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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI

VOLUME CVII, No. 15
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2004

Former *NY Times* editor examines ethics of journalists

BY ETHAN JAMESON
STAFF WRITER

Former New York Times editor Gerald Boyd was the keynote speaker for Washington and Lee University's 38th Institute on the Ethics in Journalism Friday and wooed a captive audience in the John W. Elrod University Commons with a talk titled, "Journalism Today: Why the Public Hates Us (And What We Can Do About It)".

Pulitzer Prize-winning Boyd told his audience

that in this day and age of excess media, the public lose trust in the media and that "media exhausts the public, angers the public," and highlighted what he believed the three causes for the mistrust were while also offering solutions.

"While journalism is a calling, it is also living and breathing," said Boyd who worked with The New York Times for 20 years, retiring as managing editor in 2003. "The goal is worthy, necessary and hard."

see *NY Times* page 2

To the Student Body,

The process for the facilitated discussions for strategic planning intends that members of the administration attend, observe and listen without entering into the discussion. However, in a recent facilitated student discussion, certain assertions were presented as fact by students that are at least uninformed and insensitive and, at worst, racist. It is so troubling that anyone at our University would hold these views that the University must break with the prescribed process and respond forthwith. We emphasize that we have no reason to believe that these sentiments are held by any but a few students, but they are so inaccurate and uncivil that they cannot go unchallenged.

False Assertion

The goal of diversity has resulted in a disproportionate number of minority students in the bottom quartile of the entering class.

Response

This is simply not true. All W&L students are qualified to be here or they wouldn't have been admitted. No concession in admissions standards have been made to enroll minority students. If one looks at all the elements of the admissions process in their totality (grades, test scores, essay, recommendations, etc.), our minority students are every bit as qualified as the rest of the student body. Our goal of increasing the number of minority candidates with credentials appropriate to our student body has brought to our community students who have excelled in the classroom and enriched the University in extra- and c-curricular life.

False Assertion

Financial aid is used to aggressively recruit minority students and to disadvantage majority students with superior credentials.

Response

Minority students do not deprive other students of financial aid. The overwhelming number of students at Washington and Lee with a demonstrated need, are provided assistance.

False Assertion:

Minority students are being sought for the sole purpose of improving in the rankings.

Response

The rankings of the *U.S. News & World Report* (and most other publications) do not consider minority populations in their methodology.

Regardless, the University's primary goal is to provide the best possible education for our students. Rankings cannot possibly measure that and will therefore never drive institutional policy at Washington and Lee.

False Assertion:

The Honor System is best understood and internalized by majority students.

Response

The honor of each student is demonstrated by individual contact and upon that basis, the character of our minority students is unquestioned. Minority students lead and participate successfully at every level of University life. To single out the Honor System as an exception is nonsense. Baseless slurs against minority students are dishonorable and uncivil and are unworthy of any student at Washington and Lee.

Conclusion

Looking back to 1986, it is interesting to note that the false facts and baseless opinions that we heard with regard to minority students last week are essentially identical to those we heard about women students when the University was debating and then implementing coeducation. There is no question now of the wisdom and benefit to W&L of co-education and the same is true of our efforts to bring more diversity of thought and experience to the Washington and Lee student body.

On behalf of the University, we apologize to any student who was hurt by these regrettable utterances. A classroom and a community with varied experiences and backgrounds is a better learning space than one made up of a homogeneous population. We believe in the wisdom of a diverse University community and will continue to embody that belief in policy.

We at W&L grow socially and intellectually because of the diverse contributions of every single student on campus, without exception.

The Strategic Directions Committee

Tom Williams, Provost

George Bent, Associate Dean of the College

George Carras, Associate Provost

Peter Cronin, Director of Development

Scott Dittman, Registrar

Sidney Evans, Associate Dean, School of Law

Joe Grasso, Vice President for Administration

Bill Hartog, Dean, Admissions & Financial Aid

John Keyser, Associate Dean, School of Law

Tim Kolly, Interim Director of Communications

Steve McAllister, Vice President of Finance

Elizabeth Oliver, Professor of Accounting

David Partlett, Dean, School of Law

Larry Peppers, Dean of the Williams School

Jeanine Stewart, Interim Dean of the College

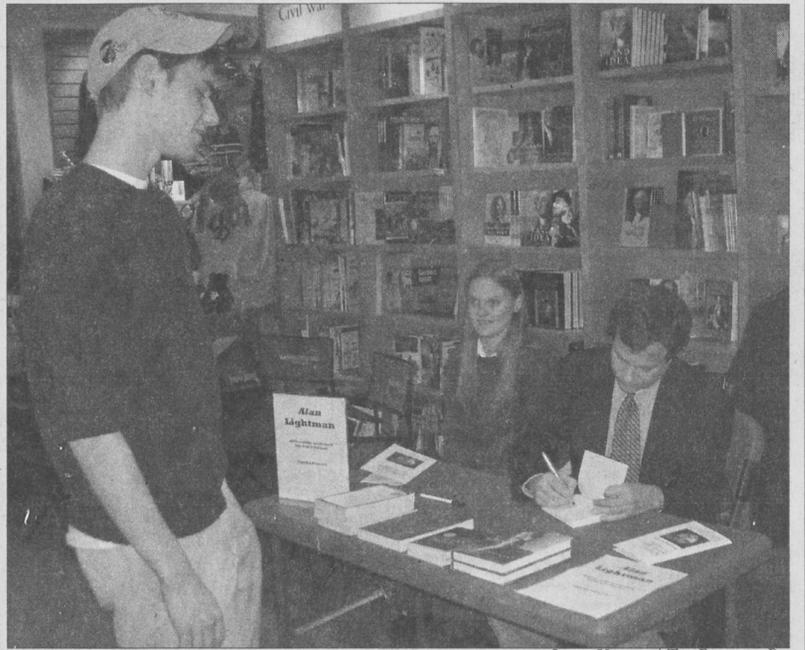
Rob Straughan, Assoc. Dean, Williams School

John Stuckey, Director, University Computing

Dawn Watkins, Dean of Students

Mike Walsh, Executive Athletic Director

Science, Society, and the Arts



SAHAR KAMALI / THE RING-TUM PHI

BOOK SIGNING. The keynote speaker at the conference luncheon was Alan Lightman, bestselling author of the novel *Einstein's Dreams*, published physicist, and MIT writing professor. Lightman is pictured here signing an autograph for David Klinger, '06.

SSA is a multi-disciplinary conference involving Washington and Lee undergraduates in the presentation of their academic achievements before an audience of their peers and the undergraduate faculty. Conference participants made oral presentations of research papers.

Peeping pervert peers at Srat girls

BY ROB ARMSTRONG
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

November 4 turned out to be anything but a typical day. She was chatting with some friends as they crossed the sorority footbridge on their way to lunch. Then she spotted something she'd never seen before.

With his sunroof open and windows rolled down, a Southern Virginia University student looked attentively at Landgren and others crossing the bridge. He was masturbating in his car.

"We were walking across the bridge and spotted this SUV," Landgren said, "we were wondering if he was lost... but as I looked down through the sunroof, I saw that he was actually masturbating."

The vehicle was creeping slowly on East Denny Circle, just below the sorority bridge that connects with the parking garage. As the male student passed underneath the bridge, he then made a U-Turn and passed again.

Landgren and her friends bolted and ran the rest of the way

to their sorority house, disgusted by what they had seen. Minutes later, Landgren phoned Campus Security to report the incident.

Security immediately telephoned Lexington police, alerting officers to be on the look-out of a

"...but as I looked down through the sunroof, I saw that he was actually masturbating."

CELIA LANDGREN

green Ford Escape with Alabama tags.

Within 20 minutes, the student was pulled over by police on White St., not far from campus.

"He wouldn't say what he was up to," said Mike Young, director of Security at Washington and Lee.

"Eventually, after we told him that there were witnesses, the student admitted to doing 'whatever they say I was doing,'" Young added.

Young's immediate action

was to permanently ban him from W&L property. Next, Young phoned the SVU administration to report the incident.

The Administration at SVU was not willing to discuss any details involving Thursday's incident. Yvonne Carpenter, the University's Public Relations Director, said the entire case is highly confidential.

This incident is especially sensitive since the Mormon faith believes strongly in abstinence before marriage, according to Carpenter. "This sort of activity is absolutely appalling... particularly for those of the Mormon faith," she said.

The student body at Southern Virginia University is reportedly 98% Mormon, but the institution operates independently from the Church.

The student, a native of Alabama, is reportedly a Junior. He is still enrolled at the University and will undergo a hearing before an SVU honor board.

Landgren decided not to press charges, believing that a no-trespassing order was sufficient.

Student leaders respond to alcohol policy confusion with Q & A

Dear Washington and Lee Community,

In response to numerous questions regarding the alcohol policy, several student leaders drafted a list of questions and answers to help inform the entire campus. We hope that you find this helpful and encourage you to continue to approach student leaders with questions and concerns.

Katie Henderson, SFHB Student Chair
Maggie Hope, SJC Chair
Tom Pickering, IFC President
Mary Jacob Rankin, Panhellenic President
Marie Trimble, EC President

Has there been a change related to the University's policy toward alcohol?

There has not been a change related to policy. The University has, however, asked both IFC and Panhellenic to examine their current practices and, where not consistent with policy, have practices that meet University policy, policies of their national organizations, and state and federal laws.

What are the policies?

The University policies are listed in each student's *Student Handbook*. Certainly underage drinking is central to the University's policies, consistent with state and federal laws. However, each Greek organization has different policies and that's what the IFC and Panhellenic are currently examining. That is also why national organizations, IFC, Panhellenic, faculty, and staff are working together. **What is the role of student self-governance regarding this issue?**

Student leaders are put in a tough position. They're elected to uphold University policy while also attempting to balance the best interests of the students they represent. The IFC and Panhellenic have been asked to take a major leadership role in examining current practices and bringing them closer to policy. The IFC knows that the alcohol policies are not popular, but it understands the gravity of the Board's requests, and would rather have students formulate and uphold solutions than have others enforce policy.

Is alcohol or alcohol use related to the Executive Committee?

One of the responsibilities of the SJC is to adjudicate alcohol-related issues. The expectation is that the SJC will continue to hear alcohol-related violations. The SJC refers to the alcohol-policy in the *Student Handbook* when reaching its decisions. The Executive Committee will continue to consider any case that is turned in, but as stated in the *White Book*, the Committee will vote to decide which cases it takes to a closed hearing.

Does the University want to be a dry campus?

The University does not want to make W&L a dry campus. However, the University must make an effort to uphold the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Greek organizations, the University, and even individual students can be held liable for the consequences of drinking. Lawsuits are common occurrence in today's society, and consequently, it is in everyone's interest to cut down on the risks associated with alcohol.

Does the University want to get rid of Greek life?

No. The University wants to retain Greek life. The University is, however, asking its student

leaders to seriously address issues of alcohol use and abuse, hazing, and sexual misconduct. Asking students to take these issues seriously is not an attack on the Greek system; it's an attempt to make the Greek system something that will stand the test of time and survive well into the future.

Has the VA ABC visited President Burish/the Board/the Administration about underage drinking at W&L?

Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control (VaABC) has not visited with President Burish or the Board of Trustees. Representatives from VaABC do work regularly with University Security and with Dining Services, as Dining Services holds the University's liquor license. VaABC has made it clear to University Security and other staff members on campus that it wants to work cooperatively with the University community.

Is there a correlation between sexual misconduct and the enforcement of the alcohol policy?

Policies outlined in the *Student Handbook* are intended to create a safe and healthy campus community. The chance that sexual misconduct will occur does increase with the use of alcohol, but the enforcement of policy is a separate issue. The judicial processes are also separate, as SFHB and SJC are designed to adjudicate different issues. In addition to judicial procedures, sexual misconduct and alcohol use are being addressed through education and awareness programs.

What authority is monitoring the enforcement of the alcohol policy?

The IFC, Panhellenic, and SJC coordinate with University staff to enforce the University's policies.

There is a concern that the enforcement of the alcohol policy will push underage drinking off campus, into the country, and increase the rate of drunk driving accidents, or even increase sexual misconduct. What can you say to this?

This is a primary concern of student leaders. We know firsthand that parties in the country have a different atmosphere than parties on campus. Parties on campus occur in a controlled environment, with sober officers and drivers, hired security, a prevalence of beer instead of hard alcohol and grain, close proximity to the Health Center and hospital, and are within walking distance for a majority of students. We understand that students need to be held accountable for their actions, but we worry that the nature of off-campus parties places students in difficult situations. We fully support Traveller and its attempt to transport students to and from events, but we acknowledge that Traveller is not enough. Drunk driving is an important issue, but it's not the only one. We understand the difficulty of the situation and applaud the efforts by Greek organizations in attempting to respond to high expectations. It is our responsibility as W&L students to make good decisions and to positively influence those around us to make the same good decisions. We all have to be aware of our actions because they have consequences that extend beyond University or Greek policies. In response to the possible increase of sexual misconduct, we feel that sexual misconduct can occur anywhere, whether on or off campus. Our hope is to decrease the overall problem of sexual misconduct at W&L through increased awareness, dialogue, and education.

Lexington honors veterans in ceremony

BY LEAH KERSHAW
STAFF WRITER

While U.S. and Iraqi troops were securing a dangerous city called Fallujah on the other side of the world, about 20 local veterans of gathered in the cold at Courthouse Square to remember their fallen comrades of wars past.

Local Lexington leaders commemorated Veterans Day in a ceremony honoring the "price of freedom."

Veterans Day, November 11, is a legal holiday dedicated to honoring American Veterans of all wars. The city of Lexington commemorated the day with a wreath-laying ceremony in Courthouse Square.

Delegate Ben Cline, the Lexington area representative to the House of Delegates, spoke on the importance of veterans throughout our nation's history. "Our nation would not be without veterans," said Cline. American veterans represent the highest example of patriotism in a nation that is a "beacon of light and hope" to the world, said Cline. Everyday that America's "constitution and democracy marches forward is worthy of being Veterans Day," said Cline.

In addition to speeches from Lexington leaders, music was provided by Wonder, a local gospel group. Wonder performed a selection of patriotic songs including "God Bless America" and "Proud to be an American."

Twenty veterans and their families turned out for the ceremony. Charlie Trimble, a local World War II veteran, attended the ceremony with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Shenandoah Valley Post 1499 of Lexington. This local Post funds numerous philanthropic events including the Veteran memorial in Courthouse square. Trimble said he was pleased with the ceremony and "thought that they did a splendid job."

International Education Week Groups to stress international education

BY CHRIS LAUDERMAN
MANAGING EDITOR

Campus organizations are teaming up to bring International Education Week to Washington and Lee. These groups planned two weeks of cultural activities which began last week.

"Each sect of SAIL came up with an activity to bring international awareness to campus," Samantha Stanley, Program Coordinator at the Center for International Education, said.

SAIL and Model UN are both sponsoring events this week. The first event this week is a study abroad symposium in the Commons Theatre from 7-8 p.m. tomorrow, November 16. The purpose of the symposium is to encourage students to study abroad in places around the world they might not have thought of before.

Stanley emphasized that students do not have to study abroad in Australia or the United Kingdom because they only speak English. Students who have worked or studied abroad in English in locations such as Ghana, Denmark, and Hungary will speak at the symposium.

Thursday, November 18 in the Commons, Model UN and the knitting club will host a forum on Afghanistan. The forum will begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a reception for the project "Afghans for Afghans." Almost 550 squares to make Afghans to send to women and children in Afghanistan have been collected for this project.

International Education week kicked off last week with the showing of the movie *It Takes a Child*. Law Professor

Mark Drumbl came to the Commons to lead a discussion on the movie.

International students from Washington and Lee went to Lylburn Downing Middle School in Lexington and talked to students about the Mexican holiday Day of the Dead and did an art project with some of the classes.

Students enjoyed an exotic Indian Diwali Dinner in the Marketplace last Wednesday. While students ate, they were able to listen and watch dancing and a musical performance.

The International house hosted a traditional Japanese tea ceremony demonstration and a Thai dinner. Club Asia cooked the Thai food themselves. For the first time, the International House collaborated with the International student organization at VMI to make the dinner.

International Education Week was begun by the US Department of State and the US Department of Education to help international students adapt to college in the United States and allow them to bring their culture to students at their university. It also aims to prepare American college students for studying abroad and future careers in the international arena.

SAIL, MUN, the Knitting Club, Club Asia, the Department of East Asian Studies, the International House, Dining Services, and the Center for International Education all participated in the two-week event.

All students are encouraged to get involved in the upcoming events. To join any of the organizations listed above, contact Samantha Stanley at ststanley@wlu.edu.

Fact or Fiction: Examining the Graham-Lees arch myth

BY WHITNEY DUFFEY
STAFF WRITER

At Harvard, students rub the foot of the statue of John Harvard for good luck before a test. At Yale, it is the statue of Theodore Dwight Woolsey that supposedly boosts students' GPA's. The equivalent superstition at Washington and Lee is merely one of avoidance: avoiding the center arch of Graham Lee's dormitory. It is a well known superstition that the unlucky student who chances to walk through this center arch will fail the next test he or she takes.

In 1904, the original Lees Dormitory was built. It is difficult to pinpoint when in the dorm's 100 year history the arch superstition was formed, but the belief still runs strong today. It harkens back to many widely held superstitions, such as the belief that walking under a ladder causes bad luck. But why in the midst of serious academia would such a notion arise?

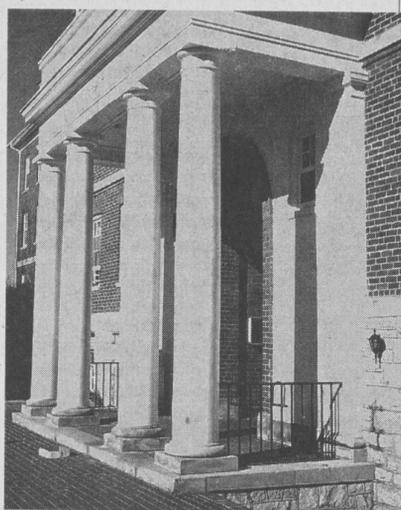
The superstitions of many cultures link seemingly arbitrary causes (knocking on wood, spitting, seeing a black cat) with certain effects, such as good luck, bad luck, or in this case, failing a test. Whether or not you believe in hocus pocus, the

people who do often receive a certain placebo good luck. In other words, by not walking under the arch, you might feel more confident about the test, and therefore do better on it.

This isn't to say you should go purchase a book of superstitions and dutifully follow each one, but it does make sense that such a superstition would form about Graham-Lees, a freshman dorm. There are many things for a first year student to adjust to, one of the largest being the transition from high school academics to college-level classes. The course load at W&L is, at best, strenuous, a fact which often hits home with freshmen after the initial sticker shock of their first grades.

The arch superstition then gives students a means of gaining confidence and a sense of control over their academic life. This is the most likely explanation of why this belief is perpetuated year after year and explains why you don't see similar myths attributed to Gaines or the Woods Creek apartments, where older, more experienced students live.

So, will avoiding the center arch of Graham Lees earn you a higher GPA? Maybe, but don't count on it. You'd be much better off sticking with the time-honored method of hitting the books than



CORBIS BLACKFORD / THE RING-TUM PH

relying on architectural structures for good grades. Consider this myth busted.

NY Times

continued from page 1

Boyd stipulated that figures from the Project for Excellence in Journalism were dismal and were, what he believed, one of the three causes the news media has received bad publicity and lost the public's trust.

According to these figures, the percentage of those who believe that the media has a bias rose from 45 to 59 percent, and the percentage of the public who believe that the media try to cover things up rose drastically from 13 percent to 67 percent.

Boyd also pointed out that journalists themselves needed to make an effort to change the public's perception of the profession and touched on the scandal surrounding The New York Times and Jayson Blair.

"The one thing I know more than anything is the mindset of the journalist," said Boyd who added that all journalists are gossips.

Boyd said that "people are looking for answers and believe that we are failing them," and cited the recent presidential elections as an example.

However, Boyd also pointed out that in troubled times, people turn to the media to find out what is going on. Referring to the events of 9/11, Boyd mentioned that The New York Times' circulation increased 100,000 copies in the first week following 9/11.

"We were giving the public what they needed to navigate through confusing times," said Boyd.

Boyd also offered solutions to the problems he sees with the profession and stated that accountability is a key factor in regaining the public's trust. He scolded CBS for taking two weeks to "fess up to the bogus Bush report.

"We need to explain ourselves more often, and better," said Boyd who added that journalists need to restore trust with their readers.

Like many professional journalists, Boyd said

"Any forces that work against journalism work against society."

GERALD BOYD

Stonewall Jackson calls for volunteers

BY ETHAN JAMESON
STAFF WRITER

Lexington's only hospital, Stonewall Jackson, is calling on W&L students to volunteer their time and efforts, said Karen Jackson, the Hospital's community development director, Thursday.

While the hospital is not experiencing a general shortage of volunteers, Jackson said "there are some areas that are in need of volunteers."

"We have a number of opportunities," said Jackson. "We have over 32 areas in the building. Someone interested in the health or medical field can definitely move around ... and get some exposure in day to day patient interaction."

Jackson said that not all volunteer positions were hands-on and that there were opportunities for some clerical work. Jackson also said that volunteering with the hospital would be a good way for students to network with medical staff who could help if the student needed references for medical school.

While the hospital has new requirements for its volunteers, Jackson added that she would "be happy to take applications until positions are filled."

Students interested in volunteering at Stonewall Jackson Hospital are requested to contact Karen Jackson at (540) 458-3564.

From the Executive Committee . . .

November 8, 2004

A member of the Student Body has decided to withdraw in the face of an Executive Committee Hearing after having been charged with cheating on a Management exam.

Summary of EC Honor Activity for the 2004-2005 Academic Year

- Investigations: 3
- Withdrawals while being Investigated: 0
- Withdrawals in Face of a Closed Hearing: 1
- Closed Hearings: 0
- Guilty Verdicts in Closed Hearings: 0
- Not Guilty Verdicts in Closed Hearings: 0
- Student Body Hearings: 0

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2004

THE RING-TUM PHI OPINIONS

EC asks for student opinion on hypothetical Honor Violation

THE RING-TUM PHI STAFF EDITORIAL

'Tis the season to be thankful

To humor our readers, in the spirit of the season, the editors have decided to share the things we are thankful for this holiday season.

Erin is grateful for going to a college located next to a school where guys wear uniforms and for an excellent business manager. And for Chris.

Chris is thankful for a new printer and scanner in the Phi office so he doesn't have to run to the Journalism lab every two seconds and for the new Holiday Spice Pepsi and Japanese steak houses. And, of course, for Erin.

Sarah is thankful to go to a school where the professors work with you instead of against you, because she wouldn't want to pick a fight with De.

Katherine is thankful that the Tigers are 10-0.

Caley is thankful that Anne cleaned up his mess and for the best parents in the history of the universe.

Anne is thankful for her VMI formal date who looks like Ben Affleck and hugged Erin.

Emily E is grateful that George W. Bush was re-elected President and for the delicious eye candy in her economics class.

Marshall is thankful that only freshmen received midterm grades.

Corbin is thankful for not having to stay in the office long enough to help write the staff editorial.

Chad is thankful that the Steelers are 8-1.

Emily H is grateful that there is another paper to work for so she can escape the crazies in the Phi office.

Kelly Jo is thankful that both papers are getting along this year and for her hot date to the Theta formal.

The Phi staff as a whole, is thankful for the military service of a certain former Opinion's Editor whose dedication takes him far, far, away from Lex Vegas.

Happy Thanksgiving Washington and Lee!

Dear Washington and Lee Community,

Last spring the Executive Committee hosted an open forum in Lee Chapel to address several Honor-related questions. Following the forum, the EC discussed several of the ideas that were presented by students, including the idea that the EC provide hypothetical situations. The EC has acted upon this suggestion. The goal in providing hypothetical situations is to increase discussion of Honor on our campus, while also allowing the EC to gage student feedback regarding certain situations. We encourage you to deliberate on the hypothetical situations and respond through emails to ec@wlu.edu. Responses will be shared during the EC's regular meetings, held every Monday at 7:30 p.m. in room 122 of the University Center.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of the Student Body:

President Marie Trimble
Vice President Cristin Nunez
Secretary Justin Arnold

Members-at-large: Marc Granger, Dannel Duddy, Craig Hensel, Thomas Worthy, Noble Stafford, Wheeler Sparks, Charlie Yates, Lane Morgan,

David Colman and Margaret Elkins

Hypothetical Situation

Sam, a freshman at W&L, was in Biology 111 when his professor announced his exam policy. The professor told the class that the upcoming exam was closed-book, but that students could use outlines and notes they prepared on their own. He also told students that if they had any further questions about the exam policy that they should contact him.

Sam was determined to ace his Biology 111 exam. He studied for it day and night. Sam even practiced on old exams so that he would be well-prepared. Sam was so determined to exceed the performance of his classmates on the exam that he decided to copy portions of his textbook and published science articles into his own notes verbatim. In the exam, Sam got to a question that he was unprepared to answer. After consulting his notes, Sam decided to use some of the information that he had copied into his notes in order to answer the question. Time was running out.

He quickly copied a few paragraphs from the notes into his exam book. On the front cover of his exam, he wrote "I have neither given nor received any unacknowledged aid on this exam," and signed his name below the pledge before turning in the

exam. A few days later, the professor sat down to grade the exams. When he opened Sam's exam, he recognized a substantial passage from Sam's exam as being very similar to a passage from the class textbook. After comparing the passage in the exam with a passage from the textbook, the professor determined that Sam had violated his testing policy by using the book. He then turned the matter over to the Executive Committee of the Student Body. Sam now faces a Closed Hearing before the Executive Committee of the Student Body. In your opinion, has Sam committed an Honor Violation? Why or Why not? What other information is needed to answer?

Additional Discussion Questions:

1. Is there a difference between Sam copying passages from his book into his notes and copying the passages directly onto the exam?
2. What might have been different had Sam gone to his professor before copying from the books?
3. If Sam had acknowledged under the pledge that his notes contained passages from his book, would that disclosure mitigate the alleged Honor Violation?

1st Amendment also means respecting others' speech

Maybe you are wearing a fleece one day and you don't like the idea that wearing one means you support National Coming Out Week. Maybe you are a Democrat and find the statement "Democrats love abortion" offensive. Maybe you don't agree that another Bush term means four years of poverty. Guess what? You have no right to tear down someone else's signs!

I have always tried to live by the Golden Rule:

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

That is why last year, when the campus was plastered with signs for the "March for Women's Lives," although I vehemently disagreed with the pro-choice march, I did not touch a single sign. I knew that the minute I tore down a sign, it would be an invitation to another person or group to take down Students for Life signs. I don't touch other people's signs, so please don't take down mine.

I also believe in freedom of speech. We may not like what others have to say, but we have to respect their right to say it, unless of course the speech is libelous, explicit, etc. Like Voltaire said, "I may not like what you have to say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." This should be a governing view on an elite campus such as ours. You have no right to stifle someone else's right to freedom of speech. You take away someone else's

right to free speech and it's only a matter of time before yours is gone, too. So defend ALL speech, not just speech you agree with.

There are more productive ways of dealing with differences than anonymous destruction. Instead of expressing your disagreement by tearing down a flyer, talk to the group sponsoring the sign, go see what the event is all about or write a letter to the editor about the issue. This campus can only benefit from increased dialogue and discussion.

The same goes for non-controversial signs - don't take other people's flyers down! I don't care if the sign is not supposed to be posted in a certain area. It is not your job to take it down; it is the janitor's or another person in charge of the building. (We also could use some guidance from the administration as to where the off-limits areas are for flyers) Yeah, the bulletin boards are full, but you can rearrange or take down signs that have expired. Don't take down posters that are still relevant and don't put your flyer over another. Somebody took the time to go around campus posting signs and some group has an event they are excited about want to get publicity for. It's disheartening to put up signs for hours and then the next day see a lot of them disappear. Respect others' advertisements, and they will respect yours. It's as simple as that.

MISS INDEPENDENT
ALEXA MOUTEVELIS '06

Quote of the Week

"Appoint Senator Kerry ambassador to France."

~Don Imus, Talk Radio host on what advice he had for President Bush on his second term.

Letters to the Editor

EC responds to "affirmative action" complaints

Dear Washington and Lee Community,

Last spring, Onyx requested official recognition from the Executive Committee of the Student Body. Onyx wanted to focus specifically on the frequently unrepresented views of black students on the W&L campus. Since last spring, Onyx has co-sponsored social events, hosted a step show, and has held events for prospective minority students.

The group's most recent event was a forum to address pervasive stereotypes that continue to plague our campus, despite educational awareness efforts. The forum was well-attended by members of the community, including representatives from the SJC, EC, Student Affairs Office, faculty, law school, and the Office of the Dean of the College.

Four members of the EC attended the forum, and we decided to respond to concerns that we heard. Many black students expressed frustration with the perception that admissions standards are relaxed in order to create diversity on this campus. An administrator in attendance plainly dispelled that perception, noting that all accepted students meet the same high academic standards for admission.

Students also expressed disappointment with suggestions made at a recent Strategic Planning session that the reason the University has been having problems with the Honor System and speaking tradition is because diverse students don't have the same value system as majority students.

These notions are both inaccurate and offensive to many students in this community, including students from all backgrounds. We encourage those persons in our community who disagree with these hurtful ideas to respectfully say so.

Washington and Lee is renowned for its small classes and lively class discussions. Students vocalize their insights on nightly reading assignments and are quick to speak up in class when they have strong political views. And yet, many students are often silent when offensive comments are made in social situations.

This silence compounds the hurtful nature of the expressed ideas because it sends the message to minority students that the entire community agrees.

In a community marked by honor, civility, and academic excellence, we

encourage all students to remember to be respectful to one another in the exchange of ideas, and to be considerate of the feelings of others. Regardless of our individual views, we are all members of the same community and we should all seek to maintain a place where all students can comfortably pursue excellence.

Sincerely,

Marie Trimble, EC President
Justin Arnold, EC Secretary
Thomas Worthy, Senior Class Representative
Noble Stafford, Senior Class Representative

Phi reader praises last week's article about Arabic

My roommate is a W&L graduate and he passed on a copy of the latest Ring Tum Phi to me. I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed reading the Arabic article written by one of your staff writers. I'm in grad school here at Ohio State U and recently started taking Arabic classes as a side interest.

It's encouraging to see that students are interested in cultures and languages other than the ones they are used to.

I found the article to be well researched and thought it was very well-written. Well done to the staff writer for writing about something that in this day and age is of growing importance. I hope that in the future there will be more coverage in the Phi of the growing importance of such cultures, especially at a fine college like W&L, which, I have been told, beside being one of the nations top colleges, does not yet have any European or Near Eastern Studies program. I wish that I had discovered my interest in the region prior to attending Kenyon College for undergrad studies as I would have based my college search on that.

Thanks again for a great read. Keep up the good work.

Corey Tanner
Columbus, Ohio

THE RING-TUM PHI

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The Ring-tum Phi

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Phi Quick Poll

"Do you think that the alcohol laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia ought to be stringently enforced by W&L upon its students?"

54 students polled, 24 male, 30 female. Poll has 95% confidence in a +/- 5% margin of error

Yes
35%

No
65%



Lexington Police Dept. punishes sober drivers, endangers lives

I used to be a sober driver. Perhaps you've seen the red Saturn with the California plates, with a guy in a Padres cap at the wheel. Since I may be the only student at W&L who hasn't had alcohol during my entire career here, my income while I am at W&L came exclusively from sober driving. It's how I tried to earn some pocket cash. So far this year, I have earned \$250 or so sober driving for various Greek organization, to whom I am grateful for the work.

Let me weave you a tale from last Saturday night, when I was driving for Phi Delt, shuttling people back and forth from Poplar Hill. The night was uneventful until about 12:30am, when a LOT of people started to need rides from Poplar Hill,

Φ MODERATE'S MUSINGS
CALEY ANDERSON '06

which, if you're unfamiliar, is way out in the country. There weren't all that many sober drivers, and Traveller was having trouble getting rides out of there frequently, if for no other reason than the distance.

So, I'm doing my best to get people in and out as quickly as I can, because I'm hearing the usual cries of "if I don't get a ride in ten minutes, I'm driving drunk" and the like. I drive because I need income, but I also drive because I feel like I'm saving lives. Time, therefore, was of the essence. Yet, despite this, I was pulled over several times last evening by the Lexington Police Department. The penultimate time was innocuous enough—there were a bunch of obviously intoxicated people hording in front of the Poplar Hill house where Phi Delt was having its party, and the officers there were checking to make sure everyone was sober before leaving and that everyone had a ride. Sensible enough. As they let me go from that stop, the rather kind and understanding officers urged me to get back as soon as possible, or they feared there would be either arrests, or people driving drunk, neither of which they (or I) wanted.

Thus, right after this, I was taking three gentlemen (students at UNC who were visiting) back to Phi Delt, and as I made the turn from Nelson Street onto Washington Street (that little curvy intersection at the top of the hill across from the Hampton Inn), once again I see lights flashing in my rear view mirror. I'm assuming it's another sobriety check and I'm beginning to become annoyed that the Lexington Police are keeping me from giving people rides home. The officer asks, smugly, "you know why I pulled you over, right?"

"No, sir," I reply. "Speeding," he says.

Speeding. Now that's a trip. As I had made my way up Nelson Street, I reflected, I had not checked my speedometer, nor had I noted the speed limit. I was going at what seemed like a reasonable speed, given that there was absolutely no traffic (it was about 1:30am by now), and that all the lights were green.

"I clocked you at 43 in a 25 mph zone," he said, the mandatory smirk on his face. I tried to explain the situation, that there were dozens of people back at Poplar Hill who needed rides and were threatening to drive drunk, and that I was

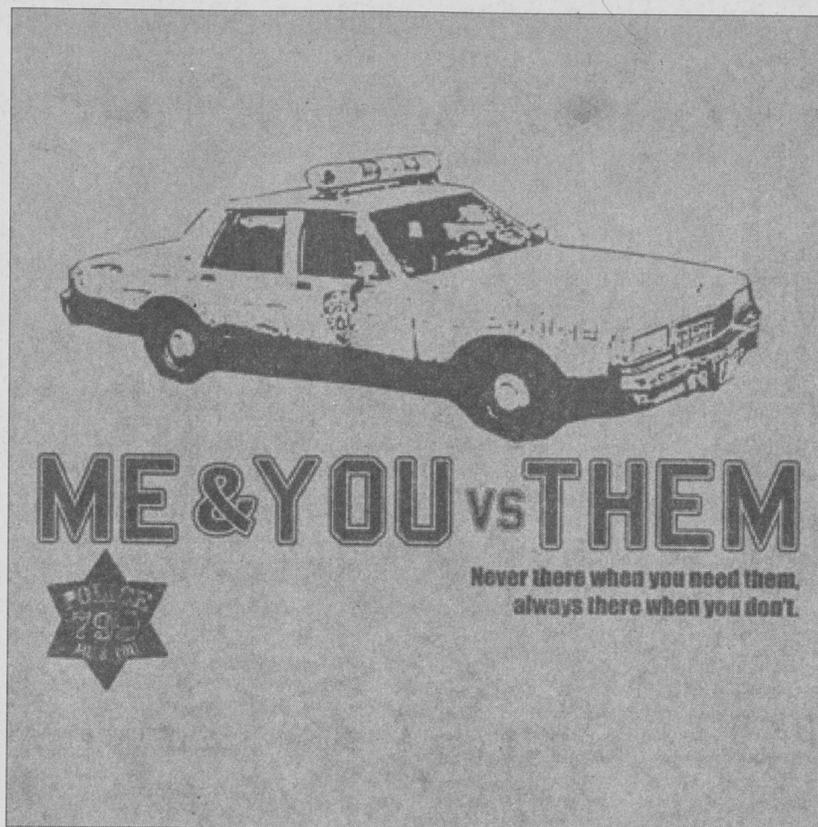


photo courtesy of artshole.co.uk
EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW. But is it necessary or fair for W&L sober drivers to be the targets of speed traps?

just doing my best to keep that from happening. But no.

"Well, if you had just slowed down, you would have been fine," the officer (who shall remain anonymous) says, as he gives me the citation. The citation is a notice to appear in court on December 28th, which is during Winter Break, which, intentionally or not, is an effort to keep me from contesting or even explaining this incident to a judge and just make me mail in my check.

I don't know how much I'll have to pay for this, but if I just assent to what the officer says and mail in my check, it'll likely wipe out most, if not all I've earned sober driving this year. Now don't get me wrong, I enjoy sober driving. It's not "work" to shuttle very amusingly drunk people back and forth and to save lives in the process. But when every single dollar of the hour upon hour I've spent doing this evaporates instantly for such an unjust as this, I tend to become slightly discouraged.

If I had been "sober" driving drunk? Sure, pull me over. Arrest me. I would be doing wrong. If I had been going 43 in a 25 zone with heavy traffic, weaving between cars late at night? Sure, pull me over, give me a ticket and a stern admonishment, I'd deserve it. But when (and here I'm assuming the officer is telling the truth) I'm going 43 in a 25 zone with no traffic,

green lights, and with the knowledge that I need to move people out of Poplar Hill as quickly as possible, lest someone decide to drive drunk and something awful happen, do I really deserve a ticket? If the officer had issued me a warning, even, I would have gotten the message, and I would have been meticulous about observing the speed limit for the rest of the night. But no, it had to be a ticket. I know that the law is the law and that it must be enforced, but does that mean that officers must completely abandon any pretense of empathy? Does it mean that they should abandon common sense by hurting the very people who are keeping drunk people from driving, when they have an obvious option to avoid it and to simultaneously ensure future adherence to the law?

After I pulled away and dropped off the people who were with me at the time, I checked the clock. 2:00. I was scheduled to stop driving at 2:00, but I knew I should keep driving until everyone who needed a ride got one, and there were a ton of people back at Poplar Hill who still needed rides. And then I did something I know will karmically come back to haunt me one way or another— I ignored those people. I drove back to Gaines and stormed into my dorm room in a huff.

To all those who I left at Poplar Hill, and to the people at Phi Delt who were counting on me to come through, I apologize. I wronged you and I hope none of you caught any trouble or injury as a result of my selfish anger.

But damned if this didn't bring into my mind the possibility of abandoning sober driving altogether. The results of my sober driving expeditions are a net financial loss now, since I had to pay for gas, not to mention my higher insurance rates. Also not to mention the opportunity cost for the work I could have been doing for my four classes, where I'm way behind.

I'm not contesting that I sped. I don't know if I did, but I'll trust that officer's word. I'm contesting the justice of giving someone in my circumstances a ticket when I'm doing my best to contribute to the public good (and at the direction of the officers at the scene who had told me to get back to Poplar Hill "as quickly as possible" to give more rides). I thought at first that I should work at getting this ticket overturned and to force Lexington to prove its case against me, but then, I thought, I more than likely was speeding. It would be wrong for me to burn taxpayer dollars on my trial simply out of vindictiveness, especially when none of MY tax dollars would be going to that trial, being a resident of California. The right thing to do, the honorable and gentlemanly thing to do, is to mail in the check, since I am probably guilty, and since I trust the officer is telling the truth about my offense.

But what am I supposed to take away from all of this? What's the lesson the police are trying to teach me here, aside from the obvious "don't speed"? I would have learned that simple lesson if I had been issued a warning. But instead, the message I'm getting from the City of Lexington is that it's not worth it to sober drive. If I accidentally speed once in a very great while, it would cost me less to simply allow my fellow students to hang and, perhaps, to drive drunk and kill themselves or others. What am I supposed to do? It's pretty clear to me.

So, congratulations to the Lexington Police Department, which I actually used to defend against what I then viewed as the unfair attacks of my fellow students. You win. I'll just mail in my check. You've beaten me into the ground by pulling me over three times in one night (this isn't even the first time THAT'S happened), the first two for sobriety checks which I passed with ease, then finally finding an excuse to cite me for speeding on the third time, and then scheduling my court date at a time three days after Christmas when I'll be with my family, on holiday in California. Along with my hundreds of dollars of hard-earned cash, you get my assumption that the police will not listen to what I have to say, along with a very bitter student who is quitting sober driving.

Give students a break with the breaks

Turkey Day is drawing near, I have already whipped out the Christmas music, and I have seldom been so in need of a break from schoolwork. I am a firm believer that breaks are essential for me and all college students. Just to be able to go home, spend time with family, have a room and bathtub all to myself, and time for some desperately needed movie-watching, is a nice way to get strength and motivation back for the rest of the year. Or at least the weeks or months before the next one comes along.

In fact, the period of back to back breaks is about to begin. Think about it. First there is Thanksgiving, then Christmas, and then Feb. Break all within about a month of each other. But then what happens?

The only break for the rest of the year is Spring Break. If you a freshman sitting there thinking Spring Term is itself a six-week vacation and you end up taking more than one class you will find yourself sorely mistaken. Sorry to burst your bubble. The classes are fun and intensely-focused, but the work load is not significantly lighter.

So, feasible or not, I would like to propose some break amendments. Two serious concerns are foremost

in my mind. First of all, we are like the only school in the country that gives a week off for Thanksgiving, which is incredible, but only get two weeks for Christmas (or Winter Holiday to be more politically correct). I'm sorry, but that is pathetic. It is the only chance each year besides summer to feel like you are actually home again, instead of feeling like some strange kind of temporary visitor, and you have to leave as soon as you are starting to finally feel settled.

I don't care what it takes, take a day away from Thanksgiving, turn Feb. Break into "Reading Days", or simply have us start the year earlier. Just let me go home for more than two weeks at Christmas. After all, it is known in sappy holiday songs as the "most wonderful time of the year".

Also, the layout of breaks and semesters as a whole seems to have some flaws. It almost seems as if our school doesn't want us to stay friends with peers back home.

First there is the aforementioned pathetic length of Winter Break, which is literally the only time off during the year that coincides with those of other colleges. Summer is the same way. We start the school year signifi-

cantly later than most other schools and thus return as much as a full-month later. In my mind, this is just wasted time. Being more in line with alternate schedules would be so much easier and allow for the possibility of including old friends in Spring Break trip plans etc.

And from a summer job/internship perspective, which is extremely important considering that the whole point of continued education is to move towards a career, getting home later than other college students puts you at a disadvantage in competing for jobs.

And the search for internships in our situation has to begin well before summer break, while still in the throws of stressful classes.

I don't see any reason why most or even all of these changes couldn't be made. Unless there is some kind of clear purpose behind the way things are, and not just something being maintained for the sake of simplicity or tradition, I feel like things should be being constantly adapted to fit the needs of the student body.

We, or mostly our parents, are paying the bills and deserve to have a say. Breaks are wonderful, but there is still room for improvement.

Problem with Dems was Kerry

Whether you are a conservative, a liberal, or somewhere in between, the question on everybody's lips seems to be "What happened to the Democratic Party?" The Republicans secured an increased majority in Congress and President George W. Bush was re-

-elected by a majority in both the electoral college and the popular vote. So what went wrong for Kerry? After all, with a liberally biased media touting a unpopular war (no, Fox News and the Wall Street Journal alone cannot balance things out), economic struggling (though on the upswing right now), and an unprecedented voter turnout, the Democrats were certain of victory.

But they didn't win; they floundered and they lost. And what a bitter loss it was for those rooting to see Bush out of office (guess you can't call a re-elected president the "Great Divider" anymore). So now anyone and everyone who can get their hands on a microphone is hypothesizing about what went wrong for the Dem's. Many, including the party's own leadership, are saying that the party needs a massive overhaul, that this election has shown the Democrats as divided, vulnerable, and frankly unappealing to the general public.

I disagree with this assertion (no matter how much I would like to believe it) and if conservatives take this rhetoric to heart, then they may find themselves at a disadvantage in 2008. Yes, the Democrats lost, an unexpected result for liberals every-

where and even some pessimistic conservatives (ie-Tucker Carlson). However, the Democratic Party is not a political anachronism whose strength has faded. In fact, expect them to come out swinging in 2008

(is anyone looking forward to seeing more of Hillary Clinton?).

The problem is not at the heart of the party and what it stands for (nor is it the lack of celebrity endorsements from the left coast). The Democrats simply made a few, key, correctable mistakes regarding this one election.

First of all, Kerry was the wrong candidate. Come on, the guy has a penchant for "X-treme Sports." How can you not make fun of him for that? But seriously, Kerry didn't have much middle class appeal. Besides his goofy hobbies, it was his general style, his wealth (unlike the "rich but still wear my blue jeans and cowboy hat" Bush style), and his aristocratic wife (can't you see her saying "Let them eat cake!") that all made it pretty easy for Republicans to portray him as just a little bit more European than good ol' American. Not to mention the fact that, truly, Kerry was a very very liberal Democrat. No matter how much his party tried to label him as a moderate, his voting record (when he did vote that is) didn't lie. Even look at his choice for running mate, John Edwards; a personable, attractive, and vibrant young politician who many likened to JFK. It was a flagrant attempt to live up Kerry's image (aren't Vice Presidents supposed to be the boring ones?) If he needed John

Edwards to stimulate his campaign (no matter how hip his snowboarding and windsurfing is) that should have been a clear sign to the Democratic leadership that they were going in the wrong direction.

Besides choosing the wrong candidate (not like they didn't have plenty of choices either), the Democrats basically campaigned wrong. They placed too much emphasis on the war in Iraq, the economy, and national security. So when none of these turned out to be the miserable failures they expected, the Democrats lost their steam. Then they just counted on the fact that voters would take the "Anybody but Bush" stance and ignore the fact that an ultra-liberal, windsurfing, vaguely European flip-flopper was running on the Democratic ticket. Oops.

So, while November 2nd was a triumphant day for the Republicans, I would strongly urge conservatives to be cautious in their victory and not to get too comfortable just yet. While John Kerry and the focus of his campaign may not have been the right choices for this election, the basic principles of the Democratic Party are still quite appealing to many people. Those Democrats (although I would like to believe otherwise) will have learned from their mistakes in four years and will give the 2008 Republican candidate a run for his (or her!) money. So, unless Hillary is their nominee (which will mean the Dems learned nothing from 2004) don't expect to have seen the end of the donkey just yet.

Φ THE BIG PICTURE
ANNE FINLEY '07

Φ GENERALLY SPEAKING
WHITNEY DUFFEY '08

Keep an eye on W&L green

Men's golf team already looking like a threat in ODAC and NCAA

By JOHN BOVAY
STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee men's golf team, although it receives little attention on campus, is having one of its most successful seasons in history. The team has played in five tournaments this fall and already has two wins and two third-place finishes.

The year started with a September trip to St. Andrews in North Carolina, where the team finished third in a rain-shortened tournament, losing by only three shots over 18 holes. In early October, the team traveled to Yale, where they played one of the greatest courses in the nation and defeated Division I teams.

After the Yale tournament, the team kicked it into gear, winning the Virginia State Championship in Midlothian with a come-from-behind four-shot victory. A third-place finish at Randolph-Macon was a slight letdown, but the team rebounded with a seven-shot win at the McDaniel Ocean City Classic in Maryland.

The team is a young one with three freshmen and four sophomores among the nine players on the roster. However, it is not without strength and experience, as sophomore Ted Williams (Vero Beach, Fla./St. Edwards School), senior captain Ged Johnson (Darien, Conn./Taft School) and sophomore Matt Nickles (Columbia, S.C./A.C. Flora) all earned all-

ODAC honors last season.

In addition, freshman Nathaniel James (Keller, Texas/Keller) leads the team with a 74.4 scoring average, just ahead of Williams and Johnson, who both average 76.0. James has three top-three finishes this year, and has finished second in the last two tournaments.

The team, ranked 13th nationally by Golfstat, has seen the results of hard work this year. Williams explains, "you practice so much, you work so hard...it always feels good [to be a champion]."

Williams won the VSGA State Championship in mid-October, and attributes part of the team's success to the outstanding freshmen players, who are "pumped about playing and really want to play well, [which] motivates veterans."

Johnson is similarly enthusiastic about this year's freshman class, but also credits the sophomores, particularly Williams and Nickles, for their increasing maturity that has led them to "blossom" as players this year.

Johnson also believes star freshman James is "an incredibly mature freshman." Sophomore Barrett Daws (Atlanta, Ga./Holy Innocents Episcopal) added, "We have solid talent from freshmen and good senior leadership from Geddes."

For many athletes at W&L, athletic failures lead to frustration and a diversion of focus from athletics. This team's focus, however, has led to success that

Johnson describes as "kind of like a dream." The team's success has been so "surreal" this year that it seems inevitable they're "going to collapse....Every round, everyone plays well...it's so much fun to be in the spotlight."

The new course in Buena Vista, the Vista Links, has been a boon for the team...when they get to play it. Williams "really loves it out at BV" and emphasizes the quality of their practice range.

Johnson agrees about the lacking facilities at Lexington, the team's current home course, and criticizes "the athletic department for not giving us the resources to succeed. It's a great course and we need to be playing it very soon."

Despite this complaint, the team is in great shape. Their two wins so far this year equal the total from the previous three years, and their 13th-place ranking tops their ranking at any point last year. The outlook is bright for the rest of the season, as the team plans to "pump iron" and "start pounding some range balls" during the offseason, according to Ted Williams.

This fall, the team has had more success than most teams at W&L. After a mid-season break, the team should be able to improve on their five top-five and eleven top-ten finishes individually. Look for this team to be a threat in the ODAC and make a strong run at the NCAA Championship.

Barker leads soccer team to strong finish



By MARSHALL RULE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Generals women's soccer team finished off another great year with an impressive overall record of 12-4-3 including going 8-2-1 in the ODAC. They were able to accomplish this feat in large part due to the leadership of senior goalkeeper Emily Barker.

Barker has had plenty of background in soccer, playing her first game in kindergarten. However, it wasn't until sixth grade that she stepped into goal. The state champion soccer coach saw her playing basketball and saw her potential as

goalie.

She helped Washington and Lee, seeded third in the ODAC tournament, get its revenge against Virginia Wesleyan. "We worked hard all season and it really paid off in that game" commented Barker.

The Generals shut out Virginia Wesleyan 1-0. Shana Oltmans scored the games only goal and Barker made 5 saves to protect the lead.

The team's season came to an end, however, in a hard fought battle against top seeded Lynchburg College.

Looking back on her collegiate soccer career, Emily Barker's best memory was winning the ODAC championship in her sophomore year. "It was the first championship in the history of the program and we won it in penalty kicks after a 0-0 match."

Barker is very honored to have been a part of the team for four years. She is grateful for the opportunity to play soccer at W&L.

"I'm very thankful to W&L for allowing me to have the opportunity to play four different varsity sports. My soccer memories will last a lifetime. I love this team and wish them all the best in the future. They are amazing people and fantastic soccer players with tons of potential. I look forward to hearing about another championship next year!"

This Week in Sports

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Swimming at Sweet Briar - 6:00 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Basketball vs. Mt. Holyoke (at Brandeis) -- 8:00 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrestling at Ursinus Invitational -- 10:00 Women's Basketball at Brandeis Tournament -- TBA Swimming at Bryn Mawr -- 2:00 Men's Basketball vs. Nazareth (at NYU) -- 3:00 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Basketball at NYU Tournament -- TBA

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Volleyball team returns successful

By KATHRYN KRALL
STAFF WRITER

Riding on the momentum of the ODAC championship, the Washington and Lee volleyball team performed successfully at their fifth straight NCAA Division III Tournament.

The tournament included the 48 best teams in the nation and took place at Emory University in Atlanta on Thursday and Friday evening.

In the first game, the team easily downed Maryville with a score of 30-28, 30-25, 30-23. Emily Wolfing, a senior outside hitter, led the team both on and off the court. Along with co-captain Jennifer Lux, the two kept the team mentally focused.

On the court, Wolfing tallied nine kills and 25 digs. She was complemented by junior middle blocker Susan Gaillard, who racked up eleven kills and four blocks.

The entire team posted solid all-around play and displayed the teamwork and talent that makes them so

successful. With the victory, the team advanced to the second round.

The Generals were matched up against Emory, who came into the game with a 29-9 record. In a very emotional and hard-fought competition, W&L fell to Emory in four sets. Each point was a battle, but the Generals kept their composure and attempted to rally for the win the last two sets. Emory held on, however, and the final score was 23-30, 24-30, 30-23, 27-30.

Emily Wolfing again led the way. "Emily is a huge asset to the team. Without her, we would never have gotten this far," said freshman Shaun Edwards. ODAC Player of the Year Christine Gladysz exhibited her talent by amassing 84 assists and twelve digs.

Other standouts of the tournament include Laura Byrne, Ashley Hurt and Taylor Gibson.

The loss ended a hugely successful season that included an ODAC championship, a trip to NCAA nationals and a 28-8 record overall.

Cross Country places in top ten at regionals

Johnson, Erickson prepare to go to nationals later in year in Wisconsin

By SARAH BLOOM
SENIOR SPORTS WRITER

At the beginning of the year, men's cross country coach John Tucker said that his team "absolutely" had a chance to compete for the ODAC title. He knew this opportunity would arise from the combination of the strong returning leadership of senior Steven Chambers and some fresh talent from junior Nathan Johnson, recently recovered from an injured first two years. The addition of ten new freshmen, including Alex Mahoney, proved the perfect combination for the goal at hand.

Coach Kris Hoey of the women's team had similar goals for her women's team. The team, determined to have a successful season, put in several miles of training over the summer. Hoey believed that this willingness to put the work in over the summer, along with "depth and talent... the themes of the '04 team," would carry the women to an ODAC title as well.

Returning talent for the Generals included sophomores Tippins Stone and Jenny Ratzel. The addition of several sophomores, including Lindsay Erickson, Jessica Buckingham, and Kelley Zwart, were counted on for fresh talent.

After a successful season of top fin-

ishes, the men's and women's teams confidently traveled to Harrisonburg, Virginia to compete for the ODAC title. Tucker's and Hoey's determined teams came through and both respectively claimed the top spot at the competition.

On the men's side, as anticipated, Johnson won the race. Johnson remains undefeated in the 2004 season. He was named ODAC Runner of the Year and ODAC Men's Cross Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Mahoney followed closely, claiming the second place finish for the Generals. Freshman Andrew Friski also claimed a ninth place and all-ODAC performance finish for the team.

On the women's course, freshman Lindsay Erickson claimed a first place finish and sophomore Tippins Stone secured the title for the Generals with a close second. Erickson was named ODAC Runner and Rookie of the Year.

This was the first time since 1994 that the Generals have claimed both ODAC titles. Coaches Tucker and Hoey were both awarded ODAC Coaches of the Year for their team's respective performances.

As ODAC champions, both teams qualified for the South/Southeast Regionals in Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday. "We're all excited about regionals," said Stone before leaving for the competition. "Only the top team goes to nationals and the top five individuals,

and there are 21 teams competing, so we're focusing on the Virginia teams we've raced before." The teams are also looking to be named Academic all-American which requires an average GPA of 3.5 and a top 25% finish in the race.

In Atlanta, Johnson again led the General's claiming a first place finish in the race and an opportunity to compete at nationals in Wisconsin on November 20th.

Johnson said, "Going into the race, Coach Tucker and I decided that the main goal would be for me to get top 4 in the race and guarantee a spot to nationals... I guess somewhere in the fourth mile I took over the lead from Emory's #1 which was pretty exciting cause I was like, 'Wow I can actually win this.'"

Mahoney and fellow freshmen Tom Brower claimed the second and third place finishes for the Generals with a 21st place, and 31st place finish respectively.

Freshman Lindsay Erickson, in only her second year competing as a runner, placed third for the women, also earning a chance to compete at nationals. Juniors Debra Kubas and Betsy Frayer claimed the next two places for the Generals with 50th and 51st places respectively.

The men finished in 6th place and the women in 9th. Johnson and Erickson will now prepare for nationals in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

THIS PAST WEEK'S SPORTS IN BRIEF...

W&L Football Defeats Greensboro, 21-7 (11/13)

The Washington and Lee football team earned its first winning season since 1995 and its first six-win season since 1985 with a 21-7 victory over Greensboro College on Saturday afternoon in Greensboro, N.C.

W&L Women's Swimming Defeats Guilford, 108-84, and Hollins, 174-58 (11/13)

The Washington and Lee women's swimming team improved to 5-2 overall and 4-0 in the ODAC with wins over Guilford, 108-84, and Hollins, 174-58, on Saturday afternoon at Hollins University in Roanoke, Va.

W&L Football Places Five on Academic All-District Team (11/11)

Five members of the Washington and Lee football team have been selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-District III team which was released on Thursday afternoon.

W&L Women's Basketball Picked Seventh in ODAC Poll (11/11)

The Washington and Lee women's basketball team was picked to finish seventh out of 11 teams in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference Preseason Coaches Poll which was released on Thursday afternoon at the conference's media day.

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Washington and Lee students: embrace your elite status

Φ It's Not You, It's Me
MARY CHILDS '08

As we are all aware, Washington and Lee University has a bit of a reputation. For academic excellence, you say? Of course, but that's not what I'm discussing here. Oh, then that whole #2 in the nation thing? Also true, but no.

No, I am referring to the classic W&L reputation that we are all snobs. We are, supposedly, cocky in our own abilities as student, partier, winner-of-the-Civil-war, and God knows what else, and we tend to wave this flag of arrogance wherever we go. I, personally, have found this generalization to be all too true. People at Washington and Lee are, in fact, snobs. And with good reason.

A while back, a few of my friends and I decided that it would be a good idea to maybe visit some of our other friends at other schools, for a change of pace, and, since they had visited us so damn much, it was kind of our turn. So we pile in to the car, all ready for a superfun evening at this college's "Homecoming" - I won't name the college, to protect its reputation as "fun."

We honestly did try. We danced around, met new people, we laughed and we cried with high school buddies, we went to a concert and listened to the music, we really tried to do it. But by the time the clock struck twelve, I could deny it no longer. I wanted to go home.

Finally it came down to the fact that if we left soon, we could be in our beds and happy and therefore preserve the potential fun of tomorrow night, instead of not sleeping tonight and sacrificing the whole weekend to Awful Homecoming Night/Pretending to Enjoy This.

And yes, I know that we were certainly perpetuating the image of the W&L snob, as I leaned on a wall with a sneer on my face that said "I am just too cool for this," when really I meant "I am just too tired and bored to pretend I am having fun." But as we drove home at 2:30 in the morning, singing ourselves awake, having more fun in the car ride home than that entire night, the truth was as apparent to us as the road kill we dodged. Maybe we act all superior ... because we are.

I mean, let's be logical here. The admissions process picks out the best and the brightest. Those that get into schools such as Princeton and Harvard usually go; we've

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WHERE'S THE SNOB RANKING? Washington and Lee would rank #1 for elitism if the Princeton Review ranked it. Just visit your friends at other schools and find out for yourself.

just weeded out all the losers. Add in the Princeton Review's free advertising of our superior socializing abilities, and chalk up another point to the "cool" factor. So we've got that edge, too. Clearly, Washington and Lee has struck a perfect balance between smart and fun. To those schools that are smarter than we are, we can stick out our tongues and toast to our ever-bettering social skills. To those schools that claim to have more fun, we can employ their students later.

Now, I'll admit, friends of mine that go to other schools do love it there. But come on - it's college. Of course they do. The only thing is, not everybody loves their school as consistently and as adamantly as we do. Friends in North Carolina complain of homesickness; friends in the mountains of Virginia complain of overpopulation, easy classes, nasty peers. I try to sympathize. I listen hard, and I put on my best sad/interested face, and nod when appropriate, but underneath it all I am just confused. Why is your school not like mine? What went so wrong there that is so right here? And then I feel bad when my complaint storage is empty and I have nothing to offer my sad Other-College friends. Somehow, throwing out "um, sometimes our free safe-ride Traveller is slow...and I have to wait" just pales in comparison.

So really, I think I'm glad I went on that horrible college trip. I took away some valuable lessons from it, for which I am very grateful. Having been here for a while, I had started to get used to my surroundings. I wanted to complain with the cool Upperclassmen, too, when rides were slow and lines were long. I, too, complained about workloads and conflicting schedules when I know for a fact that I am a perfectly happy camper and that the aforementioned worries probably won't faze me. There is an innate danger in getting used to all of this around me.

Without my trip to Loserville University to show me otherwise, I might have forgotten to appreciate the wonder and glory that is Washington and Lee University. The five of us that drove up to Not-As-Cool U. and turned around and drove back, we know. Now when we're standing in the cold quad like the awesome freshmen that we are, we'll remember that we are being treated like princesses, and we will shut our mouths when tempted to bitch about the wait. Not to get all sappy, but sometimes I forget how this place looked when I first visited, and how jealous I was of the Uber-chic college kids strolling around in their Birkenstocks and popped collars.

I am happy to be surrounded by really smart people, to be able to carry on intelligent conversations even when my companion won't remember it, and to be able to safely assume that even though you may be partying too hard to keep your head up, you're probably brighter than I am. And I appreciate that. In short, Washington and Lee has earned its reputation as being elitist because its students are elite. And there's nothing in the world wrong with that.

This Thanksgiving, don't forget to be thankful for the small things in your life

BY EMILY EDWARDS
ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

Sitting on the kitchen table at home is a little ceramic jar with the words "Thanksgiving Cup" on it. Before you eat, you're supposed to put a coin (or two or so) in it and say something that you're thankful for. When the jar gets full, my family donates it to some charity usually the benevolence fund at church. Over the years, people have given me serious grief over this cup. They say, "You're making me pay for my meal."

The cup's original purpose was to keep me humble. When I was little, I had a greedy streak. I wouldn't share and was generally ungrateful. When my parents first put the cup in front of me, I was really pissed off. Why should I put a quarter in this stupid jar? I said something stupid, like "I'm thankful for the air-conditioning." And thus the tradition began. We would say things like, "I'm thankful for my health" or "I'm thankful for the

rain." Yes, I know it sounds cheesy, but it made me think of so many things that I take for granted.

It was through this cup, though, that I began to grasp the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Sure, I enjoy the turkey and dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans; the list could go on and on. But Thanksgiving holds a deeper meaning than just food. For me, it's coming together as a family and realizing how God has blessed us.

And even though I'm not from Dallas (my Aunt and Uncle live there- does that count?), I enjoy watching the Cowboys play. Friday means true drama: My cousin, an Aggie, somehow managed to marry a Longhorn. And so Thanksgiving means healing deep, cavernous football-esque rifts. As for me, I always just brave the crowds and escape to the Galleria. My dad seems more willing to accept my massive credit card bills around the holidays.

Last Thanksgiving I was thankful to be passing Chem 111. As I recall, that response

accompanied each coin that I put into the cup for many days during Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. And this Thanksgiving, I'm thankful that my dad is alive and healthy after having a massive heart attack last year.

It's easy here in MicroLex to lose track of what's going on in the real world. We live in a bubble of sorts, complete with kegs of blue beer and kegs of red beer. I guess Democrats have to drink too.

And this Thanksgiving, whether we believe that America should be fighting in Iraq, we ought to be thankful that there are so many troops willing to put their lives on the line to protect this wonderful country we call home. And, in light of the recent election, we should be thankful that we do not have to listen to takes of "hanging chads" and "butterfly chads."

But as for the Thanksgiving cup, I may tell my parents to pass it around at the next dinner party that they have. I did see a pair of shoes online that I must have. Does that count as a charity?



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AN ARMY OF ONE. This Thanksgiving, be thankful for the thousands of men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our country.

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THE LAST WORD

Forget being thankful- what are you not thankful for?

I consider myself a very grateful person. I say my thanks and always do my best to write thank you notes. If someone helps me out I try to remember that so I make sure to return the favor one day.

However, there are a few things that I am just not grateful for. There are some things that I wish had never been invented, some events I wish never would have taken place, and some people that I wish never would have been born.

So, since it is getting to be Thanksgiving time, I figured I would "unthank" anything that I am not grateful for. I know it sounds a little anti-Thanksgiving, but I figure since I have been pretty grateful for everything else in my life, I deserve a day of contempt.

Φ POTATO MAN MARSHALL RULE

1. I hate it when people use big words that I don't know. People will tell a joke with a big word in it, and I won't understand the punch line. But I have to laugh because everyone else is laughing, and they would wonder why I wasn't. So then after everyone has left, I will ask someone what that word meant, and then I will finally understand the joke, but by then it is too late to fully enjoy it.

2. I also despise watching sports on FOX. While I do enjoy the Sunday pre-game show for football, I cannot stand to watch the actual game. This feeling was lamented during the baseball playoffs when they kept coming back from commercials late and sharing all their stupid-worthless facts they felt necessary to tell me, like whenever a starting pitcher is pitching at home exactly 68 days after their wife has given birth, they will win, unless of course, the opposing team's batboy's name starts with T. Thanks a lot FOX for ruining sports for me forever.

3. I am not grateful for the desks in the Colonnade classrooms. I am no longer majoring in history for just that reason. I

could never spend 3 more years in Newcomb listening to lectures in those desks that have been around since Robert E. Lee was president. Those chairs are simply not conducive to sleeping in, and therefore I decided to find a major that is in the C-School.

4. I hate coloring books. I was never good at coloring as a child and all the other kids made fun of me. They teachers told us to stay inside the lines, but I was a child who needed to be free from rules and restrictions, so I disobeyed them, and as a punishment was forced to undergo severe public humility. Ever since that moment I have been scared of them, and I also hold an intense hatred for any kid that is good at coloring.

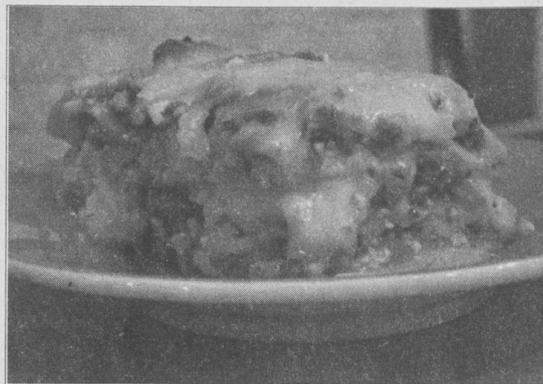
5. I hate apples that aren't red. I don't know why this bothers me, but it does.

6. I have never understood why some windows on campus are painted shut. This is just stupid. Windows are made in such a way that enables people to open or shut them at will. I figure that the school has painted them shut as an attempt to control temperature in classrooms. However, B&G doesn't have to sit in some of those classrooms and deal with the intense heat for two hours. Then again, if painting them shut was done on accident, well, that is just stupid.

7. I hate computer viruses and hate the people who make them even more. Seriously, who does this? It is sad to think that there is some 34 year old guy in New Jersey who has never been on a date, and gets off on the fact that he has successfully created a virus that has infected thousands of computers across college campuses. Congratulations Mr. Nevergonnaget laid, you are a true American Hero.

8. I really hate lasagna.

9. I get really annoyed at the people that get really dressed



MMM GOOD. Who couldn't like a tasty plate of Mom's home-cooked lasagna. Obviously, the Potato Man doesn't.

up to go to class. I'm not annoyed that they got up early and take care in their appearance, but rather, I am pissed that they make me look bad. I'm in college, I don't like to get up early, I was up the whole night before studying for my econ test, so when it comes time to go to class at 9, I'm rolling out of bed, and wearing whatever I fell asleep in to class. When the professor walks into class, I'm already at a disadvantage because you're wearing a three piece suit and I'm wearing my K-Mart sweats and a NASCAR t-shirt. So give me a break, pretend you're a college kid, and don't wake up two hours before class to do your makeup.

10. I hate people that hate.

Best and Worst: The Milk and Cheese Girl weighs in on her favorite Lex destinations

I know I've only been an official W & L student for two and a half months. However, I already consider myself to be an expert on LexVegas. Between you and me, there isn't much to see. I have been there, seen that.... (I'll leave the last part off lest it be misconstrued). That said, it is time to release "The Milk and Cheese Girl's List of Favorite Lexington Sites."

Before you start writing angry letters to the editor, keep in mind that this list is not endorsed by Ring Tum Phi. It is the intellectual property of the Milk and Cheese Girl. The hot and single Milk and Cheese Girl. (Haha. I'm just joking with you. I'm not desperate. But did I mention that I'm hot and single?) Alighty, then. Now that I have taken full responsibility for this column (and thrown away my dignity), let's give it a go. Drum roll, please.....

"The Milk and Cheese Girl's List of Favorite Lexington Sites." (So official sounding, I know.)

In no particular order:

1) The Lodge: One can't go wrong at the Lodge. The guys are great, and the President's room is the place to be. Plus, it is only a stone's throw away from the dorms. Freshman: you can't get lost on your way home. (Or can you?)

2) Nine Tucker: You can't find Nine Tucker? I'll give you some help: it's on Tucker Street. What a concept! (It honestly took me about three weeks to figure that out. Sad. Sad, but true.) The residents of Nine Tucker are awesome guys and always up for a good time. Plus, they have cats. Friendly cats. Bonus points for the neighbors. (I'll throw in a free geography lesson: Eleven Tucker is also on Tucker Street. I know, I'm so very helpful.)

3) Stop In: Stop In, oh how I love you. You are always open to serve my nutritional needs, be it at one in the morning or four. You offer a delightful selection of munchies for a reason-



CORBIN BLACKFORD/ Ring-tum Phi

able price. Thank you, Stop In. I heart you.

4) Munster: I love that house. I don't know why, but I do. Just trust me on this one. It is right across the street from the post office, so get off your lazy @%^ and visit.

5) Pi Phi: DJ parties rock my world. 'Nough said.

6) Salerno's: Get the chicken parmesan sub. It is the sole reason I transferred here. You think I'm joking, but I'm not.

7) Joyful Spirit: Doesn't a place named Joyful Spirit immediately bring a smile to your face?

If your answer is "no" you are a heartless freak of nature, but don't worry because Joyful Spirit's food will "turn your frown upside down." (However, you still may require counseling.) Try a number one. Muy delicioso. (A little language lesson for you all... My column is so educational!)

8) The Ice Cream Factory: I can't believe it stays closed all fall and winter. The milkshakes are amazing (and I would know... The Milk and Cheese Girl) and reasonably priced.

Side note: I am beginning to feel like a food critic. Tasty! Spicy with a hint of parsimony! (By the way, what the heck is parsimony? Did I just make that up? And wouldn't I be awesome on the Iron

Chef?)

9) The Fitness Center: It's the sole reason I can down chicken parmesan subs and Stop In hot dogs. And when I'm lucky I don't have to watch football or Judge Judy on the TVs.

10) The Elrod Commons: I love to plop down with my books and notes and attempt to study. Once I made it an hour and a half without reading a single page. That may be a record. No, wait, it probably isn't. There are far better procrastinators than I.

11) The Science Library: When I do actually feel like getting work done, there is no better place to go. And don't steal my study spot! It is very upsetting to see someone curled up in what is so obviously my chair.

12) Wal-Mart: Wal-Mart has everything a person could ever possibly need. It may kill local mom and pop stores, but who cares? It's cheap! You know your life is pathetic when a trip to Wal-Mart is the excitement of your day. I personally enjoy the one on one contact with the locals.

13) My suite: The décor in the common room may be lacking, but I love my suitemates. The inordinate amount of pink in my own room makes me happy. Plus, I have a papasan chair. What can beat that?

Sorry if you didn't make the list. I guess you'll just have to try harder to impress me for next time.

Addendum to "The Milk and Cheese Girl's List of Favorite Lexington Sites" - "The Milk and Cheese Girl's Least Favorite Lexington Sites":

1) Leyburn Library: It's hideous!

2) Leyburn Library: It's a monstrosity!

3) Leyburn Library: It's an eyesore!

4) Leyburn Library: It's a blemish on the face of the earth! (Honestly, how can we permit such an ugly building to desecrate the beauty of our campus?)

QUICK HITS

Φ Dear Administration, Don't fix what aint broke.

Φ Freshmen girls - stop rushing so hard. Don't tell me what you've heard about my sorority and don't tell me what sorority you want to join. Chill.

Φ Someone tell James Heidbreder after his article in the Trident to stop lecturing upperclassmen. Presidents have had an open door policy here for years, its not Burish's thing.

Φ Social Probation's debut Saturday night was amazing. They are a great band.

Φ I love how this school is selling its identity to appease the rankings. Kind of ironic for a school based on honor and integrity.

Φ Southern Comfort, confirm our friendship.

Φ Charlie, please start sharing your music again so I can listen to Breathe by Fabolous.

Φ I just don't find anything funny about projectiles or missiles.

Φ Dipping tobacco around people who are eating is almost as bad as smoking around people who are breathing.

Φ Congratulations to Hugh and Balsak on their engagement.

Φ December is Virginia's "Crapping in the kitchen" month. Or it should be according to Sassyhat.

Φ I once heard a guy use the pick up line "Well if it isn't little Miss Slut Slut." Sorry, that line doesn't really work.

Φ "November 11: The Interfraternity Council passes a resolution that bans dancing in any house on Sunday. The rule is to be strictly enforced in the early morning hours." It happened once and will again if we don't fight for our Greek system!

Φ Yo! I actually got an 'E' as a letter grade on my English quiz! I'm not even upset... That's just awesome!

Φ I heart Thanksgiving Break!

Φ Yo Gritter, get your facts straight before you hate on the Skins. Trotter and Barrow were never on the same team.

Φ Things are either ON purpose or BY accident, not "on accident"...get it right.

Φ Professor Allgood, I'm sorry I didn't do my geology homework.

Φ Parents Weekend is a very questionable time to spend the night at a Fraternity House.

Φ Young Democrats, have you ever seen an Old Democrat?

Φ Today is America Recycles Day, throw something in the recycle bin.

Φ The first Halo video game turns three today.

Φ Happy 47th Birthday to Kevin Eubanks of the Tonight Show band.

Φ The gravity of my need to graduate hit me today. If I don't graduate the sheep for my diploma will have died in vain.

Φ Congratulations to Nathan Johnson for winning Cross Country Regionals. Good Luck at nationals!

Φ Boycott Ben & Jerry's. They had an effigy of Bush outside of their factory.

Φ No one ever break up with the Editor in Chief, she'll recover splendidly and rub it in yo' face.

Φ I heard someone say that they loved the midwest this weekend. I guess someone has to.

Φ Hey boys, Christmas Weekend is the weekend after Thanksgiving break. Start thinking about asking someone now!

Φ When is it going to snow?

Φ I do not like fuzzy bunnies.

Φ There has been far too much sexually charged humor on the Washington and Lee campus. This is surprising, considering the large number of random hookups that take place. Aren't you people ever satisfied?

Φ Do you ever feel like hitting somebody? I do- you better watch out.

Φ Benjamin McKenzie is dating an 18 year-old. Why couldn't he have picked me?

Submit your anonymous quick hits and crazy Thanksgiving stories to phi@wlu.edu.