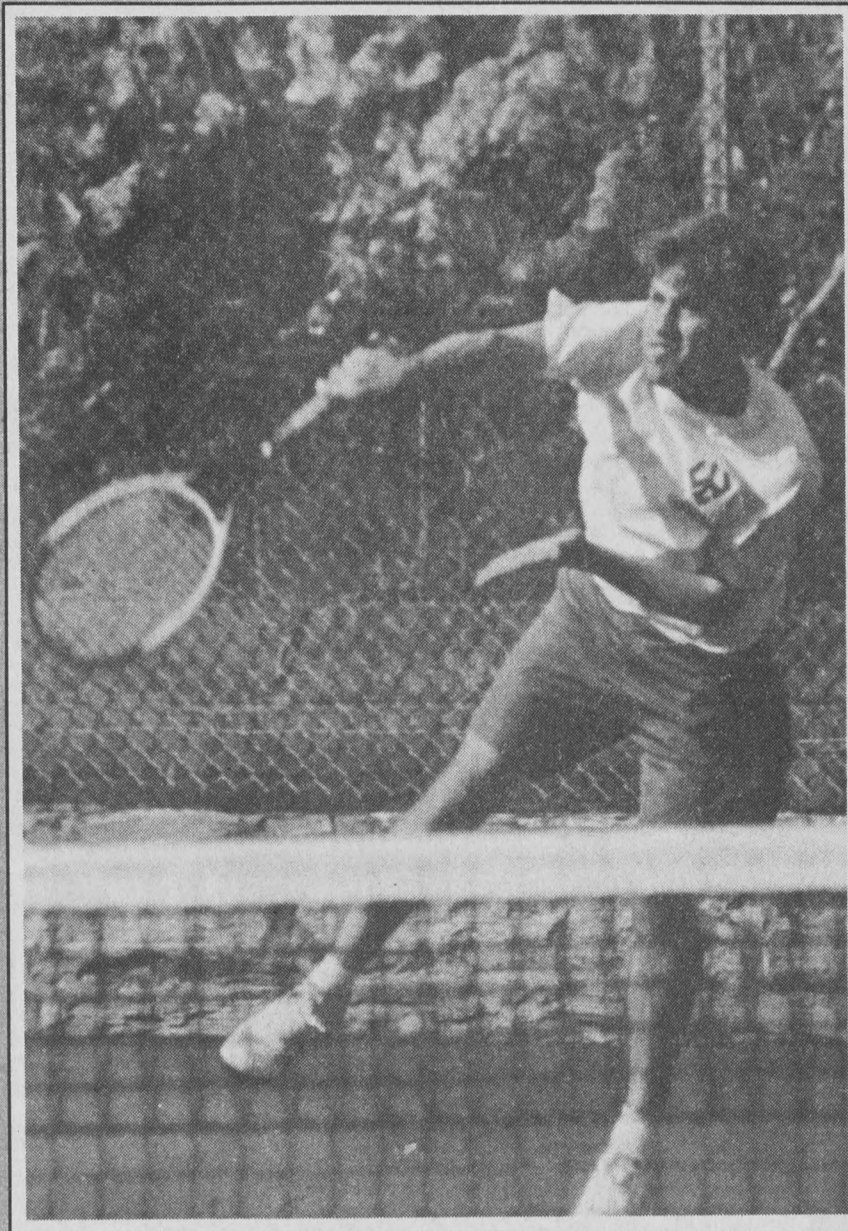
—from staff reports

## Dorofeeva Wins at Roanoke

Junior Natasha Dorofeeva won the 1,500 meter run in a time of 5:01 to lead Washington and Lee's women's track team at the Roanoke Invitational. W&L also placed second in the distance medley relay and got third place finishes from Meredith Mylnar in the javelin and Lauren McKeever in the 800.

McKeever's outlook for the season is optimistic: "It's been a great season so far. There's a really positive, fun atmosphere among my teammates. We're looking forward to a challenging meet against Mary Washington next weekend." When asked about Dorofeeva's success, McKeever remarked: "Natasha's an amazing runner. She's so versatile. Usually, she runs the 800. Her victory in the 1500 show just how talented she is."

—from staff reports



### CADETS GET DRILLED...

Junior Tom Washburn crushes an ace past his cadet opponent during Washington and Lee's 6-1 romping of Virginia Military Institute on Thursday. This victory continued the Generals' winning ways following a 7-0 shutout of Ripon College on Monday. On Saturday, the team won its eighth straight match, defeating 25th-ranked Wooster 6-1 at the Duchossois Tennis Center. The 18th-ranked Generals are now 8-1 for the season. Their next match is on Wednesday at Mary Washington College.

HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR

## Women's lacrosse wins two, takes control of ODAC

By JASON ZACHER EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The Washington and Lee women's lacrosse team took control of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference this week, beating two top conference opponents. Lynchburg College fell 13-9 on Wednesday and Randolph-Macon fell 8-6 on Sunday.

Going into Sunday's game, W&L (7-0, 5-0 ODAC) was tied with Randolph-Macon atop the ODAC. Randolph-Macon's (4-2, 4-1 ODAC) victory over Roanoke College last week set up the showdown. The game was played at R-MC on Sunday after rain in Ashland, Va., caused the game to be postponed on Saturday.

Sophomore attack Katherine Riddle and senior defender Betsy Howe each scored two goals Sunday to lead the Generals. Seniors Mary Jo Mahoney, Lorraine Taurassi and Whitney Parker also scored one goal each. Freshman attack Liz Borges added a goal and two assists, bringing her team-leading point total to 25.

Randolph-Macon scored the first goal less than two minutes into the game, but the Generals scored four unanswered goals from the 16:28 to the 9:31 mark, taking a 5-3 lead at halftime. R-MC would come within one on two other occasions, but could not manage to score the tying goal. Randolph-Macon's Carrie Winker scored all three of her goals in the first half.

The two-goal margin held up through the second half, behind strong play by the defense. Despite W&L's trouble with the transition game, the defense held R-MC to only 15 shots on goal. Sophomore goalie Ginny Jernigan continued her strong season, making nine saves.

"The defense was awesome today," said Borges. "We lost the ball often in transition, but the defense kept Randolph-Macon from capitalizing."

Jernigan commended her defense after the game.

"In every crucial situation, they

made a big play," Jernigan said. "They played so wonderfully; I couldn't have asked for anything more from them."

The Generals' 7-0 start is the best since 1993, when they opened 9-0 en route to an NCAA tournament bid.

Wednesday, the Generals exacted revenge on Lynchburg College 13-9. Lynchburg handed the Generals their first loss of the season last year.

W&L jumped out to an early 3-0 lead, but Lynchburg fought back. At the twelve-minute mark in the first half, the game was tied 3-3. The Generals owned the rest of the half, outscoring the Hornets 6-1. Lynchburg pulled to 11-9 with only 3:32 remaining in the game, but Parker scored two goals to put the game away.

Parker, last week's ODAC Player of the Week, finished the game with four goals to lead the Generals. Borges and Riddle chipped in three goals each. Taurassi scored two and junior midfielder Lauren Francis added one goal.

The women will spend this week playing two non-conference matches before next week's conference showdown against Roanoke. Colby College comes to town on Thursday for a 4 p.m. game, and on Saturday, Mary Washington heads to Lexington at 2 p.m. W&L beat both schools by a combined score of 30-8 last season.

"We can't take them lightly," Howe said. "Both are very good teams. They have been very challenging in the past."

### Men's lacrosse game postponed

The men's lacrosse team's game against Franklin & Marshall was postponed due to snow on Sunday. At press time, no make-up date has been set.

The men were ranked seventh in the latest STX/USILA Division III poll after beating Gettysburg last week.

## Women's tennis annihilates Lynchburg and Roanoke

By FRANCES GROBERG OPINIONS EDITOR

The women's tennis team made short work of their opponents this week, improving their season record to 11-3.

On Saturday against Mary Washington, the Generals defeated the Eagles by a score of 9-0. All of the Generals posted wins, including Ericka Shapard, Brooke Hartzell, Berry Blankinship, Erin Eggers,

Christina Campbell and Anne Castello in singles, and Blankinship/Shapard, Hartzell/Eggers and Campbell/Castello in doubles.

The squad, split between Lynchburg and Roanoke on Thursday, defeated both teams 9-0.

Wins were recorded at Roanoke in singles by Hartzell, Eggers, Campbell, Castello, Brumby and Bell, and in doubles by Eggers/Hartzell, Campbell/Castello and Bell/Brumby.

The team dropped only four games to Roanoke.

At Lynchburg, Shapard, Laura Schramm, Mina Guiahi, Elizabeth Gay, Ashley Buck and Ann Richard all recorded singles victories.

In doubles, wins were posted by Shapard/Guiahi, Hays/Schramm and Buck/Gay.

Next for the Generals is yet another split team effort on Saturday at Guilford and at Bridgewater.

## Baseball walks to a loss

By BRENDAN HARRINGTON SPORTS WRITER

As they often say in baseball, a walk is as good as a hit. This proved true for Mary Washington College yesterday afternoon as the Eagles used 11 Washington and Lee walks by seven different pitchers to down the Generals 10-3 in a nonconference battle in Fredericksburg.

The loss dropped the Generals to 4-6 on the season as W&L ended up 1-1 for the week.

Mary Washington jumped out to a 5-0 lead before the Generals came charging back with three runs in the top of the sixth inning including an RBI-single by sophomore

Christian Batchellor and a pinch-hit two run single by junior E.J.

Murphy. That was the closest the Generals got, however, as MWC went on to outscore the Generals 5-0 in the final three innings to capture the victory.

"It was a tough day to play baseball and our pitchers just had a rough day," said junior catcher E.J. Murphy. "They pitched us out of some tough jams, but the weather definitely affected us."

"We just didn't play well," added junior second baseman Parick Hall. "It's easy to blame things on the weather. It was a factor, but we have to take responsibility for our play."

On Tuesday afternoon at Smith Field the Generals' bats came alive as W&L pounded out 13 hits on the way to a 8-4 victory over the Bees. The Generals had six doubles,

including three by E.J. Murphy, who went 3-5 on the day.

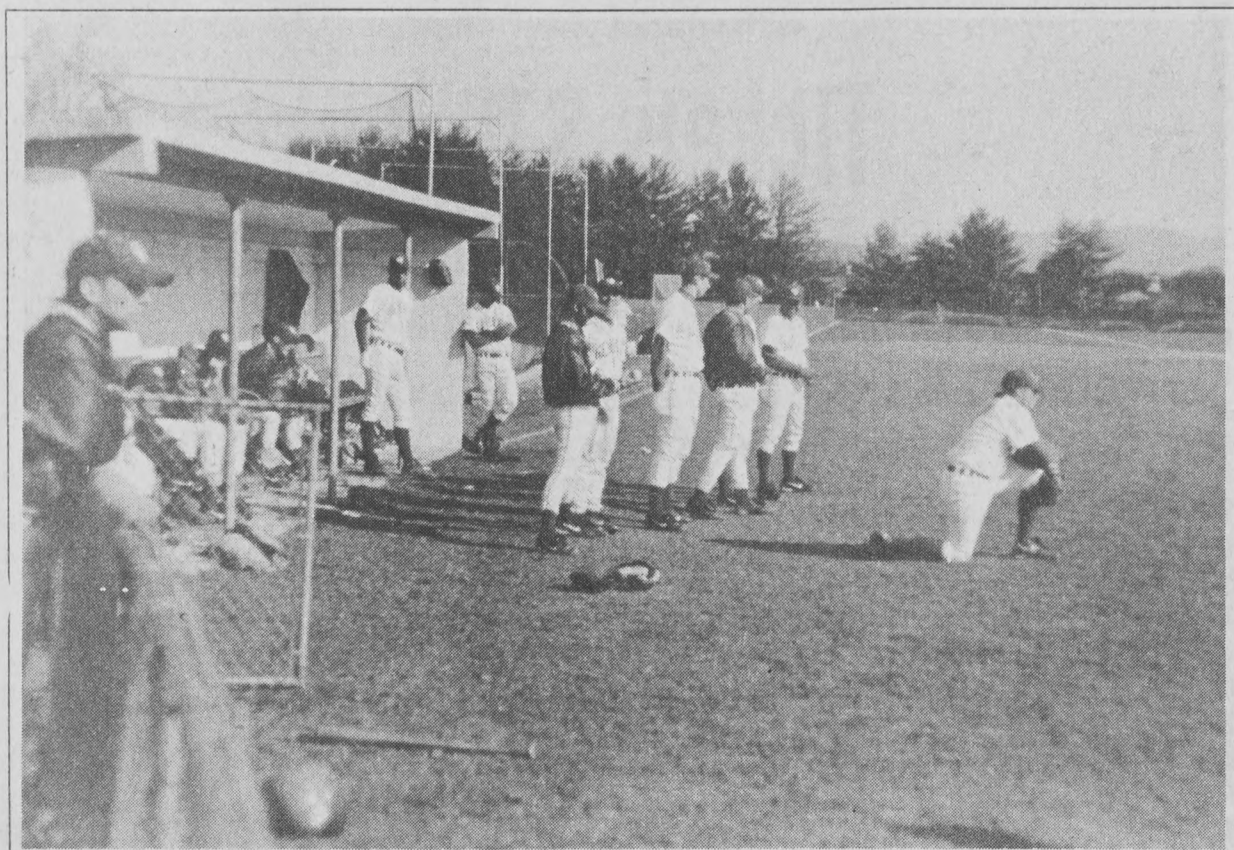
The Bees had 13 hits of their own but they were all singles.

Errors also played a big role in the ball game. A total of eleven errors were committed in the game: four by Savannah A&D and seven by W&L.

Freshman Josh Globber picked up the win to go to 2-0 on the season as he pitched the first innings and allowed no earned runs.

Chris Stakem moved over from his first base position to pitch the final three innings and earn the save for the Generals.

Savannah A&D is managed by former Boston Red Sox pitcher Louis Tiant, who was seen signing a few autographs for various Generals players and fans after the game.



THE BASEBALL TEAM claimed their fourth victory last Tuesday against Savannah A&D by a score of 8-4. This weekend, on a cold day in Fredericksburg, the Generals lost 10-3 against Mary Washington, bringing their season record to 4-6.

HOLLISTER HOVEY/PHOTO EDITOR

FOR the EDUCATION and RESEARCH COMMUNITY

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# Opinion & Editorial

PAGE 5 MAR. 23, 1998

## Don't hide behind anonymous letters

Editorial commentaries are meant to be questioned, objected to and argued over. They are simply opinion — the opinion of the writer.

If an editorial bothers a reader, he shouldn't hesitate to tell the paper. The *Ring-tum Phi* encourages letters, but if a reader wants an argument to hold weight, he must admit authorship.

Anonymous personal attacks against writers and cartoonists are not taken seriously. The *Phi* columnists put their names and reputation on the line every time they write. The same standard should and does apply to any reader wishing to voice complaints.

The staff editorial (what you are reading now) does not have a name because it represents the collective opinion of the *Phi* staff. As with most daily newspapers, the *Phi* does not print the name of the individual who writes the editorial, since each week a different staff member writes it.

The *Phi* requires that at least one staff member know the identity of an anonymous letter writer. The editors then decide whether or not a valid reason exists for the writer to remain anonymous.

If an individual takes the time to write or call the paper, he should at least attach his name. Students should feel confident in voicing ideas in a public forum.

Do not hide behind pseudonyms or Greek letters. Be brave enough to face any controversy that might arise. Make people think. That's what columnists do.

All opinion is not serious. Our columnists have funny bones, and so do our cartoonists. Lighten up, you'll live longer.

Remember, no one is forcing readers to read anything the *Phi* prints.

If a reader disagrees, or doesn't like an opinion, he can always stop reading. No skin off our backs.

## Quote of the week:

When there's grain and booty involved, everything changes.

— Anonymous sophomore the morning after St. Patrick's Day

## The Ring-tum Phi

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Jason Zacher  
Managing Editor Kathryn Mayurnik  
Associate Editor Andrea Ewing

News Editor Will Hardie  
w&L Editors Liz Detter  
Tarah Grant

Opinion & Editorial Editor Frances Groberg  
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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.

The *Ring-tum Phi*  
208 University Center  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, Virginia 24450  
Telephone: (540) 462-4060  
Fax: (540) 462-4059  
E-mail: phi@wlu.edu

## Almost time to hand me the chicken suit

Once again, I find it necessary to abuse the (limited) power of this column to further my own selfish ends instead of the (supposed) well being of this campus.

I need a job. I need a job right now. But how could an obviously gifted and talented writer such as myself (please note the sarcasm) not have dozens of job offers to choose from?

From a Bar Stool  
Eric Swensen '98

Well, it's simple really. When I chose a major three years ago, I picked journalism, apparently the only industry to have absolutely no job growth over the last decade. Lucky me.

This means that an expanding pool of trained journalists are competing for the same number of jobs. Actually, with the number of newspapers that have either folded or merged recently, the number of jobs in journalism has probably declined over the past decade.

Thanks to the glut of journalists on the market, the jobs that are available to the recent J-school grad come complete with some interesting choices. Most jobs offer a salary and a package of benefits. In journalism, you get a choice of one or the other.

Meanwhile, computer programmers who show up for interviews in cutoff jeans and sandals and who have a drooping problem get offered \$100,000 a year plus stock options.

So what is a young man like me supposed to do? My friends, most of whom have cushy job or graduate school offers lined up, have offered me plenty of helpful suggestions. The most recent (and my favorite) piece of advice was to find a job writing paragraph-long teasers for movies in porn catalogs.

While I'm certain the job has its fringe benefits, I'm pretty sure that is not what my parents intended for me after spending all this money on my education.

One of my professors suggested I seek out work in war zones in order to make a name for myself. While not a bad idea in theory, I remember the movie "Spies Like Us" every time I consider it. You might remember the scene when Chevy Chase and Dan Akroyd were dropped in some desert without being able to speak the local language. A gang of rebels appears from over the next hill, armed with rifles. Trying to calm the rebels down, they exclaim, "We're Americans!" In the next scene, they're hanging upside down, bound at the hands and feet.

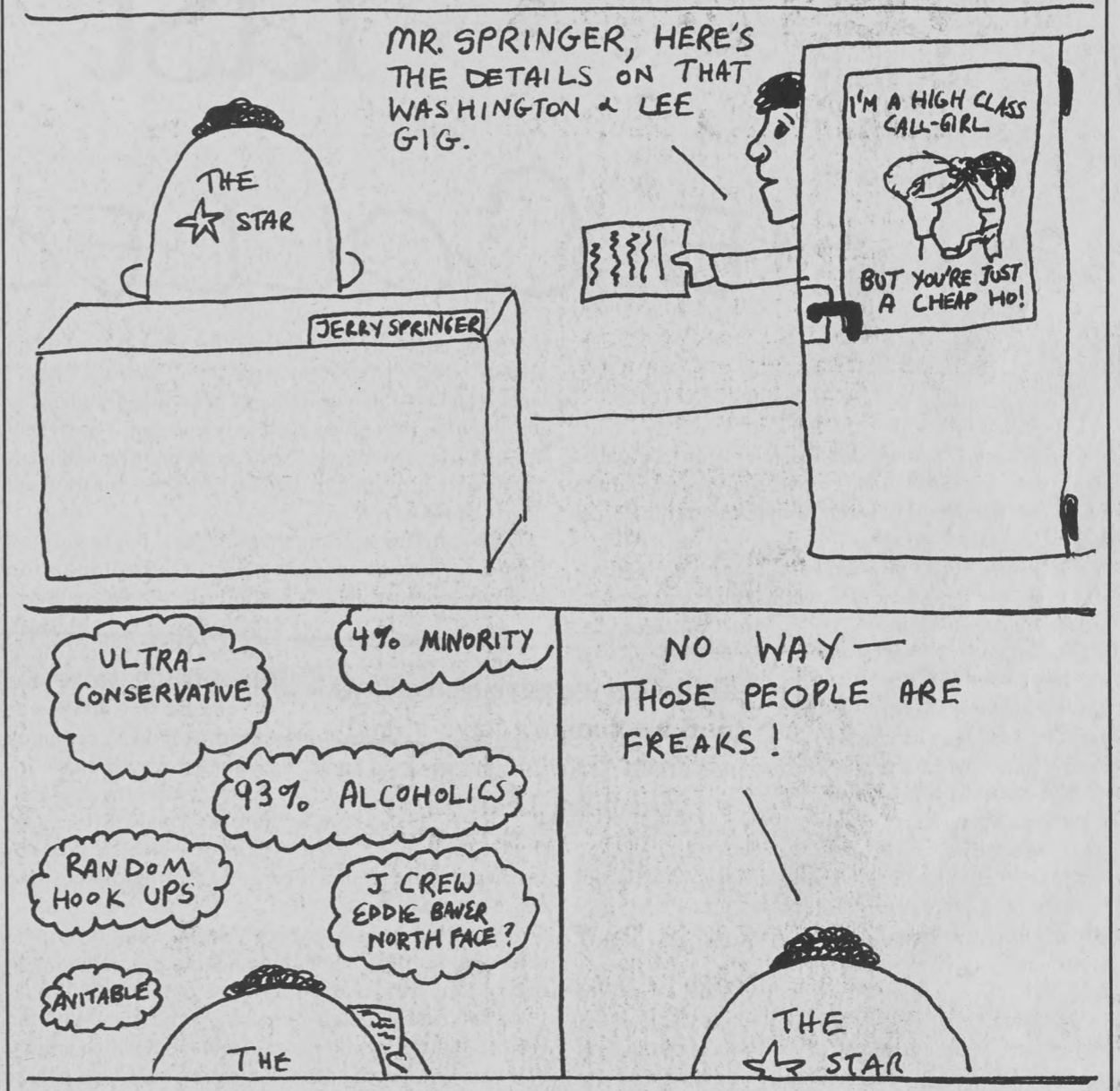
I'm probably overstating the peril I face as I enter the job market. I'm sure I can find a job somewhere like the Podunk Press writing obituaries from midnight to 8 a.m.

One image, though, constantly pops into my mind as I search for a job. It was my senior year in high school, and I was interning at United Press International, a newsgathering service, in New York City. One day I met my dad, who worked a few blocks over from my office, for lunch. As we were walking back to our offices, a person wearing a bright, enormous chicken outfit accosted us. He was handing out coupons for a fast-food restaurant down the street.

Something about it struck me as especially degrading, because I remember telling my dad, "If you ever catch me wearing a chicken suit, just shoot me right on the spot."

I don't think things will ever come to that point. Just in case though, dad, start cleaning your rifle.

## 15 Minutes of Shame



## Let's start treating kids like regular members of society

The V-chip is a tremendously bad idea. Let me put that in perspective:

- Non-alcoholic beer — bad idea
- A sitcom starring Pauly Shore and Tom Arnold — very bad idea
- Moving to Delaware — extremely bad idea
- The V-chip — tremendously bad idea

The Looney Bin  
Kevin McManemin '00

For those who don't know, the V-chip is a chip that will be installed in every television in America and will theoretically solve all of society's ills by keeping naughty programs from children's view. My problem with the V-chip isn't with its methods. Hey, I like government censorship as much as the next guy.

My problem is with the very bad idea behind the V-chip. It attempts to suppress adult entertainment in order to protect the innocence of children. Frankly, I don't see the point in protecting childhood innocence. It only lasts for a few years anyway. No one remains blissfully ignorant of the problems of the world forever (well, except for conservatives).

Centuries of this misguided attempt to build a perfect world by protecting childhood innocence had failed. The only thing we've done is created a generation of bitter, cynical adults. Besides, our cruel society only makes a shallow mockery of childhood innocence by blatantly lying to children. Santa Claus? The Easter Bunny? Let's stop filling our kids' heads with silly stories and give them a strong dose of reality. Hey, maybe if we let twelve-year-

olds into R-rated movies, they wouldn't have as much time to have sex (it's true you know).

The solution is simple: Don't get rid of the sex and violence on TV, just get rid of childhood. Think my position is extreme? Well consider this: How many of the world's great scientific, artistic and philosophic accomplishments have been made by children? None. In fact, the only notable thing children have ever done is the Children's Crusade — the worst organized war in history (and I'm even including any war that included Spain or Mexico). Thanks a lot, kids. I say it's time we stop letting this sizable portion of the population leech off the rest of us.

I propose we eliminate this troublesome childhood innocence with a little device I've invented called the C-chip. This little gizmo will automatically block out all inane, childish programming on your television. The gun fights and naked breasts and curse words stay in, the dancing purple dinosaurs and snuffleupagis (snuffleupagi?) are blocked out.

Within a few weeks of watching C-chip TV, your kids will be as disillusioned as ... say ... Dennis Miller (and just as foul mouthed). Within a month, they'll have given up their foolish dreams of being pony-riding princesses and movie stars and will be perusing the want ads for entry-level jobs in the service industry.

Let's accept defeat and let children join the real world (not the MTV show *The Real World*, which is ironically the exact opposite of the real world). It's time we treated children like human beings, and human beings do not live in some sort of magic fairy world (well, except for liberals). Down with childishness, I say. If you disagree with me then you are a dumb, smelly doo-doo head.

## Dogs are all we need to improve the campus

Some of my favorite science building occupants never shave.

They're the dogs who accompany professors to campus every day, the four-legged creatures who brighten the buildings of Washington and Lee with their playfulness and their sense of fun.

Red Brick Row  
David Balsley '99

Dogs are fun to have in academic buildings for a number of reasons.

First, they are less demanding than their owners. Your professors expect you to know things like Lagrange multipliers and structural deformations caused by convergent boundaries and the relationship between the Retained Earnings Statement and

the Balance Sheet. Your professors' dogs expect you to scratch their heads. Period. So far as they're concerned, if you can do that, you can go home now because you have an A for the semester.

Second, dogs can help you relieve stress. No matter how bad your day has been or how much work you have to do, a dog will think you are great. Take the unconditional adoration when you can. It will make your bad day and your work seem a little less stressful.

Last, academic dogs do some of the things I would love to do. After being in class all day, I'd love to follow the example set by some of W&L's canine visitors and take off running wildly across the Colonnade.

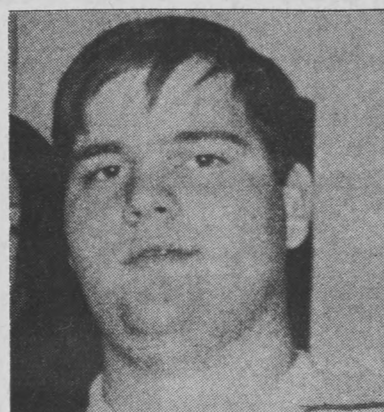
If it weren't for my personal inhibitions (both of them), I'd be out there running around, too.

Some people worry that dogs kept in academic buildings will jump on people or make messes. This doesn't

seem to be the case. The professors who bring dogs to campus are good about keeping them in their offices away from students. The dogs themselves seem well-behaved and quiet. If a dog were to make a mess, stains come out. That's why carpeting is made of carpeting and not silk, after all.

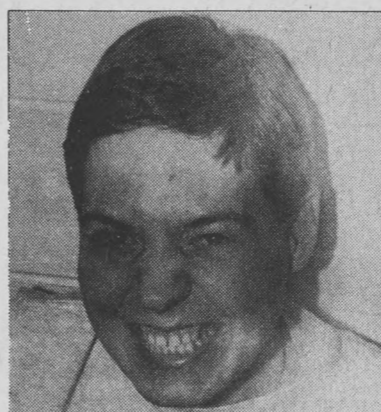
The university may be planning to spend \$53 million to improve W&L, but dogs are the only addition to campus I need.

## TALKback: What would it take to get you to a Washington and Lee sporting event?



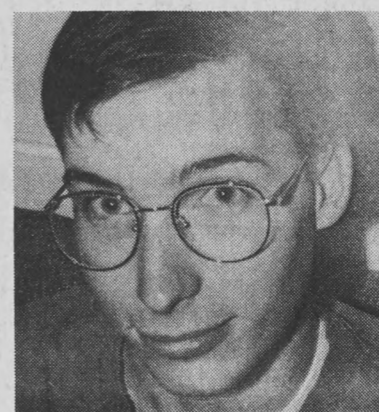
"I'd have to get academic credit"

— Lance Clack '00



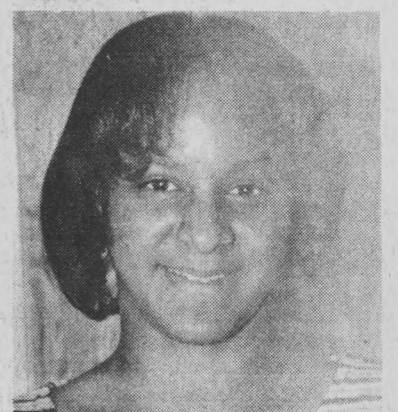
"I actually do go to them voluntarily."

— David Damiani '00



"A competent W&L team."

— John Zimmer '00



"If they'd announce it more."

— Khriis Stone '00

As Seen on T.V.,

# THE COLLEGE OF CABLE

By Kelley Totten

Staff Writer

"Television. The drug of the nation."  
— Beck

Some people believe that the television is a detriment to the mind. It quickly sucks the viewer into the vortex, strips him of coherent thought and transforms him into a mere vegetable.

Contrary to this vicious rumor, television actually provides a quality education. Sure, the profes-

“Will biology or physics teach us anything we couldn't have already learned from ‘Doogie Howser’ or ‘Quantum Leap’?”

— they have the credentials, the enthusiasm and sometimes even a sense of humor — but, are they honestly preparing us for the real world with unique information? Think about it. What could biology or physics possibly teach us that we haven't already learned from “Doogie Howser” or “Quantum Leap”?

Take for example, Fox University. Under the skilled guidance of President Aaron Spelling, Fox University has significantly expanded its course offerings over the years. Prospective advertising majors receive on-

the-job insight by witnessing the workday at an agency, DND, when they tune into “Melrose Place.” General education requirements draw many students to the popular psychology classes entitled, “Suffering through life: dealing with cancer, alcoholism and teenage marriages,” taught by the Salinger family from “Party of Five.”

This past fall term marked the beginning of Fox's graduate program with the induction of the award-winning law school. All courses are taught by Professor Ally McBeal.

Even the old standard, “Beverly Hills 90210” has revamped its syllabus to create a seminar combining lessons from the music industry and journalism. Professors David Silver and Brandon Walsh are co-

teachers of the course that brings current issues into the forefront.

This, however, is a very small slice of Fox University's selection; it offers much more quality programming to appeal to the widespread interests of all students.

If you find yourself to have a wanderlust with the remote control, venture away from the Spelling empire and you will discover that education continues across

the television dial. Students in search of relationship advice can find all the tools they need during daytime television. A wide variety of programs offer new perspectives on reality to help you through those troubled times with a loved one.

These shows also feature special seminars in relevant topics such as, “How to Fake a Pregnancy,” “Coping with an Evil Twin,” and best of all, “Adjusting to Life with Amnesia.”

Public speaking courses have become increasingly popular lately as more and more professors offer panel discussions. Seminars that discuss dysfunctional friendships, cheating spouses and cross-dressing alien lovers are popular topics for Jerry Springer, Jenny Jones and Ricki Lake. Professor Oprah Winfrey teaches a highly rated monthly class on literature, with her book-of-the-month club, while the more musically-oriented Rosie O'Donnell offers a Broadway sing-along.

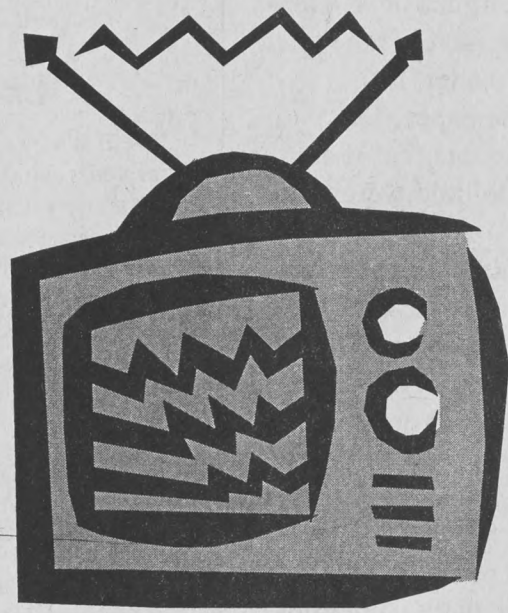
For those of you who simply find it impossible to get out of bed in the afternoon, check out the offerings at the networks' night schools. David Letterman, Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien all hold intimate discussions with today's heroes (you know, movie stars

and musicians) along with personal insight and commentary on current events. For a more in-depth study of public policy issues, try Bill Maher's “Politically Incorrect.” There's also another show out there, something called “Nightline.” I've heard that it isn't half-bad, but the professor has really bad hair, which I find distracting.

24 hours of highly educational programming, seven days a week. Have you ever seriously considered the endless possibilities of television's intellectual offerings? So, the next time you decide to pick up that book on Max Weber instead of the T.V. Guide, perhaps you should stop to think for a second, “What will I really be learning?”

Now, I understand that these revelations might be distressing. After all, you're making the realization that you could be wasting your parents' entire savings on an education you could have gotten for the bargain price of the monthly cable bill.

Don't fret; though somewhat harder to obtain, the sheepskin diploma from W&L looks much classier on your wall than Sally Struther's correspondence college degree. Trust me.



FRIDAYS!

## Wali Collins

Friday, March 27  
at 8 p.m. in the  
GHQ

Collins can be seen on comedy Central's “Stand Up Stand Up” as well as MTV's “Half-Hour Comedy Hour” and VHI “Stand-Up Spotlight.”

Collins has also been a featured performer on “The Late Show with David Letterman.”

See him in action for free this Friday.

This is your last chance to get in on Fridays! Mad March Comedy Extravaganza. It's free and a great stress buster for upcoming exams.

24 SEVEN

“You have brains in your head, You have feet in your shoes.”  
— Dr. Suess

<p><b>SPORTS</b></p> <p><b>TUESDAY</b> 12:30 p.m. Golf: W&amp;L ODAC Invitational @ Lexington Country Club</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> 3 p.m. Baseball vs. Hampden-Sydney @ Smith Field 3:30 p.m. Men's lax vs. Connecticut College @ Wilson Field</p> <p><b>THURSDAY</b> 4 p.m. Women's lax vs. Colby @ Liberty Hall Fields</p> <p><b>FRIDAY</b> All Day: Men's tennis Invitational (through Sunday @ Upper Courts)</p> <p><b>SATURDAY</b> 1 p.m. Baseball vs. Emory &amp; Henry, Smith Field •Women's lax vs. Mary Washington @ Liberty Hall Fields</p>	<p><b>PARTIES</b></p> <p>No known fraternity parties this weekend</p> <p><b>ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>MONDAY</b> 8 p.m. French Show: “L'Amour, la Mort et les Rhinoceros,” @ duPont Auditorium.</p> <p><b>TUESDAY</b> 8 p.m. University Wind Ensemble Pre-tour Performance, Lenfest Center •“L'Amour, la Mort et les Rhinoceros”</p> <p><b>THURSDAY</b> 8 p.m. One-Act Plays, Bill A @ Johnson Theatre</p> <p><b>FRIDAY</b> 8 p.m. Comedian Wali Collins at the GHQ •One-Act Plays, Bill B</p> <p><b>SATURDAY</b> 2 p.m. One-Act Plays, Bill A, Johnson Theatre 8 p.m. University-Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra @ Lenfest</p> <p><b>LECTURES</b></p> <p><b>TUESDAY</b> 4 p.m. Reading/book-</p>	<p>signing by Professor Bill Oliver @Northen Auditorium. 7:30 p.m. “Cultural Modes of Information Perception: Marketing American Products in China and Japan,” Carolyn Bloomer @ Williams School room 337</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> 7:30 p.m. “Global Climate Change and the National Interest,” James MacKenzie, Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow @ Northen Auditorium •“Modern Chinese Painting: Roots and Shoots,” Carolyn Bloomer @ duPont Auditorium</p> <p><b>THURSDAY</b> 3 p.m. Writing Program: “Writing in Psychology,” Professor David Elmes @ Game Room, University Center •Math Colloquium: “And Then There Were Two: A Look at the Banch-Tarski Paradox,” Paul Humke @ Robinson Hall 6</p> <p><b>FRIDAY</b> All Day: Law Symposium: “The Future of International Human Rights” @ Lewis Hall.</p>	<p>you could be wasting your parents' entire savings on an education you could have gotten for the bargain price of the monthly cable bill.</p> <p>Don't fret; though somewhat harder to obtain, the sheepskin diploma from W&amp;L looks much classier on your wall than Sally Struther's correspondence college degree. Trust me.</p>
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Colonnade Club

By Hollister Hovey

