

## Stockton's Stereotypes

He's back, and so are some familiar faces. Columnist Bullitt describes some of the recurring characters that can be found lurking in the frosh dorms.

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## NFL vs. College

Stephen Peck and Alexander Maragos go head to head for the first time to prove which is the best.

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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

# THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011 BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897 VOLUME CXV, NUMBER 1

## Not your grandparents' W&L

Johnson gift, Strategic Plan lead to record first-year class and changing demographics

By Kelly Mae Ross  
STAFF WRITER

The 259 men and 238 women who just experienced their first Washington and Lee Orientation Week have already secured a place in the school's history: the class of 2015 is the largest ever to walk the Colonnade.

To put this 497-student class into perspective, the class of 2014 had 471 students as of October 2010, the class of 2013 had 472 as of October 2009, and the class of 2012 had 454 as of October 2008.

Provost Robert Strong says the larger-than-average class size was not intended. The school's yield—the percentage of accepted students who de-

poses the split was 50/50 that academic year and last academic year (2010-2011) as well.

Back in 1985, not everyone was excited about the change. According to the same *Washington Post* article, then-student body president John B. Lewis said he felt "betrayed" by the school because he believed changes to the campus were being made too quickly.

In an opinion piece published last year, former student Michele Farquharson said that her own father was originally against the idea of coeducation at W&L, even going so far as to adhere a bumper sticker to his car that read "W&L, Better Off Dead than Co-ed."

In 1985, women made up about 8.5 percent of the undergraduate student population. But the male to female ratio has been close to 1:1 for several years now, and the university has begun to focus its efforts on diversifying the W&L student body in other ways, according to the university's strategic plan.

### The Strategic Plan

In 2007, the university revealed a plan outlining its goals for the next decade of new student recruitment and other aspects of running the university.

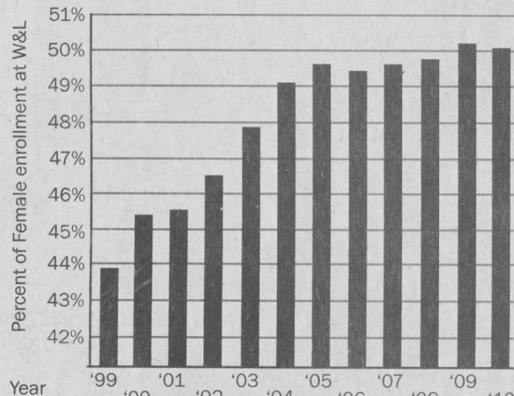
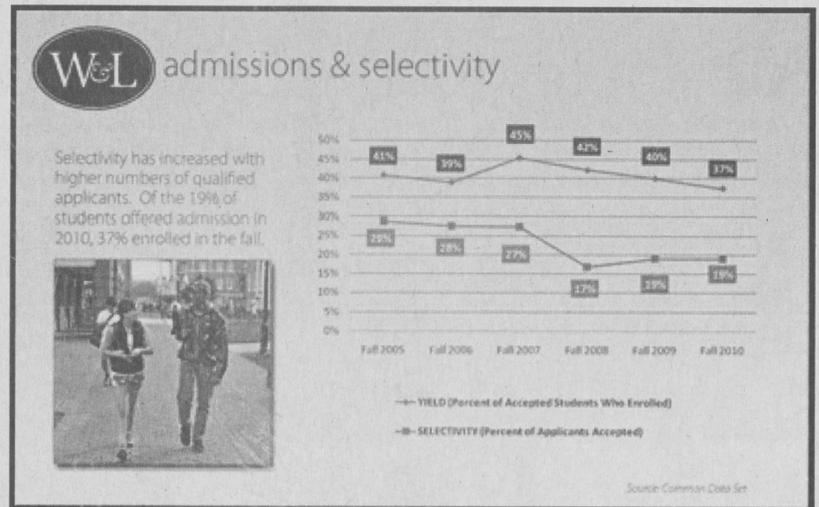
Debbie Dailey, assistant provost for the university's Office of Institutional Effectiveness, compiles and analyzes the demographics of the university each year. She said she hasn't noticed any big changes.

She did say that a more diverse student body has been a goal of university administrators ever since she began working here four years ago.

"I think a lot of effort is being expended by W&L to increase the diversity of the student body," said Dailey. But she also made the point that changes like this "don't happen overnight."

The Strategic Plan specifically cites the need to "attract need-based financial aid" for students who have the brainpower and personal qualities that the university seeks, but who don't necessarily have the financial means to afford a W&L education, with its ever-increasing tuition.

According to Strong, the financial aid budget has



decided to attend W&L—went up this year, resulting in the larger freshman class.

The yield for Johnson scholarship offers also increased. The class of 2014 has 34 Johnson scholars in it, while this year's freshman class has 53. If you average these two numbers, you get about 44 Johnson scholars per class, which is the target that the university shoots for each year.

### Going co-ed

W&L is changing. Data collected by the university show a steady evolution of the student body since 1985—the first year women were admitted to W&L.

In 1985, 105 freshmen women and 10 upper-class women transfer students began attending classes at W&L, according to an article from *The Washington Post* published in September 1985.

Today, more than 25 years later, women make up almost exactly 50 percent of the undergraduate degree-seeking population. According to data from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness' Common Data Sets, women overtook men as the majority of the undergraduate degree-seeking population for the first time at the start of the 2009-2010 school year. The student population that year was 49.86 percent male and 50.14 percent female. With such a small total student body, however, for all intents and pur-

undergone "dramatic changes" over the past decade. According to the May 2011 Board Book—prepared for the Board of Trustees—in the year 2000 the university allocated \$10.3 million to its financial aid budget. By 2010, that number had more than tripled to \$34.1 million.

This year's financial aid budget, which has not been finalized, sits at about \$32 million, says James Kaster, Director of Financial Aid at W&L.

Kaster says the university is "absolutely" offering more need-based aid now than it has in the past, thanks in large part to the Johnson gift.

### A game-changing gift

The 2010-2011 school year will be the first year with Johnson scholars in all four classes.

The merit-based, full-ride scholarship instantly made it more difficult to get accepted to the university.

In 2007, 3,719 students applied to W&L and 27 percent of those students were accepted. The next year, after the announcement of the Johnson Scholarship program, the number of applications skyrocketed to 6,386 and the acceptance rate fell to just 17 percent.

"I think it's put us more on the map than we used to be," Kaster says of the scholarship program. He

says that because of the program W&L is "competing at a different level" with other schools than it was before.

The timing of the Johnson gift allowed the university to continue to offer higher levels of financial aid despite the downturn in the economy.

"It's a big commitment," Kaster says. But, he adds, "the university is benefitting like crazy from it."

According to Strong, Johnson scholars had an average GPA of 3.642 after last winter term. Of the 20 students inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society last year, 11 were Johnson scholars, and half of the students inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society were Johnson scholars.

That doesn't mean Johnson scholars are the only movers and shakers on campus. But Kaster says that the university's ability to bring in brighter and brighter Johnson scholar students spurs the entire W&L student body to strive for academic improvement.

Dailey says she believes the university is "making great efforts to enhance [the] experiences of students by increasing the diversity that is here," largely through the Johnson Scholarship program.

"[W&L] is diverse," says Kaster. "You have to think of the history."

### Increase in Cultural Diversity

White/non-hispanic students in 2000 **89.7%**

**84.5%** White/non-hispanic students in 2010

\*Based on student-reported data from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

## Never forget: W&L marks 10th anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks



"As we as a people think about that event, many of us are forced to think about how that event has changed us. We hear a lot of talk this time of year about how it's changed us a country...Ask yourselves 'How have the events of 9/11 changed me as an individual?'"

-John Talley, minister of the Reformed University Fellowship



KATHERINE ROBERTS/ copy editor

Flags memorializing the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001 lined the Colonnade walkways over the weekend. More than 50 members of the W&L community gathered in front of Lee Chapel Sunday morning for a memorial service co-sponsored by College Democrats and College Republicans.

SEP 13 2011

# news

## Extreme home makeover: Washington and Lee edition

English department, Alpha Delta Pi and field hockey team get new homes thanks to summer construction projects

By Leigh Dannhauser  
STAFF WRITER

Returning students may have noticed a slightly modified campus, thanks to Washington and Lee's annual summer makeover.

Payne Hall, the English department's home on the Colonnade, now features two refurbished classrooms, the department library, larger offices, wheelchair access to the first floor, a separate conference room on the first floor and a student lounge area on the second floor.

"For the first time, English faculty can meet students in appropriately sized, comfortable offices. A more professional atmosphere has been created, without sacrificing comfort," said department chair Suzanne Keen.

Keen said she hopes the lounge will encourage students to spend more time in the building. "We

see the renovated building as a home for the literary arts," she said.

Meanwhile, the restoration of Washington Hall is underway. The project will be similar to the restoration of Newcomb and Payne halls. Unlike those buildings, the refurbished Washington Hall will feature an "Honored Benefactors Wall," according to a W&L news release. The wall will contain the names of those individuals who have given \$1 million or more to the school.

Away from the Colonnade, the women of Alpha Delta Pi finally moved into their newly completed house.

"It's nice having a place to call your own," said sophomore Bella Zuroski.

During their first couple of years on campus,

members of ADPi lived on a designated hall in Gaines. Chapter meetings were held in the Hillel House on Mondays, and the sisters had chapter dinners together on Tuesday nights in the Kappa Delta house.

The house "brings it all together," Zuroski said. On the athletic front, the field hockey turf was replaced this summer.

The Generals continue to compete on a carpet turf, the only team to do so in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. Other teams in the conference use field turf, similar to the football turf, on which the ball is slower.

Although the same type of turf is used, the new turf has its differences. The old turf, which was also used for intramurals and as the alternate field

for soccer, football and lacrosse, had worn down. There also have been improvements in the production of the surface since the old turf was installed ten years ago.

A major difference is the addition of a sprinkler system. The turf gets watered before each game to make it safer for the players.

"The water makes it safer for your face, and if you fall you don't get burnt," said sophomore defender Riley Hampsch.

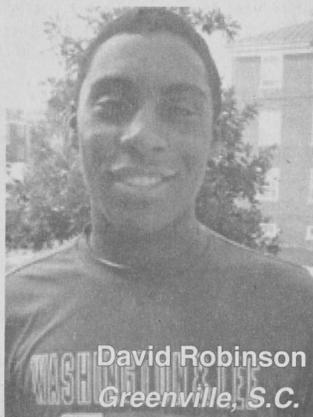
The next game on the new turf is September 17 at 2 p.m.

## Meet a few of the fresh faces at Washington and Lee

On move-in day, first-year generals share their expectations for Orientation Week and beyond on

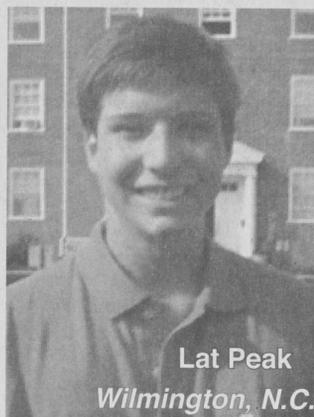
By Gabrielle Espy  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Why W&L: "Just got that feeling when I came on campus. It just felt right!"



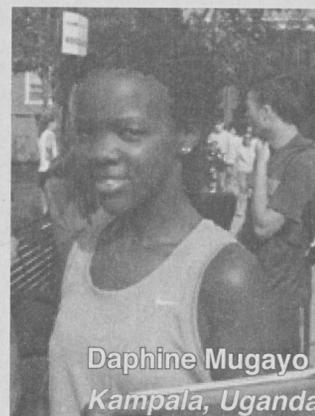
David Robinson  
Greenville, S.C.

Why W&L: "I liked that it was a small school, it had a good atmosphere and I enjoyed the campus tour."

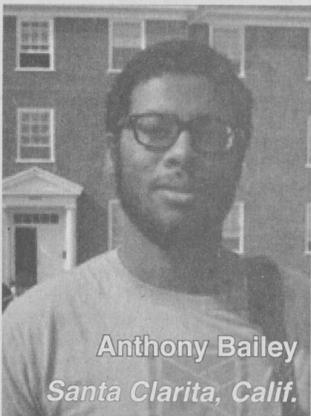


Lat Peak  
Wilmington, N.C.

Most excited about: "Meeting new people and getting into activities, like basketball and dance."

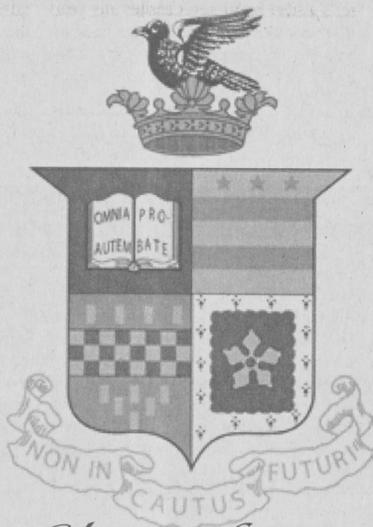


Daphine Mugayo  
Kampala, Uganda

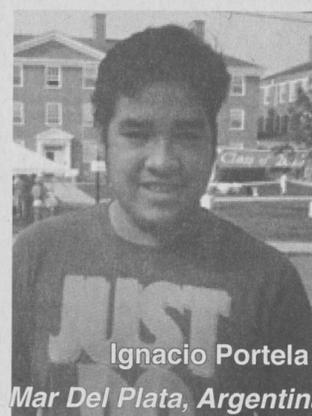


Anthony Bailey  
Santa Clarita, Calif.

Most excited about: "Music classes."

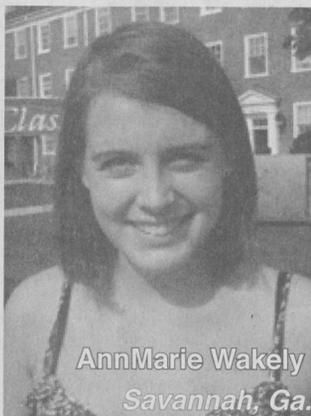


Class of 2015



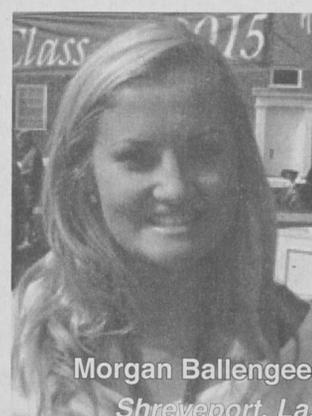
Ignacio Portela  
Mar Del Plata, Argentina

Why W&L: "Friendly environment, great opportunities, and I loved it from the first time I saw it."



AnnMarie Wakely  
Savannah, Ga.

Why W&L: "I like the campus, spring term, abroad programs and sororities."

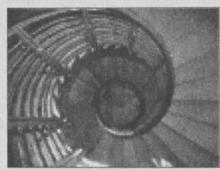


Morgan Ballengee  
Shreveport, La.

Most excited about: "Meeting new people and starting classes."

YOUR BRIEF HERE!

Is your club or organization holding a meeting? E-mail [kennedy12@mail.wlu.edu](mailto:kennedy12@mail.wlu.edu) to get a brief in The Ring-Tum Phi!



# opinions

## Rules are rules for a reason

Campbell Burr explains how following the system helped her escape unwanted attention at work and in school



By Campbell Burr  
OPINIONS EDITOR

My first day of work, my boss told me that my pants were too tight.

Yes, they were skin-tight, but that's how they were supposed to fit. I was informed that I was in violation of the restaurant's rule that all bussers and servers were

to wear "docked" style slacks, a.k.a. the most unflattering, shapeless pants in the world. Considering I was working for tips, not a hospital, the restriction seemed a little counterproductive. To add insult to injury, on top we wore short-sleeved button-down shirts à la 1998 Limited Too. Yuck. Going into the summer, I couldn't imagine why someone in a position of authority would want to put me through such torture.

As my summer unfolded, I began to understand. Among the mostly normal, friendly wait and kitchen staff, I discovered a few characters who gave me pause. Bill, a bartender in his late fifties, was one of these creepers. He was balding on either side of his head and had wide arms that would have looked muscular if he were 10 pounds lighter. A

large, round belly protruded from underneath each of his Hawaiian shirts. Another busgirl had been forbidden from going near the bar because Bill had once ordered that she turn around so he could give her a neck massage. Rumor had it that he had asked another young employee on a date. Because one of my responsibilities as a busgirl was bringing dirty glasses to the bar, I interacted with Bill for my entire shift.

At first, I thought that Bill's weirdness was only his odd sense of humor and I blamed myself for thinking that his words were creepy rather than funny. On my second night of work, Bill watched from behind the bar as I stacked glasses by the dishwasher. "Give it to me baby," he said in a deep, raspy voice.

When I looked up, a little taken aback, he continued. "You can take that anyway you want." Not knowing how to react, I looked down and smiled. SMILED. I don't think I could have given him a greener light if I tried.

Bill's next move was begging me to run away with him. For a week, every

time I approached the bar he pleaded in the most romantic tone his creepy voice could muster, "Campbell, run away with me. We will go wherever you like." This was weird, especially because his daughter was about my age. The hard part was that in between every creepy comment came lots of genuine compliments. I could not decide whether to be

*If I was getting this much unwanted attention looking like an old maid, I could not imagine what would have ensued had I dressed in my preferred clothing.*

friendly or ignore him altogether.

On one horrible occasion, Bill teamed up with Jeff, a short waiter in his forties who was also anxious to speak to young waitresses. Another busgirl and I were preparing to clear a table while Bill and Jeff began jokingly fighting. We had trays and towels and were on the way out to the dining room when Bill stopped us.

"Girls, take those trays and towels and whip Jeff with them."

Jeff smiled at us and then looked back at Bill. "The only problem, Bill, is that I would really enjoy that." Eeek.

From there the weirdness only intensified. The bartender was having a "casual" night (a.k.a. left the Hawaiian button-down at home) and was wearing a sleeveless T-shirt, blue jean shorts, and a red bandana around his head. "I think Bill's stoned," one of my coworkers warned. Bill had a huge tattoo on his left arm. It was a slow night so I decided I would forget my don't-talk-to-Bill-unless-absolutely-necessary rule and ask him about it.

"What are your tattoos?" I asked.

"Oh, well this one on my left arm is of the Grim Reaper, got it after my divorce. And my other one," he said as he inched his shirt to expose his left chest—very appropriate for work—"is a heart with my children's names in the center." His children, apparently, had been estranged for four years.

Later on that night, he asked if I was considering getting a tattoo. I told him no, but he made it his goal for the night to recommend a design and placement that I would like. His first recommendation was a picture of the globe on my ankle. "For Earth Day," he said. *Riiiiight*. When I told him I enjoyed reading and writing, he suggested a tattoo of my favorite book open on my arm. "Something meaningful," he explained. I cannot even repeat Bill's final tattoo recommendation.

A week from my last day, Bill called me over to the bar to share an idea he had. He suggested that instead of thanking each other every time he took a glass off of my tray, we say something else. When he shared his idea for that "something else," I did not smile. Rather, I considered suggesting an addendum to the employee code that consisted of forbidding makeup and requiring center hair parts. If I was getting this much unwanted attention looking like an old maid, I could not imagine what would have ensued had I dressed in my preferred clothing.

My take-away from the summer: the rules are there for a reason. Naturally, we complain about some of the rules at W&L—no smoking in the dorms, no kegs in fraternity houses, no open containers on Traveller—but they may be important to follow. Dressing in baggy clothes every day for work was about as frustrating as pouring out a full beer to get on Traveller. Yes, the restaurant could have just fired Bill, but in an effort to complicate things, I'll give them the benefit of the doubt and be grateful for my restrictions. I can only hope that such inconvenience in my life staves off at least some unwanted attention, be it from a possible pedophile or the good old Lexington Police.

## Not a Shore thing, should've stayed in Jersey

Patrick Smith reviews the start of a season of fist pumping, bronzer, and partying...overseas



By Patrick Smith  
COLUMNIST

MTV's brainchild, *The Jersey Shore*, has entered its fourth season of fist pumping, bronzer, faux-hawks and dragon-patterned T-shirts from Armani Exchange. This time around, the cast has ventured to the motherland. No, not Seaside Heights, NJ; Florence, Italy.

Going into the season, there are lots of questions waiting to be answered. How many hours will Snooki remain faithful to her gorilla, 100 percent all-natural juicehead boyfriend back home? How many times will Sammi

Sweetheart say the word "like" during the millionth argument between herself and Ronnie? In addition, how much are these fools getting paid to drink, party, fight and not speak Italian?

The answer is simple. The "Snitchuation" has reportedly brokered a deal with MTV that will land each cast member \$100,000 an episode for a thirteen episode season. If you thought you had it good going to a top liberal arts institution, think again.

If only I were Italian, I could have pretended to be from New Jersey and ruined a perfectly good family beach vacation spot. I instead took the colorful route of being Irish and pursuing an accounting degree. I am so interesting. Child please.

OK, enough with the hatred. I actually enjoy the show and have been an avid viewer since day one. Since we are all fans of the beloved show, I am sure we have all seen the trailer displaying highlights of the upcoming season.

There were some pretty shocking and graphic events that presented themselves in this preview.

Since the entire world (and your sister's sister) heard news earlier this year that Snooki ran her car into the back of a police car, the trailer had to show footage of this event. In classic style, Snooki

*Deena seems to have grown a particular appreciation for the ladies, and Snooki does not matter. Ever.*

stopped paying attention to the road just long enough to ram her vehicle into a Florence policeman's rear, ricocheting it into a nearby guardrail. The cause of this accident is unclear, although early speculation shows that Snooki's sunglasses are so deeply tinted that the

lenses are actually slabs of black plastic. In the world of eyewear, this would be classified as a "sleeping mask."

Footage in the trailer also shows a fairly intense verbal argument between the Situation and Ronnie that appears to turn into a physical altercation. Obviously no punches are shown in the

preview, but we do see the Situation unconscious and lying on the ground accompanied by paramedics. I think it's safe to say that Ronnie's record has just improved to 4-0 with three knockouts lifetime.

The episode portraying this ordeal

aired last week, and one can finally see how manipulative and nasty MTV actually is. They led us to believe that this would be the fight of the century, while in fact the Situation was the one who knocked his own ass out. In a fit of rage, a verbal altercation turned into a head butt of a concrete wall.

TKO. Kiss the baby.

Aside from this fight, the season has been fairly plebian. J-Woww, also known as J-Care Face, has seemed to turn into a skeleton over night. Vinny is, and will always be, a snide little troublemaker who everyone loves. Pauly D is the shit and I would buy him a beer any day of the week, even on the Sabbath. Deena seems to have grown a particular appreciation for the ladies, and Snooki does not matter. Ever.

Tune in to the Jersey Shore September 15th. Trust me, I'm from Jersey.

If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is it naked or homeless?

## Forced consumerism challenge in Virginia

John Paul Beall explores constitutional issues surrounding the challenges and protections of the healthcare law



By John Paul Beall  
COLUMNIST

This last week the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond heard two challenges to the Healthcare Act, sparking controversy. Over the last year, several attempts against the law have been made in Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals with mixed results. The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati upheld the disputed law in a 2-1 ruling in June, and the 11th Circuit Court in Atlanta ruled against the law, 2-1. The 4th Circuit Court ruled that a case against the law could not be made until someone had received a penalty for refusing purchase of health insurance.

The court ruled in favor of the law on grounds that judges are forbidden by federal law from ruling on tax challenges until the tax is collected, adding yet another layer to an issue already riddled with layers of Constitutional and ideological elements. Opponents of the Court's ruling expected the federal court to support the law, since all three judges on the court were Democratic appointments.

According to the *Los Angeles Times* article on the subject, the Chief Justice Diana Gribbon Motz cited the Tax Anti-Injunction Act, an obscure law passed by Congress in 1867. The justice explained that since the IRS penalty for

not owning insurance would be based on taxable income, the fine inflicted on non-owners is in fact a tax. Furthermore, Motz states that the law strips all judges of the right to make a ruling on the matter until the law is in effect. Judge James Wynn concurred, stating his belief that the law was constitutional; Judge Andre

*Whether or not the penalty is a tax, the fact still remains that the core of the issue is not one of taxes, but one of Constitutional interpretation.*

Davis stated that the penalty was not a tax, but that Congress has the power to heavily regulate markets.

The challenge will arrive at the Supreme Court next year, and the *Los Angeles Times* notes that, "Obama administration lawyers have been confi-

dent that the high court will ultimately uphold the law and rule that Congress has broad power to regulate the health insurance market." However, the stakes are high for the Obama administration. With the challenge to Obama's signature, and some might say only, achievement scheduled to reach the Supreme Court in a serious election year, a nullification of the law from the Supreme Court could potentially cripple the Obama campaign. This is especially relevant after reports of stalled job creation in late August rattled the stock market.

Whether or not the penalty is a tax, the fact still remains that the core of the issue is not one of taxes, but one of Constitutional interpretation. The broad interpretation of the Interstate Commerce Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3) and the Elastic Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18) has reached a new frontier under the Healthcare Act.

Proponents of the law claim that Congress has such power over the regulation of interstate commerce that it can force every able citizen in the United States to purchase a good or service in spite of preference.

Frankly, that argument does not stand well to begin with, since insurance policies vary state by state and are often non-transferable across state borders because of state laws. Those laws are a restriction of interstate commerce and a violation of the full faith and credit that states are supposed to have for items from other states. Yet as long as those laws exist, I question whether insurance markets can truly be considered interstate commerce, since current infrastructure clearly favors the states in the issue. Regardless of personal belief, this controversy is but one more reason that the 2012 Election (and the upcoming Mock Convention) will be exciting, interesting and important.

# opinions

## Fear and loathing in Lex Vegas

Columnist Ali Greenberg pleads for the women of W&L to end the hate and be the change they wish to see on campus



By Ali Greenberg  
COLUMNIST

Partially published in the last issue of the 2010-2011 academic year, here is the full and revised version of an article that was quoted in the *New York Times*.

It is my understanding that a school paper should be a medium to discuss things that are actually current and important on campus, so I figure, why not take a shot at a serious article. Start the year off with a bang while at least the freshmen are still reading the Phi.

From gender relations to inter-Greek camaraderie to our attitudes about drinking and partying, we have very twisted perceptions about campus life at Washington and Lee. And these issues are just that: self-evident truths that can be hard to accept and harder to fight or change.

We live in a warped reality. A bubble. And while I may joke about the differences between Yankees and debs, the differences are very real. Similar divides persist between those who come from private or public schools, white and multicultural students, and Greeks and independents.

These divides are generally unspoken. They seem to exist without rules or formal segregation, yet the social attitudes and cultural or background differences remain ever apparent.

One of the largest divides I find is the one between those who claim to be united. Within and between our Greek organizations there is tension, especially in the Panhellenic community. And as much as it hurts me to admit it, I am often disappointed by the nature of lunch and dinner discussions at the sorority houses.

The former conversations generally follow a "boys and beer" pattern, while the latter usually consist of talking about other girls. And while this obviously isn't all we talk about, I have heard and, admittedly, taken part in many conversations of girls judging other girls. "Do you think she is pretty?" "She gets around," "Why are guys into her? I just don't see it," or "Who is the prettiest girl in that pledge class?"

Rarely are there complimentary conversations about girls for something other than being thin or dressing well. Forget about being acknowledged for being smart, a leader on campus or a kind person.

If another girl dates your ex, you are automatically "so much cuter than her," especially considering that she became a slut and a bitch overnight.

Ladies, the problem with gender relations on our campus starts with us. We treat each other with little to no respect, and give so little credit to those outside our inner circle.

We can be mean, mean girls, and

we need to recognize this and make a change. Treating each other like lesser beings by making generalizations and judgments about groups or individuals is wrong and should stop. We are better than that.

In the words of the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, "Different does not mean deficient, it just means different." We are neither better nor worse than each other. Not everything has to be black and white in the sense of prettier or uglier, fatter or skinner, smarter or dumber, better or worse.

When we finally recognize this, maybe we can realize that we all have bigger issues at hand to be dealing with. Like

turn south.

I cannot wrap my head around why we participate in negative and detrimental conversations. Perhaps because it makes ourselves feel better, because we find it funny or harmless, or maybe we are simply bored. Whatever the reason, it is clear that we have all forgotten about the Golden Rule.

So the next time you sit down at srat dinner, try to talk about politics or sports or clothing or travel. You can talk about food, sex, books, class, celebrities, anything. Just don't talk about each other. Don't call someone your best friend and say you love her to death even though she is a total bitch.

Because when you do this, you become the total bitch. And if I were a guy, I wouldn't respect any girl who treated her "friends" with as little respect as we do most days. We blame everything on the boys, but we don't take accountability

for our own actions and realize that we are putting forth negative perceptions about others and ourselves.

We sit there and listen as others lambast our peers. Sometimes we partake. Sometimes we walk away. But it is rare that someone ever says, "Let's talk about something more positive".

We cannot put all the blame for gender relations on the high sexual assault rate or the lack of women on the E.C. We have the ability to make this school a better place, a better environment for

women. All it takes is being nicer to one another, and actually supporting each other instead of tearing each other down.

Because, to be honest, to an outside observer, we come off as privileged, selfish and spoiled. We seem to have inflated egos and elevated opinions of ourselves, and for what? Because we got into W&L we are suddenly better than others? Because we got into a "higher-ranking" sorority we are cooler or prettier or better?

I am going to let everyone in on a secret. While you may be making friends for a lifetime, or establishing a network for later job or social opportunities, what organization you were in and whether or not you were "cool" in college, doesn't really matter in the real world. It just doesn't. No one cares.

What people care about is your character: your kindness, your honesty, your consideration and your trust. These are the traits we are supposed to be building here as well-rounded students.

We all, myself included, contribute to this negativity at one time or another, which is why I used the royal "we" throughout this article (or technically the editorial "we" in this case.) And if I am able to admit that this behavior is wrong, we should all be able to take a step back and seriously reassess our actions.

So let's fix this. Let's stop the silliness and the sassiness. This is a brand-new year. Let's make conscious efforts to be kinder, to be positive, to not make judgments, to be nice girls. Because at the end of the day, it is always better to kill them with kindness.

## Textbooks: a thing of the past?

Sally Platt explores the benefits of trading in printed books for a lighter, greener and newer option of e-books

By Sally Platt  
COLUMNIST

Last Thursday, as I lugged home an impossibly heavy bag of books from the University store, I couldn't help wondering—how long until textbooks go extinct? The University of Phoenix has already done away with paper textbooks. Instead, professors order the needed number of "e-books" from a firm and distribute them to students at a

much-reduced cost. Often a \$250.00 chemistry text can be purchased for as little as \$35.00. At Meridian International College in Taguig City, administrators make it even easier for students by providing iPads for all, free of cost. At the University of Texas at San Antonio, iPads are on hire in the library with the required reading pre-loaded. Although

this kind of generosity may be a stretch for even the finances of our school it led me to wonder—what would be the advantage of Washington and Lee going the e-book route?

First of all, the e-book route is the paperless route. To be politically correct, our institution has to adhere to the popular cries of "save the planet" and "reduce, re-use, recycle." While many see little sense in the notion that drinking coffee from a recycled paper cup will somehow make up for the mounds of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere when we drive our cars every day, it is comforting that we are "saving the planet" with so little motion.

Being Superman has never been so easy. It is hard not to love the sense of well-being one gets from deciding not to print that PDF but to read it online, or choosing to take the extra time to figure

out which of the many colorful trashcans one's plastic Coke bottle is supposed to go in (I sometimes do this when I am depressed—quite the mood-booster.)

I am not sure that our University administrators get a mood-boost from enforcing the policy of being environmentally friendly, but it is certainly taken seriously. D-hall has plastic to-go containers, the library printers are often set to print double-sided (much to the chagrin of someone trying to print a paper), and the lights routinely go off in my hallway if I take more than the allotted five seconds to reach my destination. If our university does all this, shouldn't we do away with the great waste of paper traditional textbooks represent? One tree only makes about 200 books. That is a lot of sad trees.

A second factor in favor of e-books is the cost. Maybe I could go to my dad

and say, "Hey, I managed to make my books only cost \$150.00 this semester. Does this mean I get to keep the extra \$500.00?!" He might just say yes. It would be worth a try. The price of textbooks almost tripled between 1986 and 2004, and the last seven years have seen no reduction. The typical American student spends about a \$1000.00 a year on books. And not all people have the option of simply "swiping home" this little problem. For some students, the cost of books can inhibit them from attending college at all.

And even if it is not a problem for you, think what could be done with

the doors of all of its 399 stores. As digital books outstrip the traditional, I know many of us will remember with fondness (and not a little regret), our childhoods filled with the old kind of books, the "real" books. We might remember cuddling up next to our parents for picture books before bed (remember *Goodnight Moon*, *Curious George*, and *Amelia Bedelia*?), or the first time we were able to read a book through on our own (skipping all the big unpronounceable words, of course). And then of course there was the long wait and joyful celebration every time a new *Harry Potter* arrived on the shelves.

Then again, people like what they grow up with. A person can get used to anything. So when all of us now in college finally have kids they will probably be perfectly happy with their e-readers and iPads, watching *Curious George* jump

across the screen to the Man with the Yellow Hat instead of the old page-turn otherwise used to get him there.

Considering all these things on my walk to my house on Thursday, and arriving there drenched in sweat from mental exertion and the weight of my heavy book-load, was quite the trying experience. My conclusion is that it is alright for things to go extinct sometimes. If they are outdated, outmoded or obsolete, they should go. To hold onto them is to make oneself obsolete. Now let's just hope W&L comes to the same conclusion soon, so we can hold onto our new, shiny and bright Forbes #25 listing.

Maybe I could go to my dad and say, "Hey, I managed to make my books only cost \$150 this semester. Does this mean I get to keep the extra \$500.00?!"

\$500.00 in extra change! I could totally buy that new Coach bag I've been day-dreaming about (Coach Classic Leather Madison Satchel, in vermilion).

Speaking of bags, the introduction of e-books would make it essential that I get that bag. Without heavy pounds of books to carry, the nature of the on-campus item holder would be radically changed. Away with the bulky backpack and in with the cute carry-all, designed to be just big enough to carry an iPad and a few other essentials. In fact, I could probably use any of the purses I have in my closet. (But don't tell my dad! I really want that bag.)

Finally, e-books are simply the way of the future. In July of 2010, Amazon announced that for the first time ever in the past three months, its sale of e-books was greater than its sale of hard-copy books. In July of 2011, Borders closed

### WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY THE RING-TUM PHI.

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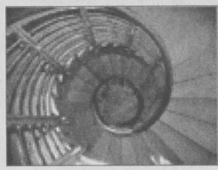
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# opinions

## New person, same ol' conversation

First-year Andrea Siso describes how introductions with new classmates can grow boring, quickly



By Andrea Siso  
COLUMNIST

eye contact.

NOTE: Know the difference between "friendly" and "creepy." Friendly means fewer than three seconds. Creepy means

more than five seconds.

How to be a social first-year at Washington and Lee:

1. Plaster cheek-splitting smile on face.

2. Make "friendly"

3. Introduce yourself. Then pause to let the other person do the same.

NOTE: You do not need to pay much attention to the name the person says. You'll forget it by the time you cross the quad back to your room, anyway.

4. Ask a question.  
NOTE: Favorites include "What dorm are you in?," "Where are you from?," and of course, the W&L staple, "Are you going out tonight?" Small talk can stem easily from each answer given, e.g. "Oh, Graham-Lees? That sucks—no A/C." Or, invariably, "Graham-Lees? Awesome!" High fiving may ensue.

5. Say goodbye (or any of its

variations).

6. Rinse and repeat.  
NOTE: Of course, next time pick a different person. Try at least to remember whether or not you've already introduced yourself to someone. This will save you from plodding through more inane chatter than necessary.

As a first-year, I'm wondering—Are any of my other classmates also tired of having the same conversation again and again? It's like experiencing interminable déjà vu. Especially when you have the same conversation with the same person you met just last Saturday, but don't actually remember.

Of course if you don't introduce

yourself, then you won't familiarize yourself with anyone. And if I've learned anything in my first week, it's that living social is quite the priority at W&L. The speaking tradition speaks for itself (wink, wink, nudge, nudge).

Corny jokes aside, I really do feel a bit washed out of my desire to repeat the standard dialogue. Each of us is playing a tired role, using a tired script, and ignoring the fact that perhaps meeting so many people, so quickly is actually ineffectual. I don't remember half the people I've met, especially as I haven't talked to them since our hasty introductions. But what can be done? It seems as if going through the motions is man-

dated by the status of "new student," or "first-year."

Either way, I admit my premature social ennui. I just hope it isn't so heavy that it cannot be lifted or shattered by any single surprise in conversation. And, of course, I do retain vast stores of hope for the coming days of the year when our cordial urges will be satisfied (for the most part). Eventually, we will be familiar enough with our surroundings to do social improv., that is, to be ourselves.

## Stereotyping W&L first-years

Former editor Stockton Bullitt lists the types of students he suspects students will recognize in the incoming class



By Stockton Bullitt  
COLUMNIST

I thought that senior year of college would be similar to senior year of high school. All I would have to do is wax poetic about every meaningless last I ever did, and drench my prose in nostalgic phrases with meaningless inside jokes. Throwing in an extra "Do less" or "Move it, football head" would be enough to prove that, as a senior, I am properly keeping an eye on the past while moving way too fast towards graduation and the future.

However, senior year hasn't really worked out this way so far. Instead, I find myself doing two things I usually chide others for doing. I talk way too much about getting old, and I give way too much patronizing advice to freshmen at parties. I hate these two aspects about myself because 22 is not terribly old, and my advice in the past has guaranteed Louisville over Moorehead State and Germany winning the World Cup.

So even though I'm right about most things (e.g. the J-School and everything I'm writing in this article), please do not let me get to Yoda levels of patronizing advice. It gets boring after a while.

With that said, every freshmen class is unique in its own way, but, c'mon, this is Washington and Lee, where unique has been a relative term for over 250 years. So, here are some stereotypes that will probably be in the freshmen class this year. I'd add more of an introduction, but I might throw my back out in my old, decrepit age.

### The Tyler the Creator kid

This is the spot reserved for the token crazy freshmen. Most upperclassmen, especially sophomores, are eager to challenge any over-aggressive freshmen during the beginning of the year. Usually all these upperclassmen have to do is find the blond freshman with gel in his hair surrounded by all the cute freshmen girls and challenge his authority in public. You've seen this plotline on "Planet Earth" hundreds of times, and 99 percent of the time, the freshman backs down and sulks in the corner.

However, the Tyler the Creator kid is never even approached by upperclassmen because he is freaking crazy. There may be plenty of older guys complaining about his presence, but they will never do it to his face. The Tyler the Creator kid does not have to prove that he is crazy like Arnold did in that episode of "Hey Arnold." Rather, it's something in his eyes. Guys will not mess with him no matter what he does to them.

You are probably wondering why he is named the Tyler the Creator kid. Well, Tyler the Creator is the epitome of this persona. He recently won MTV's Best New Artist Award, but I have a feeling you don't know who he is, and if you are older than 25, you definitely do not want to know who he is. Watch the music video for his top single "Yonkers," and you will either characterize him as crazy good or crazy evil; it all depends on your music tastes.

Whether you like him or not, Tyler the Creator is on top of his game now. He is the Kevin Durant of the hip hop genre. His album "Goblin" was released right around the time the Thunder made it to the Western Finals, and his summer releases have coincided perfectly with KD's Rucker Park and other exhibi-

tion masterpieces. Tyler's R&B buddy, Frank Ocean, is looking very similar to Russell Westbrook after being featured on three songs in Jay-Z and Kanye's "Watch the Throne." And his little cousin, Earl Sweatshirt, bears a striking resemblance to James Harden. It all fits!

### Long-Distance Relationship kid

Enough movies have been made about this for me not to have to go into great detail, so instead I'll give some patronizing advice. As this kid's friend, it's not your job to keep the relationship going or break it up. Like Miley Cyrus' career, the relationship will end, and it will end quickly. Even President Ruscio knows about the Turkey Drop. As the friend, your job is to make sure that when your friend goes public, his IPO price is adequately high. Don't let him screw up his single life by applying early decision to his safety school. You also have to make sure that he isn't just applying to Ivies because he thinks that hot girls will like him just because he was nice to his high school girlfriend. Overall, just be careful because these new commodities are especially volatile in the market.

### Fifteen Pounds Girl

I'm not going to go into much detail because anywhere I go with this will get me into trouble, so here's a quick description: every freshman class has one girl who gets the freshman fifteen and one girl who drops the freshman fifteen. Regardless of what happens, there will be some passive-aggressive conversations about it in her friend group. If she added fifteen pounds, she will vehemently avoid and dismiss any conversation topic about weight. If she lost fifteen pounds, she will leave hanging sentences just so you can compliment her on her looks.

The worst part of these situations is how much needless worrying and focus is dedicated to these fifteen pounds. Your weight is kind of like your pet: nobody else cares about the intricacies of maintaining it. No one minds a single dog story, but everyone hates the person who never stops talking about his or her cats. It's the same way with weight. If you start saying the word calories more than five times a day, people are going to start hating you, and that's a fact.

### Will Ferrell kid

Just like most Will Ferrell movies, you probably don't like this kid right now. His jokes aren't funny, and there seems to be something a little off about him. By October, you might be telling your friends that this kid has all the signs of a GDI. Look, I had the same feeling when I first saw "Anchorman" or even "Land of the Lost." At first glance, none of Will Ferrell's movies are that great. But just like "Grandma's Boy" and "Family Guy," Will Ferrell's movies get exponentially better with each repeat showing. You hear the same dumb jokes, and suddenly Veronica Mantooth is funny as hell. It's the same way with this kid. It'll start with his freshman friends swearing by him. It will probably take you a while to warm up to this kid, the same way that it took you a while to warm up to the idea of Will Ferrell befriending a T-Rex, but I promise you it will happen. And by May, you will swear by this kid and be quoting his jokes religiously. Know that the next time you're glaring maliciously at that dumbass freshman with his dumbass grin standing nonchalantly at Windfall.

### Judgy friend

No matter what your interests are or how many friends you have, there will be one of these kids for every group of friends in the freshmen class. This is the kid that will raise his or her eyebrows condescendingly when you whip out a

handle or decide to go home with someone. This is the kid that quietly smirks when you mention you might be interested in checking out the Hille house. He or she is the friend dedicated to limiting your fun and adventure this year. Just know two things: 1) these kids get shit on all four years for being downers and 2) if you aren't doing a couple of new things your freshmen year, whatever they are, then you are definitely doing something wrong. Just look at Jay-Z.

Before this summer, when was the last time you saw Jay-Z smile? No, not on the "Hard Knock Life" video, that was a smirk at best. He's been so successful with the corporate, serious businessman rapper image that he hasn't had to exert himself or even play around in the last decade. But just look at him in the "Otis" video, and you'll see a grinning adolescent who never imagined that a Maybach could look like the Batmobile. His carefree attitude on that video changed the entire "Watch the Throne" album for me. The album was

characterized as a self-centered celebration of previous successes. Characterized as the Versailles of rap albums, the general consensus was that Jay-Z and Kanye wanted you to watch the throne because they could put the most gold per square inch on their already decorated egos.

But that wasn't the point of "Watch the Throne." Seeing Jay-Z's demeanor over the last few months has shown me that the point of the album was to get everyone to realize just how fun it was sitting on the throne. They want you to watch the throne not because they have it and you don't, but rather so you can comprehend how giddy with excitement they are at living each day. And if you think that's stupid reasoning, just Google "Watch the Throne Ghostface Killah," and you'll be satisfied with his review.

### Rich, Wannabe Hippie girl

Every college has one of these girls, and every time I visit another school, I seem to develop an antagonistic relationship with someone like this, so my view is admittedly biased. That being said, these girls really do get on my bad side. This is the kind of girl with way too many tapestries in her room, the girl who uses Buddhist prayer beads as a fashion accessory, the girl who lectures on proper techniques of smoking weed. This girl will talk about how different she is than most girls; she doesn't partici-

pate in all that popularity stuff because she is above all of that. Just notice where she is during sorority meetings and how she acts at Windfall after a couple of drinks. Suddenly the girl who bakes her own bread and lectures you about what "real art" means is twirling her hair looking deep into the eyes of some Phi Delt. Plus, she'll tell you that *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* is a trashy read that is not worth her time.

And that is NOT the case. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* is easily the best beach read novel of the past decade and will own the box office when the movie hits theaters during Christmas. I've spent more time defending this series than I have defending "Entourage" to non-adolescent males, and that's saying something. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* series is so far above *The Da Vinci Code*, it's a crime to compare them. *The Da Vinci Code* is just another reason why English teachers from Exeter have needlessly high opinions of themselves and what they do.

### Phase kid

This kid will spend his entire college career finding that one thing he wants to do for the rest of his life. The only problem is that he will change his mind every couple of months. The key with this kid is to make sure he or she has a genuine interest in the new calling. See, about half of the phase kids just go through different phases of interests because they are searching for something they feel passionate about. That's fine. But the other half make their decisions based solely on whether other people think what they're doing is cool. There's no definitive way to know if your phase kid friend is a leader or a follower, but know that if he or she is in the Dub-step Phase, SEC Football Coach Phase, ROTC Phase or Drug Phase, you should be especially vigilant.

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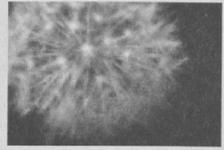
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# arts&life

## First-years start by giving back

*Volunteer Venture provides a service opportunity and way for incoming students to bond*

By Colleen Moore  
STAFF WRITER

Incoming first-years gave this year's Volunteer Venture the most positive reviews yet, said Jenny Davidson, Student Service Learning Coordinator. Of the 99 participants, 80 percent said they plan to volunteer in Lexington and on campus.

The one-week service learning program took place in Roanoke, Lexington, Washington, Greensboro, Charleston and Richmond, the most recently created trip. The program aimed to introduce first-years to each other, to poverty issues and to upperclassmen who can help them become involved on campus and in the Rockbridge area.

"The Volunteer Venture trip was probably the best possible way I could have picked to start my time at Washington and Lee," said one participant.

"It was an incredible experience that allowed me to help others while getting to know classmates and upperclassmen."

After choosing between the two pre-orientation options of Volunteer Venture and Appalachian Adventure, the future W&L students picked which service trip they wanted. Then they arrived one week before regular move-in day and set off for their particular city.

Thirty-three student leaders guided the first-years through the week. These leaders had to undergo an interview process and Poverty 101 before leading a trip. The Student Service Learning team aimed for a diverse group with experience in volunteering and a strong involvement in campus activities.

Leaders' two-day training included

a talk from Dr. Horton, the director of health and counseling service, to inform them about any medical issues that might have arisen during the trip.

Shiri Yadlin, the student coordinator, played a huge role in the organization of Volunteer Venture. As a first-year, she went on the D.C. Volunteer Venture trip with similar goals of meeting people and getting acquainted with W&L.

Having volunteered in high school, she wanted to get involved on campus and with the Shepherd Poverty program. Her sophomore year, she led the Lexington trip, which help to introduce first-years to not only W&L but also the surrounding area.

"It encourages first-years to get outside campus and get involved in the

community to places where nobody typically goes," said Yadlin.

As a junior, Yadlin worked with Volunteer Venture by creating and coordinating the Richmond trip. As Student Coordinator her senior year, Yadlin led the orientation for the trip leaders and visited each site. "I got to see all the trips in action," she said.

Students interested in volunteering on campus can attend Nabors Service Day, which places students at different agencies where they can continue to volunteer if they choose.

"If you can find a place or an activity that you're passionate about, it's not a burden. You will actively keep going back to it," said Yadlin.

### Application Deadlines

Overall Coordinator:  
Sept. 26

Returning Leaders:  
Sept. 30

First-Time Leaders: Oct. 3

## Some rain, but no dead bodies

*First-years and trip leaders survive five days roughin' it on the Appalachian Trail*

By Paige Gance  
ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

After five days of backpacking along the Appalachian Trail, all 108 first-years and 36 trip leaders made it back to campus safely. This is the largest group ever to go on the Appalachian Adventure pre-orientation trip, now in its 16th year.

James Dick, Outing Club director, said there are typically eight to nine groups, but this year 12 groups hiked sections of the trail from Mountain Lake, Va. to Shenandoah National Park, covering anywhere from 25 to 35 miles total.

"We want people to truly meet a small group of classmates, get to know them, be themselves, in a non-forced setting," said Dick. "It's a great way to enter W&L."

Fishing and rock climbing used to be offered as pre-orientation trips, but Dick

said they moved to only backpacking because the groups seem to form tighter bonds.

Groups consist of three trip leaders and nine first-years all working together to cook, set up tarps, start campfires and carry everything the group needs on their backs.

Trips ranged from moderate to challenging, based on total miles and elevation changes. Some trips had abundant water sources, but others needed to carry multiple 10-liter water bags to hold them over until the next potential water source.

Many participants were able to experience some of Virginia's natural wonders for the first time, like Devil's Marbleyard, Tinker Cliffs, McAfee's Knob and Dragon's Tooth. The Outing Club

also organizes day trips to hiking destinations like these during the school year.

The weather for the trips was generally in the campers' favor, with only one afternoon thunderstorm causing trouble for a group caught on a high ridge.

An ongoing criminal investigation also caused a fright for a few groups camped near the James River, with one group choosing to get picked up the night before their scheduled departure. Several forest rangers and law enforcement officers were in the area and spoke to at least two groups.

They said their investigation concerned the body of a hiker found a few weeks prior on the trail, but assured one group that they were "as safe as anywhere else on the trail."

Beside the group that evacuated,

only one other person was picked up early due to a cut that made carrying a backpack painful.

"Overall though, it went well," said head sherpa Zach Zoller. He said the work he and fellow head sherpa Ali Pedersen put into the trips was akin to a part-time summer job.

Six sherpas coordinated the behind the scenes aspect of the trips, like planning new routes, ordering hundreds of pounds of food, and communicating with the incoming students via e-mail over the summer.

Next year, Zoller said there may be as many as four head sherpas as Appalachian Adventure gains more trip leaders and participants.

Those interested in leading a trip next year need to take PE 180: Wilder-

ness Leadership in the winter. Leaders also receive additional training in the week before the trip, which includes Wilderness First Aid certification.

Next year, James said leaders will receive the advanced wilderness certification. Training will once again take place at Camp Blue Ridge. Leaders went there for the first time this year because the university had sold Skylark Farm, the former training spot.

Senior Tal Jacobs, who has now led three trips and participated as a first-year, said leading pre-orientation trips has been "one of the defining elements of my W&L career, and helped me find a group of cool, interesting people in the Outing Club."



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*Pictured: 2009 Blackstone Fellows - Peter K., Janelle W., David S., Shannon R., Justin O.*

# sports




ALEXANDER MARAGOS

STEPHEN PECK

After arguably the craziest offseason in decades, the NFL just enjoyed its first full weekend of regular season football—and I couldn't be happier. Even casual football fans followed the seemingly endless coverage of the lockout that lasted 18 weeks and four days, hoping that the owners and players would come up with an agreement on how to split the \$9 billion revenue pot. Ultimately, cooler heads prevailed, and with no major casualties (sorry, Hall of Fame game), the nation's favorite sport came back right on time.

Yes, college football provides its entertainment, like fight songs, over-the-top tailgates, traditions, dazzling jerseys, rankings, Heisman watches and those stupid mascot brawls. But the NFL off-season has provided so many tidbits and story lines to take into September that I feel like I need a giant Christmas-come-early stocking to carry it all.

Now, normally I would be a real Scrooge and give both the players and owners a scolding for playing with the fans' hearts and minds for the better part of a year. Watching two terrible baseball teams every day deep into July with no training camp in sight was as much of a chore as a hobby. But I'm just so darned happy to have a full season to look forward to that I'm ready to make peace with NFL Commissioner Goodell and NFLPA President DeMaurice Smith a lot quicker than they made peace with each other. But never mind that, if the players are ready to hit the tar out of each other for at least five months, then I'm willing to watch.

Figuring out that the NFL is the most exciting sport in America is the easy part - now what team should I watch?

The sexy pick this year is the Philadelphia Eagles. Andy Reid is far from sexy (so I've heard), but if he doesn't win this year, the fans are going to shave off his mustache and burn it in Constitution Hall. As Executive VP of Football Operations, Reid has given himself more weapons than the Libyan militia, making this the go big or go home year for Philadelphia. This offseason pool party featured splashes like a well-deserved Michael Vick extension, an out-of-nowhere Nnamdi Asomugha signing, a wise Kevin Kolb trade, and insurance policies in the Vince Young and Ronnie Brown deals. But Philadelphia has a World Series to win before they can hoist the Lombardi Trophy or call themselves host to the next 2007 New England Patriots, so we'll move on.

Another easy pick is the Houston Texans. Matt Schaub has firmly entrenched himself as one of the top ten quarterbacks in the league, and, with a revamped defensive secondary, the Texans are looking to make some noise in the AFC South. Many experts believe this will be the year that Head Coach Gary Kubiak puts all the right pieces together to create a well-oiled winning machine in Houston. Arian Foster looks to return from an early hamstring injury and make fans and fantasy owners happy once more after rushing for a league-leading 1616 yards in 2010. If Houston stays healthy, Jacoby Jones improves to compliment Andre Johnson, and the defense reaps the benefits of the team's \$68.75 million dollar investment in the secondary, then Peyton Manning might have to sit on his couch for the beginning and the end of the 2011 season.

And finally, some stories I'll be following:

Last year, my Chicago Bears were two solid quarters away from appearing in the Super Bowl for the second time in five years, so can they repeat as NFC North Champions with the Packers standing in their way? The Bears appear to have done very little to address the needs on the offensive line and wide receiver, so what is really stopping them from becoming a mediocre offense that leads the league in sacks allowed for a second consecutive year? And with Matt Forte and Lance Briggs embattled in contract disputes with the team going into regular season, how will that sit with a locker room still miffed over the loss of veteran center Olin Kreutz?

I can see how this sounds more like a beat writer's fan mailbag than a preview, but until the Monsters of the Midway can give me an answer to any of these, I can't very well predict how the Bears will do in 2011. This much I know: Jay Cutler (and not Rex Grossman or Kyle Orton) is our quarterback, and I am pleased.

I'm interested to see what the Lions do despite early injuries. As long as Matt Stafford is under center, they'll be in every game this season.

New England is stacked as usual on both sides of the ball. If anyone can make reclamation projects like Albert Haynesworth and Chad Ochocinco focus on a Super Bowl, it's Bill Belichick—work your magic, Bill.

The Packers won the Super Bowl last year with over a dozen players on IR. Even a Bears fan is interested in seeing the damage they could do to a weak NFC this year.

Will the NFL come down harder on hits this year than last year? James Harrison's inflammatory comments about the league and the commissioner did not help his cause for a reduced sentence.

But enough with all the court cases, jawing and jargon. The NFL is back in spectacular fashion, so let the games begin.

Sports writers Stephen Peck and Alexander Maragos go head to head to determine which level of football reigns supreme:

College or the Pros?

The gathered throng of 114, 804 at The Big House on Saturday night didn't want to leave.

Michigan had just beaten Notre Dame in the most dramatic of fashions and the crowd was still delirious well after the final seconds ticked off the clock and both teams had hit the showers. The student section danced, cheered, and sang "Hail to the Victors" over and over. The marching band came back out on the field for an encore performance. It was as if everyone in attendance didn't want the moment to end, and rightly so. This was college football at its finest.

You don't have to be a Michigan fan to marvel at the aerial shots of Michigan Stadium, hosting the first night game in the program's history, seemingly swaying with the collective waving of 100,000 maize pom-poms. You don't have to be a Notre Dame fan to appreciate the dominance of wide receiver Michael Floyd. You don't even have to be a football fan to recognize that three touchdowns in the final 72 seconds is a pretty damn exciting way to end a game.

But college football is never just a game. It is truly an event. Say what you will about wanting a playoff instead of the current BCS system, but the fact still remains that each Saturday is essentially a playoff game. Lose, and your hopes for the ultimate prize, the National Championship, are all but dashed. Win, and the party that started early that morning can continue into the night and the dream can live another week.

The Atlanta Falcons could lose their opener and fans would simply turn their focus to next week. But the Georgia Bulldogs lose their first two games this season and the fanbase calls for head coach Mark Richt's head on a platter. This passion in college football ignites is the closest thing America has to the crazed supporters of European soccer. And I believe that's a good thing.

And while I took a while to get to it; I think you can see my point. I am more excited for the college football season than the NFL because every Saturday is an event. I love it all. It is the pageantry, the tradition, the hate, the rivalries, and the passion.

It's watching Robert Griffin III shred the TCU defense for five touchdowns in week one. It's seeing Mark May look like he is visibly in pain while he has to listen to Lou Holtz babble like an idiot. It's Erin Andrews. It's the ESPN College GameDay signs ("TEBOW WEARS JORTS"). It's arguing about Boise State. It's Oregon's uniforms...and Penn State's. It's watching tomorrow's stars today.

The list could go on forever. It's Camp Randall Stadium literally shaking during Wisconsin's "Jump Around". It's awkward halftime interviews with pissed-off coaches. It's War Eagle, Roll Tide, Rocky Top, Fight On, and Boomer Sooner. It's Touchdown Jesus. It's Joe Paterno. It's Willis McGahee's orange visor at the U. And it's marveling at the athleticism of players that are all my age.

This year in particular is full of intriguing storylines across the NCAA. Conference realignment has stolen most of the headlines with big name programs such as Nebraska and Colorado jumping ship to the Big 10 (twelve?) and Pac 10 respectively and hoping to immediately compete for conference championships. Boise State is primed to make a run at another undefeated season and sparking the inevitable cries for a playoff. And of course you can't go more than a month without another recruiting violation scandal coming out and causing the collective American public to act really concerned for a couple days, then forget what they were mad about and resume watching the sport they love.

Yet another thing college football brings to the table is the Heisman trophy, given to the nation's most outstanding player and this year's race should prove just as exciting as ever. Andrew Luck, the senior quarterback from Stanford who gave up guaranteed millions in the NFL to return for a fourth season is the prohibitive favorite, but LaMichael James, Landry Jones, Kellen Moore, and Marcus Lattimore will give him a run for his money.

So sure, I will cheer along with my Detroit Lions as they find new and imaginative ways to lose football games this year, and yes, I will watch the NFL playoffs once they roll around. But that's it. Give me a college game, with all of its imperfections, any day of the week.

Who cares if Notre Dame and Michigan are two below-average teams? When Denard Robinson tossed it up to the back of the end zone with two seconds remaining and Roy Roundtree came down with the ball for the winning score, I was breathless. College football never ceases to amaze me, and I could not be more excited for the rest of the season.

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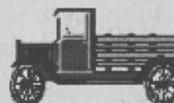
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# sports



## ondeck

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
<b>Football</b>						at Centre 7:30 PM	
<b>Volleyball</b>		at Guilford 7 PM			vs Hollins 5 PM	vs Roanoke 11 AM	
<b>Men's Soccer</b>			at Randolph-Macon 4:30 PM			vs Roanoke 1 PM	
<b>Women's Soccer</b>						at Guilford 2 PM	
<b>Field Hockey</b>				at Christopher Newport 6 PM		vs Frostburg St. 2 PM	
<b>Cross Country</b>							
<b>Golf</b>							Bridgewater Invitational Day 1

## in the numbers

### 72

In only this many seconds, the ending of Saturday's Notre Dame-Michigan game included 21 points scored and three lead changes. Michigan pulled out the 35-31 win with a touchdown in the last two seconds of the game.

### 599

The number of career saves that New York Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera has after a 6-5 win over the Los Angeles Angels. With his most recent save, Rivera is only two saves off the league record for the most in a career.

### 100

The number of times the University of Oklahoma's football team has been ranked No. 1 by the AP Poll. The Sooners are the first team to top the poll this many times since it began in 1936. Notre Dame is second with 95 overall appearances as No. 1 and Ohio State is next with 94.

### 51

The number of Nationwide Series Kyle Busch has won, the most in history. His most recent win came in Richmond last week and also marks his eight win in the series this season.

## soapbox

"I'm not a legend, yet. I'm on my way, but I've got to go to London and blow people's minds, to go to the Olympics and do something extraordinary."

—Usain Bolt said he expects big things of himself in the upcoming Olympics after winning gold in the 200m at the World Championships.

"Any typical kickoff weekend, your emotions are high. Being it's Sept. 11, 10th anniversary, Colin Powell's in the locker room giving you the pregame speech, and then coming out and the fans are chanting 'U-S-A.' I was overwhelmed. It was a fun day. It's a day I'll never forget."

—Washington Redskins quarterback Rex Grossman was 21 of 34 for 305 yards and two touchdowns in a 28-14 win over the New York Giants on Sunday. Much of the day throughout the world of sports was dedicated to remembering 9/11.

## The sword mightier than the pen

### Football starts season 2-0

By Jayna Johns  
SPORTS EDITOR

After last year's record-setting season, the Washington and Lee football is off to a hot start with an undefeated 2-0 record, boosted by a comfortable 31-14 win over Sewanee in Lexington on Saturday.

The win marked the Generals seventh straight win over the Tigers and their ninth straight regular season victory, a streak that extends into last season.

W&L's offense overcame its struggles from the week before as senior quarterback Charlie Westfal threw for two touchdowns and ran for another to help the team roll up 414 yards, compared to the previous week's 228 yards.

The Generals scored first when junior running back Sasha Vandalov took a 16-yard run into the endzone, topping off a 10-play drive that covered 73 yards.

The lead grew with a 27-yard touchdown pass from Westfal to senior wide receiver Cody Smith on a gutsy 4th and 8 play with just over four minutes left before the half, putting W&L up by 14.

Senior placekicker Peter Alston added that lead with a 35-yard field goal, and a dominant defense kept the Tigers scoreless for the first half, giving the Generals a comfortable 17-0 advantage at the break.

Sewanee came out strong in the third quarter, finding the end on its first possession less than five minutes into the second half. A fake punt on 4th and 11 extended the Tigers' drive and helped them get on the board.

W&L responded with back-to-back scores, the first a 14-yard run by Westfal and the second a 16-yard pass from Westfal to sophomore



end Alex Evans, to go up 31-7 with just over seven minutes of playing time remaining.

The Tigers came up with a late score in the final minute to help close the margin of victory.

The Generals' defense held Sewanee to only 256 yards for the day. Senior defensive back Jake Pelton led the team with 11 tackles, nine of which were solo, and recovered a fumble, while junior linebacker Stephen Peck recorded a sack and seven tackles.

A week earlier, W&L started the season with a 24-10 win over Franklin & Marshall a week earlier, snapping a three-game losing streak to the Diplomats.

A dominant defense made up for early offensive struggles as the team forced five turnovers and came up with five sacks while holding F&M to only 14 rushing yards, though the Generals were outgained on the day 316 to 228.

After a scoreless first quarter, W&L found the end zone first 44 seconds into the second quarter when Westfal connected with Evans for a 10-yard touchdown pass to go up by seven.

The Diplomats responded with a 25-yard field goal on their ensuing drive and threatened to score again on their next drive as they got to the W&L 11-yard line. Senior linebacker Rob Look was able to preserve the Generals' lead by intercepting a pass on the 9-yardline.

On their third drive, F&M again got within scoring distance of the end zone but missed a 31-yard field goal as the clock ran out at the end of the half, allowing the Generals to go into the break with a 7-3 lead.

W&L put three more points on the board with a field goal at the end of the third quarter, and then added a touchdown by junior running back Brett Murray to go up 17-3 with 10:29 left to play.

Three minutes later, the Diplomats added a touchdown of their own, but the Generals put away threats of an upset by scoring once again, this time a six-yard run by Westfal, to secure the win with less than four minutes left to play.

The team will head to Centre College on Saturday for a 7:30 p.m. contest, but will be back in Lexington the week after to take on Alma.

## Volleyball kicking ace

The Generals are off to a 8-0 start and have dropped only two of their 26 sets

By Angela Williams  
STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee volleyball team is off to an undefeated start highlighted by winning their own tournament last weekend for the third time in four years.

The Generals breezed through the W&L tournament, dropping only one set out of their four games.

In the opening match Friday afternoon, W&L overcame Averett University to win 3-0. Averett challenged in the first set before falling 26-24. The Generals took off in the next two sets, posting wins of 25-16 and 25-11.

Sophomore hitters Allison Rouse and M.A. Boles dominated the nets, recording 11 and seven kills, respectively. Rouse also added seven digs while Boles served three aces.

W&L took on Elizabethtown College later the same day with similar results.

Boles lead the team with 15 kills in the 3-0 sweep, taking down the Blue Jays with scores

of 25-16, 25-16 and 25-11. Senior blocker Lindsey Dee managed eight kills out of only 10 swings.

Junior libero Cameron Hill came up with 14 digs, which gave her 1,127 career digs and moved her into sixth place all-time at W&L. Hill also recorded 15 digs against Averett.

In addition to their killing and digging talents, the Generals aced 16 serves. Sophomore setter Meghan Meleski, first-year defensive specialist Kelly McManus and senior defensive specialist Megan Tomlinson each contributed four aces.

Day two started against Southern Virginia University and led to the Generals' one dropped set. After easily taking the first set 25-16, W&L slipped in the second to lose 17-25. The team quickly recovered to finish the game with 25-12 and 25-13 victories.

Meleski set a personal career-high with 50 assists, while Boles again led the team with

19 kills. She was far from the only offensive power, as Dee contributed 11 kills and junior hitter Taylor Maxey added nine more.

For the final match of the tournament, W&L took down Gettysburg 3-0, winning the sets 25-18, 25-18, 25-21 to take home its eighth championship in this tournament.

Boles was dominate again, notching 20 kills and nine digs, and Rouse put in a strong game both offensively and defensively, recording 13 kills and six digs.

W&L's eight straight wins mark their best start to a season since 2008.

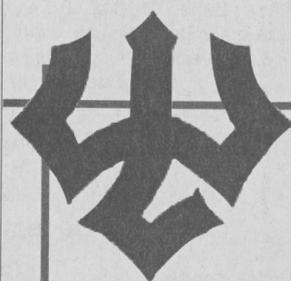
The team has talent and contributors at every position, suggesting that the season's early success is just a taste of what the Generals can accomplish.

The Generals will travel to Guilford on Tuesday, but will be back on the courts in Lexington on Friday to take on Hollins at 5 p.m.



Sophomore hitter Allison Rouse goes up for a kill in last weekend's W&L tournament. The Generals won the tournament for the eighth time and are 8-0 for the season.

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## field hockey

opponent	date	result
McDaniel	09/05	L 0-2
Mary Washington	09/09	L 1-7
Rodes	09/10	W 4-3

## sports update

### men's soccer

opponent	date	result
Elizabethtown	09/10	L 0-1
DeSales	09/11	L 1-4

### women's soccer

opponent	date	result
Averett	09/10	W 5-0
Shenandoah	09/11	L 0-1