

Do they lax? Yes.

A preview of what's to expect from these sweet bros in their upcoming season.

SPORTS / page 8

Stockton's V-Day thesis
A case-by-case look at how members of each fraternity will spend tonight with their dates... if they have one, that is. Be warned: Stockton's extra longwinded this week.

OPINIONS / page 3

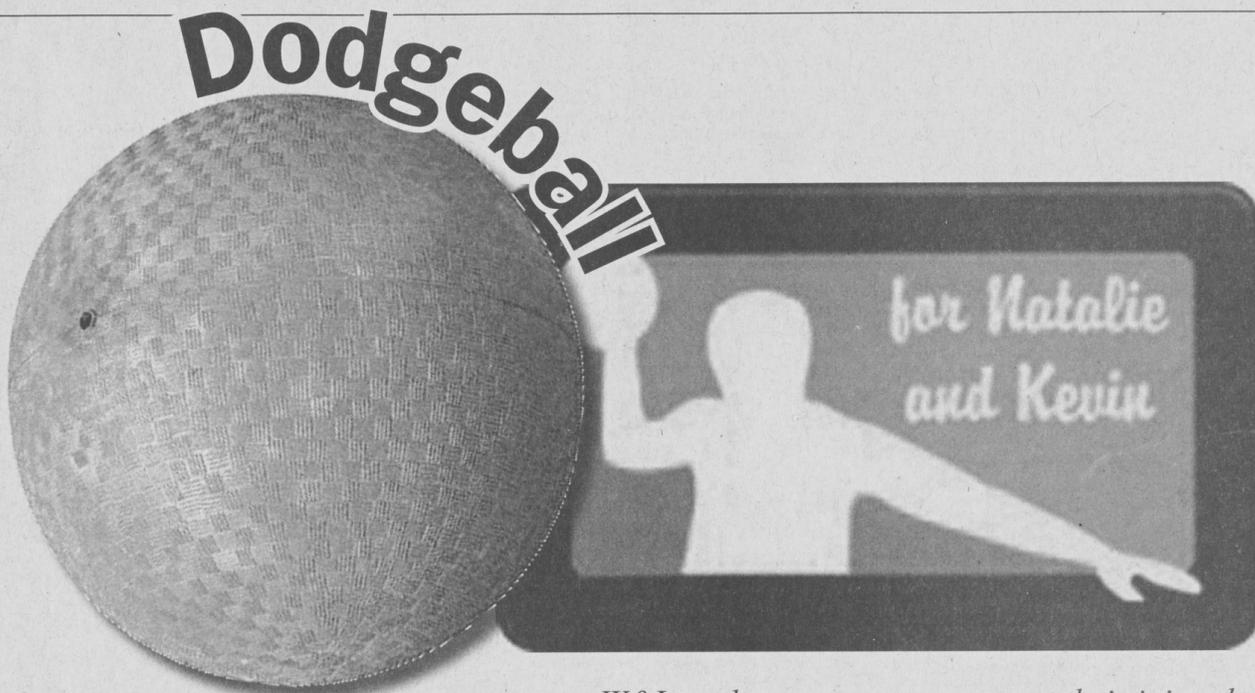
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

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BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

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By Paige Gance
STAFF WRITER

W&L students team up to support their injured classmates

Students turned out in droves to compete in last Sunday's dodgeball tournament and to show their support for their classmates, Natalie Stier and Kevin Dyer. The event raised over \$2000 each for the Stier and Dyer family to help pay medical bills that resulted from the car accident in December.

Before the teams hit the court to unleash their competitive spirit, Doug Bealle and Sarah Monte, the event organizers, presented Dyer and Stier with ceremonial super-sized \$2000 checks. But with t-shirt sales and donations yet to be finalized, they said the final amount would definitely be higher.

Sixteen teams entered the competition, but only one could win could win the tournament and Fancy Dress tickets for the entire squad. The rounds in-

involved some impressive evasive maneuvers and more than a few painful looking smacks of ball hitting skin.

If the officials decided a match was running too long, they would abolish the boundary lines, allowing a mad dash free-for-all as the remaining players chased each other down.

Both Stier's track and field teammates and Dyer's Phi Kappa Sigma brothers battled their way through the bracket to the final match, and after a close championship game, the track runners finished first.

Marissa Thompson, who helped organize the track team, said it was a great bonding experience for a team that has been missing its captain since the December accident.

After the accident, which involved

five Washington and Lee students, both Stier and Dyer were in critical condition. They each remained in the hospital for over a month.

But both have made stunning progress and they continue to improve with physical therapy. Stier is expected to make a full recovery.

Although Dyer is currently confined to a wheelchair, his outlook on life remains resiliently positive.

"Since my accident, I have come to realize that it is true that 10% of life is what happens to you, and 90% is how you deal with it," reads one of his journal entries on Caringbridge.com, a site that connects patients to their friends and family.

The W&L community also needed to recover after the accident. Bealle said

the idea for the tournament came to him over winter break because so many people were asking how they could help.

He said the event was as much about helping out the Dyer and Stier families as it was about the student body coming together to support their injured friends. He called the event a "cathartic experience," and said he thanks everyone for the outpouring of support.

When Bealle told Monte about the idea, she said she thought it would be a great way to help both Dyer and Stier, who she said is one of her closest friends.

Monte, Bealle and other volunteers went door to door in downtown Lexington asking for donations for the raffle. They designed t-shirts, reserved the gym and even overcame a few problems

with the swipe machines.

"I'm really proud of the student body," said Monte after the tournament.

Stier said she was also very excited about the number of students that participated. "The turnout was awesome, more than I expected," she said.

Overall, Stier said, the tournament was a lot of fun and that dodgeball was a good choice because it's a sport everyone can play.

Stier had one other reason to smile after the tournament. "I'm very happy the track team won," Stier said.

Wells appointed to Executive Committee

After an intensive nomination and interview process, EC appoints new junior representative to fill vacant spot

By Eleanor Kennedy
NEWS EDITOR

John Wells, a junior from Columbia, S.C., is the newest member of Washington and Lee's Executive Committee.

Wells was appointed to the EC to replace junior Luke Anderson, who resigned last Tuesday for personal reasons.

When a member steps down, the Student Body Constitution requires the EC to fill the vacancy, but does not specify how a new member should be selected.

Although special elections have been held in the past, the EC decided not to do so this time.

President Scott Centorino said that since regular elections are only a month and a half away, the EC felt "that to appoint someone would be the best thing for the class."

Centorino asked all members of the EC to nominate juniors whom they felt could best represent their peers. About 30 names were suggested at first, and that list was eventually pared down to six.

The EC tried to be as thorough as possible in its selection of potential members. "We didn't want to leave any stone unturned," Centorino said.

The six nominees were invited to interview for the position last Sunday. One student chose not to participate because of other commitments. The EC conducted 25 minute interviews with the rest of nominees in order to make their selection.

Centorino said subjects covered ranged from the honor system, to the

candidate's personal temperament to other activities they were involved in. Every current member was allowed to ask questions, and Centorino said that made for some very interesting interviews.

"Everybody on the EC is looking for something different," Centorino said, "but we all want the best representative."

One area which the EC paid special attention to was nominees' experience in other governing bodies. Because the new member must immediately begin representing his peers and ruling on EC business, current members wanted someone who would be prepared to take on that level of responsibility.

Centorino said that choosing the new

member was one of the most difficult decisions he has made in his time on the EC.

"Once we got to the interviews, it was clear we were going to get a great new member," Centorino said.

That new member is Wells, a biology major who currently serves as treasurer of the IFC.

Centorino said Wells was selected because members believe that he can represent his class effectively while still keeping an open mind to others' points of view.

"His abilities are unquestionable," Centorino said. "Nobody had anything bad to say about the guy."

Wells said he feels honored that he was even considered for the position.

Although he has not been involved with student government before, he said he thinks his time on IFC will give him a strong perspective on Greek life and student government.

Wells said he is not sure whether he will run for EC in the upcoming elections, but he sees this time as a great opportunity to see if he would like to continue representing his class.

"I look forward to representing the class of 2012," Wells said. "I hope people will feel comfortable coming to me if they have any questions about the EC or about me."

news

Ben Stein "love, love, loves" W&L

Economist, actor, game show host, professor and author Ben Stein speaks to Generals about his priorities in life

By Chelsea Stevenson
STAFF WRITER

"The most polite, well-mannered, and charming people I have ever met have come from Washington and Lee," said author, speechwriter, presidential advisor, professor, actor and economist Ben Stein.

Last Tuesday, Stein visited W&L as a result of persistent efforts by the student-run Contact Committee. Depending on how you look at the Columbia undergraduate and Yale Law School graduate, Stein is mostly known for his role in the 1986 classic *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, his Comedy Central show *Win Ben Stein's Money*, and his role as a speechwriter to Presidents Richard Nixon and subsequently Gerald Ford. But after listening to Stein's lecture in Lee Chapel, W&L community members will surely remember Stein differently.

Stein began his lecture by telling three brief anecdotes. Before the stories,

he said, "I have to tell you some stories, or else it's not me!"

But after the stories, Stein spent the rest of his lecture expressing an intense sense of gratitude for everything that our country has—from his wife to our armed forces.

"I thank God every day for waking up with my wife," Stein said. "Getting married to the right person is the biggest step you take in life and finding the right life partner is the most challenging step in life."

Stein referred to his wife as a "literal saint" numerous times throughout his lecture. Despite all he has accomplished and succeeded in throughout his life, Stein said his family has been the most important, along with those who serve for our country. Stein said everyone should be grateful for our military,



IMAGE COURTESY OF WWW.WLU.EDU

our nurses and doctors, our teachers and professors, and for our military wives.

Stein also said that he is not concerned with recent challenges that America may face with the increasing economic stability of China.

"America has always been a great country," said Stein. "China is four and half times the size of the United States. It doesn't bother me if we don't stay as the world's most industrial power."

What worries Stein the most about China's increasing stability is the education system in the United States. Stein said he is concerned that at other universities and especially at high schools, most students cannot handle basic-level work. According to Stein, many college sophomores know less about history and English

than they did in high school.

"If people don't know history or basic things, how will they know to be grateful for good in America?" asked Stein. "How will they know how much to sacrifice to keep America as [glorious] as it is?"

When asked by an audience member, Stein said that he has sacrificed very few things, if any, throughout his life. He thoroughly enjoys sharing his accomplishments and experiences with other educated individuals throughout the world.

Stein will always have the utmost respect for W&L. After all, he did say, "I love, love, love Washington and Lee."



Brewery with W&L roots

Faculty members open Lexington's first brewery specializing in flavored beverages

By Chelsea Stevenson
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday Jan. 29, the city of Lexington officially welcomed its first brewery, one with a Washington and Lee connection. W&L Associate Director of Alumni Programs Tom Lovell and Associate Professor of Biology Bill Hamilton opened Blue Lab Brewing Company.

The brewery, located at 123 South Randolph St., will be open three days a week for customers to buy beer on tap or in take home containers, called growlers. The growlers that come in 1 liter and 2 liters can be returned and re-

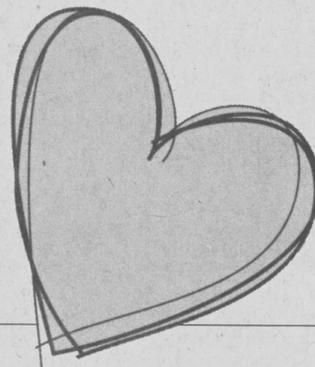
filled each visit. Currently, Blue Lab is selling a variety of Pale Ale and Scotch Ale, although some specialty beers will be available for a limited time. These include Dunkelweizen and Imperial India Pale Ale. For those who are under 21 years of age, short sleeve and long sleeve T-shirts are available for \$15 and \$20 respectively.

Lovell and Hamilton, who both moved to Lexington approximately 10 years ago, have always brewed their own beer and decided to give Blue Lab Brewing Company a try. Prior to its cur-

rent use, the grey two-story Randolph Street storefront was a doctor's office and years ago, the main feed store—it is directly across from The Lexington Carriage Company.

Customers are welcome to the brewery on Wednesdays from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm, on Fridays from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm, and on Saturdays from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

The Blue Lab Brewery, located at 123 South Randolph St., sells a variety of Pale Ale and Scotch Ale, as well as some specialty beers.



Alumni-in-Residence Doug Matia '94

Operations & Performance Executive
Sapere Consulting

Information Session about
Sapere Consulting

Thursday, February 17
5:00 p.m., Hillel House

Individual Meetings with Students
Friday, February 18
9:00 a.m. – Noon, Career Services

Lunch with Students & Faculty
Friday, February 18
12:15 p.m., Career Services

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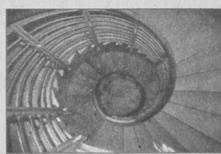
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opinions

Enjoying Valentine's Day at W&L

By Stockton Bullitt
OPINIONS EDITOR

I'd like to thank Hallmark. No, not for their channel. When your programming makes Oxygen seem masculine, WE seem tolerable and Lifetime seem not that melodramatic, you know that you have the worst channel since My9.

I'm not even a big fan of the cards either. The Hallmark aisle in CVS is probably the second worst aisle in the whole store. The worst, of course, is the feminine hygiene aisle. That aisle is a trail of tears in its own right.

But I digress: I want to thank Hallmark for an action that has gotten a good amount of ridicule over the last few years: turning Valentine's Day into the conglomerated nightmare it is today. I have heard many protests against the company claiming how evil Valentine's Day has become.

I mean, the holiday originally was about an early Christian martyr who was not even a big Cupid fan himself. How could Hallmark turn such a holy holiday into a movie that starred Taylor Lautner and Taylor Swift among other horrible actors?

After doing a little bit of light research on the subject (see: MLA's favorite Wikipedia), I found out that Hallmark wasn't even started as a company until the modern view of Valentine's was established. Nevertheless, they still receive others' blame and my praise.

See, I want to thank Hallmark for their piece in the destruction of American society because I actually like the modern Valentine's Day. The cultural phenomenon it has developed into has been an annual adventure for me.

After numerous failures and successes, I think I can now say that I have conquered Valentine's Day, and as a true connoisseur of the subject, I will do my best to defend it and advise others on how to conquer it.

The most common case made against the modern Valentine's Day is its superficiality. As America seems to get more and more focused on surface appearance as a result of its heavy reliance on the service industry, Americans seem threatened by the lack of depth that the upcoming youth perceive in others.

They argue that because we no longer rely on making things as a country, the value of what someone does is no longer as important as what others think he can do or what he looks like. Also, with an economy of excess wealth, we have more money to spend on these unnecessary frivolities that heighten our surface appearance without us having to better our spirit or intellectual determination. Valentine's Day, these others argue, is the epitome of this problem. We buy pieces of folded pieces of paper, terrible tasting candies with no nutritional value, buy cotton stuffed fake animals and purchase millions of dollars worth of shiny things for no real reason other than satisfying our temporary wants or betting the surface appearance of those we are close to.

While these other people might have somewhat of a point (mostly because I made up their argument), why does America's superficiality seem like a new thing and why is Valentine's Day seeming embrace of excess wealth and surface appearance so bad in its own right?

Let's not kid ourselves; America has been superficial since about day one. Unfortunately though, back in the days before Valentine's Day, it was just called racism and it was a much less dapper form of superficiality. Nowadays, superficiality just hurts people's feelings. Back then, it hurt their backs. I say we made progress.

Furthermore, if we're going to bunch the entire country and compare it to other countries, then it's probably safe to say that we do have a little too much excess wealth. So, what's so bad about using that wealth to

buy stuff that makes us happy? I know that about 100 economics majors just scoffed loudly (I'm looking at you, freshman roommate), but it's not like we're investing our money into smart decisions anyway, so why not gratify ourselves? Every civilization has their certain things that they spend capital on to make themselves look pretty, so why should we be any different?

Okay, I even bored myself with all that mumbo-jumbo. I know that you just want to get to my lead-in about fraternities. We're getting there. Be patient.

So, now that we know Valentine's Day isn't evil, what's so good about it?

Well, there are two answers to that question, depending on whether or not you have a Y chromosome.

If you do, that means you are a male, and you have a really hard time seeing how Valentine's Day is anything other than a drain on your wallet. Look, guys, by not embracing Valentine's Day you are doing terrible things to your reproductive organs. Don't view Valentine's Day as a burden, but rather as an opportunity. For 364 days out of the year, you have to earn affection by spending time with girls, pretending to pay attention to their problems and getting involved in drama. However, Hallmark and a little known martyr have given you a valuable gift: the ability for one night to simply purchase affection.

Okay, KEWL, chill out, I'm not that shallow. Well, maybe a little, but that's not the point I'm trying to make. See, the purchased affection does not necessarily need to come in the form of money. By putting in a little time and effort, you can really get far with Valentine's Day. Well, also putting in a little money here and there can also get you far with Valentine's Day, so don't necessarily discount that.

What I'm really trying to say is that Valentine's Day is the day of the year when you literally get the best bang for your buck. In that respect, it narrowly edges out Tear Night for the night of the year when any effort results in high dividends in the bedroom. For you Econ majors, the low opportunity cost lets you break down those barriers to entry creating a night of high utility.

Plus, this year, Valentine's Day is on a Monday. C'mon, have you ever tried to hook up on a Monday without chocolate or a teddy bear to back you up? It's hard. Girls here are usually having a bad case of the Mondays and are more focused on the TV lineup for ABC Family than on making some bad decisions. This is the only real opportunity you have for a quality Monday hook-up the entire year and all it costs is a dinner at the Red Hen or a thoughtfully put together "Roses are Red" poem. Is that really so difficult?

And for you single guys with seemingly no one to turn to on Valentine's Day, this is the only day of the year when you can make an ass out of yourself and actually, maybe get positive results. If you tell a girl way hotter than you that you have loved her for the last six months at KA's Resurrection party, you will probably be greeted with a nice little restraining order or an SJC hearing. But if you confess that same love to the same girl on Valentine's Day and accompany it with a cute song or poem and a glass of champagne, there's a chance that you might actually get lucky. In other words, Valentine's Day is the only day where "Eww, creepy" becomes "Aww, cute."

Now for the ladies, I know that you all probably love Valentine's Day, so I don't need to do that much convincing. However, there are some single ones out there who sadly will be without a pursuer this Valentine's Day, and I'm guessing that this article is making you reach for that box of chocolates extra fast.

However, even for you guys, there is an upside to Valentine's Day. You have a no holds barred excuse to throw your very own pity party for an entire day. No self respecting girl is going to quell the complaints of the girl who wasn't sent flowers on Valentine's Day because every girl is just as afraid that that might be her next year. Normally, buying yourself flowers, teddy bears and boatloads of chocolate would be enough for your friends to have a little intervention about the relationship between you and your sanity. However, it's Valentine's Day, the only day when watching "He's Just Not That Into You" seven times isn't a committable offense!

And for you girls in relationships at Washington and Lee, be warned. Make sure you know what you are getting into when you celebrate Valentine's Day with your W&L date. Each fraternity has developed their men in very specific ways, meaning that each fraternity will give you a unique experience when it comes to your Valentine's Day date.

Now, if your date is a GDI or an Independent if you will, there are a whole slew of problems you might confront. Mostly likely, your Independent date is too busy to take you out to dinner because he's too busy in the library, in the church or in his own room being lame and playing video games. Either that, or he's baking you such a fantastic meal and treating you so exquisitely that you have no need to read the rest of this article, so let's just forget about Independents and their dates for now. I'm just going to focus on the fraternities and their respective dates for now.

This is what to expect from your date from each fraternity, and it is organized in the most logical way I could think of: by the latest rankings in the comment section of the W&L fraternity section of the site *GreekRank.com*. I'm guessing these rankings were done using a complicated statistical formula based on community service and GPA, so I'm going to trust that they are accurate and wholly represent fraternities at this school. Enjoy.

Phi Delta Theta – Unlike many of the subsequent fraternities on this list, you can meet your Phi Delt at his house before going out to dinner. Yeah, he might wear a suit and tie out to the Bistro, but you can bet that the tie will be loosened and the shirt unbuttoned. Make sure that you have candles at your table because I'm guessing that it's been a while since his last show-er. After dinner, he'll probably take you out partying. So, either you'll end up in the basement having a Helen Keller themed party so security doesn't hear, or some freshmen from a sweet Southern prep school will pick you and take you fifteen minutes out to a party. Your cell phone is not needed because there's no service.

Phi Kappa Sigma – Unless you want to meet him at Woods Creek, you will be picked up in (at worst) a 5 series BMW because lax bros simply don't put up with Lexus. Before getting in the car, make sure you move his mirror into the backseat. I know you probably wanted a group date with some friends, but Phi Kaps are no longer Congregationalists. Luckily, you will not even have to reach for the check because he'll be signing the bill "Trust Fund." After dinner, you'll get your group date with the armada developing outside County Seat, but I don't think you'll love the atmosphere: they're all too nosy.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon – Well, I was going to give you certain advice about going out on a date with SAE, but the school overrode my decision because

big brother didn't agree with me. Let's be honest, if an SAE is taking you out on a Valentine's Day date, you are probably a Kappa. And because you are a Kappa, you will need to rush to dinner. You and your date are probably not that famous of lovers, but I'm sure if you rush to dinner fast enough, you'll get there in five or six snaps. Still, your shrimp and grits dinner will be delightful, or maybe it was steak and grits. Who knows? The details with what happens with SAEs at night are always so questionable.

Kappa Alpha – Don't try and wiggle your way out of it, your KA date is taking you to a buffet for Valentine's Day. Yeah, he will give you tons of presents throughout your date, so you will be plenty entertained, but most likely they will all come from Walmart. As you're explaining to your date that bigger does not always mean better, he will notice some of his pledges eating dinner at the table next to him. You will see his face getting red as the pledges obviously are not studying as they should be. But have no fear, because soon the anger will subside when he realizes that those are just KA's "B" team pledges, and as you leave, he'll wish them luck in the Kappa Sig house next year.

Sigma Chi – Your Sigma Chi date will pick you up early for your wonderful night on the town. You will think to yourself that Niko's probably isn't the most romantic place to spend a Valentine's Day, but he's a little broke from rush. That won't stop him from picking you up in a limo for your night with a member of the Big 3. As he's mentioning to you how nice being in the Big 3 is, he'll pour you some champagne. However, this pink champagne tastes less like Rose and more like Volt and Aristocrat. Dinner will be nice, except for the moment when he realizes that your table only received eight rolls. Just put your head down when he goes from table to table asking if anyone has any extra rolls, but at least all of his friends join the date afterwards to giggle with each other and chat about how the night's going. You might wonder where their dates are though.

Pi Kappa Phi – Your dinner will be average with your date Pi Phi Joe, but he'll constantly be lamenting the fact that he's getting shut down by Globo Gym. The night will be pretty nondescript for the most part. Yeah, you'll get chocolates, but they will be your run of the mill Russell Stover's. He'll almost get you the teddy bear that you really wanted for Valentine's Day, but he won't. Finally, after having a pretty good night spent mostly in shaded areas, you will head home to whoops from his pledge brothers. That is, until you step into the light...

Phi Kappa Psi – Speaking of face issues, if you are the type of girl who likes giving her date useful gifts for Valentine's Day, why not give the gift that keeps on giving? Proactiv. You will not find a date who tries harder to impress you than a Phi Psi on Valentine's Day. He will pull out all the stops, just for you. So what if the dinner is inedible and whatever-that-thing-is that he made you himself as a gift will soon makes its way into the dumpster, who are you to take away that adorable shit eating grin? Just make sure that his busy schedule doesn't get in the way of your date; it would be a major downer if he skipped another date to attend KA's class on social climbing.

Beta Theta Pi – You are going to have to remind your Beta date that it is, in fact, Valentine's Day, and that means he does, in fact, have to take you out on a date or at least buy you

something. Finally realizing that you're serious, he'll put on his Monday best: an NBA jersey that shows off his...well...are those muscles? He'll take you to his version of a fancy restaurant: Taco Bell, where you'll probably have to pay because he "forgot his wallet at home." Better use the drive-thru though, because if you eat inside, he'll find some random dude looking at you the wrong way and haymaker him for no reason whatsoever. As he's kicking the guy while he's down, you'll leave quietly. Later on that night, he'll either text you numerous times or just call you and mumble incoherently as he attempts for a Hail Mary booty call.

Lambda Chi Alpha – You are going to spend most of your time trying to find an amply fancy enough dress for dinner. If you assume that he will be wearing anything other than interview attire, you will be overshadowed in dressiness on Valentine's Day and guys should never be the center of attention today. This is your day, but since no Lambda owns a t-shirt, he won't get that memo. You'll have to pick up your date at the freshmen dorms because he'll be busy advising his resident freshmen boys -- well, the ones that are still there on a Monday evening in February. The most important thing to remember is to never mention the fact that you voted for Obama in 2008 or like any government intervention whatsoever, because if you do, he probably won't pay for the check.

Phi Gamma Delta – Do not, I repeat, do not try and pick your Fiji date up at his house. GPS can't even find that house. Also be sure to ask refrain from replying, "No really what fraternity did you pledge?" when he tells you how great Fiji is. I assure you that people are members there. Speaking of, if you are tired of the small school atmosphere and feel like meeting 17 people who go to school with you who I'm sure you have never met, try hanging out with the Fiji pledge class before going on your date. They're a blast. I'm sure you'll get adequate gifts and have a fine dinner with your Fiji date, but make sure you remember his name or the whole night will be for naught.

Pi Kappa Alpha – Expect vast bouquets of flowers from your PiKA date. In fact, expect a fruitful accompaniment to your vast bouquets of flowers. You will lose track of time over dinner because you and your date will be chatting for such an extended period of time that you will not know what happened to your dinner. How can he be so focused on the conversation at hand and yet talk so fast and excitedly for the three to five hours you will hang out for the night? No idea; he must just be a tangential thinker. He will graciously pay for the bill even though he didn't even touch his salad. However, the night will end up on somewhat of a sour note when you reach for his endowment, and he looks at his watch and exclaims, "Look at the time! I have so much work to finish."

Chi Psi – After dinner, your date will take you back to the Chi Psi house for an after dinner rendezvous. You will be thoroughly surprised to discover something you haven't seen since Roethlisberger held the Lombardi Trophy: freshmen running around the house. After you wipe your eyes in disbelief, you will start heading upstairs with your date when one of these mysterious freshman will finally speak up. Yeah, it'll be a little bit of a turn-off when your date has to fetch the freshman water and then do pushups for not doing it with a smile, but, hey, who are you to complain? After you get upstairs, be careful not to make out with

your date too loudly or a kid down the hall will call security on you for distracting his studying. Good news for you though: if you actually do spend the late night at Chi Psi, hanging out upstairs at that hour will end the same way as hanging out in their basement at the hour...with your pants off.

Sigma Phi Epsilon – Try to wear ear plugs on the drive over to dinner, because your Sig Ep date will probably be playing his new CD in the car. If you don't bring the ear plugs, make sure you zone out, and if he asks, say his music sounds edgy and "kind of like a revolution of your ears," and he'll be appeased enough to pay for the check. If you want gifts to go with the check however, you'll probably have to do a little more appeasing during dinner. Just keep nodding and smiling whenever he tells you, "No seriously, we're getting cool now. Have you seen our pledge class? Have you been to our parties? They are legit now. We're getting hot girls here all the time, especially freshman bitties." Try and avoid adding sarcastic u's to your "Sure," or you won't be getting the earrings he got from Jared.

Kappa Sigma – Look, I don't know anything about Kappa Sig. You don't know anything about Kappa Sig. And even if we did know anything about Kappa Sig, I have a feeling that they are more random than Lady Gaga arriving inside of an egg at the Grammy's. Therefore, I'm going to talk about something else: *CollegeACB*. After traveling to the site for the first time in a year, let me tell you how hilariously awful this site has become. Not only do people still say phrases like "when was the last time your respectable big 3 guy attended a KA party? NEVER" (I must be hanging out with the wrong people if there are people who actually think like that), but there are other students who somehow only seem to find enjoyment in going past the school's encryption to a blocked website just to question the validity of the statements made on that site. Really? You're going to change someone's degrading comment by going onto a blocked website and patronizingly waxing poetic about how you shouldn't be mean on an anonymous site that's designed for people to say mean things? Two questions: how did you get into this school and have you ever tried not reading these postings? One last thing: I rarely like to give the administration credit, but you have to admit they did a pretty good job with the whole "Jucey Campus" situation. It was a legitimate problem two years ago, and now that problem is damn near close to extinction at W&L. You really can't say that their initiatives weren't as successful as they could possibly be in that respect. Parents, make sure you read that last sentence, and administration, I will now gladly accept my get out of jail free card now.

Sigma Nu – Hopefully on Tuesday, there isn't a math or science test. If so, you will basically have the same problems dating a Sigma Nu on Valentine's Day as you do dating an independent on Valentine's Day (not that you don't without the test). Your dinner will be fantastic... as long as you know Elvish. That's really where the Sigma Nu knows his best love poetry. Don't be worried on the walk over to the Bistro: just because he's following you at a distance of 100 feet, doesn't mean he doesn't like you. That's just his MO. Unlike going on a date with a Phi Delt, you are definitely going to need your cell phone with your date with a SNU. If you need a ride home the next day, you can't borrow his phone to call a friend: he used all his minutes calling the cops on parties and snowball fights.

opinions



Protecting the Chesapeake Bay

Doing your part to help protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed is imperative in preserving the area's natural beauty

By Jackson Buttery
COLUMNIST

To the Students, Faculty, and Members of the Washington and Lee University Community:

There exists neither a simple nor singular way to save the environment.

Neither Superman nor Captain Planet will appear from the clouds; no solution no matter how brilliant will eradicate the unfathomable amounts of waste from the surface of the earth; no magic chemical will erase the stains of human pollution.

While saving the environment is the ultimate and most important goal, it is also terribly impractical. The environment is and isn't the world around us. I can best define it as a series of interconnected, various and unique natural systems whose roots can each be traced deeply and specifically. The most practical goal, then, is to save our environment and hope and convince others to save theirs.

Our school, Washington and Lee University, belongs to one of the most important and largest bio-regions in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

As Ned Tillman, the author of *The Chesapeake Watershed* writes:

"The Chesapeake Bay Watershed is large and diverse, collecting waters that fall on parts of six states. Rain falling on farms, factories, and probably even on your house, lawn, and driveway flows along countless streams and rivers that crisscross the land and eventually mixes with the saltier waters of the bay. The water quality, biodiversity, and health of the bay and its fisheries are all related to every part of

the habitat throughout this vast, fifty-million acre watershed. We are all in this together" (91).

While many daunting issues face the bay – including pollution, the rising level of sea water and the declines of the populations of many native species, to name a few – perhaps the biggest problem the bay must deal with is its own reputation.

While I can not speak for the rest of the country, for years the only environmental rally cries I heard (besides SAVE THE POLAR BEARS! and SAVE THE AMAZON!) were SAVE THE BAY! and THE BAY IS DYING!

As hard as it was to not hear about the dying bay, it was just as easy to believe that the environmentalists – who I then imagined as scraggly ex-hippies munching granola in some sort of environmental VW bus – were already handling the issue.

The bay wasn't my problem because I live in northeast Philadelphia, far away from the Chesapeake Bay. My family doesn't even recycle. Most nights we eat from cheap paper plates. The Bay was at least a couple of hours away and I had only been there once, a long time ago.

My brother says we went in the water and crabbed with metal cages and raw chicken necks, but all I can remember is eating crabcakes sitting in a mostly-wooden restaurant that was little more than a shack.

I still haven't been back and the bay, for me, is a region I am very unfamiliar with and a natural beauty that I truthfully can not picture in my mind.

I can read books about it and look at pictures and try to put the pieces together but I still can not grasp it completely. It is not mine.

While I am not as well acquainted with the landscape of our university as well as I am with the city grid of Philadelphia or the trails of Pennypack Park, I have gained a deep appreciation for the wonder this region holds.

Upon first driving down Interstate 81, the green rolling hills and lush grass and the mountains shading the sky in the background brought vivid memories of the summer before, of a train ride through the tranquil Austrian countryside, from Munich to Salzburg, with the similar framing and colors of the Shenandoah Valley.

There is something undeniably special about this area. Maybe it's the way the sun sets over the Blue Ridge Mountains, or the red brick paired with the snow lying fresh on the ground, or the bike trail along Woods Creek in late fall when no one else is around and the crisp air cuts into your lungs but you feel alive.

I traded skyscrapers, row-homes and subways for Traveler and the Colonnade and the bones of Robert Edward Lee, and this place is my home just as well as yours.

To preserve and maintain our university and its surrounding environment, we -- all of us -- must continue the "green" efforts we have already began and create others when possible, not just practical.

The environment isn't some

ambiguous form that can be solved at once. It is a series of systems and we are capable of tracing our system to its root and beginning our undertaking there. While helping to clean the Chesapeake Bay is the recognizable opposite-endpoint of our route, we are not going to save the Chesapeake Bay by setting out to do exactly that.

We are too small and too few to accomplish such a feat. But our area of Virginia is a part of the Bay Watershed, and Rockbridge County is a part of this Virginian area, and this university is a part of Rockbridge County, and each member of this university community is a part of this university and it is there that we must start cleaning the bay: with each of our individual efforts.

Our minute efforts are jointly amplified just like a single raindrop or a single drop of acid dropped into our little Woods Creek will eventually flow into the Maury River, which will eventually flow into the James, which will eventually flow into the Chesapeake itself.

The university is already doing its part: installing energy-efficient light bulbs, keeping the temperature in student dormitories at moderate levels so as to conserve energy, working with local food sellers to distance itself from chemicals and the inhumane treatment of animals, using recycled paper cups and offering the option of re-usable to-go trays at all meals and renovating each building of the iconic Colonnade to make it more energy-efficient.

But our university's efforts should reflect our individual at-

titudes and work towards bettering the environment: we must begin with ourselves.

Simple acts that may have been previously seen as meaningless inconveniences can eventually change the health of the bay.

To "restore the bay's water quality and fisheries," Tillman writes that "individuals...can replace aging septic systems with new nitrogen-reducing systems. Garbage disposals in our sinks should not be used at all. Nor should we dump medicines or pharmaceuticals down the drains" (68).

To fix "erosion, siltation, and legacy sediments," we should "start learning more about natural processes and how our everyday activities affect the waterways and the bay. Right in our back yards we can begin shifting focus from encouraging water to run off our land and instead encourage it to filter into the soil" (25).

To combat "sea level rise" we "can help immediately by changing our wasteful energy practices: We can stop buying things we don't need, because it takes energy to create, distribute, maintain, and dispose of things. Each of us can also help create and articulate a vision of a healthier earth to our friends, families, and representatives. If people lead, politicians will follow" (13-14).

These suggestions are good places to start, for we must start somewhere.

Every member of this community has the potential to become an environmentalist.

It's not left-wing to be an

environmentalist; it's not right-wing. It's not the hip thing to do, it's not a bunch of ex Dead Heads, it's not wrong and it is not some hobby.

It is a duty that each of us owes the earth.

It is a justified and rightful cause that rests in not only bettering the world but bettering ourselves.

We are not going to save the Chesapeake alone. But it's not only about saving the Chesapeake. It's about starting small, with ourselves, and nurturing the root of a thick and complicated system of environments, eco-systems and bio-regions.

It's because Rockbridge County is an environment that depends on the well-being of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Because if we don't start somewhere, if we as individuals and parts of a larger group allow the Chesapeake to die, then what else but the same fate can we expect for our university?

If we lose the Chesapeake, if it becomes more over-polluted and overrun and undesirable and unfit for natural species, if we allow these things to pass, the university we love will never be the same.

Citations to:

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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI.

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letter to the editor

Respected Editor,

I am writing to you today to take issue with a piece published in the February 8, 2011 issue of the Ring-Tum Phi. When flipping through this paper the other evening, I, as well as those around me, was appalled by the article entitled "Take me out tonight to a frat party".

After reading the dismissive and generalizing statements written with a condescending tone, I could not decide whether to laugh or cry. The way that this columnist portrayed freshmen girls at W&L was difficult to read—after all of the initiatives to change the way that women in our community are treated, things like this are a big step in the wrong direction. The use of valley girl-isms like "totes adorbs", discussion of trying to "DFM" and looking "'edgy' but not slutty" is simply embarrassing. I can speak for most of the population in saying that I love some quality satire, but this was just distasteful and tactless. W&L girls are more than willing to poke fun at themselves, but

this article was demeaning in a way that crossed many a boundary.

My feelings about this article aside, I think in the future it is imperative to consider the circulation of this newspaper. I am never one for censorship, but were I to pick up a copy of the Phi as a prospective student in the admissions office, this article alone would have deterred me from applying to Washington and Lee. With W&L's desires to retain tradition while diversifying its population, how does it look to have a female member of the community deriding her peers like this? It makes this place seem unwelcoming and shallow, which I don't believe it is.

I look forward to quality journalism in the future—speak your mind, opinion writers, but consider your audience as well.

Sincerely,
Noel Price

in response

Being previously lost for a topic for this week, I was actually slightly relieved to receive an email from our "respected editor" (Stockton was also extremely pleased to be respected for once in his life) giving me something to respond to.

First, I would like to thank the reader for reading my article. Second, I would like to thank the reader for having an opinion of her own; I appreciate constructive criticism and understand that putting my name on something and asking for it to be published is opening the door for potential disagreement.

I want to be clear that my intent has always been, and will always be, to playfully poke fun at this uniform we seem to have on this campus. Malicious is not a word that comes into my vocabulary and I have never, ever, targeted an individual. Except for Stockton. And he deserves it.

The outfit I described in "Take me out to a frat party" was the exact same one that I wore to the White Panda/Ghostland Observatory concert (except my going-out boots are Cole Haan, which is even worse). I was that

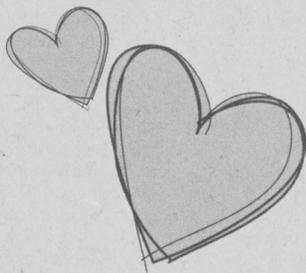
freshman who has dropped her phone in the gin bucket and lost her jacket in the depths of the Poplar Hill basement.

I am the topic. I am my audience. So if I can take being "demean[ed]" and "embarrass[ed]" in a "condescending" tone that was "appalling," "distasteful," "tactless," "unwelcoming" and "shallow," then I should hope that everyone could be in on the joke as well.

I sincerely apologize if anyone else was offended by what has been published in any of my previous articles. But at the same time, this is the opinions section of a school newspaper, one to which anyone is encouraged to contribute. So I ask, why so serious?

Trust me when I say that I can handle it when someone criticizes my clearly Pulitzer-worthy "quality journalism". However, I do not believe that questioning someone's character is the correct approach in bringing about this criticism.

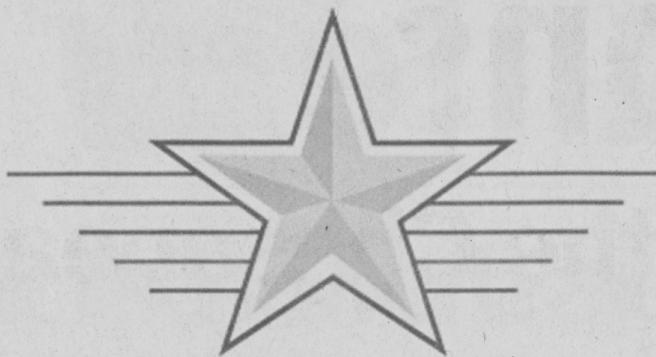
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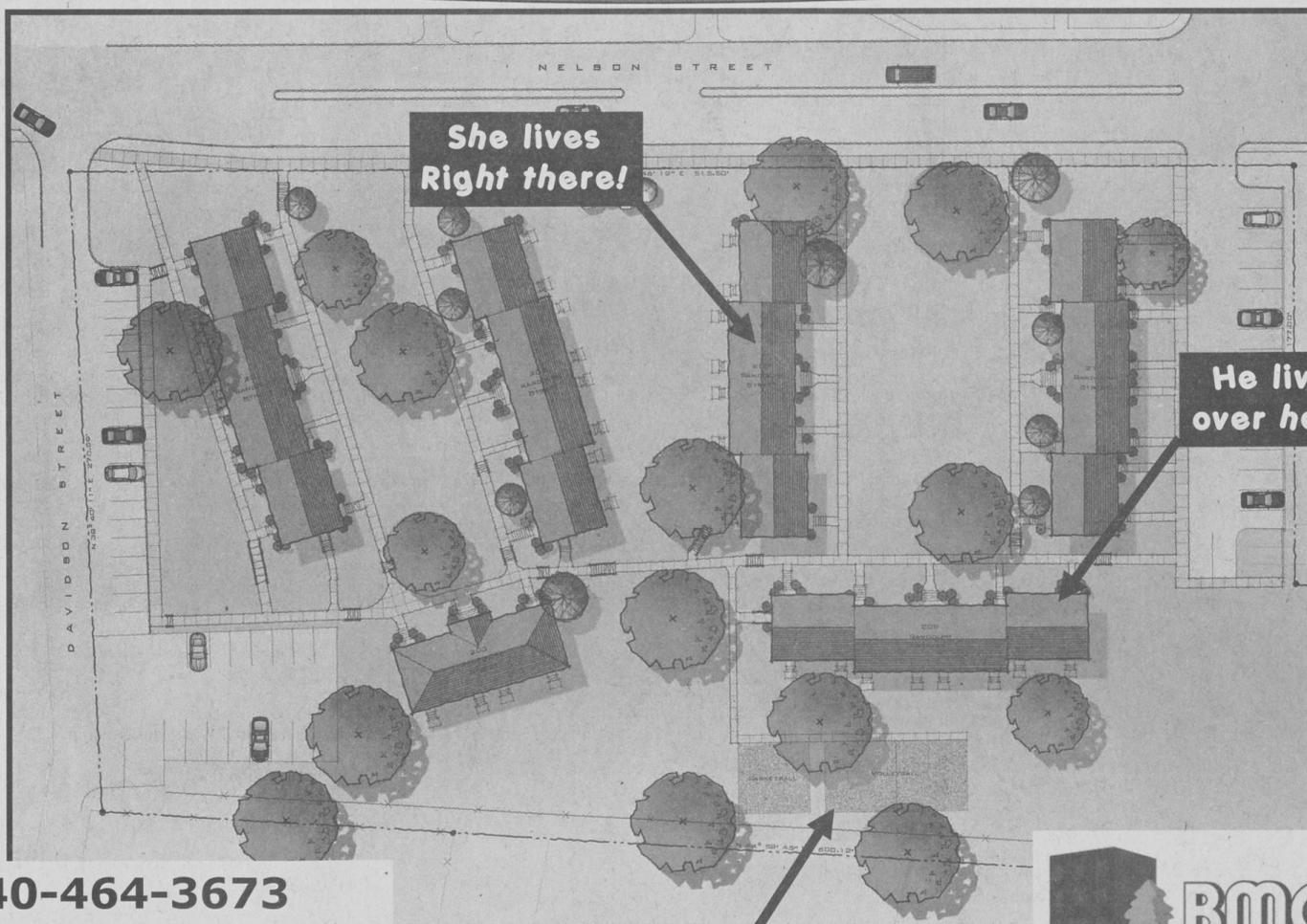
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arts & life

SAIL sponsors showcase for Kyrgyzstan

Organization hosts talent show to raise money and awareness for displaced victims of violence and revolution

By Collins Rice
STAFF WRITER

Every year, the members of the Student Association for International Learning (SAIL) focus on raising awareness on campus about a particular country in need. This year, the organization, which addresses international issues and promotes exchanges between diverse cultures represented at Washington and Lee, has chosen to shed light upon the violence in Kyrgyzstan.

On Friday, March 4, the club will present its Showcase for Kyrgyzstan, a fund-raising event

in the form of a talent show.

"We invite students from the university to perform and compete with their talents," said Bernmet Zhumakadyr kyzy, the event's organizer.

In the two decades since the breakup of the former Soviet Union, the small central Asian country of Kyrgyzstan has struggled to attain political stability. Despite showing signs of development in the form of civil society and a free press, the country's fledgling government

crumbled in 2005's Tulip Revolution, wherein President Askar Akayev was deposed amid accusations of corruption, nepotism and authoritarianism.

Unfortunately, Akayev's successor, Kurmanbek Bakiyev failed to lead the country to prosperity. Under Bakiyev, the government was again subject to opposition for its abuses of human rights including censorship within the press and fixing of elections.

Last April, the people of

Kyrgyzstan mounted a second revolution in the nation's capital, Bishkek. The event left 85 people dead, the capital was looted and Bakiyev was removed from power. The country fell into social chaos and the violence in the city spread into southern Kyrgyzstan in the form of inter-ethnic clashes.

Currently, the death toll remains unclear. The official number is over 400, but many claim that it exceeds 1,000. More than 2,000 buildings were destroyed,

displacing 300,000 people and forcing many to seek refuge in nearby Uzbekistan. Today, even under a provisional government, the south of Kyrgyzstan remains volatile.

Students may sign up or purchase tickets and t-shirts for the showcase in the commons. All proceeds will be sent directly to the Unity Fund, an organization established to help children's hospitals suffering from severe shortage of supplies as a result of the violence that occurred there.

"All in the Lexington community and beyond are invited to come, enjoy the show, and win raffle prizes, while making a big difference in someone's life," said Bernmet.



Director of Staniar Gallery awarded Fellowship

Clover Archer Lyle receives \$8,000 from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

from the W&L News Office

Clover Archer Lyle, artist and director of the Staniar Gallery in Wilson Hall at Washington and Lee University, has been awarded a 2011-2012 Fellowship by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA). The 18 fellowship recipients will be recognized by the General Assembly in Richmond on Feb. 18. A luncheon will follow at the VMFA.

Archer Lyle received a professional fellowship for \$8,000 in the area of drawing. She will use the funds to continue working on her current body of work which takes the Samuel Beckett play "Waiting for Godot" as a point of departure. The drawings and cast resin objects from that

series will be exhibited at Page Bond Gallery in Richmond in February 2012.

Two fellowships, including Archer Lyle's, were given for drawing this year. The juror for the professional fellowship awards was Alison de Lima Greene, curator of contemporary art and special projects at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

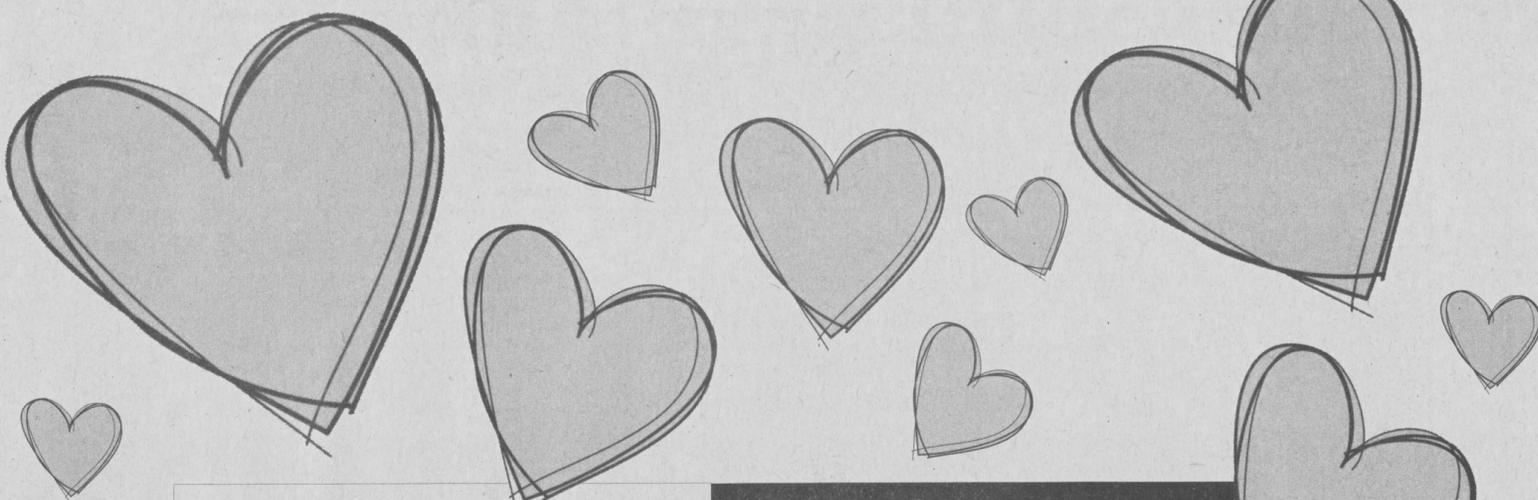
Started in 1940 by Fredericksburg, Va., resident and museum benefactor John Lee Pratt, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship Program supports Virginia's professional artists and art students. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than \$4.4 million dollars

to Virginia artists. According to Alex Nyerges, VMFA director, "We are grateful to the late John Lee Pratt for establishing this VMFA endowment that makes this support possible, as well as others who have added funds to the endowment throughout the years."

During the VMFA Fellowship Program's 71 years, the museum has given more than 1,140 awards to Virginia's art students and professional artists. An additional eight fellowships (four student and four professional) were awarded this year in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary.

Archer Lyle joined W&L in 2008 as a visiting instructor of

photography and director of the Staniar Gallery. She received her bachelor of fine arts with a concentration in photography from the University of New Hampshire and her master of fine arts in studio art from New York University.



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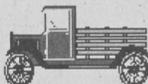
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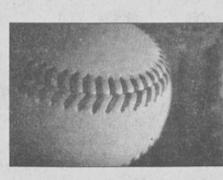
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sports

Senior Night ends with victory

The final home game for two W&L seniors closes with a 67-58 win over conference rival Randolph-Macon

By Mike Decembrino
STAFF WRITER

The final home game for Washington and Lee seniors Allie Long and Felice Herman could not have turned out any better as the Generals women's basketball team snapped the Randolph-Macon College Yellow Jackets' 12-game win streak with a 67-58 victory on Tuesday evening at the Warner Center.

Long and Herman were honored before the game for "Senior Night," which recognized the tremendous four year careers of both players.

Long and junior forward Becca Bolton led the attack for the Generals. Bolton scored 26 points, going 7-for-10 from the field and connecting on all 12 of her free throws. Long played the entire 40 minutes for the Generals and keyed a 21-4 game winning second half run in which she knocked down three 3-

pointers to finish with 13 points.

Earlier this year, W&L lost to first place Randolph-Macon on the road 72-55. That, combined with the Jackets' 12-game winning streak and the Generals' two game losing streak heading into this game, would lead many to pick R-MC as the favorite for this contest. W&L Head Coach Mandy King thought otherwise.

"We really didn't pay attention to their winning streak or our losing streak. We just focused on what we had to do for these 40 minutes," King said. "We actually had a lot of confidence [heading into this game]. We had a great practice yesterday and we were just excited for the opportunity today."

After Maggie Roy of the Jackets scored the game's first field goal two

seconds into the game, W&L went on a 6-0 run keyed by Bolton. The Generals held onto the lead until Jordan Cantrell of R-MC hit a 3-pointer in the corner with 6:56 to play in the first half to bring the score to a 16-16 tie.

Down by two points with 30 seconds to play in the first half, Bolton connected on a short-range jump shot to tie the score at 26 going into half time. Bolton went 6-for-6 from the field in the first half.

"I thought we were terrific on the defensive side of the ball," King said of the Generals first half defensive performance. They held R-MC's top scorer, Maggie Roy, to only two points and blocked six shots in the first half. Three of those blocks came from sophomore Rachel Warrick.

Trailing 35-33 with 15:38 to play in the second half, Long hit a 3-pointer to make the score 36-35 in favor of the Generals. This began the 21-4 run that buried the Jackets. Long made two more consecutive 3's and junior guard Meg Ingram added another to cap off the run.

At the end of this run, the Generals led 54-39 and never looked back. R-MC made a push in the final six minutes thanks to the sharpshooting of Roy, but it was not enough as the Generals held on for the 67-58 win.

King was happy with the defense in the second half as well. "We knew we needed to maintain the pressure against them and keep them from scoring points in transition," she said. The Generals did just that, as they held the Jackets to

just 27.1% shooting from the field.

Ingram scored 12 points and picked up seven rebounds while sophomore Katy Wilson led the team with nine rebounds. The Generals shot 42% from the field, just above their season mark of 40.6%.

The win improves the Generals' record to 14-7 overall and 10-6 in Old Dominion Athletic Conference play. They have won seven of their last ten games and are on track to make the ODAC Conference Tournament to try to repeat as champions. The Generals finish off the regular season with a four game road trip beginning on February 11 at Guilford College.



Men drop close game to Bridgewater

Last second free-throws give Eagles a one-point win over Generals in W&L's last home game of the season

By Gage Smith
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee's men's basketball lost a heartbreaker Saturday as Bridgewater defeated the Generals 65-64.

The Generals, who were up by as many as 8 and led 27-22 going into the half, played a strong defensive game, but chose poor shots throughout the game. Both teams played a messy first half, each making less than 30% of their field goal attempts.

First-year Drew Kimberly had the first score of the game on a free throw, putting the Generals up 1-0 30 seconds into the game. Bridgewater answered a

minute later, as Rick Maloney hit a layup to give the Eagles their first 2 points of the half.

With sloppy play as the most prominent factor of the first half, neither team seemed to be able to make an impact on the court. The Eagles shot 60% from the free throw line, while the Generals shot 50%. Both teams struggled from outside the arch, with Bridgewater shooting failing to make a single 3-pointer.

Generals sophomore Jeremy Atkins lead the team in the first half with 12 points, and Bridgewater senior Maloney added 9 points for the Eagles.

The Generals entered the second half up by 5, but the game soon became more heated as the Eagles scored 5 unanswered points in the first 4 minutes to bring them within 2 points of the lead.

By the halfway mark of the second half, Bridgewater had cut W&L's lead to one, and took the lead 47-46 on another layup by Maloney.

From there the game was a back-and-forth battle between the two teams. Bridgewater lead by as many as 7 with 3:28 left in the second half, and for a moment it looked as if the Generals were about to give up without a fight.

W&L didn't quit, however, and scored 7 unanswered points to tie the game up 60-60 on a layup from Kimberly assisted by sophomore JD Ey with just under 2 minutes left in the game.

The Generals suffered a setback as Bridgewater senior Kyle Hammond hit a triple with just over one minute left in the game, but scored 4 unanswered thanks to a jumper by Atkins after Kimberly stole the ball with 27 seconds left.

The final shots in the game came on two three throws made by Hammond after being fouled by W&L junior Kyle Bond, which brought the Eagles up 65-

64 with 13 seconds left. The Generals inbounced the ball, but were unable to score on a missed jumper by Atkins with 2 seconds left.

The Generals were unable to beat out Bridgewater on what was senior Jason Cimino's last home game. Having lost 5 of their last 6 games, W&L will take on Hampden-Sydney away at 7 pm on February 14.

Wrestling struggles continue

Injuries continue to hurt the team as the season goes on, resulting in forfeited matches that are hard to overcome

By Gretchen Fritchie
STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee wrestling team fell to the Apprentice School Builders 36-9 in an away match Saturday afternoon. Twelve of Apprentice School's points were attributed to a W&L, and the Generals could not overcome this disadvantage.

W&L first-year Eric Fessel put the

first points on the board for the Generals. Following a forfeit at 125 pounds and an uncontested match at 133 pounds, the first-year scored a late reversal to defeat junior Marcus Chevres at 148 pounds 10-9.

Junior Sam Campbell tied the score up at 6-6 in his match against Odus Wes-

by at 149 pounds, but two consecutive pins put the Apprentice School up 18-6 against the Generals. Kyle Spruill for the Builders pinned at 157 pounds and Ricky Anderson for the Builders was able to pin his opponent after only 52 seconds at 165 pounds.

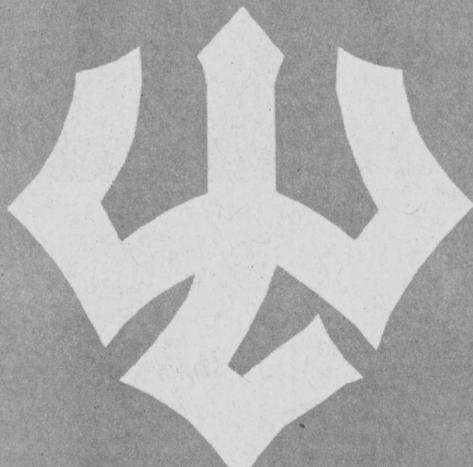
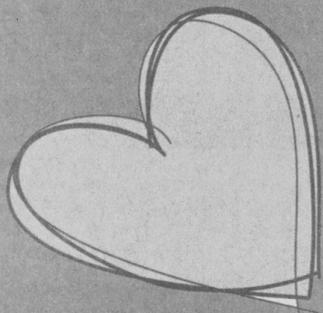
Daniel Igel, first year from Ponte

Vedra Beach, Fla., put up the Generals' final three points at 174 pounds with a 12-11 win over junior Anthony Damico to make the score 18-9. The Builders' final 12 points came from W&L forfeits, and determined the ultimate defeat for the Generals wrestling team.

The Generals' wrestling team will

return to action on February 26 against Centennial Conference Championships in the Warner Center at 10:00 am.

Congratulations Women's Swimming!



2011 ODAC Champs

sports



ondeck

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Men's Basketball	at Hampden Sydney 7 p.m.		at Eastern Mennonite 7 p.m.				
Women's Basketball		at Emory & Henry 7 p.m.			at Lynchburg 7 p.m.	at Randolph 4 p.m.	
Men's Lacrosse		vs Ferrum 5 p.m.				vs Wittenberg 1 p.m.	
Women's Lacrosse							at Mary Washington 10 a.m.
Men's Swimming			Bluegrass Mountain Champion 6:30 p.m.	Continued	Continued	Continued	
Women's Tennis						vs Bridgewater 10:30 a.m.	
Riding						Hollins IHSA Invite	
Track						Dickinson Invite 10 a.m.	
Baseball							at Oglethorpe 2 p.m.

in the numbers

21

Washington and Lee's women's swim team has now won the ODAC conference title this many times. They earned their latest one over the weekend after finishing first in the championship tournament.

\$3 Million

This is the average cost of getting a 30 second ad to run during this year's Super Bowl, up from last year's estimated cost of \$2.7 million.

101

The oldest living Major League Baseball player passed away last Tuesday at this age. Tony Malinosky played in the league for nine years starting in 1937. Most of his time was spent playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

4,064

Astonishingly, this many tweets were sent per second during the peak times of last week's Super Bowl, completely shattering any previous records for the highest volume of tweets experienced to date.

soapbox

"All along, it's been about trying to do the right thing. This whole process has never been about getting Kevin back on the field. This has always been about Kevin having a chance at a normal life."

Wake Forest Head Baseball Coach Tom Walter said after he donated one of his kidneys to a freshman player on his team. The player, Kevin Jordan, was diagnosed with a rare auto-immune disorder but is now recovering well from the transplant surgery.

"I'm here to race. I understand the situation. I'm looking forward to seeing how my father's remembered and honored throughout the week. I enjoy that...[but] I don't really get into the hypothetical, fairytale sort of stuff. I just want to focus on my job...That's what I'm going to concern myself with."

Dale Earnhardt Jr. response to questions about where his focus is as the start of the Daytona 500 gets closer, as well as the 10 year anniversary of his father's death on the track. This will be Earnhardt's 400th career start, but the last two years at Daytona have been particularly challenging.

Men's lacrosse preview

An in-depth look at the upcoming season for this year's Generals

By Justin Donati
STAFF WRITER

The 2011 W&L men's lacrosse program looks to rebound this year after a disappointing 2010 season (11-6 overall). Despite being left out of pre-season Top 25 polls, fifth year head coach Gene McCabe believes that his 2011 squad has all the necessary tools and talent to achieve its goal of returning to the NCAA tournament.

Looking ahead, the team will undoubtedly face some challenges along the way. The most discernable roadblock is their schedule. In addition to the teams difficult in conference schedule, the Generals will continue to face top ranked powers such as Middlebury, and Ohio Wesleyan. McCabe has also arranged match-ups against two new Top 25 teams, Salisbury and Denison.

McCabe admitted that "this year's schedule will prove the ultimate test of skill and talent for my men." However, McCabe is quick to say that every team has to make choices about how they perceive challenges and adversity. In his opinion, "to be the best you have to play the best," he said.

Beyond the difficulty of this year's schedule, the Generals also face the task of replacing nine graduated seniors. The biggest setback comes from the loss of Will Kiegler, who posted 212 points for the Generals over his career. To replicate the offensive production provided by Kiegler and other graduates, the players and coaching staff have approached this year with increased testing standards that have forced each player hone their skills and become more rounded players.

The coaching staff has also revamped some of its offensive and defensive tactics to align with the team's renovated roster and abilities. With this new approach in place, McCabe recognizes that the team has grown by leaps and bounds from the end of last year.

Already in pre-season practices, the team has demonstrated a more balanced offensive attack then it had in previous years. At the helm are "a core group of four to five attackmen and around six midfielders that are regularly producing scoring opportunities on the offensive side of the ball," said McCabe.

In previous years the Generals relied on one or two players to win; however, this year's squad is finding increased production from all over the field.

"This is the mark of a champi-

onship team, when multiple players have the potential to finish the season in the double-digit points category," said McCabe.

On the other side of the ball, the defense continues to remain a staple of the Washington and Lee program. Last year, the defense conceded only 6.71 goals per game.

Although the defense has improved year after year statistically, Coach McCabe still sees room for improvement. From his observations, "the defense has been very strong statistically, but collectively the group struggles to hold the top teams under 10 goals per game." In large part, McCabe recognizes that overall team defense, which includes midfielders, must improve in order to prevail in the big games.

The loss of two-year defensive coordinator Jason Archbell appeared troublesome for the defense earlier this fall as the group looked for leader to fill his void. However, McCabe said, "I have been impressed so far with the work accomplished by Michael Kruger

experience with the Generals, he will undoubtedly have to improve the team's extra man offense from last year. As a special teams group in 2009, the W&L men's team posted a national best 51 percent conversion ratio. However, last year that number fell to roughly 31 percent on the season.

The coaching staff attributed this decline in efficiency last year to new personnel and a lack of chemistry between the players on the man-up unit. On the contrary, they see this year group as much more experienced and cohesive.

"For the most part, last years unit remains intact, minus Will Kiegler," McCabe said.

Another part of their game that the team will have to improve on is its ability to successfully clear the ball. McCabe asserted, "our clearing percentage was not where we wanted it to be last year." In fact, the team only managed to successfully clear the ball out of its defensive half at a rate of 75 percent in 2010.

The team's adjustments to its stick-work programs during the off-season targeted this exact vulnerability. Now with increased stick-handling ability from the defense down to the attack, "as a coaching staff, I don't think we have any glaring weaknesses, but we need to prove that on the field" said the fifth-

"If you look at the way we played the Lee Jackson game this fall, and the way we dominated on the defensive end of the field, I feel confident saying that our defense will again be one of our team's strengths"

GENE McCABE, head coach

who took over the reins following Archbell's departure."

McCabe went on to explain that "Kruger's addition of new defensive schemes, and his focus on teaching better defensive mechanics has already proven invaluable to keeping the defense on track to become a nationally ranked unit."

"If you look at the way we played the Lee Jackson game this fall, and the way we dominated on the defensive end of the field, I feel confident saying that our defense will again be one of our team's strengths," said the Generals' head coach.

Nat Saint Laurent also returns to the Generals' coaching staff this year. As a member of the coaching staff during the 2009 championship season, Saint Laurent knows what it takes to win. Now heading what looks to be a new and rejuvenated offense, "Coach Saint Laurent's continuity and familiarity with the Generals is perfectly suited to this year's players and program," said McCabe.

Even with Coach Saint Laurent's

year head coach. With all of the modifications made to the team during the off-season, the biggest unknown heading into 2011 remains the starting-goalie position. After graduating starting goalies in back-to-back years, the team must find a man capable of commanding the defense, and quickly dishing the ball to midfielders who have been trained to push transition opportunities.

McCabe has four players contending for the starting role at goalie. Two are veteran seniors that have both seen time between the pipes. Regardless of who takes the starting nod, with a strong defense behind them, McCabe feels confident that whoever wins the job will have an outstanding season.

Now the real question that remains to be seen is whether or not the Generals will get off to a hot start in the beginning of their season. Playing three of its first four games against teams that were in the NCAA tournament last year, the Generals must come out of this first stretch rather unblemished if it hopes to keep alive any dream of reaching the Division III playoffs.

The team begins its season on Tuesday, February 15, as it takes on Ferrum College (5:00 PM) on Wilson Field. Fans are strongly encouraged to attend the game, as it marks the first time in national lacrosse history that a men's team will sponsor the Green Dot Program, an initiative that trains individuals how to look for and prevent sexual assault and misconduct.

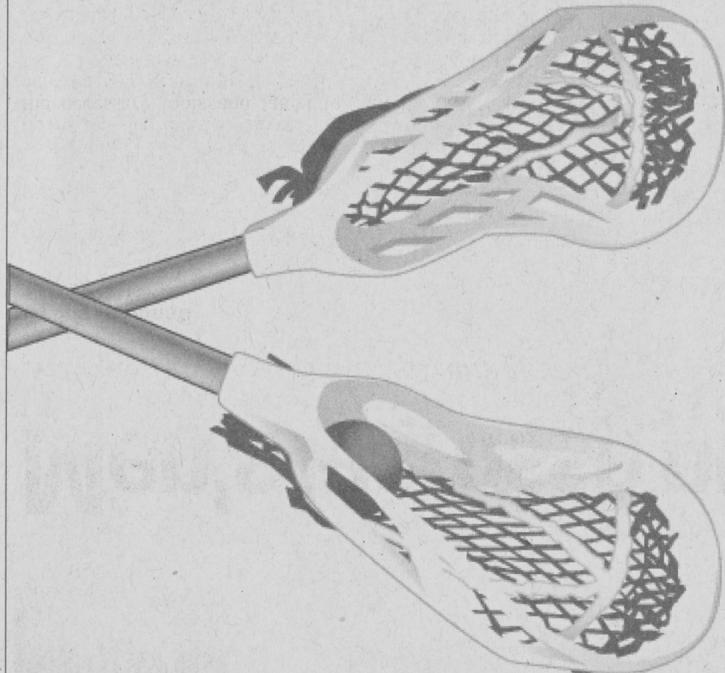


IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

