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# The Ring-tum Phi

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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## White Book review finished

### Whitebook review committee hands over findings to EC

By Max Smith  
NEWS EDITOR

Recommending a few policy changes and 250 grammatical changes, the White Book Review Committee and their comprehensive, 76-page report will go in front of the Executive Committee tonight in an open meeting.

Drawing upon survey results from the student body and faculty, the Committee's report proposes several "changes to improve the layout, grammar, consistency, clarity and substance of the White Book." The White Book is the ruling publication of the University Honor System.

"The White Book was written by a committee and it reads like that," Review Committee Chairman Rob Bailey said, referring to the often confusing language of the book.

To adopt any proposal, it must be supported by two-thirds of the EC at two separate meetings, said EC President Jeff Cook. Tonight the Review Committee will officially present their report to the EC, who will ask questions throughout.

Cook plans on visiting most campus groups, like Greeks and MSA, to get their opinion on any changes. This meeting will be followed on March 20 by a campus-wide forum on changing the White Book.

"The EC will consider the Review Committee's recommendations carefully," Cook said. He added that the EC will especially concentrate on campus opinions of their accountability in honor decisions.

The Review Committee recommends the EC add a section to define the Honor Advocate program, change the makeup of the preliminary investigation team, not allow the accused to be punished for disclosing information on the violation or EC hearing, allow the accused's advocates to contact EC witnesses before the hearing, and allow discussion of information about a Student Body Hearing outside the University community.

The last section of the report consists of a full, ideal version of the White Book if penned by the Review Committee.



THIS CEILING ISN'T TOO WELL DECORATED. Duke law student Evans Rice dips sophomore Elizabeth Alford at Friday night's 93rd Annual Fancy Dress Ball. Many students took advantage of swing dance lessons earlier that week.

photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

## VMI grad indicted for arson

### 1998 barracks fire stem federal charge

By Katie Clark  
STAFF WRITER

A barracks fire set almost two years ago has kindled legal problems for a recent Virginia Military Institute graduate.

John Daniel Payne of Ashland, who graduated last September, was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of setting fire to a room in the VMI barracks and obstruction of justice last week in Roanoke. An indictment is a formal charge, not a finding of guilt.

According to a U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms news release, these charges arose from evidence uncovered in an ATF, Virginia State Police, and United States attorney investigation.

Payne is accused of starting a fire in a room recently vacated by three expelled senior cadets. The fire broke out around 3:30 a.m. on May 2, 1998, moments after a "drumming out" ceremony was held for the dismissed seniors and for three expelled freshmen.

ATF Agent Bart McEntire declined to elaborate on the obstruction of justice charge since the indictment is sealed. Federal charges were filed because the barracks is a registered National Historic Landmark.

The federal arson statute carries a maximum 20-year penalty. VMI cannot revoke Payne's degree since he has already graduated.

The investigation was delayed because the fire occurred in May, VMI spokesman Col. Michael Strickler said.

"The fire happened at the end of the school year, and people went away for the summer," he said. "The state police had to travel to interview people."

Strickler said a lack of student cooperation also slowed the investigation.

"No one was saying anything," he said.

According to the ATF, the seniors who had occupied the vandalized room had been expelled for striking three freshmen with belts during a hazing ritual. The freshmen were dismissed for initially lying about this rationale to cadet investigators.

The seniors were serving as "dykes," or senior mentors, to the three freshmen.

Strickler said Payne did not live on the floor where the fire occurred. Payne could not be reached for comment.

The blaze was quickly extinguished, and no one was injured. The damage was minimal.

## Going dry? Four W&L fraternities may ban alcohol

### Rising insurance costs, declining image force nationals to can the spirits for all chapter housing

By Michael Crittenden  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Washington and Lee University alumnus Matt May has returned to Lexington for Alumni Weekend each year since his graduation in 1997. Arriving in town, he usually stops by one of the local supermarkets in order to buy a few cases of beer to take to his fraternity house.

May, a graduate brother in Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji), says he enjoys returning to the fraternity and spending time with the undergraduate members over a few beers.

"Alumni like to come back to the house and relive our college days," May said. "It is a tradition of sorts to return to your house, share some drinks and stories, and to have a fun time."

Tradition or not, the national policies of four Washington and Lee fraternities may soon prevent students and alumni alike from ever drinking in

their fraternity houses again. Set to go into effect July 1, 2000, national policies will prohibit the use or possession of alcohol in the fraternity houses of Phi Delta Theta (Phi Delt), Sigma Nu, Phi Kappa Sigma (Phi Kap) and Fiji.

According to representatives from the four national fraternities the response nationwide has been positive.

In Lexington, however, both students and administration have attacked the policies. While Fiji and Sigma Nu appear to be able to reach a compromise, Phi Kap and Phi Delt are playing a high-stakes game of chicken, waiting for their national fraternity to move first. If they don't, both fraternities have said they might de-affiliate with their national fraternity. Fraternity members have complained that the new policies would destroy the campus social life, and prevent them from successfully recruiting new members.

The administration has also weighed in on the issue, in support of the stu-

dents. "I don't believe that prohibition of alcohol in the fraternity houses is the best way to educate students about alcohol problem," Dean of Students David Howison said. "I really don't believe this will work on our campus, because of the nature of the students here."

While Howison made clear that the University policy does not support underage drinking by students, he noted that drinking is not a foreign concept to Washington and Lee students. The percentage of students at Washington and Lee who drink, between 80-85 percent, is much higher than the national average. Howison also said that the responsible use of alcohol should be the focus of the issue.

"I definitely believe that there is a place for the social use of alcohol in fraternity houses," Howison said. "It is the abuse of alcohol we must curb, not the use, and the University is tak-

ing those steps."

Senior Phi Delt member Christopher Ball agrees with Howison, saying that the answer to alcohol problems will not be found in the new policies.

"Drinking is a social problem that you can't change with one fell swoop," Ball said. "That doesn't deal with the reality of the situation."

But for the national representatives of the four houses the reality is that they have chosen a way to deal with what they see as a problem of national proportions.

"This is a national issue that is not going to go away anytime soon," said Fiji's Executive Director, Bob Baney. "I know of at least 10 other fraternities that have some type of alcohol-free housing policy in place, and at least 40 that have an alcohol-free policy as a requirement for the colonization or discipline of chapters."

The current movement toward alcohol-free housing comes as a result of the alcohol-related deaths of frater-

nity members across the country in recent years. In 1997 the deaths of two fraternity pledges, one at Fiji at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and one at Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) at Louisiana State University, resulted in headlines nationwide. Both Benjamin Wynne and Scott Krueger died of alcohol poisoning that resulted from binge drinking, defined as having more than five drinks at one sitting.

Washington and Lee has seen its own alcohol-related tragedies in recent years. In 1996 student David Thompson died in a drunken driving accident, and in the spring of 1997 freshman Jack Bowden fell out of his third-floor dormitory window while intoxicated.

According to Baney, the alcohol-free housing movement is a direct reaction to the alcohol abuse on college campuses and in the fraternity houses.

SEE 'GOING DRY?' ON PAGE 2



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL. The Emma Gibbs Band serenades the Saturday afternoon crowd at Phi Psi.

photo by David Hanson/Assistant Photo Editor

## The Ring-tum Phi March 6, 2000

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Phi and Trident bashing  
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SPORTS:  
Men's lax downs national rival  
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photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

OUTTA MY WAY!: Junior Ellen Ritsch blows by a startled opponent.

## 'GOING DRY?' from page 1

"One reason we are taking these steps is the health and wellness of our fellow brothers. We are not proud of what happened at M.I.T. and the University of Pennsylvania (where an alumnus died from an alcohol-related fall last year)," Baney said. "When situations like this arise we can't sit around and say it will be business as usual. This is not about putting someone in a grave, it's about protecting our brotherhood."

High profile deaths like those of Krueger and Wynne have led to fraternities being ranked in the top 10 of the most difficult organizations to insure; ranked higher than bars and equal to nuclear waste facilities when it comes to getting liability coverage. Large lawsuit settlements, such as the

**"Switching to another fraternity, like Delta Kappa Epsilon, is a viable option to keep our chapter alive"**  
— Phi Kap President Brian Carney

\$430,000-plus that SAE had to pay as a result of Wynne's death, have caused insurance companies to avoid the risk.

According to Phi Delt Executive Director Bob Briggs, the problem in finding liability insurance is the major impetus in the move toward alcohol-free housing.

"If someday fraternities can't get liability insurance, then the reality is that those houses will be closed," Biggs said. "Fraternities are a business. It's a tough pill to swallow, but it's the truth."

Members of the four W&L fraternities are aware of the business aspects of running a fraternity, and say they will be unable to compete with the other fraternity "businesses" on campus if they are forced to go dry.

Fraternities at W&L market themselves on the social atmosphere they present, May said. "Whether it's good or bad, it's the reality of the situation. By taking away alcohol from a few houses, you handicap those houses and they will wither on the vine."

Biggs said that today only a limited number of insurance companies will grant liability insurance to fraternities. When a company does agree to underwrite a fraternity, the cost is usually much greater than for other organizations. In a recent National Interfraternity Conference study, the average member paid \$120-\$160 a year for liability insurance, while the average sorority woman paid \$12-\$25. According to Baney, that's because all of the national sororities have alcohol-free housing.

"If we set ourselves up for risk [by having alcohol in the fraternity house], we are going to pay for it," Baney said. "We are also lighting a time bomb that will eventually explode and we will suffer from it."

Thought Fiji did not face trial for the death of Scott Krueger, the fear of that possibility, and the impending cost of a large lawsuit like at the University of Texas, fuel the move toward alcohol-free housing.

"If we have a situation where we have to make a large pay-out because a student dies of alcohol poisoning in one of our houses, or because of a Phi Gam party, there will be no Phi Gamma Delta," Baney said. "We will no longer exist. A prudent, rational organization must take these steps in order to stay in business."

Members of the W&L community say, however, they have been taking these steps for the last 10 years with positive results. In 1989 the school started a fraternity renaissance program aimed at improving the failing Greek system. Houses were half-destroyed, and the dereliction of fraternity members was appalling, according to one Board of Trustees member.

"The Alumni Board was so disgusted with the appearance and the behavior of [the] members that it suggested to the Board of Trustees that they 'clean them up or shut them down,'" said trustee J. Thomas Touchton '61.

Starting with rebuilding the fraternity houses, which included a "party room" in the basement of each fraternity, the system has been built back to one of the strongest Greek systems in the country. More than 80 percent of male students participate in one of the school's 15 fraternities.

"Since the fraternity renaissance was started, the system is better in nearly every respect," Howison said. "We have seen consistent academic improvement and a reduction in the number of students arrested for alcohol-related crimes. It has been quite successful in increasing the awareness of students at W&L."

In addition to steps by the administration to educate students about alcohol use, student groups have also been proactive in promoting awareness. Live Drive is a student-run organization that organizes volunteers to act as sober drivers on Friday and Saturday nights during the school year. Another group, LIFE (Lifestyle Information For Everyone) acts as a resource for health information, and presents skits about alcohol use to incoming freshmen during orientation week.

Some students have also raised concerns that the national fraternities appear to be sacrificing their local chapters to protect themselves from lawsuits.

"It's frustrating because they're covering their asses and leaving us out in the cold, abandoning us," Ball said. "They are saying, 'be in our fraternity, but don't expect us to help you in any way if something is to happen.' We are still liable if there's an accident, but they aren't."

While the concerns of securing liability insurance and avoiding lawsuits appears to be the main concern of the national fraternities, all have also said that is not the only impetus for alcohol-free housing. They also cite the problems of underage drinking, a return to fraternity values and improvement of chapter quality control. Phi Kap Executive Vice President Bob Miller insists that liability is not his concern at all.

"Liability is not the issue here, alcohol use and abuse, and the people who are getting hurt, are," Miller said. "We have to curb underage drinking and deal with the problem honestly and openly."

The other national fraternity representatives agreed with Miller, noting that the legal drinking age in every state is 21. Because most college students are under 21, it is only logical to ban alcohol, Baney said.

"We recognize that around 75 percent of college students are under the legal drinking age of 21, and if we allow

alcohol in our fraternities, we are saying it's okay to break the law," Baney said. "The law of the land is not something to just be overlooked because you are in college, and it is not something we can overlook."

The representatives also said the policies are an attempt to shift the alcohol-dominated focus that has plagued fraternities back to the ideals of the fraternities.

"We wish, and hope, that fraternity membership is based more on the ideals of the fraternity, and less on drinking," Biggs said. "There are plenty of drinking clubs out there, but we are a fraternity whose principles are not based on a fifth of liquor."

Baney agreed Fiji was built on a core group of values that does not include drinking. He said understanding that fact is necessary for those students who are against the alcohol-free initiative.

"We want people to join for the right reasons - an environment of friendship, academic involvement and citizenship," Baney said. "That is what our founders built this fraternity on, not on a keg party."

Advocates of the alcohol-free housing movement cite improvements in chapters that have adopted alcohol-free housing. According to Biggs, the 94 of Phi Delt's 140 chapters that have adopted alcohol-free housing have seen an amazing turn-around.

"The positives are there," Biggs said. "In those houses [that are alcohol-free] we have seen an increase in recruitment of new members, improved pledgeship programs [and] academics, and safer and cleaner chapter houses."

"The increase in the recruitment of new members has been a welcome result of the alcohol-free housing policy," said Biggs. Since the mid-'80s the number of new members joining fraternities has been dropping sharply on many college campuses. According to Baney, the adoption of alcohol-free housing has made fraternities more attractive to prospective members.

But such a move may not go over as well in Lexington. Members of the four fraternities are concerned with losing potential members if they are forced to go dry. On a campus where 75 percent of the incoming freshmen drink (compared to the national average of 50 percent of incoming freshmen); and the social life is centered on parties at fraternities, being an alcohol-free house is a scary proposition.

"Rush is going to be that much more difficult, if not impossible," said Ball.

Unlike at most schools, Washington and Lee's formal rush period takes place during the school's Winter Term, instead of during the first few weeks of fall term. Because W&L has rush in its second semester, the first semester is used by fraternities to get to know potential members during parties and other social events. Most of these events occur at the fraternity houses and all include the use of alcohol. According to Phi Kap's Washington and Lee chapter President Brian Carney, it is the nature of the school.

"Students at this school are going to drink. That is the reality of the situation," Carney said. "80-90 percent of the students who come to this school want to join a fraternity or sorority, and to drink. This school is built on students who like to work hard and party hard."

The honesty of that statement is overwhelmingly held by most of the Washington and Lee community, who are quite honest about drinking underage at fraternities. Most say that lack of other social outlets and the safety of the fraternity houses, makes fraternity parties the best option.

"Drinking at fraternities is natural because there isn't anything else to do," said senior Dillon Whisler. "They are safe because they are close to campus, and they allow a controlled environment for students to have fun without getting out of hand."

The parties at Washington and Lee are controlled by the University through a number of measures. Fraternities must register all parties with the school, and must also provide security, and obtain a noise permit from the town of Lexington. Howison says the system could be improved, but that the one in place does work.

"The alcohol policy in fraternities can be improved, and will be in the future, but they have worked well in reducing the risk," said Howison.

The impending July 1, 2000 deadline for alcohol-free housing has forced fraternity members at the Washington and Lee fraternities to consider their options. All four have expressed a hope for a compromise between nationals and the local chapters, but many see it as unlikely.

"They are very hard-headed and not fun to talk to," said Carney. "We would love to work out a compromise that would increase the level of safety but not prohibit the responsible use of alcohol. Unfortunately, they don't want to compromise."

Carney said the local Phi Kap chapter asked their national fraternity for an exemption from the policy, but were flatly refused. He said the options now available to the fraternity are limited.

"Our first goal is to work out an extension/deferral policy with nationals, in order to give us more time to make this transition," Carney said. "If that doesn't work, then our second goal would be to switch our national affiliation to another fraternity like Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE)."

An extension would defer the adoption of alcohol-free housing for some period of time so the chapter could make more preparations for the change. Carney said this was not likely, and that the local Phi Kap chapter had looked into changing national affiliations, and had spoken to national representatives from DKE. He said that at this point, switching affiliations looks like their best option.

"Switching to another fraternity, like DKE, is a viable option to keep our chapter alive," Carney said. "It is obviously not what we want to do, but we do not want to see our house die because of this [alcohol-free] policy."

Miller expressed dismay at the attitude of the Wash-

ington and Lee Phi Kap chapter saying it would be "ridiculous" to give an extension to one chapter.

"Why should [the chapter at] Washington and Lee tell us what our policies are going to be," Miller said. "That will not work. I can't run my organization that way."

Under Washington and Lee University policy, Phi Kap would be allowed to change fraternal affiliations, but only to another national fraternity. University policy prohibits local fraternities from existing at W&L, but does allow any national fraternity. Howison said he hopes the situation does not progress that far, however.

"I really hope that would not be the case, however, University policy would allow them to reaffiliate," said Howison. "I would hate for a chapter to have to take that step."

Phi Delt is in a similar position, but has said it will not change affiliations. Instead, the chapter has created a presentation that they plan to present to nationals in order to obtain the extension policy. Ball, the creator of the presentation, said that it outlines the chapter's case against going dry.

"We plan on showing that the alcohol-free housing policy would have negative consequences here at Washington and Lee," Ball said. "The fraternity renaissance, improvements to fraternities, the steps the University is taking to improve awareness, the reduction in alcohol-related arrests, and the overall nature of Washington and Lee."

Ball said members plan to make the presentation to national representatives early this semester, but said the chances of success are fairly low.

"This is a very tough position to defend, and an uphill battle when dealing with nationals," Ball said. "If we aren't granted some sort of extension, I have no idea what we will do."

The other two fraternities, Fiji and Sigma Nu, are in a much different position from Phi Kap and Phi Delt. Of the four fraternities, only Fiji's national alcohol-free policy allows for a deferral period from the July 1, 2000 date. The policy, which allows for a one-time, two-year deferral, is offered to chapters who excel.

The policy requires a chapter to have a house grade point average above that of the all-men's grade point average, and not to be the subject of any disciplinary actions by the University. It also requires the chapter to submit their pledgeship program to the national fraternity, and to be in good financial standing with the fraternity. According to Lipsey, Washington and Lee's Fiji chapter should be granted the extension.

"We are very, very optimistic about receiving the extension," said Lipsey. "The response from nationals has been encouraging and we are anxiously awaiting their response. We have met all the necessary criteria and we are sure this

will work in our favor."

Baney said that the extension policy was added to the original alcohol-free policy, because the fraternity understands the "size of the step they are taking."

"We are treading new ground here and breaking some social norms," Baney said. "We see some chapters taking some extra time to make the transition."

Similarly, the Sigma Nu Chapter is also seeking an extension from their national fraternity in order to make the transition easier. According to President-elect Matt Jacobs, the response has been positive from nationals in working towards a compromise.

"I would say I am cautiously optimistic of attaining some sort of extension before July 1," said Jacobs. "We are working with our alumni representatives to outline our position, and plan on presenting them in January to our national fraternity. Hopefully there is a positive solution."

Jacobs said that if an extension is not granted, then he is unsure of what steps his chapter will take. He says they don't want to reaffiliate, and they will not ignore a fraternity policy, but don't feel they can survive at Washington and Lee with alcohol-free housing.

The solution to the impasse between the national fraternities and the Washington and Lee chapters is an issue that is still being wrestled with by both sides. At a November meeting held in Lexington, representatives from both camps and the University met to discuss the standoff. National fraternity representatives gave a presentation of the benefits of alcohol-free housing. Afterwards, representatives from Washington and Lee presented their concerns. Though no solutions were decided on, and there is no future meetings planned, Baney said the meeting was a success.

"The meeting was a cordial exchange of information and ideas" a good initial dialogue between everyone," said Baney.

A solution has still not been reached, however, and other than Fiji, the other three fraternity chapters at Washington and Lee still face an uncertain path ahead. Concerned with their survival and ability to attract new members in a system flooded with alcohol, the chapters maintain that they cannot adopt alcohol-free housing. On the other side of the fence, the national fraternities, concerned with the risk of lawsuits and deaths, are calling for a return to the alcohol-free ideals of the founders of their fraternities. To Phi Kap President Gherry Pettit, alcohol isn't part of the fraternity experience.

"Ideally I look to the day when a lack of alcohol won't be a problem, an event doesn't have to be centered on the use of alcohol," said Pettit.

To Washington and Lee students, however, this is a foreign reality. Drinking and socializing at fraternities go hand-in-hand as part of the college experience. Said May: "There is a reason why there is always a crowd of people around a keg. Whether it's good or bad is not the question, it's just the way W&L is."



## President Elrod continues his fight against cancer

President John Elrod is continuing to receive chemotherapy treatments for lung cancer.

"He's doing well and meeting his professional obligations," said University spokesman Brian Shaw.

Elrod recently returned from an alumni activity in Tuscaloosa, Ala. and plans to travel to other activities across the nation, Shaw said.

Elrod travels to Charlottesville for treatments every week as part of his four month regimen. He's currently battling a cancer formation in his lungs.

Shaw said the University will keep everyone informed of Elrod's condition.

## W&L to induct 53 at Phi Beta Kappa Convocation

Washington and Lee University's Phi Beta Kappa chapter will induct 53 current and former undergraduate students into its honor society on Tuesday, March 14. The ceremony takes place at 12:15 p.m. in Lee Chapel.

Of the new members, there are four from the Class of 1999, 29 from this year's senior class and 20 from the junior class. Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and most respected undergraduate honors organization and W&L's chapter, Gamma of Virginia, was founded in 1911.

Gail McMurray Gibson, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English and Humanities at Davidson College, will deliver the keynote address at the convocation. Bynum's lecture is titled, "Forbidden Territories: Literary Scholarship and the Mission Impossible of Robert Southwell."

Gibson has served on the Davidson faculty since 1983 and spent eight years on the faculty at Princeton University before going to Davidson. She earned her A.B. in English from Duke University in 1970, her M.A. in medieval studies at Duke in 1972 and her Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia in 1975.

Gibson is the author of *The Theater of Devotion: East Anglian Drama and Society in the Late Middle Ages* and is currently writing *Childbed Mysteries*, a book about late-medieval childbirth as theater, ritual and social performance.

## New York Times correspondent to speak on 2000 Election

R.W. Apple Jr., chief correspondent for The New York Times, will speak at Washington and Lee University on Wednesday, March 15 at 4:30 p.m. in Leyburn Library's North Auditorium. Apple's public lecture is titled, "Politics and Pundits Forty Years On: The Campaign of 2000."

Apple became chief correspondent for The Times in 1997 after serving 12 years as chief Washington correspondent and four years as the Washington D.C. bureau chief. He writes extensively on a wide range of topics, including politics, foreign policy and economic questions, as well as food, wine, travel and the arts.

Since joining The Times in 1963, he has written from more than 100 countries, reported on elections in Spain, Britain, Russia, France, Sweden, Finland and other countries, and a wide variety of other stories on five continents. He previously has served as The Times bureau chief in Albany, Saigon, Lagos, Nairobi, London and Moscow. He headed The Times' coverage of the Gulf War in 1991.

At home, Apple has been involved in the coverage of 17 national conventions and eight presidential elections. He was the newspaper's national political correspondent from 1970 to 1976. Prior to joining the paper, he covered the civil rights movement in the South for NBC News.

Apple graduated magna cum laude from Columbia University in 1961 and he has also received honorary degrees from Denison University, Knox College and Gettysburg College. Apple's visit to W&L is sponsored by the department of journalism and mass communications.

## Pulitzer Prize winner to speak at W&L Journalism Ethics Institute

Jack Nelson, chief Washington correspondent for the Los Angeles Times since 1996 will be the keynote speaker at the Washington and Lee University Journalism Ethics Institute on Friday, March 10. Nelson will speak at 4:30 p.m. in Room 327 of the Williams School of Commerce, Economics and Politics. His lecture is titled, "Journalism Ethics: Seeking Solutions as Well as Problems."

Nelson won a Pulitzer Prize in 1960 while writing for the Atlanta Constitution for a series of articles exposing irregularities in the world's largest mental institution at Milledgeville, Ga. He also won a Drew Pearson Award for Investigative Reporting in 1975.

Nelson joined the Los Angeles Times staff in 1965 as the Atlanta bureau chief. He was an investigative reporter from 1970 to 1975 and served as the Washington D.C. bureau chief from 1975 until accepting his present appointment in 1996. He began his journalism career as a reporter with the Biloxi (Miss.) Daily Herald from 1947 to 1951 and then was a staff writer for the Atlanta Constitution from 1952 to 1965.

Nelson is the author of *Terror in the Night: The Klan's Campaign Against the Jews*, published in 1993 and *Captive Voices-High School Journalism in America*, published in 1974. He is the co-author of four other books, including *Beyond Reagan-The Politics of Upheaval*, published in 1986. Nelson is a graduate of Georgia State College and was a Nieman Fellow in politics, history and public administration at Harvard University.

Nelson's visit is sponsored by the department of journalism and mass communications and the Knight Program in Journalism Ethics.

## Owning up to our mistakes

In college journalism, as in anything else, some weeks are just better than others.

On the last page of this paper, you're used to seeing some form of satire; be it witty, semi-witty or just downright moronic. Kevin McManemin, in the fine tradition of back-page editors, is loved, hated, but mostly be-moaned for it. Not this week, folks.

We screwed up.

Not "we", *The Phi*, but "we", McManemin and myself.

Last week a mock issue of *The Rockbridge Advocate* appeared on the backpage of *The Phi*. The content, entitled "Are Lexington's schools teaching too much?"

had its moments, but generally perpetuated the stereotype of the W&L student looking

**Φ** Executive Editor  
Polly Doig '00

down his nose, past the silver spoon in his mouth, at the local community he has chosen to inhabit for four years. This in itself, while arrogant and hypocritical given the source, is not an error. It is ignorance and snobbery, and overwhelmingly common at W&L. But all people, McManemin included, are entitled to their opinions, and it is not my place to make sure that *The Phi* reflects my personal opinions. It is, however, my responsibility to make sure that we cause no undue harm.

The error occurred when McManemin downloaded *The Rockbridge Advocate's* banner from their website, and used it without their permission. In effect, simply took what was not his. I personally compounded the error when I failed to recognize the banner as the actual one used by *The Advocate*, took it for just another graphic creation, and let it go to print. Ignorance, however, is no excuse; it's quite simply pathetic.

*The Phi* has a strict policy regarding the use of materials from the internet, and anything downloaded is always given the proper credit. My editors know this, and act accordingly. When a question arises, they bring it to my attention, and we always choose to err on the side of caution. That this happened, and was allowed to happen by me, makes me sick.

Since I discovered the mistake on Tuesday, I have taken those steps within my power to correct it. McManemin no longer has a position with *The Phi*. I have spoken with members of the administration, as well as Doug Harwood, the editor of *The Advocate*.

I have accepted responsibility for our mistake, and now I extend my sincere apologies to Doug Harwood. In addition, I apologize to the W&L community for failing to enforce the values espoused by the Honor System.

One of the most frequent complaints I get about *The Phi* is that it's not *The New York Times*, and we should lighten up a little. No one is more aware of our inexperience and lowly status as a student paper than myself, but that doesn't make it fine for us to put whatever four-letter words in print because we use them in everyday life, to ignore legitimate news stories because they involve our friends, or to swipe banners from the internet. Every week we come in and try to find common ground between our dual roles as students and aspiring journalists. And every once in a while, we completely blow it. This is one of those times.

Next week will be better, I just know it.

## The Ring-tum Phi

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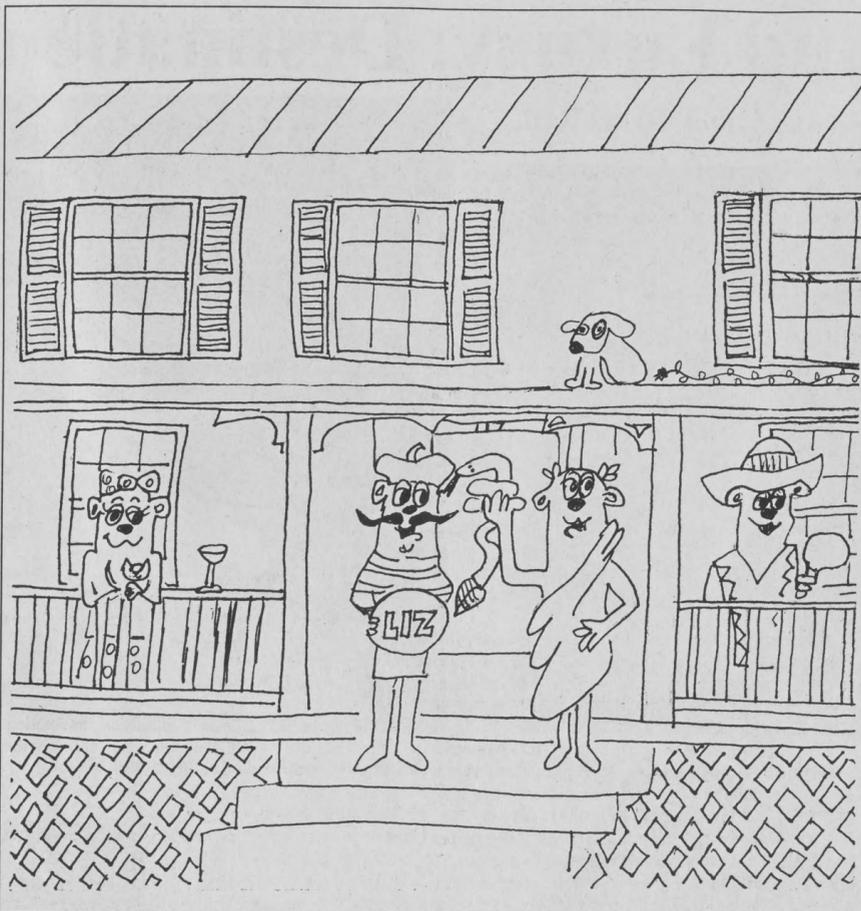
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The Ring-tum Phi  
208 University Center  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, VA 24450  
Telephone: (540) 462-4060  
Fax: (540) 462-4059  
E-mail: phi@wlu.edu  
http://wlu.edu/~phi

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## Fancy Dress 2000: We all need somebody to lean on

It seems like everyone has a story to tell after this weekend, rather, after every Fancy Dress weekend. My fun experience is somewhat embarrassing. . . It all started Thursday night. Good times were had by all: Sugar Hill Gang and Run DMC had the student body jumping, getting home from the Pavilion was uneventful, post-parties went on uninterrupted. So how is it that I woke up Friday morning unable to move my right leg?

You can imagine my distress upon having to call all of my professors, apologizing for missing class due to a badly sprained ankle. You and I know they all thought I was running around all night, drunk as a skunk, falling everywhere and unable to wake up for class. The nurses in the Infirmary laughed at me and made fun of me despite my protests of "Au contraire!"

To clear my good name, I was NOT drunk so I would have remembered pulling all the ligaments in my right ankle and I WAS awake at 7:15 a.m. that Friday morning prepared for all my classes.

Fortunately I have wonderful friends who generously donated their time to me all day: taking me to get my ankle wrapped and 600 mg Ibuprofen horse pills, making me healthy snacks and fresh baked cookies to eat with my pills, running errands for me, and basically pampering me like crazy. It was a weird day, after all, considering NBC was having technical difficulties, classes were canceled everywhere, and my friend's car wouldn't start after coming to pick up the math homework from me to hand in later that afternoon. I was able to take a bath, which was nice, because it's incredible how hard it is to get ready for any function on one foot, even though my room is a 10' by 10'.

When 5 p.m. rolled around, though, I was ready to go. Dress, hair, makeup, crutches, everything! Gretchen Tencza was sweet enough to decorate my crutches with silver stars fit for a queen. So off Matt (my date) and I were to the party bus the Chi Psi Lodge had rented to take us to this amazing Japanese steak house in Roanoke (it was quite a blessing to sit for an hour each way).

After a while I became quite accustomed to gimping around, and thanks to quality time at the cocktail party and some foot elevation I was ready to go to the Ball! Amazingly enough I was able to put my crutches down and drag Matt from room to room where we could enjoy the bands, our friends' company, and my creative dancing

skills. I made Friday a relatively early night to rest up my ankle for Saturday. After being excused from working in the Dining Hall for brunch because of my injury, I donned my sunglasses and sandals and limped out to the Lodge once again, this time to relax in the sun with the musical entertainment of Puddleduck and the unparalleled entertainment from the pledges. Pool noodles, floaties, beach balls, and crutches were everywhere, as were bottles of champagne and top-quality Dominican cigars. The atmosphere worked wonders for my

ankle and I officially gained the nickname "Gimp." We relaxed for a while afterward, eating dinner at Salerno's and watching Happy Gilmore.

After a brief visit to Otterville, Matt and I headed back to the Lodge to find everyone passed out but that group of troopers, alums included, who get better and better at causing trouble as the night goes on. Cheese fights and fireworks ensued as Late Night got sketchy. The time finally came to call the night quits. I had to wrestle my crutches and handbag away from Matt, who had grown quite fond of carrying them all weekend, at last able to sleep for those three precious hours before my house woke up and gathered in the hallway, recalling somewhat hazy experiences from the previous evening. I gathered my strength and hobbled to brunch, where my friends willingly shared the events of their weekends at other houses and parties. I still think my weekend was the most fun.

A quick thank you to all who helped me out this weekend in my gimpiness. I had a wonderful time and deeply appreciate the extra lengths you all went to to make my injury bearable and somewhat humorous. I promised you an interesting time, right? Anything for you special people!

So how did I sprain my ankle so badly it was 25 different colors and the size of a grapefruit? Maybe I stepped on it wrong (I was wearing heels, after all) and just didn't realize, or maybe I got up in the middle of the night and fell on one of the million black shoes scattered all over my floor from the then recent scramble to dress for the evening's events.

In honor of the Fancy Dress theme of this year, my luck ran out — I threw the dice badly, ended up with huge gambling debts, and my loan shark sent one of his men to come break my leg. It makes for a pretty good story to tell everyone next year, don't you think?

**Φ** Evil Twin  
Tara Friedel '02

## Once again, The Trident is a hit and miss

For some reason the editors over at *The Trident* decided last week to give their staff circus midget another opportunity to be funny in a shoddy attack on this paper. And much like when you release a monkey from its cage, it invariably involves the monkey playing in its own feces

**Φ** Backporch Balderdash  
Michael Crittenden '01

and throwing a lot of crap around. Just like Mr. Guggenheimer's article (if, in fact, it really deserves that moniker).

It struck me as the tropes of a exceedingly unhumorous individual, trying a bit too hard. Of course most of the student body didn't get a chance to see it because for some reason our counterpart keeps forgetting to get their papers printed, causing *The Trident* to appear any time from Wednesday to Friday.

This is understandable however, since I know the editors over at *The Trident* are working hard to get all the hard-hitting stories that we miss. Or the ones we get. It seems that the "reporters" for *The Trident* seem to have a penchant for just taking stories we've already done and spitting them back out three days later. That way the student body has no excuse for missing the "news".

Take last week's issue: there's an article about the freshmen who pulled the fire alarms that we had already ran, an article on the FD bands we had already done, and an editorial on letting the Honor Scholars party that we had already done.

As much as I enjoy doing your work for you and giving you ideas for stuff to write, come on, at least have some originality.

I also love the fact that *The Trident* is brave enough to run controversial stories on topics like the swing dance club, GCF ski retreats, the ABC store, and the Volcano shutting down. . . again. The high level of journalism that must go into these in-depth reports is amazing. Unfortunately they are frequently written in a style more suited for the "Highlights for Children" magazine, or even on the level of "See Spot run." Either that or there are complete sentences left out.

My favorite part of last week's issue was the letter to the editor talking about men's basketball that was cut off in mid-sentence and never finished anywhere else in the rag you call a paper. You should probably look into finishing what you started.

I also am quite interested about the attack on our habit of including weekly staff editorials. See, the whole concept of a staff editorial is to express what the whole staff feels. Hence, when we write something as a staff editorial it can be attributed to all of us. Of course it is a too; used by real newspapers, so you probably wouldn't know about that, being too busy searching for that perfect piece of fluff.

Oh, and what you referred to in your article as "nicknames" are called bylines by newspapers. Difficult concept I know.

We actually have an extra copy of the AP Stylebook and Libel Manual if you want to borrow a copy. In fact, stop by some Sunday and we can show you how you'd go about finding stories with more substance than a bag of feathers.

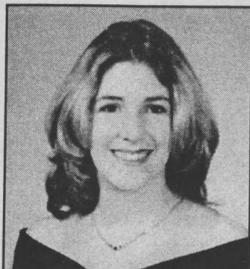
Or you could use it to stand on so that the next time you open your mouth we adults don't have to lean down to hear you all the time.

Quote of the week:

“Why aren't you guys at Cat Fancy?”

— Confused law school prospectives

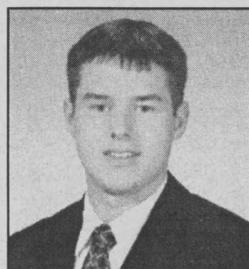
## TALKback... What did you think of FD?



"As a committee member, it was hard work but lots of fun!"  
— Amanda Kelley '02



"I didn't have a date, but who needs one? I had a great time."  
— John Creek '02



"I didn't even know who my date was."  
— Brandon Herd '02



"It was a lot like a high school prom with better decorations."  
— Divya Mohan '02

# Lights, Luck and Luxury: Destination Las Vegas

Scenes from Washington and Lee's 93rd Fancy Dress Ball

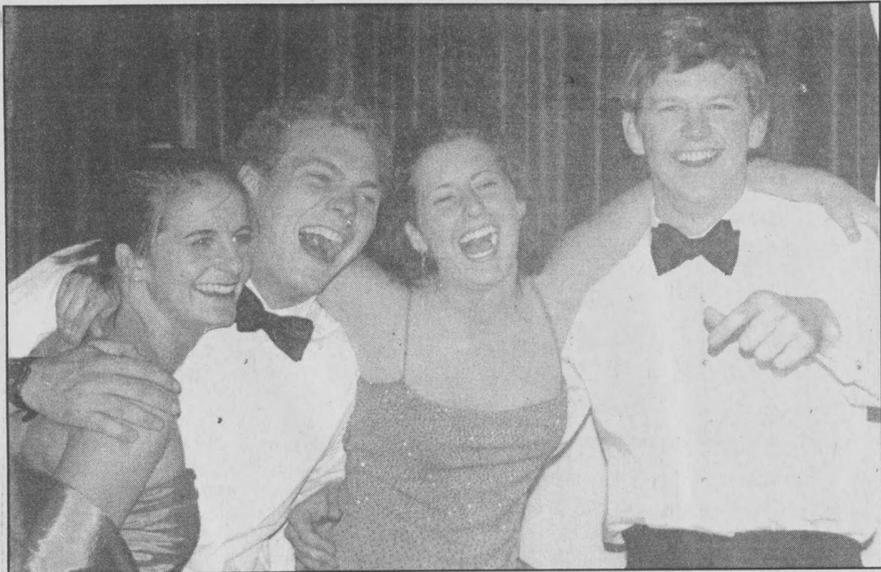


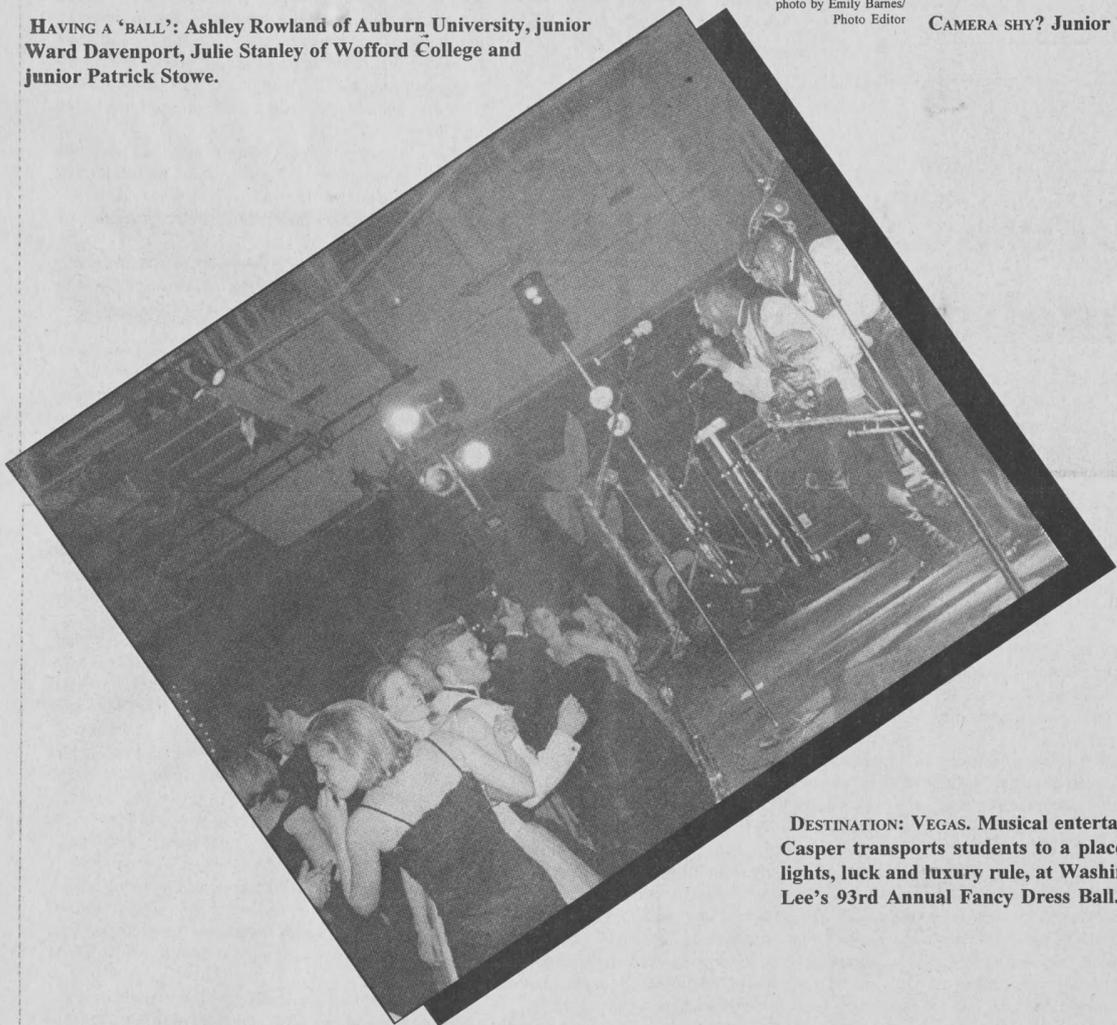
photo by Emily Barnes/  
Photo Editor

**HAVING A 'BALL':** Ashley Rowland of Auburn University, junior Ward Davenport, Julie Stanley of Wofford College and junior Patrick Stowe.



photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

**CAMERA SHY?** Junior Ted Adams and his date strike a pose.



**DESTINATION: VEGAS.** Musical entertainment Casper transports students to a place where lights, luck and luxury rule, at Washington and Lee's 93rd Annual Fancy Dress Ball.



photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

**SHALL WE DANCE?** A couple sways to some of FD's softer sounds.



photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. PRESIDENT?** Marilyn Monroe, reportedly visiting from South America, put in an appearance.



photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

**Y'ALL AIN'T NUTHIN' BUT HOUNDDOGS:** Students gather around special guest impersonator Elvis Presley, from his vintage Vegas days.

Most W&L students have

**Zero to 5**  
drinks  
when they party



Based on W&L CORE Survey data from 1998, 1999

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Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

ONE DRINK =  
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or  
4 to 5 oz. of wine  
or  
1 oz. of liquor

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## Lax passes first test

Fifth-ranked Washington and Lee surged to a 7-1 halftime advantage and held off a furious second half rally by sixth-ranked Washington College for a 10-8 win over the Shoremen on Saturday afternoon. The win makes head coach Jim Stagnitta (109-39) the winningest lacrosse coach in W&L history, surpassing Jack Emmer (1973-83).

W&L (3-0) went up top 4-0 with 13:24 remaining in the first half on a pair of goals by senior attackman Colin Dougherty and one each by senior attackman Chris Brown and junior midfielder Bernie Norton.

Washington (0-1) retaliated with 6:33 left in the half to cut the W&L lead to 4-1.

The Generals then reeled off three goals in the final 4:49, one by sophomore midfielder John Moore, and two by Brown, to take to 7-1 halftime lead.

Washington then began its comeback to cut the Generals lead to just 7-4 with 2:05 left in the third. However, Brown would add another goal for W&L with :35 remaining in the period to give the Generals an 8-4 edge heading into the final quarter.

In the fourth, W&L struck first as junior midfielder Tom Burke scored off an assist from Norton with 13:33 remaining to give the Generals a 9-4 lead.

The Shoremen came back with a goal just 18 seconds later and another just 18 seconds after that to slice the W&L lead to 9-6.

Dougherty notched his third goal of the day with 7:14 remaining to give W&L a 10-8 lead and the defense would stiffen to hold the Shoremen scoreless for the duration of the game.

Dougherty led the Generals with three goals and three assists, while Brown tallied four goals. Norton notched one goal and three assists, while junior attackman Matt Dugan added a pair of assists. Junior goalie Wes Hays notched eight saves in goal.

Washington and Lee will be in action again on Sunday, Mar. 12, as it hosts third-ranked Gettysburg in a 1:00 pm contest.

— Courtesy of Sports Information

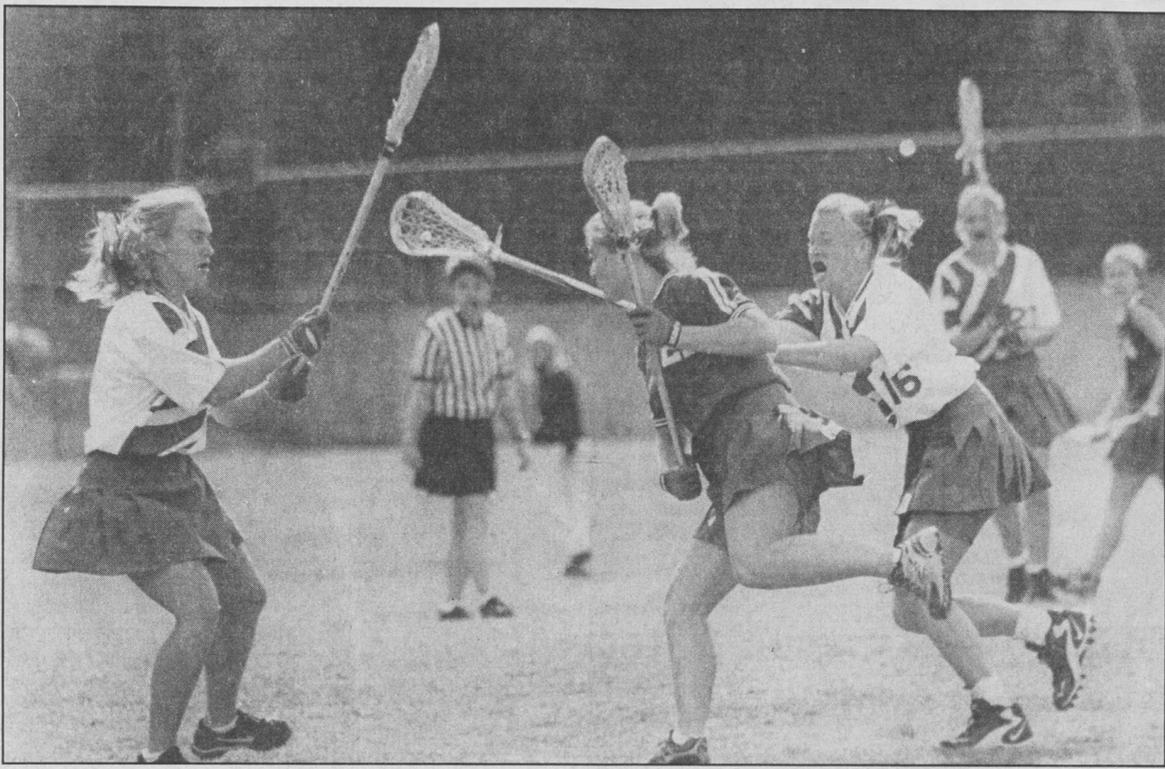


Photo by Emily Barnes/Photo Editor

CONTAINING THE OPPOSITION: Sophomores Eloise Priest and Emily Owens transition to double team their Denison opponent during the Generals' win on Saturday. W&L cruised over Denison 18-10 to improve their record to 2-0.

## Generals baseball earns split on weekend

By Mike Weil  
STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee Generals' baseball team went two for four on the weekend, getting swept at Saturday's doubleheader against Emory and Henry before sweeping Washington and Jefferson on Sunday.

The Generals were unable to muster up much offense in the game on Saturday, tallying only six hits while striking out eleven times. Junior David Sigler took the loss for the Generals, allowing five earned runs on 13 hits.

Sophomore third baseman Matt Kozora let the Generals notching two hits and two RBIs in W&L's 6-3 loss.

Game two provided a similar story as the Wasps jumped on the Generals early and the W&L bats were

slumping. Emory and Henry scored six runs in the first inning, and would never look back for a 9-3 victory.

Wasp junior catcher Josh Glaze earned his place in W&L history, slamming the first ever home run in the new Smith Field. Senior rightfielder Schuyler Marshall went 2-for-3 to lead the Generals offensively. The losses were the first suffered by the Generals at home this season.

Sunday brought different results for the Generals, as they swept Washington and Jefferson to even up their ODAC record at 2-2.

The Presidents jumped in front in their half of the first inning with an unearned run, but the Generals responded in a big way in the bottom half.

W&L loaded the bases to start the inning, bringing sophomore

catcher Todd Gosselink to the plate. Gosselink belted W&L's first home run at Smith Field, and the first grand slam in field history, giving the Generals a 4-1 lead.

They would score four more runs in the inning and cruise on their way to a 15-1 victory.

W&L was led by senior Chris Stakem who threw a complete game two-hitter, striking out six while only walking one.

Game two would be a struggle for the Generals, who found themselves down 7-3 in the bottom of the fifth. However five Washington and Jefferson errors along with four W&L hits produced a six run inning and a 9-7 lead that would not be relinquished.

Freshman Kyle Droppers pitched two innings in relief to earn the win, and senior David Hanson pitched two thirds of an inning to earn the

save in the Generals' 11-10 victory.

Offensively, Stakem went 4-for-4 for the game while freshmen Bobby Littlehale and Michael Hanson notched two hits apiece.

Sunday's excellent play was in steep contrast to Saturday's debacle.

"It was a combination of things," said Stakem. "Obviously Washington and Jefferson wasn't as strong of a team, but we were able to combine better defensive play with more consistent offense."

And as for the two hit masterpiece he threw on Sunday?

"I was able to throw all three of my pitches for strikes, and Todd Gosselink called a great game. The offspeed pitches were really working."

The Generals return to action Wednesday when they host Villa Julie at 3:00 p.m.

## Women's lax goes 2-0

By Robert Turner  
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee's women's lacrosse team used a high-powered offense and a solid defense to earn two impressive victories this week against Hollins and Denison.

On Wednesday, the Generals traveled to Roanoke for their season opener against ODAC rival Hollins. The generals wasted little time getting on the board, as freshman attacker Leslie Bogart notched the first goal of her promising career 4:03 into the game.

W&L continued its early dominance, scoring four more unanswered goals to gain a 5-0 lead late in the first half.

Hollins remained reasonable close in the second half until the Generals put the game out of reach on goals by sophomore Emily Owens, senior Katherine Riddle, and freshman Laura Wilson. Senior goalkeeper Ginny Jernigan also had a solid season debut, recording nine saves in the Generals' 9-5 victory.

W&L's offense was even more potent on Saturday as the Generals defeated the Big Red of Denison 18-10 in their first home contest of the season.

The game was close early, and Denison even led 2-1 8:42 into the first half. W&L then went on a tear, scoring six unanswered goals to take a 7-2 lead with 3:53 left in the first half.

The Generals added another goal before the half, but Denison also scored twice, and W&L took an 8-3 lead into intermission.

The Generals came out strong to start the second half, scoring five straight goals to take a commanding 13-5 lead with 24:00 left in the match. W&L coasted to the win from that point.

W&L was led by Riddle and junior Ellen Ritch who both posted five goals. Bogart and Wilson also had impressive performances for the second straight game with two goals each. Bogart added a team-high four assists. Jernigan had ten saves for the Generals.

The Generals (2-0 overall, 1-0 ODAC) put their undefeated record on the line Saturday at Randolph-Macon. Game time is set for 1:00 p.m.

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