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W&L LIFE

Φ It's rhyme time: National Poetry Month is in full swing.
Φ W&L musicians are back from the Greek Isles.

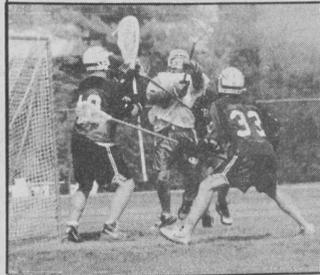
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OPINION

Professor Gunn, a Sigma Chi alumnus, challenges W&L students to stop hazing.

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SPORTS



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MAY 01 1998

Men's lacrosse suffers a crushing 11-6 loss to Hampden-Sydney in ODAC title game.

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The Ring-tum Phi

Washington and Lee University
VOLUME 100, NUMBER 20

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APRIL 27, 1998

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SENIOR CAPTAINS Lorraine Taurassi, Melissa Foote and Whitney Parker hold the Old Dominion Athletic conference Championship trophy after their victory over Roanoke College. The Generals gave the Maroons a 9-5 spanking, bringing their final season record to 13-2, with an ODAC record of 10-0. JASON ZACHER/SENIOR EDITOR

3 SNU's imprisoned Retaliation for pubic hair removal leads to abduction and assault charges

By POLLY DOIG — NEWS EDITOR

What began as a night of partying ended up on a lonely country road with "innocent" college pranks clashing with the law.

Three members of the Sigma Nu fraternity were arrested and jailed on charges of abduction and assault and battery, following an incident late Thursday night in which they retaliated against two Sweet Briar College women for shaving a brother's scrotum.

Sophomores Chad Austin Casto and Ryan William Walker, and freshman Jonathan Paul Barker were all arrested and jailed on \$5,000 bond in Amherst County.

Additional charges of aggravated sexual assault were filed Friday against Sweet Briar students Lisa Karen Williams, an exchange student from England, and Jessica Saveall of Maine, by an additional Sigma Nu brother. He claims that one woman mounted and began to disrobe him while the other attempted to shave his pubic area.

He says the girls realized that he wasn't passed out, left the room and then succeeded in shaving the scrotum of another brother.

"We are so shocked; it's just a countercharge," said Williams. "The fraternity is sticking together and will do anything to make us drop the charges and to protect themselves."

Following these incidents, Casto, Walker and Barker offered to give the girls a ride back to Sweet Briar. However, along the way the brothers stopped near a desolate cemetery in Amherst County. According to Saveall, the boys bound the hands and feet of Saveall with duct tape, lifted her skirt, and threatened to shave her pubic area with an electric razor.

Seeing this, Williams fled through the countryside until she found a barn where she hid for several hours.

The threesome left Saveall, and went in search of Williams. While they were gone, Saveall managed to free herself and call the police. Saveall and local residents searched for several hours for Williams, until

they found her in the barn of a Sweet Briar employee where she was hiding.

Local authorities immediately arrested and jailed Casto, Walker and Barker. Barker posted bond on Friday morning, while Walker and Casto were released Saturday.

The women claim that the charges against them are false and deny shaving the pubic area of a Sigma Nu brother. "We did not go after him with a razor. We did not touch his genitals," Williams said.

They claim that the incident was in retaliation for denying sexual favors to the member of Sigma Nu who pressed charges against them.

"It's just another case of a lot of boys with a lot of money in a fraternity house, who can basically do whatever they want," said Williams.

There is no official comment from Washington and Lee, according to Director of Communications Brian Shaw. "We have to let the judicial procedures work, then hand it over to the student judiciary bodies."

Sophomore arrested for obstructing justice

Φ Wiping chalk off tire to avoid parking ticket results in misdemeanor charge

By KATHRYN MAYURNIK — SENIOR EDITOR

Washington and Lee sophomore Paul Spencer was charged with obstruction of justice Tuesday, after he removed a chalk mark from his car tire.

Special Services Officer R.D. Clark marks tires of cars parked in two-hour and ten-minute parking spaces in Lexington to ensure that vehicles are not parked for an excessive amount of time.

Arresting officer F.W. Smith said that, "Officer Clark advised me earlier on that day that he had problems lately with students wiping off the chalk marks on their cars on Henry Street. I put myself in a position where I could observe the stu-

dents coming and going from their cars. I didn't witness any infractions, so I went about my regular patrols."

When Smith was driving down Henry Street around noon, he observed a young man wiping off the chalk from his tire.

"He was looking kind of nervously toward Jefferson Street as he was doing it," Smith said. "But by the time he saw me, it was too late."

Smith said that Spencer looked surprised and tried to get away before he arrested him and took him to jail.

"I thought, no way they're going to arrest me for this," said Spencer. Smith took him in anyway.

"I had a nice, sit-down conversation with him, and he was very quiet on the way to the jail," Smith said. "When I arrested him, his buddies were really whooping it up, yelling 'F.W.'s got another one, F.W.'s got another one.'"

Obstruction of justice is a Class I misdemeanor, meaning that if Spen-

cer is convicted at his May 26 trial, he could receive a year in jail and/or a \$1200 fine. The term obstruction of justice is defined as an action by "any person by threat or force, who attempts to intimidate or impede a law officer."

"There was no threat or force on my part so I thought the charges were a bit excessive," said Spencer. Spencer will plead not guilty and intends to hire a lawyer.

"They know people do it all the time so by catching me, they kind of caught everybody," said Spencer. "I just think I took the brunt of it."

Although Smith says the judge could go either way in the case, he admitted that the judge will most likely find Spencer guilty and give him a fine and possibly probation.

A student appealed as far as the Virginia Appeals Court on a similar charge about five years ago, and the Court ruled in favor of the police.

Elrod waiting for reply from President Clinton

By TARAH GRANT — EXECUTIVE EDITOR

One year has passed since President John Elrod sent an invitation to the White House asking President Bill Clinton to speak on responsibility at Washington and Lee University's 1999 opening convocation. Elrod hopes to receive a reply soon.

"How better to call our 250th birthday to the attention of the nation than by involving the office of the presidency," Elrod said.

In April 1997, the 250th Commission selected Clinton to be the keynote speaker at the 1999 convocation to be held on Sept. 8, and Elrod promptly sent him an invitation.

A month later, they received a letter from the White House confirming that the invitation had been received and put on file, according to Director of the 250th Observance Neil Penick. The Commission then

asked alumni and friends of the university to contact the White House on its behalf.

"In some cases President Clinton has told these people personally that he would like to come but he can't commit yet," said Penick.

The 250th Commission should hear within the next couple of months whether Clinton will be able to attend, according to Penick.

If Clinton declines the invitation, former Senator Bill Brock ('53) has agreed to give the 1999 convocation address.

The 250th Commission was formed by Elrod in the winter of 1997 to plan the University's year-long 250th birthday celebration. According to its website, the Commission is comprised of 41 trustees, emeritus trustees, members of the law council and alumni board, friends, parents and alumni of Washington and Lee.

Houses of Pain: extreme pledgeship cases from across the United States

■ April 1998 - University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Five Kappa Alpha Psi pledges are hospitalized with injuries to their buttocks after sustaining canings and beatings with a wooden paddle over a period of two months. One pledge had to undergo surgery to remove two four-inch by one-inch deep gangrenous chunks of flesh from his buttocks. The university suspended the fraternity pending results of an investigation. (*Baltimore Sun*, April 14, 1998)

■ March 1998 - Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Kappa Alpha Psi member Donald Edwards files a federal lawsuit against the fraternity claiming he had been beaten, had money stolen and had burning cigarettes jammed into his flesh. (*Chicago Sun-Times*, March 24, 1998)

■ March 1998 - Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA. A prosecutor decides there is inadequate evidence to file assault charges against three VMI seniors because their victim could have been a willing participant. The institute suspended the seniors after former

Keydet George Wade, Jr., said that the upperclassmen beat him and five other rats with a belt and a coat hanger about three times a week for a month, causing welts and bruises on their buttocks. (*Orlando Sentinel*, March 23, 1998)

■ August 1997 - Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge Benjamin Wynne, 20, dies of alcohol poisoning with a blood-alcohol level of .588. Three other SAE pledges are hospitalized for alcohol poisoning, with one in critical condition. SAE pledge, Gavin Fugate, 19, later comes forward with allegations of being sodomized with a bar of soap, forced to drink until he vomited blood and forced to slide naked across a glass-strewn floor. Brothers then allegedly doused his cuts in Tabasco sauce. (*Denver Post*, March 15, 1998)

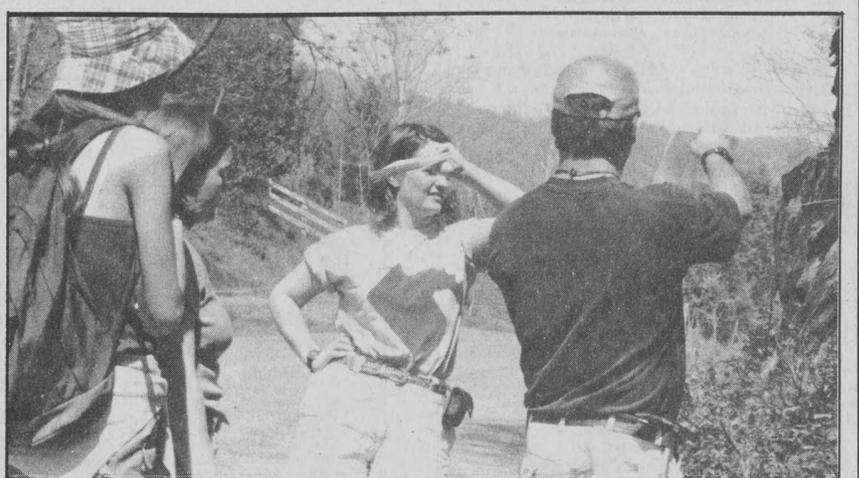
■ February 1997 - University of Texas-Austin, Austin, TX. Parents of 1995 hazing victim Gabe Higgins win a wrongful death lawsuit with a \$1.09 million settlement. His parents say that the Texas Cowboys spirit group subjected him to drinking games and demeaning exercises before he drowned during an early morning

Colorado River swim. The group denies any hazing. (*The Houston Chronicle*, February 25, 1997)

■ October 1995 - University of Colorado-Boulder, Boulder, CO. Phi Kappa Tau pledge Michael "Bo" Montoya nearly dies after being bound neck-to-toe with an extension cord, duct-taped to a chair, forced to drink more than a pint of whiskey and denied important medication. Montoya and his family successfully sue the fraternity for \$8,500. (*Denver Post*, March 15, 1998)

■ March 1994 - Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO. Kappa Alpha Psi pledge Michael Davis dies of head injuries February 15, 1994. He also sustained internal bleeding, broken ribs, and a lacerated kidney and liver. His parents say Davis was beaten unconscious after attempting to run away. He never regains consciousness. His parents successfully sue the fraternity for \$2.25 million. (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, December 19, 1996).

—Compiled by Executive Editor Hollister Hovey



IN PREPARATION FOR their trip to the Grand Canyon during the last three weeks of Spring term, students in the Geology of the Southwest class examine the stratigraphy of an outcrop in the Lexington area. CHRISTIE PHILIPS/PHOTO EDITOR

W&L Beer

When the University Chorus traveled to Newport News, the members of the Tidewater and Peninsula alumni chapters had a special treat for them and for those in attendance: a specially brewed Washington and Lee 250th anniversary beer.

According to Rob Mish, associate director of alumni programs, "These alumni chapters sparked interest for the Chorus' performance at the Mariner Museum, creating the brew as a special favor for the event. It was made at a local microbrewery. They took one of the flavors, doctored it up a little, created a unique brew and bottled it."

Though the University is not brewing its own special beer, Mish said that other alumni chapters might create special labels of beer, wine, or chocolates in celebration of W&L's 250th anniversary.

—By Christine Julian

Opinion & Editorial

PAGE 2 APRIL 27, 1998

Just when we at the *Phi* thought things might get boring around old Lex, we're faced with news of poorly shaven scrotums, abductions and an obstruction of justice with chalk. It's not even Alumni Weekend yet. What a welcome to the new staff! Keep up the good work! We can't wait to see what you cook up for us next week.

It's good to have such great news to ease us into our new reign over the paper with the 100 year history and a name no one understands. It's great to be in control. We thought you'd like to know who exactly it is that filters the flow of information around here. **TARAH GRANT:** The smallest member of the staff, but wields great power. She's the president of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Landon Lane Memorial Scholar, the journalism department's highest academic honor.

HOLLISTER HOVEY: Yes, she used to take pictures and draw the damned infamous Colonnade Club, but now she shares the top position. So, if you still have leftover misplaced angst about the cartoon, go ahead and try to complain. Write a letter to the editor. It'll have to get past her first. She wrote for the *Kansas City Star* for a couple years, and was the *Kansas High School Journalist* of the Year.

JOHN STEWART: He's one of the news guys. Always late. Always uncombed. He's got a little goatee. He's one of the rare frat boys on staff, so he adds a completely pro-establishment quotient to the editorial scheme.

POLLY DOIG: She's the other news guy who transferred here from New York to take the Southern journalistic world by storm. She's the only staff member with a nose ring.

FRANCES GROBERG: Star LAX player and co-sports editor. She's dating the former executive editor, but that's unrelated to her rise to fame.

BRENDAN HARRINGTON: Famous sports commentator for the juggernaut we call WLUR. He's the Matt Pinfield of sports knowledge. Try "taking it to the mat" with him.

ERICA PROSSER: Her mother has a sugar glider (don't ask, just read her features section next week). She's the Kappa Alpha magazine journalism intern.

GINGER PHILLIPS: Freshman features phenom. **STEPHEN PESCE:** We wrangled him into doing the editorial section, then he put himself in TALKback — a major fax pas, but we'll forgive him.

KEVIN McMANEMIN: Our great columnist has taken over the reigns of the Last Word.

CHRISTIE PHILLIPS: She's the new photo girl with major experience under her belt. She took photos for the *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* in high school.

TOM WADLOW: Dating Tarah. Computer guru/genius. Put up *Phi On-line* last year and will continue to make it a truly interactive experience for you.

THE MONEY PEOPLE: Jill Jamieson rules in this little faction of C-school types that includes Brian Rogers and Steven Klotz. Unlike the rest of us, these guys actually make money (at the Phi and will in life, too).

Rumble at registration

What do you get when you take a few hundred PE-desperate students, wake them before dawn, sit them in the gym and let them stew for a few hours? At Washington and Lee, you almost get a riot.

Red Brick Row
David Balsley '99

Such was the situation on Monday morning in the Warner Center. By 7:30, so many people had come to sign up for PE classes that the line looped from Doremus Gym down the hall and back again to the gym. When sign-up began, the people at the end of the line rushed to join the people at the front of the line. Students from the middle of the line, who now found themselves at the end, were left to wonder just what the hell the latecomers thought they were doing.

PE registration should match registration for other courses: it should be divided by class, with upperclassmen signing up before underclassmen. This would cut back on the number of people waiting in line for PEs. It would also make it easier for seniors to get the PEs they need to graduate. Hopefully, it would also prevent scenes like the one that occurred last Monday.

Although splitting registration this way would help upperclassmen, it would hurt freshmen and sophomores, preventing some of them from racking up gym credits in their first few years at W&L. This could mean that students would have to take more PEs during their junior and senior years, which may not be what we want. This could be the main disadvantage of registering for PEs by class.

The need to offer gym classes to graduating seniors, however, justifies disadvantaging underclassmen. Also, splitting PE registration by class would not prevent all freshmen and sophomores from taking gym courses. Some students would finish their PE requirements later than others, but in the end, everyone would have the opportunity to take one last gym course if they needed to.

PE registration could be altered so that upperclassmen would sign up in the morning and underclassmen in the afternoon. It would be better, however, if juniors and seniors could register on Monday and everyone else on Tuesday. This would allow everyone more flexibility in registering for PEs. It would also benefit upperclassmen with Monday morning classes or underclassmen who have class in the afternoon.

A second option for alleviating PE lines would be to use gym registration as a test case for online registration. If the Registrar's Office would like to switch to online registration, it could first require students to sign up for PE courses by computer, using a scaled-down version of the system intended for all course registration. This would help shake bugs out of the system and test its usefulness, as well as give students a chance to sleep in.

Given what happened last Monday, do we need marked queues to make sure that students stay in line at PE registration? I don't think so. The people who almost jumped the line last week eventually returned to the end. So long as students remember that the Honor System applies everywhere, including PE registration, we should be alright.

Quote of the week:

I did not go after him with a razor; I did not touch his genitals.

—Lisa Karen Williams explaining her weekend at Sigma Nu

Write a letter to *The Ring-tum Phi*.

Turn in letters to the Phi Office by 5 p.m. on Friday for publishing in the next week's edition. Or join the Phi staff. Writers, photographers, cartoonists and all types of special helpers are always needed.



Letters to *The Ring-tum Phi*

For Fraternity Gentlemen: A Decent Proposal

To all members of the W&L fraternity system:

Let me get this straight, enduring hardships brings the sufferers closer together and actually endears them to their antagonists. Let us accept this proposition and ask, what's all the fuss about? The KAs should become even closer with one another and, when this ordeal is over, they will be closer to the administration.

What? This reasoning is flawed? So too is the proposition then, so we cannot rely on reason to justify hazing. Can we rely on the law? What about God or morality? Hmm...okay, honor? Considering all fraternities have signed promises not to haze and yet we do, this seems doubtful. Oh! Tradition, that's it.

Lee always promoted tradition. Yet, Lee's tradition was honor and discipline. Discipline is good reason for pledge activities, but activities with discipline also give one a sense of dignity. Diapers, laxatives, and dignity. Okay, so we've even failed that test. The only reason left to haze is to justify why we suffered through these things. To change would be to admit we were wrong to endure it. This is a good reason, but it is no excuse when every other value we hold dear screams against hazing.

Wait! What about unity, that is surely important. True, suffering does give people a strong common bond. Hostage survivors will always have that in common and be able to share and help each other cope with their feelings. Do we really have to survive horrible experiences to be each other's friends? Well, no there are other ways.

Come on gentlemen, what are our intentions? We moan about losing autonomy, but autonomy only works when it is exercised. When is the last time (outside of the honor code) that students truly punished other students? The IFC slaps people on the wrists, but in the end we all treat each other gently in the hope that when (not if) our particular fraternity gets caught, everyone else will take pity. If we want to complain about student power, let's at least use it so we can point and say, "We are responsible." Instead we kick at the ground and pout like boys when we are caught.

The real victims from those last few weeks of Winter Term truly are the KA pledges. They deserve to have a fraternity and I am pleased that it sounds like the administration will let them come back in 1999. However, to imply that the fraternity should not be punished is outrageous. We know when we break the rules; we all do it in some form. We know the consequences and accept the risks. When men get caught, they admit their guilt and take their punishment, bearing it with quiet dignity.

I have never been more proud of this school's sense of honor than when I read everyone involved came forward of his own accord. Let us not ruin the only dignified moment in this whole mess by circling the wagons and crying foul; we all know better.

We accuse Errod of doing something wrong, for protecting the welfare of students and for guarding the University against liability (and for enforcing hazing rules we students made). We accuse Errod for doing his job. We pat ourselves on the back because we don't want to do our jobs. This attitude will not ensure the survival of a strong Greek system on this campus, but will likely bring about the opposite.

Gentlemen, when do we become men?

Gregory Scot Kees
Class of 1998

A Challenge to W&L Students

Why Hazing is a Bad Thing

1. Hazing is childish.
2. Hazing by fraternity members is hypocritical. It is totally irreconcilable with the declared high ideals of fraternities.
3. Hazing works in opposition to the proper mission of the University.
4. Hazing is a criminal act under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and those who commit it are subject to criminal penalties.
5. Arguments advanced in attempts to justify hazing are specious at best and silly at worst. It is an inferior way to seek bonding in a group of young people.
6. Hazing is a cheap shot at younger students, taking advantage of their naivete and their desire to prove themselves and to be accepted by the group, not realizing that they can decline from doing this.
7. Hazing is ungrateful in a University that has devoted tremendous financial resources and much human effort to enhancing the fraternity experience.
8. Hazing is dreadful public relations in a world unsympathetic to fraternities to begin with. Among other things, it plays into the hands of those who would take away the tax exemptions now enjoyed by fraternities.
9. Hazing undermines the credibility of the friends of the fraternity system, those of us who see large potential in the system for contributing to constructive development of young people are frustrated repeatedly in its defense, and disappointed ourselves, by a system that approaches its potential so seldom.
10. Hazing in any particular fraternity at W&L at this time makes its president to be either an ineffective leader or an insincere and unreliable person, since all the fraternity presidents assured that it would not happen this year.

But the most important faults:

11. Hazing puts strain on the Honor System. It appears very likely that a number of falsehoods have been uttered by a number of different people, in denying it.
12. Hazing is extremely risky, in several regards:
 - a. It risks the health, and even the lives, of those subjected to it.
 - b. It risks criminal penalties for those who commit it. In recent years, every death in the United States that resulted from hazing, and many serious injuries, has led to conviction and imprisonment.
 - c. It risks financial ruin for both the local and the national fraternity, for individuals, and perhaps for their parents.
13. Worst of all, it is demeaning to those upon whom it is committed and destructive to their self-confidence and sense of self worth.

In short, hazing is a hateful practice. It is a blot on the University.

It is a much larger blot on the fraternities that tolerate it. It is a still larger blot on the individuals who commit it. It is a blot of a different sort on those who submit to it.

For these reasons, I challenge every W&L student to face this issue with intellectual honesty, to consider the real and potential harms of hazing, as well as its enormous risks, and then to live up to your own highest ideals.

John M. Gunn
Lewis Whitaker Adams Professor Emeritus of Economics
Class of 1945, Member of Sigma Chi Fraternity

The Ring-tum Phi

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

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
http://wlu.edu/~phi



"I went bungee jumping."

—Shana Levine '01



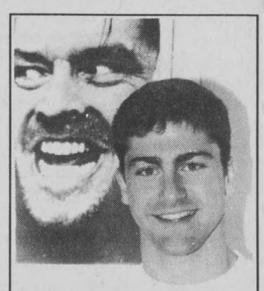
"I went to Greece with the wind ensemble."

—Lauren LaFauci '01



"I took my friends for a snipe hunt for animals that don't exist."

—Nathan Urquhart '01



"I got to ride on the same plane as the Errods."

—Stephen Pesce '01

April goes from bad to verse

It's National Poetry Month, and W&L has both rhyme AND reason

By ERICA PROSSER

PH FEATURES EDITOR

Question: If roses are red, what color are violets? All right, so that question is a little too easy. This might be a bit harder: Do you know why the caged bird sings? Or what happens to a dream deferred? Or what force through the green fuse drives the flower?

Stumped yet? Then maybe you should take advantage of National Poetry Month.

National Poetry Month, held in April of each year, was established in 1995 by a coalition of American poets, organizations, publishers, libraries and educators, including the American Poetry & Literacy Project and the Academy of American Poets. The purpose: to celebrate poetry and its place in American culture.

Though the event might be young by some standards, Washington and Lee University has celebrated it since its inception. In fact, we're celebrating it right now.

R.T. Smith, editor of *Shenandoah* literary magazine, is the coordinator of all W&L Poetry Month events. He brings speakers to campus, organizes displays in the library and prints free poetry for the W&L community.

"[National Poetry Month] is a great idea," he said. "We start preparing for it about two months in advance."

Perhaps you noticed a television set up in the lobby of Leyburn library earlier this month; the tape playing was made last year when local poets read their work aloud to celebrate National Poetry Month.

This year, Smith booked the Fairfax Lounge on April 22 for another reading, this one by two visiting poets. The lounge was a good choice of location, he said.

"Some people think that a poetry reading has to be in an auditorium," he said. "This was a quiet and intimate setting. We had about 40 people there, so the room was full, but it was comfortable."

The featured readers were Elizabeth Seydel Morgan and Reetika Vazirani. Morgan was a faculty member at W&L about 10 years ago, and Vazirani will be the poet-in-residence at Sweet Briar College for the next academic year. Smith called the event a success, though very few students appeared in the audience.

Okay, so you might have missed the reading. Now what? Well, with financial help from the library, Smith was able to print about 200 copies of a poem by Chinese poet Li Po.

The poem is called "The Fisherman," and it appeared on bulletin boards all over campus in early April. Smith enlisted the help of two Chinese friends to translate the poem and create the callig-

raphy in the background. If you can find a copy, you can keep it. Smith printed the poems as a gift to the W&L campus.

If you'd like something else poetic to look at, visit the display cases in Leyburn. The cases contain books by Virginia poets and posters printed with poems by campus bards.

The Lexington Public Library also has a display of poetry and books for anyone interested.

You say you don't know any local poets? Au contraire. Most of the W&L English Department faculty members are poets; Dr. Suzanne Keen even has a grant to write poetry. She did not get too involved with the events this year, but she has been involved in the past.

"National Poetry Month is a nice idea," she said. "It doesn't have an impact on my relationship to poetry, but that's because I work with poetry all the time."

Poetry is now celebrated across America every April, but this year's national celebration is especially unique: Andrew Carroll, Executive Director of the American Poetry & Literacy Project, has been driving a truck from New York to San Francisco, distributing 100,000 free poetry books to the people he meets. Like a modern-day Johnny Appleseed, he's stopping in small towns and large cities alike, spreading verse to the masses.

A poetry reading was also held at the White House last weekend, featuring Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and former Poet Laureates Rita Dove and Robert Hass. Overall, National Poetry Month is a national big deal that spreads the good of verse to everyone it can.

So April is almost over, and you've missed most of the fun? Don't despair; Smith is already pondering ideas for next year's celebration.

"We might do a joint thing with Sweet Briar next year, since

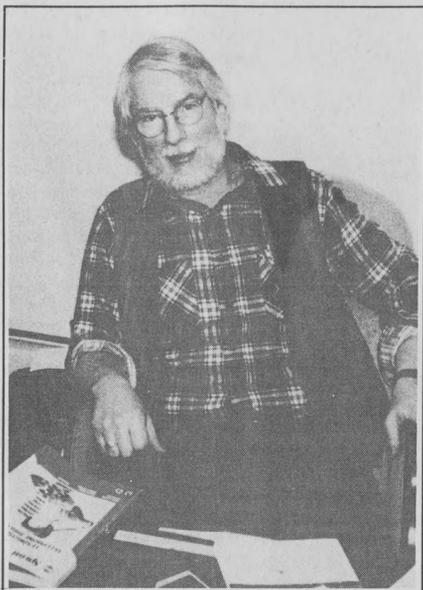
[Vazirani] will be there," he said.

In thinking of ways to get students more involved with the activities, he had a couple of suggestions.

"Next year, I'd like to do something a little more pop," he said. "Maybe a performance poet and a more 'literary' poet side by side."

If that doesn't grab you, his other suggestion might:

"I think it would be a good idea to require that students attend some of these readings," he said.



R.T. SMITH, editor of *Shenandoah*, organizes all the Poetry Month events at W&L. His most recent book of poetry is *Trespasser*, and he is currently working on a series of *Civil War* poems. HOLLISTER HOVEY/EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Blackwater Surprise backfires

By HENRY GOJA

PH STAFF WRITER

Rating: ☆☆ of 5

[Rating system: 0=terrible; 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent; 5=classic]

Last year during the Super Bowl in New Orleans, I lucked out and got a front row seat to see the well-known blind Blues guitarist Brian Lee. His raw intensity and passion for his music gave the crowd that was jammed into the small, sweaty club a great experience. Robert Bradley, a veteran blind singer-songwriter out of Detroit, evokes some of the same passion on his *Blackwater Surprise* album.

"Most of the time, it was something I'd just write on the spot as it came into my head," said Bradley of his music. "Basically, I'm a singer. I wasn't on the street because I was hungry, or homeless. I was there because I'm a player. I wanted to sing."

The band is made up of Michael Nehra (guitar), his brother Andrew (bass), drummer Jeff Fowlkes and keyboardist Tim Diaz. The group supports their sound and their passionate leader.

"This is just something that's so obvious, so natural and effortless," said Andrew. "Robert's vision and ours was a perfect blend. We spent hours having fun jamming until we found our sound."

That sound has quite a following, as well; the group has toured with *The Dave Matthews Band*, *Big Head Todd and the Monsters*, *Cowboy Mouth*, and other popular groups. Parts of this album live up to the band's apparent reputation: the group backs up Bradley's raspy vocals with upbeat funk on the first track, "Bellybone," and with smooth rhythm on "Turn." Despite the versatility of the group, though, the band members struggle on the slower songs. They stick to average, stale riffs and beats that smell of adult contemporary radio. The song "Shake It Off," which sticks out as the only '70-ish guitar song, sounds like a direct rip of Led Zeppelin.

The strength of the album, however, is Bradley's experience, which he channels through his lyrics and emotional voice. Tackling subjects from life in California coffee houses ("California") to political problems ("Governor") to romantic triumphs ("For the Night"), Bradley's words sound sincere. Brian McCollum of the *Detroit Free Press* noticed Bradley's vitality and spontaneity in concert, and he saw it as unique:

"Bradley's improv explodes into a streak of ecstatic, staccato screams," he wrote. "The set ends with a bam, and the kids go nuts. They know they've seen something really, really special."

The outcome for this album: The spirit is willing, but the tunes are weak.



W&L musicians go GREEK

By GINGER PHILLIPS

PH FEATURES EDITOR

For many students, Spring Break consisted of sleeping for hours on end and tanning in the backyard, but for some Washington and Lee University musicians it was quite a different story. Members of the University Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band packed up their violins, cellos and trumpets for a trip to Greece. Fifty-eight students and three professors spent eight days surrounded by ancient ruins and the timeless beauty of Greece.

"The trip was amazing," junior Jason Hahn, a baritone sax player, said. "It was a wonderful opportunity to perform and visit a beautiful country."

The students stayed in the capital city of Athens for the majority of the trip. There they dazzled guests at the Athens Hilton Hotel with two concerts. The group also had a large audience at another concert in Nafplion, a small town on the Greek coast.

"The people of the town were so excited that we came," freshman Lauren LaFauci said.

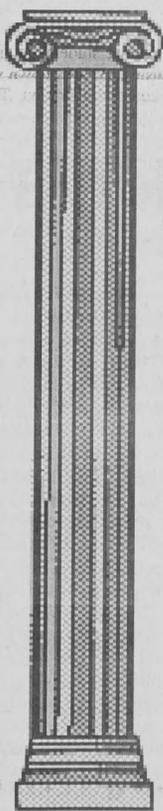
While the main purpose of the trip was to share W&L's musical talent with another part of the world, students were also able to see many wonderful cities and sights. Students toured the Acropolis, the city of Mycenae and the National Archeological Museum.

"It was interesting to finally connect ancient Greek history in our minds," said LaFauci. "Playing music was part of the trip, but actually experiencing the country itself was something that we would maybe never get to do without this trip."

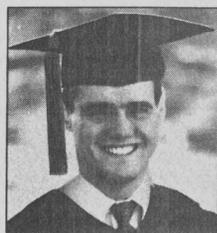
The group also went on a cruise to the Aegean islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra. Some students were stuck on Aegina for several extra hours when they missed the ferryboat back to the mainland. They took advantage of the time to explore the island on motorbikes. Renting the bikes proved to be another problem because the students did not have their passports, which were required for the rentals. Fortunately, the generous employee accepted their driver's licenses instead.

Although the students did not stay with host families, freshman percussionist Kate Muter said, "Even in a hotel we were able to interact with the people and get a lot of culture."

Muter summed up the experience when she said, "I would go again in a minute."



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Grab your running shoes, a bike and a canoe and participate in the 23rd Annual Lexington Road and River Relay on Saturday, May 2. The relay will begin at 10 a.m. with a 3.5 mile run, followed by a 9.1 mile bike ride, a 2.4 mile canoe/kayak course and an additional 1.1 mile run.

Pre-registration forms for individuals or teams of up to five members can be picked up at City Hall or the Chamber of Commerce. The costs are \$60 per team or \$20 per individual. Serious competitors can show off their skills, and fraternities and sororities can show their spirit or just have fun outdoors. For more information, call Jon Ellestad at 463-7133.

CORRECTION

Two actors were omitted from the March 23rd article on the Festival of One-Acts. Anne Hazlett starred in "Impromptu," and Scott McKelvey appeared in "Gladiator." *The Phi* apologizes for the omission.

FOR the EDUCATION and RESEARCH COMMUNITY

1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return

Label (See instructions on page 12)

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sports

Baseball out of ODAC's; splits Guilford

By BRENDAN HARRINGTON — CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Two weeks ago the Generals sat atop the ODAC standings with an 8-2 record and looked to be well on their way to qualifying for the ODAC tournament. Two weeks and five losses later the Generals are on the outside looking in.

The Generals' tournament hopes died yesterday afternoon when Bridgewater swept a double-header from Emory & Henry and knocked the Generals out of the playoff picture, claiming the fourth seed in next weekend's four-team double elimination tournament in Lynchburg.

Going into Saturday afternoon the Generals' playoff situation was more complicated than an advanced math class. If the Generals would have won both games in their double-header at Guilford on Saturday they would have qualified for the tournament regardless of yesterday's Bridgewater victories.

But the Generals could only manage to win one of the games against Guilford as they won the first game 18-6 and lost the second game 6-3. They had to wait and watch to find out if they would qualify for the tournament.

The Generals kept their playoff hopes alive after they won the first game against the Quakers (11-5 ODAC, 19-20 overall) 18-6 on Saturday afternoon as the Generals scored a season 18 runs on 14 hits.

Sophomore Christian Batcheller hit his eighth and ninth home runs of the season, including a grand slam to tie his own single season record. Sophomores Schulyer Marshall and David Hanson also went yard while freshman Josh Glover pitched a complete game and picked up the victory.

In the second game, the Generals jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the top of the fourth and it looked like they might not have to worry about the Bridgewater games on Sunday. Russell Wrenn had an RBI single in that inning and Mike Elder had a two-run triple. But the Quakers got one back in the bottom of the fourth and broke the game open in the fifth on a three run homer by Chris Butcher and went on to the 6-3 win.

The Generals lost two games earlier in the week as they lost 9-2 at Lynchburg on Monday and 11-9 at Hampden-Sydney on Wednesday. The Generals finish the year 9-7 in the ODAC and 12-13 overall.

Women's lacrosse wins ODAC

By JASON ZACHER — SENIOR EDITOR

It was a win four years in the making.

Since their last Old Dominion Athletic Conference championship in 1993, the Generals have been continually frustrated by Roanoke College. Washington and Lee (13-2, 10-0 ODAC) exacted their revenge over the third-seeded Maroons on Sunday 9-5.

"I'm speechless," senior Whitney Parker said after the game, "This is what I've worked for all these years."

The Generals opened the scoring only 40 seconds into the game en route to a 2-0 lead. Roanoke (10-6, 7-3 ODAC) evened the score a few minutes later, but freshman Liz Borges scored her three goals in the next 17 minutes to open a 6-2 lead.

"The team played so well together today," coach Jan Hathorn said. "It would be hard to single any individual player out."

The win snapped Roanoke's string of four consecutive ODAC championships, including last year's 7-6 win over W&L.

"We had to get revenge because we lost to them last year, twice. It's about time we beat them," said sophomore Katherine Riddle.

Parker and senior Lorraine Taurassi each scored two goals for the Generals, senior Mary Jo Mahoney and Riddle added one a piece.

Roanoke senior Ali Oglesby, the second-leading scorer in the ODAC, did not score, due to a smothering Generals' defense and several big saves by sophomore goalkeeper Ginny Jernigan. Oglesby scored five times in the first meeting this season.

Jernigan made 18 saves, in addition to the 15 she made in the semi-final game Saturday.

"She really played huge today," Hathorn said.

The Generals dominated play for the first 50 minutes of the game, opening a 9-3 lead. Roanoke scored two quick goals near the nine-minute mark, but it was too little, too late. The vocal Roanoke fans continually berated the officiating throughout the tournament, blaming the officials for Roanoke's misfortunes during the title game.

It was the second time this season W&L has topped Roanoke, the first coming at the end of March 10-9. The first win helped boost the Generals' confidence.

"In past years we've played scared," Parker said. "This year we were excited and confident."

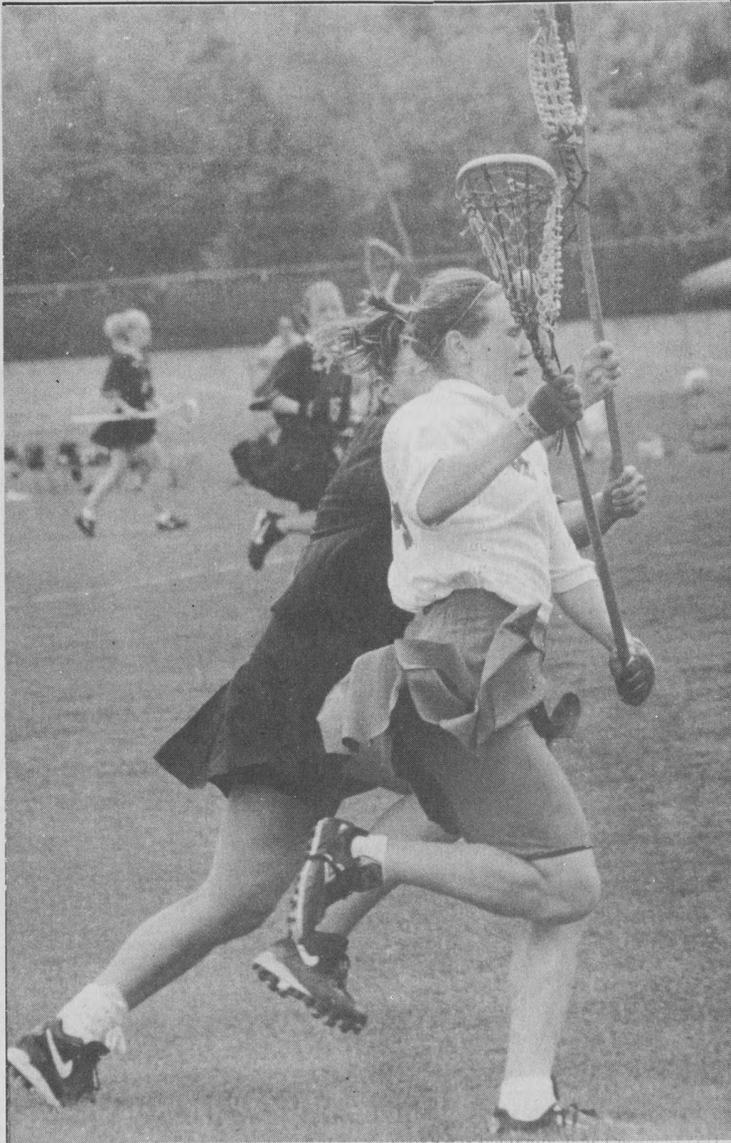
"When a team has their way with you for so long, you become a little intimidated," Hathorn said. "The fact was, we weren't intimidated today, it wasn't even a thought."

W&L will now wait for March 3, when the NCAA tournament pairings will be announced. According to Athletic Director Mike Walsh, W&L is "on the bubble." Three teams will advance from the southern region, and W&L is one of four teams with a shot. Johns Hopkins is almost assured of moving on. Before their two wins this weekend, the Generals were ranked eleventh in the nation, dropping four spots after a late-season loss to St. Mary's (Md.).

Hathorn sits on the tournament committee and could not comment on W&L's odds.

The Generals finish the season with the best regular-season record in ODAC history, and the lowest goals-per-game average in the league this season at 7.2.

"I'm just enjoying this victory," Parker said, "I'm not worried about the NCAA's right now."



SOPHOMORE KATHERINE Riddle blows by her defender in the women's lacrosse ODAC Championship against Roanoke College on Sunday. The Generals defeated the defending champion Maroons by a score of 9-5.

	1	2	FINAL
Roanoke	3	2	5
W&L	6	3	9

Tennis teams victorious in ODAC

By FRANCES GROBERG — CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Once again, the men's and women's tennis teams proved their dominance in the ODAC conference by wrapping up title victories this weekend.

The men, playing at Guilford College, racked up 71 points, beating their closest opponent, Hampden-Sydney by 16 points, recording 55 points.

Wins were posted by freshman Chris Haun, junior Scott Babka, senior Glenn Miller, freshman Kelly Radford, and junior David Lehman. A loss was recorded by junior Dale

Pretila. All three doubles teams were victorious over their opponents.

The women's tennis team also defeated their opponents by an extremely wide margin. The Generals earned 72 points. Second place Hollins earned a meager 34.5 points.

Senior Ericka Shapard, sophomore Brook Hartzell, senior Berry Blankinship, sophomore Erin Eggers, freshman Christina Campbell, and freshman Anne Castello all recorded victories. All three women's doubles also won.

Next for the women's team is the NCAA tournament, which will be held at W&L from May 5-11.

By BRENDAN HARRINGTON — CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The Hampden-Sydney Tigers used a lethal combination of precision passing and overpowering defense to defeat Washington and Lee 11-6 on Saturday afternoon at Wilson Field. The win gave the Tigers their third Old Dominion Athletic Conference Championship while also putting them in excellent position to grab one of the top four seeds in the NCAA tournament.

The Generals faced two unlucky breaks in the first half that didn't help their cause. Senior captain Robb Greenfield was knocked out of the game with a concussion just 19 seconds into the game and a questionable three minute stick penalty at the beginning of the second quarter cost the Generals two goals. But despite the untimely events, the Tigers dominated from start to finish.

"Both of those events played key roles in the game," said senior captain Paul Stanley, who scored two goals on Saturday. "Things would probably have gone different if those two things didn't happen, but it's still no excuse. The bottom line is that we didn't go out and do the things we practiced all week."

Things went wrong for the Generals from the very beginning as Greenfield's concussion left him unable to return until the fourth quarter, when he scored a goal the first time he touched the ball.

"Losing Greenfield really hurt and it really hurt team morale," said freshman attackman Matt Dugan. "Robb is not only a lacrosse player, he's our emotional leader."

The Tigers jumped out to a 1-0 lead two minutes into the game on the first of five goals by junior midfielder Doug Parker. Three minutes later the Generals bounced back and tied the game 1-1 on a goal by freshman attackman Ben Lucas.

That would be the last time the Generals would tie the game, as freshman attackman John Neely scored back-to-back goals in the

final 2:30 of the half to give the Tigers a 3-1 lead at the end of the first quarter.

At the beginning of the second quarter Tom Super was given a 3:00 penalty for a long stick violation. The penalty was the result of one of the random stick checks that take place each game after the first and third quarters. It was highly unusual for the referees to chose Super, how-

ever, as they do not usually pick a player who is often involved in the faceoff. Super's stick was determined legal at the beginning of the game but during the course of the game was bent as a result of his participation in the faceoff.

On the resulting extra man advantage, Doug Palmer scored two goals to give the Tigers a 5-1 lead.

Senior Tom Fallace added a goal for the Generals two minutes later to cut the lead to three but Palmer scored his fourth goal with 10:06 left in the half to and the Tigers took a 6-2 lead into the locker room.

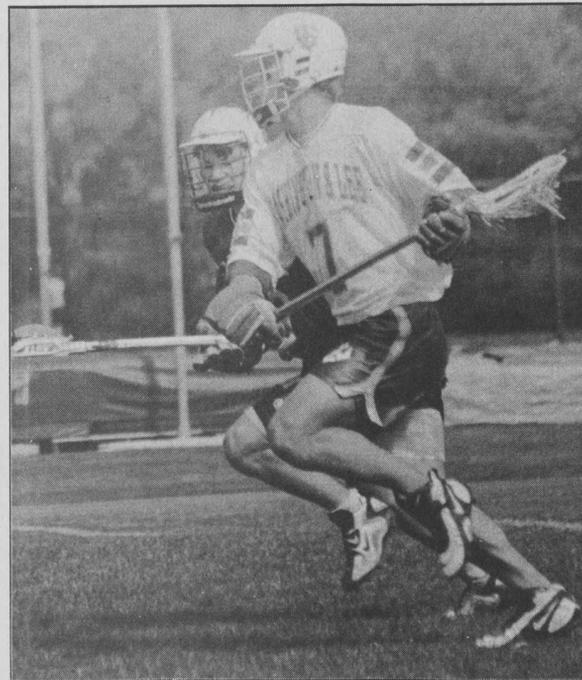
In the second half the Generals cut the lead to three on three separate occasions but that was as close as they would come. Greenfield's goal in the fourth quarter made the score 9-6, but the Tigers' Chammie Burroughs then scored two of his three goals to make the final score 11-6.

The Generals are at Randolph-Macon on Wednesday before returning home to take on VMI in the 11th annual Lee-Jackson Lacrosse Classic on Saturday.

There is a strong possibility that the Generals could meet up with this same Hampden-Sydney team in the NCAA tournament because of the tournaments' regional setup.

"We know we might see this team again in the tournament and we look forward to playing them again," said Dugan. "This loss does not ruin our season."

"We want to see them again in the tournament so we can show them that we're the better team," said Stanley. "We want revenge."



SENIOR PAUL Stanley tries to beat his defender in the Hampden-Sydney-Tigers battle on Saturday. The Tigers beat W&L 11-6 in the ODAC Championship game.

Track finishes 3rd, 4th in ODACs

By BRENDAN HARRINGTON — CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The men's and women's track teams took third and fourth respectively at the ODAC track championships on Saturday afternoon in Bridgewater.

The men finished with 52 points behind first place Lynchburg (134) and second place Bridgewater (61), ahead of fourth place Roanoke (17) and fifth place Eastern Mennonite (5). Omar Moneim led the way for the men, winning the shot put (45 1/4 ft.), taking second in the discus, and fourth in the javelin. Senior Will Olson won the 1500 in 4:04.88 and finished third in the 5,000 while teammate Jason Callen finished second in the 5,000 and fifth in the 1,500.

The women finished ahead of fifth place Eastern Mennonite (17) and behind first place Bridgewater (76), second place Roanoke (65), and third place Lynchburg (59). Natasha Dorofeeva finished first in the 800 and set a school and meet record with a time of 2:18.16. Meredith Mlynar won the javelin throw (98 ft.-10 in.) and the 4x100 relay team made up of Dorofeeva, Kathleen Moroney, Laurin McKeever, and Isaris Bonilla finished first in a time of 4:11.73, which was just off a school record.

RESULTS

MEN'S LAX
H-S 11, W&L 6

WOMEN'S LAX*
W&L 9, RC 5

MEN'S TENNIS*
W&L 71, H-S 55

WOMEN'S TENNIS*
W&L 72, Hollins 34.5

BASEBALL
W&L 18, GC 6
GC 6, W&L 3

H-S 11, W&L 9
Lynchburg 9, W&L 2

GOLF

3rd place at Lynchburg invitational

WOMEN'S TRACK
4th place in ODACs

MEN'S TRACK
3rd place in ODACs

*ODAC Champs

UP NEXT...

MEN'S LAX

Wed. @ R-M
Sat. vs. VMI
Lee-Jackson
Lax Classic

WOMEN'S LAX

NCAA Tourny
Time and
Location
TBA

WOMEN'S TENNIS

NCAA Tourny
@ W&L
May 5-11

MEN'S TENNIS

NCAA Regional
May 8
TBA

GOLF

Mon. & Tues.
ODAC Tourny



FOREIGN STUDENT SPEAKS AT REUNION

A keynote address by Phillippe Labro '58, a noted French author and journalist, will kick off the alumni weekend festivities 8:30 p.m. Thursday in Lee Chapel. The title of his speech is "As The World Turns: W&L 40 Years Later."

Labro's best selling novel, *The Foreign Student*, is based on his college years at W&L in the mid-'50s.

ACLU LEADER VISITS W&L

Ward Connerly, Chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute, will explain why affirmative action should be abolished during his speech in Lee Chapel on Wednesday. Connerly has gained national attention as an outspoken advocate of equal opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race or sex. The lecture, which is sponsored by Contact, is free and open to the public.

CONTACT HOSTS SIERRA CLUB PRESIDENT

Adam Werbach, president of the Sierra Club, will speak in duPont Auditorium 4 p.m. Thursday.

As the 46th president of the largest grassroots organization in America, Werbach, 24, is also the youngest president elected in Sierra Club's 104-year history. He heads the board of directors and leads the lobbying and conservation organization of more than 600,000 members across the country. Werbach is currently leading the Sierra Club in campaigns to clean up America's air and strengthen protection of our national forests.

DUO PERFORMS IN DUPONT

The Findell/Lugo Duo will perform a double bass recital on Tuesday at 8 p.m. in duPont Auditorium. Leanne Findell Lugo, currently on the music faculty at Washington and Lee, and Leland Lugo have been touring and performing their own special brand of chamber music together since 1994.

For two years, the duo performed in the Caribbean, Alaska and the Mexican Riviera with Princess Cruises. This year, they will be traveling throughout Virginia performing recitals and promoting their new children's book, *Jeremy and Grandpa's Magic Clock*.

KNIGHT PROFESSOR GIVES LECTURE

Louis W. Hodges, the John S. & James L. Knight Professor of Journalism Ethics, will present a lecture next Monday titled "A Provincial Press in a Global Setting." The lecture will be given at 7:30 p.m. in Leyburn Library's Northern Auditorium and is open to the public.

SONOKLECT SEASON ENDS WITH NASHAWATI

Violinist Bassam Nashawati, acclaimed as the "finest violinist in Syria, perhaps the entire Arab speaking world," will present the season's final concert for Washington and Lee University's Sonoklect series at 8 p.m. next Friday in the Lenfest Center. Pianist David Riley from the Eastman School of Music will accompany him.

The concert is open to the public and free of charge. A reception will follow the performance where members of the audience can enjoy refreshments and meet the performers.

ALUMNI ARTISTS EXHIBIT IN DUPONT

Michael Kopald and Patrick Hinely, both Lexington residents as well as members of the class of 1973, will present a joint exhibit of their works, Chinese brush paintings and photographs, respectively, in the university's duPont Gallery from April 27 to May 14.

Their show overlaps W&L's alumni weekend and the 25th reunion for the Class of 1973. The opening reception will be held this Friday in the gallery and the public is invited to attend.

PHI NOW PUBLISHES CLASSIFIEDS

Need a hot date? Need to find someone to shack up with next year? Need to sell stuff? Then buy a classified ad in *The Ring-tum Phi*. Two dollars buys ten words.

Drop off your ad in the *Phi* business office on the 2nd floor of the university center by 5 p.m. Thursday, and your message will be printed in the following Monday's edition.

LEXINGTON RESIDENTS PUBLISH BOOK

Good-bye to Old Peking: The Wartime Letters of U.S. Marine Captain John Seymour Letcher 1937-39, co-edited by Roger B. Jeans and Katie Letcher Lyle, has just been published by Ohio University Press. Capt. Letcher was a 1924 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and a member of Washington and Lee University's 1927 law class.

Lyle is the daughter of Capt. Letcher and was born in Peking. Jeans is the Elizabeth Lewis Otey Professor of East Asian History at W&L. Together, they have edited the letters which Capt. Letcher wrote to his mother in Virginia between 1937 and 1939, during which time he commanded a company of the U.S. Embassy Marine Guard in Peking.

W&L AWARDED TWO FULBRIGHTS

The Fulbright Scholarship Board recently awarded fellowships to Hampden H. Smith and Christiana P. Callahan. Smith is a professor of journalism and chairman of the journalism and mass communications department. Callahan is a senior chemistry and German literature major from Alexandria, Va.

Next academic year, Smith will be the Fulbright Scholar to the American University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. Callahan will study at the University of Aachen in Aachen, Germany. During her 10-month visit she will perform biochemical research on the genetic predisposition to develop allergies.

CONNORS WINS AWARD

Sophomore Michele K. Connors has been awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 academic years.

Goldwater Scholars are selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of more than 1,100 mathematics, science and engineering students nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide.

ANNUAL LEE-JACKSON GAME THIS WEEKEND

The Lee-Jackson Lacrosse Classic will be held this Saturday on Wilson Field at 2 p.m. W&L hopes to maintain its winning record in the annual game against its neighbor.

STUDENTS SHOULD REGISTER THEIR DOGS

According to a recent article in *The News-Gazette*, the city animal warden is checking up on dog licenses. Pet owners found in violation of city pet statutes will receive summonses. Unlicensed dogs found in the city are subject to impoundment for up to five days.

Dog licenses can be obtained at City Hall with proof of rabies vaccination.



JAMES EARL RAY DIED THURSDAY

Convicted assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr., James Earl Ray, died Thursday of liver disease at 70. Ray's brother is planning the open funeral for three weeks away to assure that Ray's pastor is available. He encourages King's family to attend.

GUNMAN KILLED IN MCDONALD'S

One of two gunmen who took about 15 people hostage at a New Bedford, Mass. McDonald's late Sunday was found dead after police crept into the restaurant. Police don't know if they shot the man or if he committed suicide. None of the hostages was injured. The other suspect fled in a car with one hostage and was at large.

JACKSON HAS EYE ON POLITICS

While he downplayed talk of a presidential bid in 2000, the Rev. Jesse Jackson nonetheless said the gap between rich and poor must be a defining issue during the next two election years at a meeting at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. "More and more Americans are being left behind," he said. "That must be the essence of the debate in '98 and 2000."

Jackson's two-day visit to this city of 21,000 about 60 miles southeast of Columbus has been labeled as an attempt to gauge his appeal for a possible presidential bid for 2000, but Jackson said it was too premature to make that decision.

'GRAMMY' ARRESTED FOR SEXUAL ABUSE

After five years of house arrest and failed appeals, Boston residents Raymond and Shirley Souza are preparing to spend the rest of their lives in prison. The Souzas were convicted of raping two granddaughters, 3- and 4-year-old girls who told of being forced to touch the private parts of "Grammy" and "Papa."

Experts found physical evidence consistent with sexual abuse, but not conclusive proof of it. The Souzas are 66. If they end up behind bars, they say they expect to die there.

GOVERNORS DISCUSS RACE ISSUES

On Thursday, 12 governors will get involved in President Clinton's dialogue on race by taking part in activities focused on racial issues, such as panel discussions or town hall meetings, as part of a national effort by the YWCA to focus on the elimination of racism in Washington. Six others planned to issue proclamations urging a statewide focus on racial issues. Hopefully, the discussion will trickle down to benefit local communities.

DILBERT WINS AWARD

"Dilbert" was named this year's top newspaper comic strip Saturday night and creator Scott Adams won the Reuben Award—cartooning's highest honor—at the National Cartoonist Society's 58th annual Reuben Award ceremony.

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Mayo Island is located off of the 14th Street Bridge in downtown Richmond, Va. Limited parking is available on the island. Additional parking is available in streets and lots through out Shockoe Slip/ Shockoe Bottom. A free shuttle to the island may be picked up at the corner of 15th Street and Main Street in front of Sea Breeze Cafe.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

Annual Fund Staff Associate

The Office of University Development has an opening for an Annual Fund Staff Associate. This position assists in the development and management of strategies to increase involvement in the financial support of Washington and Lee through the Annual Fund which provides direct support to the University's operating budget. The term of the position is one year, renewable for a second year, with preference given to recent W&L graduates

As this entry-level position depends on creative communication to a varied constituency, the successful candidate should possess excellent writing and verbal skills. Also necessary are demonstrated initiative, an ability to work within specific deadlines, ability to prioritize and juggle multiple tasks, an ability to supervise and manage student workers and alumni volunteers, and a willingness to assist other staff members as needed. Candidates should also be prepared for evening and weekend work and some travel. Familiarity with computers and with public relations principles is a plus. A bachelor's degree is required.

Candidates should send a complete resume and letter of application to Robert W. Fox, Director of Personnel Services, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia 24450.

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Lost in Space crashes on the big screen

By BRIAN PRISCO

PH MOVIE CRITIC

When I heard that *Lost in Space* had knocked *Titanic* out of number one in theaters across America, I was ecstatic. At last, I thought, something new, something exciting, something without that God-forsaken Celine Dion song in it.

Then I saw the movie.

Lost in Space is the updated remake of the 1950s space voyage show of the same name. The multimillion dollar budget was used to tune up the black and white of the old show and the result is a movie with more bells and whistles than Kit from *Knight Rider*. It was just lacking one small thing: a developed plot.

The movie follows the exploits of the Robinson family as they jet-tison across the cosmos en route to Jupiter. Dr. John Robinson (William Hurt), a brilliant scientist but a shoddy father, is dragging his family on a 20-year trek in a spaceship piloted by Captain Don West (Matt LeBlanc). Trouble arises when a saboteur, the villainous Dr. Smith (Gary Oldman), sets the ship up for a self-destructive course into the sun and the family is hurtled into the black void of space and time.

This movie had a lot of potential to become interesting. It had aliens, robots, space travel, intrigue, espionage, the whole nine yards. The problem with *Lost in Space* is they choose to do all of it, so there are more gaps in the plot than Gaps in the Mall of America. I wanted to like this movie, but they didn't do anything with it. Elements kept being introduced and then were never explained.

For instance, they discover this little alien that can change color and looks like something out of a Dr. Seuss book. What potential! Do you know what they end up doing with the creature? Nothing! It just appears and you see it bobbling around the background. That's it. Crap like that happens throughout the movie. They start to develop these wonderful plot points and then forget about them.



The cast is star-studded and some of the stars burn a little brighter than others. William Hurt is pretty boring as Dr. Robinson, and Mimi Rogers (Maureen Robinson) is just there. She isn't bad, she isn't good. Heather Graham (Judy Robinson) is basically very attractive. Her sole purpose for being in the movie is so that horny teenage boys can stare at her and imagine what she looked like in *Boogie Nights* naked. She seemed inappropriate as the brilliant scientist.

Matt LeBlanc is absolutely abysmal as Captain West, and furthers my belief that the *Friends* cast cannot act. He has one emotion: stupid. He was almost the downfall of the movie, but they left that honor to Lacey Chabert (Penny Robinson). I wanted to see her fired out of a porthole in the opening credits of the movie. This was her first film, and I hope movie audiences won't be subjected to her high-pitched Smurf whine in any more.

Then there's poor Robbie the Robot. What they did to Robbie is a crime. In the old show, he was this lightbulb-headed machine that covered all the comic relief. In this version, he looks like a cross between a Go-Bot and a Eureka vacuum cleaner. He's used as a cheap gimmick and it pains the fans of the old show to see him.

Don't get me wrong, there were a few good things about this movie. Gary Oldman was, as usual, just phenomenal. The man cannot act poorly. And Jack Johnson (Will Robinson) was absolutely terrific. Expect good things from him in the future. Also, the special effects were spectacular. I just hope that Hollywood will finally learn that special effects don't make great movies. Hollywood needs to get its head out of its collective rectum and start finding some better story lines before more of their plots get as "Lost" as this one.

“ Matt LeBlanc ... furthers my belief that the *Friends* cast cannot act. He has one emotion: stupid. ”

The truth is out there: W&L conspiracies finally revealed

By KEVIN McMANEMIN

THE LOONEY BIN

They say that student autonomy at W&L is as dead as Sandra Bullock's career. They say that President Elrod and his jack-booted deans have wiped their noses on the honor system, thrown up all over the SJC and decorum prevents me from mentioning what they did to the IFC. They say these are all part of a wide-ranging conspiracy to wrench control of W&L away from the students and put it completely in the greedy little hands of the faculty.

Of course, like most rumors, they're all true. Is it a mere coincidence that "faculty" and "fascism" start with the same two letters? Well, probably. But that's not the point.

The point is that there are a number of far-reaching conspiracies currently brewing in the President's office. After several months of tough, intensive investigative journalistic work that would have made my journalism professors proud (despite the grades they gave me last term, the bastards) I managed to uncover none of these conspiracies. So, like any good journalist working on a deadline, I made some up.

1) THE SATURDAY CONSPIRACY: Most students spend Saturday afternoons sleeping and Saturday night drinking. Many even enjoy Saturdays. Clearly, this is not the kind of environment we want to foster at W&L. So Saturdays will be replaced by another Wednesday.

2) THE LIBRARY EXPANSION CONSPIRACY: Leyburn Library is running out of space to put books. The recent purchase of *The Complete Stephen King* set now takes up the entire third floor and most of the fourth. So frat house basements, which were previously wasted as dubious dens of dirty dancing and drunken debauchery, will be filled with books.

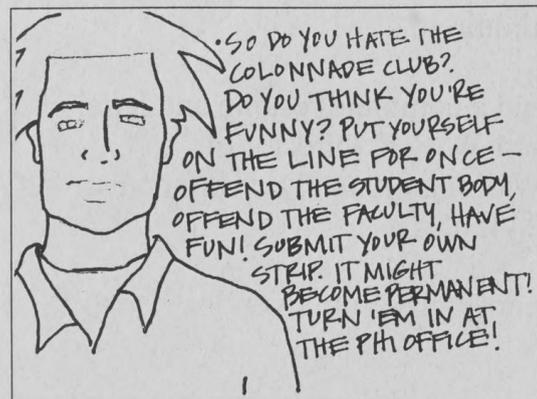
3) THE ROBOT CONSPIRACY: By the year 2000, students will be replaced with hyper-intelligent robots. Studies have shown that robots party less, work more and require absolutely no food or sleep. This means that dorms and the D-hall can be turned into really bitchin' faculty lounges.

4) THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY: Oliver Stone only scratched the surface. It was Castro, backed by Elrod, in league with the Mafia, under orders from the CIA, funneling funds from the EC. Dean Manning was the second shooter on the grassy knoll. (Well, why do you think he's fleeing to England?)

5) THE SORORITY HOUSE CONSPIRACY: A closer look at the "Master Plan" reveals: site for proposed sorority houses - Woods Creek. Site for proposed sorority house showers - President Elrod's office

6) THE EXPULSION CONSPIRACY: Fraternities can now be kicked off campus for any of the following infractions:

- consumption of beer, root beer, birch beer or any other liquid
- failure to pay Housing Corps kickbacks regularly and promptly
- house's columns not polished a "sparkly white"
- excessively loud laughter
- fraternity president has more than five letters in his last name
- cattle prodding without a permit



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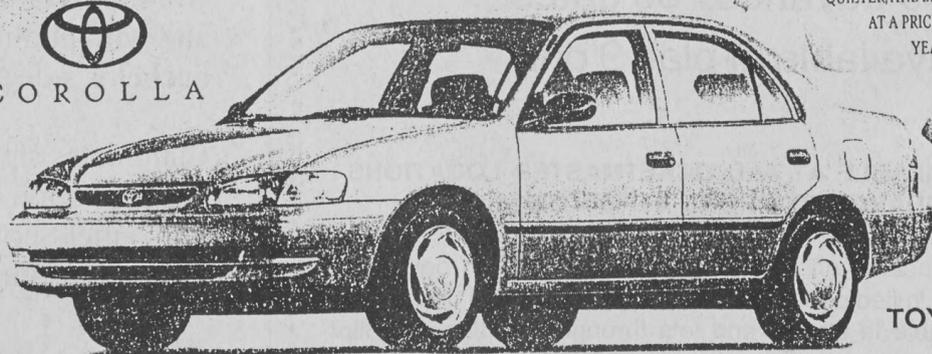
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