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THE RING-TUM PHI.

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BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Neighboring competition

The freshman dorms are notoriously divided...and not just by Washington St. Find out the difference between the two on page 5.

Sex, the nice way

Speaker Bob Hall came to teach us a lesson or two about non-violent sexuality. See page 4 for more.

Cashing in

The EC budget allocations are finally here--but not all organizations are treated equally. More on page 2.

Breakin' all the Rules

Marshall is back! His Sunday confession and more on the back page.

SIMPLE LIFE

With the growing presence of digital cameras and camera phones, photos are becoming more prevalent. Here are some ways to make sure you can preserve your memories and look your best.

Avoid red-eye.

Look directly into a light until just before the photo is taken. This reduces your pupil size, and therefore the amount of glare from the flash.

Create a slim silhouette.

Turn your body to a 45-degree angle as you pose. This emphasizes your waist and slenderness your line.

Reduce shine.

Use translucent powder to absorb the oil that reflects light from the camera flash.

Compose yourself.

Make sure to stand up straight, with shoulders back. This creates a more positive look, so you don't look bored or lazy.

Loosen up.

Joke, laugh, make a face...whatever it takes to relax your facial features. Try not to make your smile look too posed or forced.

Know your good side.

Since no one's face is totally symmetrical, you have one. Find out what it is, and make sure it's facing the camera for the best possible angle.

HOT TICKET

Holy beginning, Batman!

See Katie Holmes outside of the Creek in 'Batman Begins,' showing in the Commons Theater this week.



ILLUSTRATION:
EMILY HULEN

A matter of economics

As the number of Williams school majors continues to grow, competing departments may suffer

By Wes O'Dell
REPORTER

To some, it might seem paradoxical that one of the nation's top liberal arts institutions boasts a thriving school of school of business.

But the century-old Williams School of Commerce, Economics and Politics has excelled in its unusual niche, expanding its facilities, increasing its faculty and providing a variety of unique research and study-abroad programs for its students, growing to the point that 40% of W&L students now take a major from it.

Prof. Larry Peppers, Dean of the School, credits the quality of the school for its success and growth.

Becoming bigger in a physical sense, however, may be a necessity. The School's strategic plan

calls for the construction of new facilities or the renovation of the old co-op to house currently displaced faculty and staff.

"We have a lot of faculty at this point in time that are spread out all over campus," he said.

Both space and money, however, are at a premium at W&L, and the opinions regarding which building should be the next renovated are as diverse as the department chairs themselves.

He singles out Newcomb Hall, which he says needs to be "taken back to the rafters and rebuilt... We're just bursting at the seams."

He implicates the successive renovations of Huntley Hall as evidence of the C-school benefiting at the expense of the college, but is quick to point out that "it's not just [them], I'm not trying to set them up as a target," mention-

ing also recent construction in the departments of journalism, science and law, which he says have fared "extremely well."

"We've gotten far, far less than we need and deserve," he continued, "we [in the humanities] have been treated like poor relations."

Prof. James Warren, Chair of the English Dept., points out that while both the College and the Williams School benefit from any renovations, the renovation of the Leyburn Library "is frankly more important to me than the C-school, which already has a nice building. And we won't even talk about Reid Hall, wonderful as it is."

Faculty and staffing issues are also contentious.

The History department, according to Prof. Merchant, is understaffed by three professors, and the upcoming teaching load reduction from seven to six courses

threatens course offerings in some departments unless new faculty are hired to preserve current courses.

However, Prof. William Sessions, Philosophy Dept. Chair, points out that the college's liberal arts focus goes hand in hand with that of the Williams school, saying "liberal learning... turns out to be the most useful... for leaders."

In the midst of these economic issues lies the central paradox of a business school within a nationally-ranked liberal arts institution.

Prof. Merchant expressed distress that too large a percentage of C-school majors will cause W&L to lose its standing in national polls as a small liberal arts school.

Prof. Sessions agreed, saying, "the number of applied area majors shouldn't be overwhelming," while adding that the percentage

of students taking majors from the C-school can be misleading, as many double major in the college.

University Registrar Scott Dittman reports that 28% of last year's graduating C-school majors also took a major in the college.

He did, however, concede the recruitment draw of the C-school, while adding, "you would never want to see the day that W&L would be looked at as a business school first and a liberal arts college second... that would be sad."

The faculty remain united in their feeling that any improvement benefits the whole.

The general feeling of the faculty was summed up by Prof. Sessions, who said, "It's extremely important not to get into an adversarial or antagonistic relationship here and to think this is a zero-sum game where their gain is our loss."

Gunman flees frat

Fraternalties react effectively to threat of armed deserter

By Jacob Geiger
REPORTER

A party at the Sigma Chi fraternity house was disrupted two weeks ago by an armed man.

Daniel McCellan, who is 35 years old, is currently wanted by the United States Navy for desertion. When he was arrested in front of Kappa Sigma, he was discovered to be carrying a Beretta .380 caliber pistol, a clip of bullets and two knives.

He did not, however, show these weapons while he was inside the fraternity house.

Bruce Beard, Lexington's Chief of Police, said the intruder was in the custody of W&L Security Officer Larry Stewart when two officers arrived at 12:15 a.m. on Saturday, September 17th.

Stewart went to the house shortly after an officer of

Sigma Chi had asked McCellan to leave the fraternity's property and the trespasser "bolted when confronted."

Noticing the strong smell of alcohol and the glazed look in Stewart's eyes, the police arrested him on charges of trespassing and being drunk in public (DIP).

While searching McCellan, the officers discovered the pistol and knives, so a warrant for the charge of carrying a concealed weapon was promptly obtained.

Upon returning to the station, the police discovered that McCellan, who listed a Sarasota, Florida address as his current residence, is wanted by the Navy on desertion charges.

After getting in touch with military police, Beard says the department was asked to "hold onto him until the government authorities could come get him."

The Chief said that McCellan may never stand trial in Rockbridge County because of the

federal desertion charge, which receives priority over any state crimes.

Michael Young, W&L's Director of Campus Security and a military veteran, noted that "the government doesn't look too kindly on people who desert during a war. He could be looking at 20 years in prison for trying to run away."

Chief Beard emphasized that even Lexington is not immune from incidents like these.

"I like to think that Lexington is a pretty safe place, and it is, but anyone you just never know, he said. "We've got I-64 and I-81 running right by town and all sorts of people can come by on those highways."

Beard further emphasized that he hopes this incident will remind all students, but especially female ones, to take care not to walk around town alone.

See 'POLICE' on page 2

'The Body' raises eyebrows in Chapel

Ventura brings controversial views to the pulpit

By Mallory Ruymann
REPORTER

Jesse Ventura is a man of many faces.

For example, he is a naval officer, former pro-wrestler, and a former governor, which he described as a transient phase in his life.

Why Jesse Ventura at W&L many ask? Said CONTACT Vice-Chair for Finance Dave Kronenfeld; "There were some on the Committee who thought he would be a good speaker, and that thought for the price [\$35,000] he was a large name for what we are paying for him. I think he's going to be an interesting speaker."

In the latest stage of his life, Jesse Ventura seems to have adopted a look that mirrors his freedom of political thought.

This "amazing experiment," has proved to Ventura that

"people judge based on looks," something which some in the audience did on Tuesday night before they heard Ventura speak.

Said Jack Zampolin '09, "His attire was ridiculous."

"I mean Lee's buried directly behind him, he's wearing a Che Guevara t-shirt. I swear to God, Lee must be rolling over in his grave."

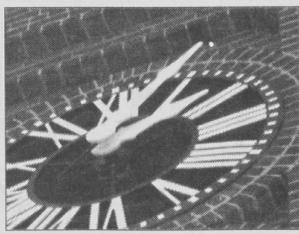
Said Jim McDougal '07, "I thought he was very charismatic and he had a lot of interesting things to say about the way our government was run."

"He was a little crass... He called himself an Independent, but I guess he would be a Libertarian because he said he was socially liberal but fiscally conservative."

Despite some bad jokes and inappropriate insinuations, most students would agree that Jesse Ventura's was something they were glad they did not miss.

See 'HEADLINE' on page 2

news



Going the green mile

After a week of hearings, the EC deals out the dough to select student organizations with mixed reactions

This week, many student organizations laid their claim to EC Budget money. With a new, simpler system of application and interview, the EC tried their best to be fair to all clubs. However, as the philosopher Jagger once said, "You can't always get what you want." Hopefully these organizations got what they needed.

By Sarah Kientz
REPORTER

In 1796, George Washington saved our school from possible oblivion with a donation valued at \$20,000.

Now, the gift remains part of the University's endowment, exceeding \$500,000. As Washington showed us, a little faith and generosity goes a long way. Although a little less serious than saving the University, the Executive Committee allocates money to student clubs and organizations each fall, and often their generosity is felt by some more than others.

The budgeting process, though reformed in order to make the process less time-consuming, ran smoothly and yielded satisfactory results for most student organizations.

Senior Charlie Yates, EC President, said each student organization has the same opportunity to receive the funds they need for the coming year. Applications are solicited a few weeks before EC Budget hearings, during which time each organization has an interview in order for the committee to ask questions. Yates said there are about 50 organizations looking to receive some share of the \$400,000 the EC had to allocate.

Yates stressed that this fall changes in the allocation process were made in order to make the procedure smoother and stressing the importance of each organization knowing the budgeting pro-

cess. Last spring, Yates told organization leaders that if they went to a leadership conference to learn how the budgeting policy works, they may be favored when it came time for the fall allocations.

"I really is key that organizations understand the process. It is really simple, you just need to take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with it," Yates said.

Senior EC Vice President Wheeler Sparks said that in order to improve the allocation process, the time of each interview was shortened so that organization leaders did not spend time repeating what EC members already knew.

"We devised a way to combine interview times so that the groups that ran over the time limit would have a chance to borrow from the groups that ran under," Sparks said. "In years past, everyone was allocated a set time so you could never gain ground, you could only give it up. We scheduled to finish earlier both nights this year, and

for the first time I have ever witnessed we had time to spare."

In addition to making sure organizations know the budgeting process and allotting them time to make their case, EC members also have to make the important decisions on which organizations receive what amount of money. Yates said each individual EC member uses his or her own judgment when evaluating each organization's proposal.

"Personally, I look at whether the organization has done a good job in the past and how wide of an impact it has on the student body," Yates said, "though smaller organizations that use the money efficiently are also considered important."

Sparks said many factors go into the decision-making process for him.

"I like to see an organization that pays attention to the policies, doesn't ask for us to fund things that we cannot, is succinct but informative in its explanation, and leaves enough time to answer any questions we have about the request or the organization itself," Sparks said.

Sparks also stressed that detail was key in ensuring a club would receive the amount of funds it was looking for, although receiving the exact amount of money requested was rare.

"More detail means less ambiguity. The more ambiguity a request has, the easier it is for us to slash the budget," Sparks said. "However, almost no organization receives exactly what it requests. The only proposal that did was modest and accurate, with noble intentions and a great track record."

Sparks could not reveal which organization received the exact amount of funds it asked for.

The budget allocation report, which appeared in Campus Notices on Wednesday, revealed that the EC had allocated \$402,038.24 to 53 student clubs and organizations. The three clubs that received the most funds were the Contact Committee, receiving \$74,000; the Student Bar Association, getting \$90,000; and the Generals Activity Board (GAB) with \$115,000.

Senior Allan Galis, co-president of the GAB, said that he stressed to the EC that the GAB has been working to provide events and entertainment to accommodate a large number of W&L students, including popular musical acts.

"Last year we overhauled SAB by including many activities in the commons to provide activities for as many students as possible. We'd like to continue to do this," Galis said. "It also became obvi-

"Almost no organization receives exactly what it requests."

WHEELER SPARKS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ous that, in order to get big name bands to play at a tiny school in rural Virginia, the costs were going to be higher than normal so the bands could be rerouted from their typical venues in larger cities. In short, providing quality student entertainment is expensive."

Galis said that receiving the \$115,000 was a walk in the park.

"It wasn't too stressful for us. Not too much paper work and a short, 5 minute presentation," Galis said. "Pretty easy."

For other clubs, receiving the money they needed was not quite as easy. Senior Katie Babcock, president of Habitat for Humanity, was disappointed that the EC allocated only \$2000 to the club that received \$7000 in the fall of 2004. Babcock admitted that in 2004 the club needed more money to pay off the debt they were in from participating in an expensive building project.

"Because we are no longer in debt, I think the EC felt as though there wasn't as pressing a need for habitat to be given so much cash," Babcock said.

Babcock added that Habitat asked for \$12,000 this fall, and was "pretty disappointed that we only received \$2,000, especially because we need to raise \$25,000 this year to build a new home." She hopes to make up the loss during the winter term allocations and through fundraising throughout the fall.

"It was quite a blow to our chapter, especially since we do so much fundraising on our own anyway—much more than most of the organizations on campus,"

Babcock said. "There is such little overhead with habitat's costs, so it's sad to see that we can't use more money to efficiently support the community."

Despite the EC's lack of financial support for Habitat, Babcock still has a lot of respect for the committee. However, she hopes to see improvements in the allocation process in the future.

"We are grateful for every dollar [the EC] can give us," Babcock said. "However, I wished that we were given an opportunity to speak before they asked us questions. We weren't able to convey the fact that over 75 applications for homes were completed just from January-June, and that there are probably 550-650 eligible families in our county who would be interested in receiving a home. Had we been given an opportunity to present these facts, I think it would have made more sense to the EC as to why we wanted so much money."

Overall, Yates said that although budget allocations can always be improved, the most important thing for the EC is knowing the money they allocate will be put to good use.

"Nothing's flawless, and we're always trying to make it better," Yates said. "Sometimes groups come in and request money but then don't use it. We want to make sure we're giving to people who will put it to good use."

With the EC's help, many campus clubs and organizations will be able to provide entertainment, discussions, and service activities to accommodate the needs of the entire student body.

A FEW OTHER RECIPIENTS

Organization Name	Allocation
Campus Kitchens Project	\$ 1,000.00
Contact Committee	\$ 74,000.00
Fancy Dress	\$ 2,500.00
Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)	\$ 3,500.00
Multicultural Students Association (MSA)	\$ 19,000.00
Nabors Service League (NSL)	\$ 11,000.00
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.	\$ 1,500.00
Student Activities Organization (SAO)	\$ 8,000.00
Student Bar Association (SBA)	\$ 90,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 402,038.24

Police arrest at frat

Continued from page 1

late at night.

"It seems like most students carry cell phones these days," he added, "so if they see anything that worries them they shouldn't hesitate to just dial up 911."

Chad Thomas, Senior Justice of the Inter Fraternity Council and a member of Kappa Sigma, reported that Sgt. Miller of the Lexington Police spoke to the IFC about the importance of party safety. "Sgt. Miller really talked about the importance of hav-

ing your sober officers and security around," Thomas said. "He mentioned that there are more outsiders near campus these days."

The Senior Justice further said that the fraternities are reviewing how they secure their houses during normal - or non-party - hours.

Beard said he isn't sure why Daniel McCellan showed up in Davidson Park on that Friday night. "Maybe he's a drifter. All sorts of crazy people can come off of the interstate and into town. It's just hard to say why he came here."

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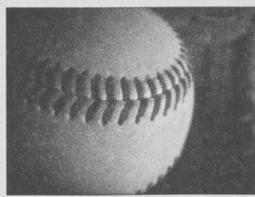
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sports



SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's Field Hockey 0-2 in Weekend Play

The women's field hockey team fell to Virginia Wesleyan on Saturday 3-1 in Norfolk, VA before losing to Christopher Newport 4-1 on Sunday in Newport News, VA. In Norfolk, the Generals were tied 1-1 with Virginia Wesleyan at halftime before being held scoreless during the second half.

The Generals were initially leading on Sunday 1-0 before Christopher Newport went on a 4-0 scoring run while not allowing any more goals. After this weekend's action, the Generals are now 4-5 but are still 3-1 in the ODAC.

The women's field hockey team next sees action on Wednesday when they host Roanoke College at 6:00 PM on the Turf Field.

W&L Volleyball Improves to 12-3 with routs of Bridgewater and Franklin & Marshall

The women's volleyball team is now 5-0 in ODAC play after beating both Bridgewater and Franklin & Marshall on Saturday in the Warner Center. The Generals beat Bridgewater 30-20, 30-19, 30-27 and Franklin & Marshall 30-23, 30-19, 30-18 to win both matches 3-0. Freshman Laura Maurer excelled in kills in both matches, tallying 14 in each match on Saturday for a team-high total of 28.

The volleyball team next match is on the road at Randolph-Macon on Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

Rugby scores big in new season

Despite setbacks, team expects success

By Doug Sweeney
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee's club rugby team, the Screaming Minks, defeated Hampden-Sydney in their first game of the year. The September 17 contest was not even close as the Minks trounced the Tigers 78-20. The scoring was led by juniors Jamie Blake and Tino Tovo. Both men had 3 scores apiece.

The Minks hope that this opening victory is a sign of things to come in the 2005 season. The club struggled last year going 2-4 and missing the Ed Lee Invitational Tournament, Virginia Rugby's postseason.

Last year's campaign ended in disappointment for the Minks despite the efforts of the class of 2005. It will be tough for the squad to replace the likes of captain Rory Dowling, hooker George Craft and fan favorite Mike Diverio.

The 2005 Minks return a solid core of players who hope to eclipse last year's record. The squad is captained by seniors Robert Decosimo, Richard Bruno and junior Tino Tovo. Decosimo is a strong on-field leader who plays the flanker position, he is also the club's president. Bruno will step into the shoes of Craft at the hooker position and Tovo is a smart heads-up player from Argentina. Also returning is the hard hitting Tucker Laffitte who looks to dish out more pain in 2005.

Unfortunately the Minks have had to deal with at least one offseason injury. Sophomore Ian Handerhan broke his collarbone while playing rugby this summer. Handerhan, a starter last season, hopes to return in time for the October 22 contest against Longwood. The sophomore is taking his injury like a champ. "I'm just helping out so I can still be part of the team," said Handerhan, "it's a slow process, a waiting

game and I'm looking forward to playing."

There are several new members to the team who look to have an impact this year. The hero from the first game Jamie Blake is a junior exchange student from St. Andrews in Scotland. Opposing squads are already nervous about this Scot whose talent is only eclipsed by his knowledge of the game. Senior David Will is trading in his high tops for cleats as he makes the transition from varsity basketball to rugby. Will gives the Minks tremendous size (6'6", 225) and athleticism.

The club will also receive a shot in the arm from a strong freshman class led by Hansen Babington. These frosh may be inexperienced but they have remarkable enthusiasm and energy.

The Minks coaching staff also made an addition in the offseason. Helping out head coach Tom Lovell will be law student Tom Good. Lovell is a Washington and Lee alum who graduated in 1991.

While the Minks work hard on the pitch they work just as hard off it as evidenced by their annual fund raiser, the player auction. This auction involves team members putting themselves on sale to be pledges for a day with proceeds going to support the club. Even the team's name is a reminder of the work ethic of these men. The origin of the name, according to their website, is proof enough: "Legend has it that W&L rugby players would wait outside the VMI barracks for the cadets and their girls to come back from their dates. As the ladies were not allowed into the barracks the W&L rugby players were so kind to escort them back home. Thus they received the name 'Minks'."

The club looks to continue its winning ways this Saturday when the travel to UNC Greensboro. The Minks next home game is October 8 against the Rams of VCU.

Rough riders

Riding team members saddle up for a new competitive season

By Sarah Bloom
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Alice Shih never thought she would ride a horse competitively. Now she competes as a varsity athlete for Washington and Lee University's riding team.

Shih was just looking for a way to spend her free time in college. "I first tried out for the team because all of my 'new' friends at W&L also tried out," explained Shih of her unanticipated decision to ride. "Once I made the team, I realized how fun and amazing riding is."

"You have to have people of all ability levels and Alice Shih is a great example," said senior Captain Katie Goodrich of her team-

mate. "Riding is completely different from most varsity sports in that we actually need people to walk on the team."

W&L riders competing at the collegiate level are broken into competition levels based on ability.

The team must provide riders in the open, intermediate, novice, walk-trot-cantor, and walk-trot categories. Shih competes at the most basic level—the walk-trot.

"Open riders have been riding the longest and require the most experience," said Goodrich. "But when it comes down to it, the beginning riders can earn the same amount of points."

To make the sport even more complex, riders are never guaranteed a given horse. When the team

travels, they depend on the hosting team to provide horses. "You draw a name of a horse out of a hat right before you compete," said Goodrich. "There's no such thing as warm-up or practice, you just have to hope you got a good horse."

Coach Amy Reistrup helps them through. "I really like Amy...she brings a sense of ease to the team. Especially in times of competition, everyone is much more relaxed."

Shih attributes the combination of good coaching and leadership from captains to the success of the team. "The captains are great leaders for the team...constantly engaging every member of the team, which is hard to do since we don't practice together."



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arts&life



Let's talk about sex

Students, speakers and the school weigh in on how to eliminate sexual misconduct and improve gender relations

By Kate Shellnutt
STAFF WRITER

What's going on?

Sex. It's a good thing, right? Sarah Jessica Parker and company show that it's fun in the city. Marcy's Playground lets us know it's good with candy. It sells jeans. And lingerie. And perfume.

But outside of entertainment and advertising, sex can exist in the real world as something much darker: abuse, battery, rape, and violence.

Like other college campuses, Washington and Lee has to address the occurrence of sexual violence among its students.

Unlike other college campuses, Washington and Lee has to deal with these problems occurring at up to double the national average.

After an American College Health Association survey revealed these statistics last year, the university has reacted, not only by questioning the incidences, but also by doing all it can to create a more positive, safe environment for both men and women at the school.

Washington and Lee has taken action, from offering counseling services to forming student groups to hosting speakers on the

topic.

That's where Bob Hall, who held a lecture on nonviolent sexuality in the Commons theater on Thursday, comes in.

Sponsored by the Gender Relations Committee (GRC), LIFE, and One in Four, Hall's message confirms the need for communication between the genders.

"What is appropriate?" and "how do you define 'consent?'" are not just questions that should be on posters around campus, but also on the minds of students.

What the speaker had to say

He is educated in "conflict studies." He's been speaking on the topic for 18 years.

He uses humor and facts instead of judgements to educate on sexuality.

He opens the lecture by acting out an end-of-the-night scene on a couch on stage with a member of the audience.

If that's not enough to make you listen to his "How not to get run over by your DRIVE" talk, he also sounds just like Wallace Shawn (Vizzini from "The Princess Bride" and Mr. Hall from "Clueless").

With innuendoes, puns, and a mile-a-minute verbiage, Bob Hall makes important points about

"Generally speaking, in our society, we seem open enough to exploit [sex] and make money off it, but not enough to deal with it in real life."

BOB HALL, on non-violent sexuality

sexual violence, the number one violent crime on college campuses.

Hall encouraged couples to reduce unwilling sexual touching or activity by openly discussing sex instead of "silencing dialog and hoping for the best" and argues that the reason people hesitate to discuss the topic are their differences in sexual education.

At Washington and Lee, students come from so many different parochial and public schools, religions, cultures, and regions of the country.

The diversity of backgrounds certainly could contribute to the confusion involving hooking up, dating, and sexual relations on campus.

What the school has to say

The University Policy on Prohibited Student Discrimina-

tion, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct begins with this sentence, "Washington and Lee University is a community based on trust and respect for others," and continues to explain how these actions do not belong in the W&L community.

Yet, the statistics from last year's survey exist: 22.6% of women having experienced sexual touching against their will and 8.5% attempted sexual penetration against their will.

Jan Kaufman, One in Four, LIFE, and the GRC advisor, plans on continuing to track these numbers.

She hopes to see changes this year thanks to student action against sexual misconduct and school-sponsored programming like Bob Hall's lecture.

"His message builds upon the work of the GRC especially,"

said Kaufman. "Our goal is to increase interactions between sexes, and we would like students to understand healthy dynamics and relationships."

The GRC's slate of activities also includes Date Night and further discussion on the definition of consent.

"Students are going to click on as they begin to hear more and more," she continued.

"It is incumbent on all students to look out for their friends, to begin standing up and speaking up against these things."

What the students have to say

Like Jan Kaufman mentioned, the change in the culture and the reduction of sexual misconduct depends on the action of W&L students.

Allison Stokan, a junior Peer Counselor, recognizes the student

population's struggle, whether due to intoxication or campus conventions, to communicate openly about sex.

"Alcohol and drugs both impair the operation of the mind and can influence people to engage in behavior they wouldn't normally," she said.

"Also, our school is very conformist and this may be shown in emotionally abusive relationships."

Students assume the party scene leads to a "hookup culture," where fewer students date.

"Hooking up' at W&L is a disadvantage for all students because it can be so awkward," admits Courtney Fitzgerald, co-chair of the GRC.

"The GRC hopes to provide men and women more opportunities to interact without drinking as the main form of entertainment."

A note about statistics: All statistics come from the National College Health Assessment Survey, conducted in March 2004.

Want to read more?

Flip to the back page to find out Hugh Trout's thoughts about sex on our campus.

TOP GIRLS

Philosophy and feminism

First female philosophy professor at W&L gives up law practice to find happiness in the classroom

By Steph Wiechmann
STAFF WRITER

Melina Bell knows what it's like to start over. She knows how following the wrong path can lead you to a career you hate with a miserable schedule. She has learned what it takes to pick yourself up, backtrack to the fork in the road, and choose again.

Before appearing at Washington and Lee as the first female professor in our philosophy department, Bell entered the workforce as lawyer.

While her heart was in the right place, Bell found out that she was happier in the classroom than the conference room.

Bell's path forked during her last year of undergraduate college in Long Island, NY.

While completing her bachelors degree in philosophy at Hofstra University, she had to decide between law school or philosophy graduate school.

It was not an easy decision, as she could see herself in both professions.

"My professors said that I would never make any money as a professor of philosophy," she said.

Bell then decided that law school was the way to go. She had ambitions to practice health law. She began a program at the Boston School of Public Health.

At the end of this dual program, Bell received both a juris doctorate to practice law and a masters degree in public health.

After interning at the Massachusetts Board of Medicine in the summer, Bell was hired at a large legal firm in Boston, practicing large healthcare law.

While she seemed to have it all, Bell did not find the excitement or satisfaction she was looking for.

"The hours were just awful," she said of her law career.

She would get to the office, ready to work, at 7 a.m. Sometimes she would get to leave at 9 p.m., but on days with large case-loads, she would not leave the office until midnight.

"I was happy on Saturdays because I got to leave at 5 [p.m.],"

she said.

The junior lawyer was also disappointed with the direction her law practice was taking her.

While practicing large healthcare law, Bell felt more like she was practicing business law.

"I thought it was going to be more service-driven," she said.

Bored and overworked, Bell took some thought to critiques given to her writing style. Colleagues would tell her, "don't philosophize" when she was writing her briefs.

Bell then made the tough decision to end her law career and head back to graduate school in hopes of becoming a philosophy professor.

Though apprehensive, Bell decided to pursue her masters degree in philosophy from Tufts University in Boston.

"I didn't want to embark on another career that would lead me nowhere," she said of her decision.

Nonetheless, Bell graduated and headed to the University of

Pennsylvania to obtain a Ph. D. in Philosophy—a degree she completed in May of 2005.

With all of her qualifications in order, she set out to find a job that she hoped would give her the satisfaction she had never found.

Using the publication "Jobs for Philosophers," she stumbled across a posting by Washington and Lee for a feminist political philosophy professor.

Bell's ideal choice would be a small, liberal arts school, so she applied for the job.

When she was hired, she was excited by W&L's emphasis on teaching.

"I don't like the research emphasis as much," she said when choosing which postings to apply for. "I wanted to be primarily a teacher."

She found working as a professor and with students pleased her in a way that her law practice did not.

"Adults can be cynical and jaded because of the experiences they've had," Bell said. "People

here are cheerful, optimistic, idealistic, and have a sense of humor."

As well as she gets along with the students, Bell also enjoys working with the other professors in the philosophy department, where she is the only woman.

Bell said that her gender is not an issue within the department.

"My colleagues have attitudes enlightened by sex equality," said the philosophy professor. "There are no instances of sexist ideology."



"My professors said that I would never make any money as a professor of philosophy . . . But I've found that it's just not that important compared to the quality of life."

MELINA BELL, Assistant Professor of Psychology



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*"Every theatre is an insane asylum,
but an opera theatre is the ward
for the incurables."*

Austrian Conductor FRANZ SCHALK

'La Traviata' comes to Lex

Opera Roanoke brings show to Lenfest

By Dane Boston
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday night, the audience which filled the Lenfest Center to capacity was thrilled by a production of Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*.

The opera tells the story of two young Parisian lovers and is based loosely on the true tale of Alexandre Dumas fils and the beautiful prostitute Marie Duplessis. After the death of the young woman in 1847, Dumas (son of the author of *The Three Musketeers*) wrote a book chronicling their love.

The novel was subsequently turned into a play which enjoyed tremendous success, and eventually an opera.

The story unfolds in the decadent Parisian salons of the mid-nineteenth century. Violetta Valery, the heroine, is a beautiful young courtesan enamored with her own pleasure-filled life and slowed only by her consumptive constitution.

Her confidence in the decadence around her is shaken, however, by the eloquent professions of love offered her by a handsome admirer, Alfredo Germont.

Eventually, he wins her heart and the two abandon their lives of excess and move to the country to enjoy only each other.

This pastoral dream is interrupted, however, when Alfredo's father Giorgio arrives and tells Violetta that unless she ends her scandalous relationship with his son, Alfredo's sister will not be able to marry. Heartbroken, Violetta agrees.

When Alfredo learns of her departure he is crushed, and believes that she has left him for another man. He rushes

back to Paris where he finds her at a party, accompanied by an old lover. He denounces her in front of all the guests who rebuke him for his bitterness and cruelty.

Act III takes place six months after this evening, in Violetta's bedroom. She is dying, and longs to make peace with Alfredo, whom she never stopped loving.

She gets that chance when he arrives. The truth comes out at last, and the lovers giddily make plans for the future. Violetta feels her strength returning, runs to Alfredo, and then expires in his arms.

Violetta was played by the magnificent Meagan Miller, whose pure soprano exceeded the very heights of musical expectation.

She was complemented by Marcus McConico as Alfredo Germont and Peter Castaldi as Giorgio Germont.

Additionally, Washington and Lee was pleased and proud to see three of our own students (Julian Ledford, Catherine Swan, and Lisa Zevorich) on stage as members of the particularly fine chorus.

The evening was an enjoyable one, and Verdi's memorable tunes delighted the audience. The only audible complaint was the lack of a student presence due to the extreme difficulty of procuring tickets.

Those who did attend, however, agreed that it was well worth the effort and were pleased that Opera Roanoke was able to bring yet another splendid show to Lexington.

La Traviata was a glittering start for the Concert Guild year and encourages excitement about the events to come. He who did not enjoy himself Thursday night was either disappointed in love or had the tooth-ache.

What a difference a dorm makes

Students banter about pros and cons of freshmen residence halls

By Rebecca Koval
and Casidhe Horan
STAFF WRITER

Are all dorms created equal? Students in Graham-Lees tend to be lively and loud, while students in the BGD quad are more mellow. There is a constant party on one side of Washington Street, and constant studying on the other. Myth or reality? Admissions plot or coincidental?

Fire alarms at two o'clock in the morning, anatomically exaggerated body parts strewn across walls and white boards, blaring music at all hours of the night—these are just some of the myriad joys made possible by life in the freshmen dorms.

Ask any student, past or present, and he or she will tell you: all residence halls are not created equal.

Oh, yes, we are all provided with the same modern conveniences, (i.e. indoor plumbing and the like) but, obviously, something very strange happens when one crosses Washington Street.

The atmosphere of the quad versus Graham-Lees is intrinsically different in terms of the activity levels.

It is not the appearance of in-room sinks. The disparity, then, clearly lies in the "individualities" of Baker/Davis/Gilliam and Graham-Lees and the students who live in them.

Now, perhaps it is all the

All the people who crash in the quad are actually traveling over to Graham-Lees and living it up in the labyrinth . . . Any idiot will tell you it is a ridiculous wish to expect to find solace in Graham-Lees and it is equally moronic to hope for a spontaneous gathering of any substance in the quad.

endless corridors and disproportionate flights of stairs that make the ladies and gentlemen of Graham-Lees feel the need to turn their homey environment into an all-night dance party.

There is, after all, just something about getting lost on your own floor to prompt a raucous bacchanal.

The other side of the street does not seem to have the same problem.

I could be wrong, but I know when I wander off to Gilliam to study Calculus, those BDG snobs must not be drinking the same water.

It is like stepping into another dimension. Not only do I conserve breath from climbing fewer stairs, I also avoid the mishaps of aimless bumbling into foreign halls.

Not only this, but the college din seems to be calmed over yonder.

However, this could be attributed to the fact that all the people who crash in the quad are actually traveling over to Graham-Lees and living it up in the labyrinth.

How could such a difference exist just mere yards away?

Well, it is not because the Residential Life office is out to isolate the serious students from the hooligans.

Dean of Freshman Dave

Leonard said that his office makes every attempt to match incoming students with preferences based on roommate compatibility and questions answered on the housing request forms mailed during the summer.

If a student specifically requests a sink in his or her room, he or she will be living in Baker, Gilliam, or Davis, depending upon room availability.

If the student has requested substance-free accommodations, he or she will be placed in a hall that does not condone the more festive distractions.

Despite Residential Life's best efforts, however, it is hard to guarantee consistent quiet hours when nearby floors and visitors from you-know-where invade one's halls in the valiant attempt to add color and volume to our otherwise mundane existences.

Essentially, it all comes down to living wisely. Any idiot will tell you it is a ridiculous wish to expect to find solace in Graham-Lees, and it is equally moronic to hope for a spontaneous gathering of any substance in the quad.

There are, of course, benefits to both environments. Freshman

Michelle Snyder said that the BDG quad has "a lot less people, so it's a closer knit community."

On the other end of the spectrum, Jen Sanow said, "Living in Graham-Lees is great. You have a lot more opportunities to meet other freshmen and are definitely much more in the center of things."

The three dorms in the quad almost make up one third of the square feet in Graham-Lees. And our respective environments do foster a healthy sense of residential loyalty.

If nothing else, we each have acquired certain skills necessary for life in the real world.

Freshman Ellie Hanson said, "[Graham-Lees] really helps your geography and tracking skills . . . I feel better prepared to be lost in the woods someday after the first three weeks of looking for my dorm room."

When all is said and done, both dorms have their advantages. No matter which side of the street one lives on, loyalty to one's home dorm lasts forever.

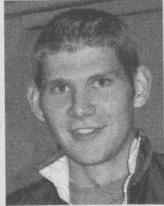
Where are you, Mrs. Robinson?

Photos and interviews
by Abri Nelson
STAFF WRITER

Rumor had it that Kate Hudson was coming to town with her husband Chris Robinson, lead singer for the Black Crowes. So we had to ask: Where in Lex should we be looking for Kate Hudson?



Catherine Swan, '07: I think I'd see her at the Palms.



Paul-Devin Kuettner, '07: Salernos. They always go to Salernos.



Megan Morgan, '06: Walmart. You always see people at Walmart.



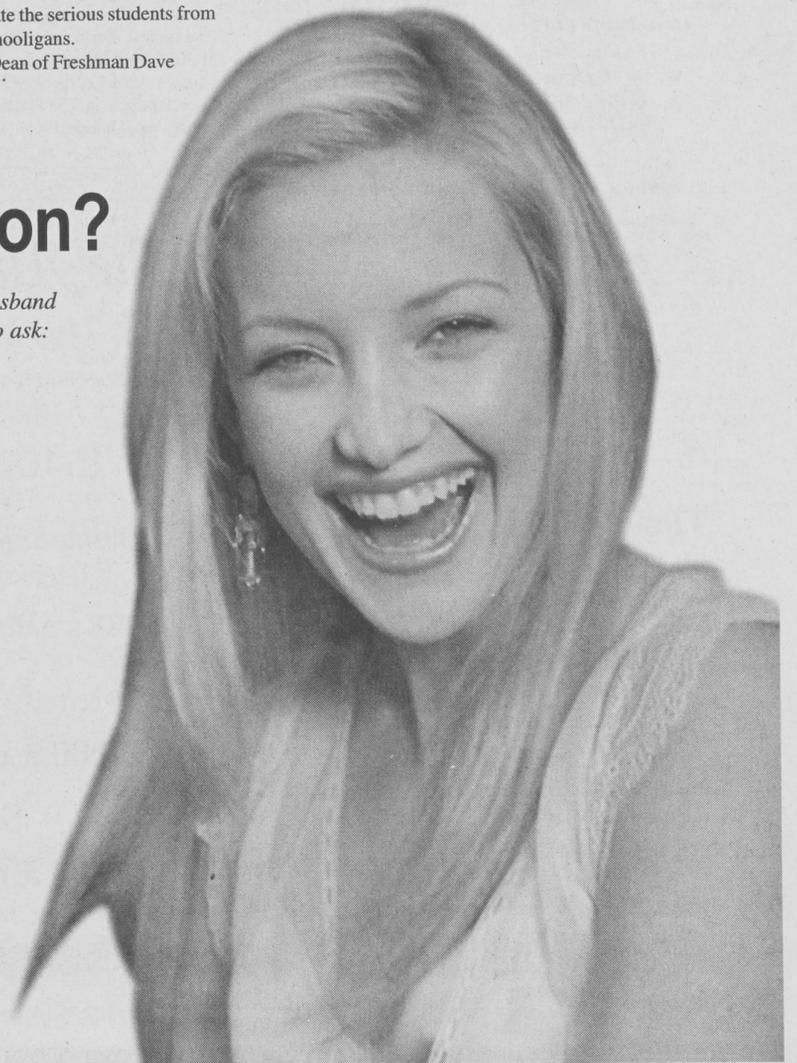
Stacey Grijalva, '08: I'd see Kate Hudson getting sushi.



Melissa Cox, staff: At a coffee shop.



Drew Davenport, '06: The second floor of Baker, aka my hall.



opinions

UPS & DOWNS

Opinions writer Caley Anderson gives his take on the good, the bad, and the ugly.

▼ **This weekend.** Can't we take our graduate school tests in sections? I mean, why eat up six hours of a perfectly good Saturday when you could take up one hour of a Tuesday night for six weeks?

▼ **Weather.** Hot last week, cooler this week, REALLY hot next week, snow the week after that. I don't even NEED Doppler Radar to have just as good a prediction rate as any certified meteorologist.

▲ **Dean Watkins.** Everyone write an e-mail to Dean Dawn telling her how much she needs to become a candidate for President of W&L for when President Beckley returns to the Shepherd Program. Seriously, can YOU think of anyone better?

▲ **Women at W&L.** If I could bring the opponents of gender integration back in 1985 forward to today to look at what W&L is like now, I'm pretty sure they'd all change their minds. I know Senator Warner has

▼ **DeLay.** Partisan prosecutor or not, you know he was up to some fishy business. DeLay is all about treading the ethics line very, very closely, and his time should be up. He should not continue as a "strong adviser" to Republican leadership. Someone new needs to take the reins and not be dominated by his shadow.

▼ **Democrats.** Someone new needs to take the reins and not be dominated by Bill Clinton's shadow. Déjà vu.

▲ **USMC.** First Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from the Marine Corps sworn in last week.

Winning the freshman vote

Lack of turnout for student speeches and voting represents worrisome school-wide apathy

By Justin McKeen
STAFF COLUMNIST

Given the recent reluctance of young people to turn up to the polls in national elections, I guess it's probably too much to expect something as mundane as freshman class elections to elicit much of a response.

It still seems sad though when only a little more than half of the class votes, and even sadder when only twenty people show up to hear the candidates speeches.

In recent days, quite a few of my friends have told me that they would have attended the speeches had they known about them. They were announced in the campus notices but, honestly, does anyone really read those?

Some of the blame then, it seems fair to say, lies with the ineffective way in which the event was advertised.

Furthermore, if you didn't make it, you really didn't miss much. If you've ever heard a high-school student council speech, you can pretty faithfully recreate what was said on Sunday.

The lack of attendance at the speeches does raise one question though: if only twenty people knew the candidates' platforms (such as they were), what were the other 200 or so basing their votes on?

Yes, Jeremy Wainwright does have an afro. Yes, he does own a burgundy-colored suit and a sweet cowboy hat. But what do any of these things have to do with stu-

If only twenty people knew the candidates' platforms (such as they were), what were the other 200 or so basing their votes on?

dent government?

I'm not attacking Jeremy here—I know him, he's a nice guy. I have every confidence that he'll be a good President.

But how, at a school named after George Washington, and claiming to be one of the best institutions of higher learning in the country, do we vote for people based on (someone actually told me this) their Beirut skills?

Maybe I'm making too big a deal out of this. After all, it's only

a freshman class election. Everyone's busy, there's partying, school, usually more partying.

The problem I had is that if you can't be bothered to vote (or vote intelligently) when you know the candidates personally, how easy does it become to not vote in local elections? State elections? Dare we even say national ones?

I'm not sure I believe the rumor going around that the freshman class has more liberals than

conservatives, but whatever your political orientation, voting is one of your duties as a citizen. People have suffered and died to establish and protect our system of government.

If you didn't vote this past week, or if you're an upperclassman (from what I've heard, your elections aren't exactly blockbusters either), but you get out there and vote when it means something, great. You just read this article for nothing.

But for those of you who sit around and tell me how George Bush is ruining the world (or saving it—I've heard both), but then won't go out and vote, well, you deserve whatever you get. Let's just hope it doesn't doom the rest of us along with you.

Not-so-beautiful minds

Lack of student discussion on important events shows W&L intellectual culture ends outside of class

On campus, relevant political matters and current events often take the back seat to the day's hottest gossip. At a school that claims to be one of the most politically active in the nation, students must take steps to boost their intellectual firepower.

By Thomas Gift
STAFF COLUMNIST

In honor of Constitution Day last month, W&L's School of Law and the Williams School held a panel discussion on the John Roberts confirmation hearings. Professors analyzed how Roberts' appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court could shape the outcome of many of the country's most political constitutional battles.

The two schools should be lauded for hosting this discursive

exploration into an issue of widespread importance. The discussion was pointedly intellectual, showcasing from a multi-disciplinary perspective how and why the Court operates as it does. At the same time, the conversation was engaging and accessible, even for those without extensive knowledge of America's judicial system.

Unfortunately, these types of intelligent discussions—on political matters, on current events, and on other consequential topics—occur far too infrequently on W&L's campus. In fact, they are almost nonexistent.

Although W&L is an excellent academic school, it sometimes falls short of being an excellent intellectual school. This concept is especially true regarding the student body's treatment of political issues. For some reason, politically minded students—or, to quote one of George F. Will's recent columns in The Washington Post, "those political snail darters,

the emblematic endangered species"—have largely surrendered their presence on W&L's campus.

This conclusion is confirmed to me time and again when a significant topic, not necessarily political in nature, is raised for discussion in class. Usually professors are able to generate some insightful, if not revelatory, conversation among students. But when the bell rings signaling the end of class, something surprising and, in my judgment, troubling happens: The debate promptly ends, as if it were all nothing more than an obligatory duty fulfilled.

In some respects, this behavior should be expected. After all, college students have other things to worry about than Roberts' position on eminent domain or whether he thinks Marbury v. Madison was correctly decided. It is not my contention that students should spend all of their time reading The Economist, listening to NPR, or watching C-SPAN. Rather, my point is this: It would not hurt us, at least sometimes, to talk about topics other than what we are doing on Saturday night. It would not hurt us, at least sometimes, to be a little more politically minded.

In calling for students to be politically minded, I am not suggesting that students should begin protesting, staging sit-ins, and tak-

ing to the streets of Lexington. Rather, I am encouraging students to attempt to become more aware of the salient political issues surrounding their lives. From there, students can begin to formulate or sharpen their opinions and express

I am not suggesting that students should begin protesting, staging sit-ins, and taking to the streets of Lexington.

them in a thoughtful manner.

Let me affirm that I am not in favor of changing the political culture on campus simply for the sake of changing the political culture. Students should not alter their habits merely to advance some vague notion of political edification. Otherwise, such engagement would become rote and tired, much like some academics in the classroom, which are simply done for the sake of doing it as it has always been done.

Instead, students should become involved in politics for more tangible reasons: to learn the values of civic virtue and community participation; to understand how

individuals, groups, and institutions interact to form society; and, above all, to expose them to issues and ideas world beyond the narrow confines of Lexington.

How can this best be achieved?

First, students should consider taking classes that deal specifically with political issues. Introductory courses like American National Government, Political Philosophy, and Comparative Government are good places to start. But students can also challenge themselves through a wealth of interdisciplinary classes, notably those affiliated with the Shepherd Poverty Program.

Second, there exist several formal outlets for students to efficiently disseminate their views on a range of topics. Perhaps one of the best methods is to do exactly what I am doing right now—writing in the school newspaper. By publishing op-eds, students alert others to various ideas and perspectives. Simultaneously, they provide an impetus for healthy debate among the student body.

Actually, in posing this question, I am just complicating what is really very simple: The best way to make a difference on campus is to be political and have fun. Students have more power to change the political culture at W&L than they could ever realize. It just takes a little effort.

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ROBERT MAYNARD HUTCHINS

Can New Orleans rise again?

Nation's time and reconstruction money better spent moving all disaster prone cities to more secure locations

By Dane Boston
COLUMNIST

My father has been trying to convince me that to rebuild New Orleans again in its current location would be foolish, and a waste of taxpayers' dollars.

Why spend \$250 billion when another hurricane like Katrina could quite literally sweep that investment out to sea?

The trend appears to indicate that we will see such a storm.

I did my best to hold up the culture of New Orleans, the city's significant place in

American history, and the exceptional opportunity of salvaging the Big Easy's treasures while simultaneously correcting its problems.

I pleaded, "What about beignets, and jazz, and the French Quarter?"

"What about Mardi Gras?!"

But in the end, sentimentalism could not stand against dollars and cents sense.

At first I felt bad about relenting to my dad's economically-focused assault.

But my faculties of reason could not mount a sufficient rebuttal.

Indeed, my faculties of reason betrayed my original position a short while into the argument.

What sense does it make to build a city below sea level?

Levees are bound to break.

No feat of engineering genius could make them stand forever.

Another hurricane could leave the city of New Orleans in an even worse position.

The only logical solution: move it.

Reason, once released from the stifling confines of base emotion, has an inclination (as strong as

*The only reasonable solution to the problem
of whether or not to rebuild New Orleans is
simple: we must move all of our national
treasures to the relative safety of the moon.*

water flowing into a low lying area) to set all mistakes of judgment right.

Thus did my reason proceed uninhibited, after vanquishing the petty problem of New Orleans.

As a Floridian, I know firsthand the dangerous and unpredictable nature of hurricanes.

It is quite impossible to tell where they are going and how strong they will be when they arrive.

They carry in their swirling winds an enormous potential for damage.

And practically no location on the Gulf or Atlantic coasts is safe.

How can we avoid the tremendous costs that a major hurricane could incur making landfall near an important city?

The only reasonable course we have: move our cities.

Too many lie along the distressingly exposed eastern sea-

board, and should summarily move inland.

My home state must be emptied in her sunny entirety.

The cost may be tremendous, but compared to the cost of cleaning up after a vicious storm (which would include a cost in human life, fortuitously avoided in pre-emption), it is a pittance.

But can we reasonably stop at the possibility of hurricanes along the east coast?

Much of the Midwest, the "Heartland," is vulnerable to flooding from the Mississippi River, or disastrous tornadoes.

In addition, I understand the "Dust Bowl" was unpleasant.

The Pacific coast, mercifully free of hurricanes, is unfortunately prone to cataclysmic earthquakes.

And, regretfully, we now know that no part of the country is beyond a doubt safe from the reach of terrorists.

All of these threats demand to be addressed.

The American taxpayers must be spared the anguish of funding innumerable reconstruction projects around the country.

Conveniently, a plausible answer was found in this very paper a short time ago...

The only reasonable solution to the problem of whether or not to rebuild New Orleans is simple: we must move all of our national treasures to the relative safety of the moon.

It's the only reasonable, economical course of action.

My father is absolutely correct. Rebuilding New Orleans would be an act of sentimental foolishness.

Why waste money on something as silly as musty history and gaudy culture?

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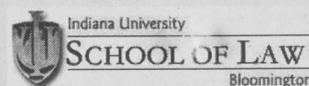
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~Jason Rodocker, Indiana Law '05
W&L Director of Student Activities and Greek Life

lastword

Directions to the candyshop

Review your strategies for getting some action: are they helping or hindering your chance for a hook up?

By Hugh Trout
STAFF COLUMNIST

Before people get angry, allow me to remind you that these are just the grievances and observations of just one man, no matter how sexy he may so happen to be. If you disagree, that's fine (you probably eat mayonnaise and are an Eagles fan anyway).

While each of us here at W&L have our own moves, lines, looks, games, tactics and preferred levels of intoxication, there are a few standards when it comes to getting some action in Lexington.

Some are good, such as complimenting your desired hook up on knowing so much of the Call on Me dance, others are not, such as talking about how fratty it was of you that you booted and rallied within the last twenty minutes.

Some strategies remain

Some strategies remain prevalent despite being crass and poorly implemented. These should go the way of the XFL and parachute pants . . .

I know all of you who just read the last sentence must be asking: have I done any of these?

prevalent despite being crass and poorly implemented. These should go the way of the XFL and parachute pants.

And now my dear reader, the introspective question that I know all of you who just read the last sentence must be asking: have I done any of these?

The answer: almost certainly, lord knows I have. But if former head of FEMA Michael Brown has taught us any lesson it is this: don't blame yourself, blame others.

Lets begin with the most common offense: being way more drunk than the person you are

trying to hook up with.

Man, this one is a classic. Here is a good way to rationalize this one: maybe if the other person was a little less into breaking a move to "toxic" you could have been talking rather than planning your next super sweet move with your friends while downing another fratty light.

It's a trap that has caught all men at one time or another, and I have certainly seen our females generals partake in this time honored tradition.

The saving grace about this screw up is that while you're

level intoxication made everyone else feel very uncomfortable socially, you probably won't end up remembering it in the morning.

The next hook up move that needs to be destroyed is closely related to the first: the drunken booty call.

Don't get me wrong, the sober phone call to try and get some is amazing and can work wonders if it is played well, but the drunken booty call is as likely to go well as that time your friends convinced you that they promised they would not take your clothes when you streaked the house.

Physical desperation can be masked in a phone call, but it takes one hundred percent of your mind.

If you even have had just a couple drinks, the person will probably pick up on it and will always look down on you for it. There simply is no recovery from that one.

The next one is short and very much an increasing problem: anything to do with hooking up and facebook is horrible.

You owe yourself and the other person much more, no matter how hard you try to rationalize your stalking habits.

Case in point: if you didn't get their cell number from them, you are not allowed to call their cell, no matter how many different ways you are able to obtain the number.

There is a hook up tactic and strategy that I certainly think deserves to get way more credit than it does.

This special method consists of using classes to get to know that special other person.

Then set up a very, very productive study group in which you are able to honestly sell the line "I study better when it's one on one".

There is nothing like fighting

back against the evil academia system by using what is forced upon you to get some action to come your way.

Well, that's all I have to say on the matter, and I hope that no one is beating themselves up over committing any of these hook up blunders because in the end, it's all about the participation award.

The man or woman who fails isn't the one who gets blasted, makes an ass of themselves and ends up puking outdoors while the party looks away in disgust.

No, the true failure is the man or woman who didn't have to courage to go up to that special someone and tell them that they must have space pants on cuz dat ass is out of this world.

Want to read more about sex?

Check out what the rest of the campus is saying on page 4.

Confessions of a 'Desperate' mind

Nothing beats curling up on the couch with beer and the boys to watch four middle-aged women in aprons

By Marshall Rule
STAFF COLUMNIST

After a few months of hiding, I am back on the back page. I would like to apologize ahead of time to my favorite fan who shall remain nameless (cough-AnnieV'sMom-cough), but I will not be writing every week...just occasionally when I feel inspired.

And right now, I am very inspired by Sunday nights.

To most people the week is just buildup to the weekend. Everyone "Thanks God it's Friday." I am not most people.

My week hits a high point every Sunday night. While ev-

eryone else in school seems to be in the Library catching up on the work they did not do over the weekend, I am in the basement with a six pack by my side.

It's something that many men have trouble admitting. On the list of things that men will never confess to, the fact that they enjoy watching Desperate Housewives falls somewhere in between Erectile Dysfunction and liking fat girls.

However I am one of the few men who are proud to say that I love Desperate Housewives. Every week about five of us guys get together to watch the show that we love (as a side note: we watch it with our lights on and

I am one of the few men who are proud to say that I love Desperate Housewives. Every week about five of us guys get together to watch the show that we love.

with a girl or two... unlike a few certain guys I know who watch the OC four to a bed... you know who you are).

I also do not simply watch the show because Eva Langoria is hot, but I will say that was a part of it in the beginning. The show is about so much more than 4 middle aged sex goddesses, which is not to say that I wouldn't kill for a chance to be

with any one of them.

I have taken online Desperate Housewives quizzes, such as which Housewife I would most likely date in the real world (Susan... 77 percent certainty). I am getting the first season on DVD for Christmas (I know this, because I am planning on buying it for myself and wrapping it).

What does Desperate Housewives have that the OC doesn't

you ask? How about a person tied up in the basement of the new neighbors' house. How about actors who are the age of the character that they play.

How about a plot that isn't completely predictable. I have only seen two episodes of the OC (my girlfriend makes me watch it... I swear), and even I knew that the Dean was hooking up with the one girl who wants to be social chair.

But I guarantee that nobody saw that Carlos' mom was going to fall down the stairs just minutes after waking up from her coma.

I realize that I should have to turn in my "Y Card" for know-

ing the amount of useless information I do about the show (for those of you who don't know what the Y card is... it's the card proving that I have a Y Chromosome). But, to be honest, I don't care.

I am not afraid to say that I look at imdb.com at least twice a week to see if someone has made any updates to the memorable quotes section. I am not afraid to say that I surf the web trying to find out if anyone knows what's going to happen in next week's episode.

I am coming out of the Desperate Housewives closet to you. Here I am. Accept me for who I am.

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