

OPINION

Spos needs no course for golf

SPoS' SPACE

Tom Hespos

one too many times.

The backswing was nearly perfect. The backswing is crucial when you are hitting lofty shots that need to clear scraggly bushes. I swung through the can and watched it sail over the bush and land next to the dumpster. I was on the green in one. With this hole designated as a Par 5, I had a good chance for an eagle on my next shot.

Watson swore and kicked snow at his girlfriend, putting out her cigarette. "Chill out, meathead," I advised. "Your problem is psychological. You have to be the ball. Did you hear me? You're not being the ball."

Watson lined up his shot, swung, and promptly covered everybody in the peanut gallery with white slush. His can ricocheted off the bush, flew off in a random direction and came to rest in the middle of the street — out of bounds.

"I think that's a four-stroke penalty," I said, "but we're clearly playing under winter rules, so if the referee okays it, you can take a drop."

We whirled our heads around and stared earnestly at Ray, our referee. He took a big swig of his Keystone and sort of half-belched, half-nodded.

Watson took a drop on the edge of the lawn right next to the walkway. His shot was beautiful. It sailed high above the bush and landed three feet from the dumpster. A decent chip would give him a triple bogey for the hole.

"Be the ball," I slowly muttered under my breath as I chipped up for my eagle.

Watson easily chipped in for his pitiful triple bogey and the spectators

howled again. Ray pitched forward and passed out in the snow face first after mumbling something about Jimi Hendrix and a worldwide conspiracy.

Heading into the final hole on the tour, I was clearly comfortable with my 32-stroke lead. As Doug stepped up to the final tee, he was berated by the crowd for leading off the hole when I clearly had honors from the previous one. His shot hooked into the road and came to rest on the hood of an expensive-looking Alfa Romeo.

Watson screamed a bad word that started with "F" and immediately started making excuses.

"It was Ray's fault," he complained. "Ray 'noonaned' me."

This was clearly not the case, as Ray's passed-out form was still laying face first in the snow. A little puddle of drool had formed in the snow right next to his face. Some girls helped him up and steered him in the general direction of the 19th hole.

"I was noonaned!" Watson complained.

No one really cared at that point because they had seen the sleek form of a Lexington Police cruiser coming down Lee Avenue, with the equally sleek and supple form of Officer F.W. Smith behind the wheel. The tournament ended with everyone heading toward the 19th hole before Officer Smith could get out of his car and administer Rodney King-style beatings unto us all.

At the clubhouse, the finishing school women poured us Bloody Marys and administered to Ray's self-inflicted

wounds from his fall into the snow.

"...Choked on his own vomit, my foot..." Ray trailed off.

The Pro-Am Tournament play was clearly over for the day, and Watson and I raided the Official IFC-subsidized can receptacles for range balls. Ray got some ice beer and looked out the window at Officer Smith, who was staring cluelessly at the Alfa, obviously looking for damage.

"Humph," snorted Ray in disgust. "Can't that guy just die or something so we can finish our tournament?" pleaded Watson.

Officer Smith waltzed back to his car, disgusted that the beer can didn't scratch the finish on the Alfa. He drove off in the direction of City Subs and Steaks.

Since Ray didn't want to get up from his bar stool, we elected to finish the tournament indoors, with the post-Renaissance renovated bathroom serving as the green and the toilet as a cup. Watson shoved the plunger in the toilet, to serve as the pin. We made a mental note to remove it after the hole was over, so as not to cause distress to those who do not look before they sit down.

Watson's drive was long. He got a good lie on top of the drain in the bathroom and chipped his Keystone into the bowl for an easy birdie. Smug and confident, he stared at my drive, a bad one by any standard. It had travelled down the hallway, hit a door, and ricocheted into the TV room, where it came to rest on top of the big cube-like coffee table the university had given us.

"Renaissance bites," I said while lining up the next shot. Just then, Ray burst in, flipped the lights off, and promptly ruled the match over on account of darkness.

As Watson and I headed back to the 19th, we contemplated the truly rebellious, anti-Renaissance message which beer can golf conveys. A scream broke the silence and we cringed under the sudden realization that we had forgotten to remove the pin from the 18th hole.

GENERAL NOTES

Film

The Film Society presents *Like Water for Chocolate* (Mexico, 1993), directed by Alfonso Arau. Showings will be at 8:05 p.m. on Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12 in the Troubadour Cinema. There is no charge for admission. The film is in Spanish with English subtitles.

Hillel

Hillel is sponsoring a "Passover Community Seder" for interested W&L students, faculty and staff on Tuesday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the University Center, Room 114. Call Karen Lyle at 463-8798 by Friday, March 25.

Trip

Anyone planning on leaving for Baltimore or Cleveland early in exam week, please give me a call ASAP. I'll pay for gas. Sarah Drain — 464-8690.

Step Up

Step into a fundraiser to help prevent heart disease. Gather you team of four steppers for a fun-filled afternoon of raising funds and heart rates. Give us a hand with your feet on Friday, March 18. Look for sign-ups in front of the Co-op.

Big Sibling

Be a big brother or sister to an incoming East Asian exchange student. Please see Professor Rogers in the East Asian language center for details.

Admissions

The Admissions Office is now accepting applications for an anticipated admissions counselor position. All interested graduating seniors should submit a cover letter and resume no later than Monday, March 21, 1994 to Julia M. Kozak, Associate Director of Admissions.

Party

The Peer Counselors, the Minority Students Association, the Panhellenic Council, and the Inter-Fraternity Council are planning a party in the Boiler Room on Friday, March 11, to improve race relations. Everyone's invited.

Clarke should look over views on Limbaugh

To the editor:

Most people would agree that the entertainment industry and commercial television do have to sell their product to the American people, and indeed most of the media does a good job at making money in this way. Unfortunately, Nova Clarke misunderstands this capitalist idea in her recent column, "Limbaugh misjudges liberal values."

Miss Clarke claims that "Rush is completely wrong in characterizing the ideals and motivations of most liberals," but it is her that is wrong in characterizing Rush Limbaugh himself.

Granted, Rush Limbaugh does clothe his ideas in a language and style that is appealing to most of his viewers, but he does not characterize liberals in the way Miss Clarke claims he does. Moreover, Miss Clarke begins her column on this topic, and ends in a litany of her own political values, using the banner of "How Rush Is Mean" to further her own political agenda.

Rush Limbaugh would indeed characterize Miss Clarke as a liberal, but not only politically. Rush would lump Miss Clarke with other liberals in the way she handled her column. Miss Clarke started her column emotionally and mean-spiritedly. Then, she ended her column with a list of all the wonderful things liberalism has to offer. It is these things and the way they are handled that Rush Limbaugh attacks everyday on radio and television.

Rush agrees that many liberals do have good intentions, but he also believes that these good intentions and the emotions that go along with them are the things that need to stay out of politics. Emotional pleas for help and understanding in politics muddy the waters of the intellectual debates and

deliberation that politics are all about.

Liberals claim that "we must care," when what we really need to do is think. Two examples come to mind. The "caring" liberals of the 60s created the huge welfare state and high-rise housing developments that perpetuate helplessness in order to "help" the troubled peoples of the big cities of America. As liberals still do today, the liberals of the 60s jumped into this issue with emotion without thinking about the long-term consequences.

Likewise, many liberals today refuse to allow white parents to adopt black babies, claiming that black babies' "ethnic identities and culture" will be threatened should this be allowed, but the long-term effects of this emotional issue are again ignored and not fully thought out.

Rush would agree with many of the liberal ends of policy; no one is for poverty, toxic waste, or AIDS babies. But liberals like Miss Clarke think that only their emotional, irrational policies are the cure and that they are the only ones that "care."

This is the way Rush Limbaugh characterizes liberals, not by petty concerns over money and selfishness as Nova Clarke suggests. "Symbolism over substance" and "emotion over thought" are the real concerns that Rush has about liberals.

Miss Clarke should realize that symbolism and emotion are not the cure-alls to the problems and politics of America. Maybe she should actually read Rush's second book, *See I Told You So*, or listen and watch his radio and television shows to find Rush's answers before she jumps to conclusions about a man that is respect by so many Americans.

Douglas W. Thiessen
Chairman, College Republicans

LETTERS

Tompkins presents only one side of the story

the editor:

The following opinions are my own. They are not meant to reflect the position of the Publications Board. I cannot let pass unchallenged Mr. Tompkins' mean-spirited and utterly unwarranted attack on *Calyx* editors Anthony Catalano and Sarah Butler and *the Ring-tum Phi* staff in last week's issue of *The Ring-tum Phi*. It's bad enough but not surprising that, in his dealing with campus publications, Mr. Tompkins continues to show either a fundamental ignorance of or a callous disregard for the student constitution he took an oath to uphold. But the personal nature of the results he directed at Mr. Catalano and Ms. Butler in particular suggesting that the *Calyx*'s difficulties result from their not "getting off their respective asses" beneath contempt.

Mr. Tompkins manifests a need to try to persuade the student body that he and the Executive Committee bear responsibility for the *Calyx*'s current fiscal problems, and he implies that campus publications are somehow pulling a fast one by not having to return money to the EC. In doing so, he is ignoring the constitution.

Fact: The constitution provides that the EC will use the student activity fee to fund student subscriptions to the *Calyx* and the *Phi*. While the amount of funding is discretionary, the intent is clear: students' money is to be used to ensure that they will get their *Phi* and their *Calyx*. To the extent that the EC uses the student activity fee to fund such broad-based organizations as the Ice Hockey Club and underfund student publications, it is ignoring that constitutional mandate. Why Mr. Tompkins does not see other student organizations who ask the EC for money as gorging themselves at the students' trough, to paraphrase him, is beyond me.

Fact: The constitution requires student publications to return to the Publications Board any budget

surplus at the end of the year. I suspect that the students who wrote that constitution wisely envisioned the Pub Board Reserve Fund as a safeguard against the blatant reward-your-friends-and-punish-your-enemies political pork barrel that the student activities fee often becomes. In returning surpluses to the Pub Board, the editors of student publications are showing a familiarity with the constitution that Mr. Tompkins apparently lacks.

Fact: Mr. Catalano and Ms. Butler have increased revenue for the *Calyx* from sources other than student pictures by more than 60 percent this year. In addition, their increased efforts to persuade students to sit for pictures have halted a trend of several year duration in which fewer students each year had their pictures taken. This year, the number of students having their pictures taken stabilized. That is hardly evidence of people who won't "get off their... asses."

Fact: Even if every student at Washington and Lee had his or her picture taken for the *Calyx* — every single one, no exceptions — and the *Calyx* collected 100 percent of the sitting fees, that income would only just make up this year's shortfall. To expect 100 percent student participation and 100 percent collection is unrealistic, and Mr. Tompkins is misleading students by implying that the problem would be solved if the *Calyx* put the arm on more students to sit for pictures. If Mr. Tompkins is looking to compel student participation, I submit that that is the EC's responsibility.

Fact: When *The Trident* approached the EC for money this year, *The Trident* was not in the same position of financial strength that Mr. Tompkins seems to be demanding of other student publications. *The Trident* was struggling. I believe that EC acted properly in showing its support for a second student newspaper, but to fund one publication because it was struggling and to threaten to deny funding to another

for the same reason is inconsistent and smacks of blatant favoritism.

Fact: The *Calyx* made clear to the EC its financial position at the beginning of the year. It was locked into a multi-year contract entered into well before Mr. Catalano's and Ms. Butler's stewardship. That fixed expense is the lion's share of the *Calyx*'s debt. There was nothing the current editors could do about it except to generate more revenue, and they did. In my opinion, by cutting student publications across the board, the EC either ignored or misunderstood the *Calyx*'s situation.

Fact: The *Phi* was not poorly managed last year. It ended the year with a surplus, which, by constitutional mandate, it returned to the Pub Board. That money was used to buy equipment that student publication needed.

I do agree with one of Mr. Tompkins' statements. Kevin Roddey has done a superb job as business manager of the *Phi* this year. Ad lineage is up and so are collections, so the paper can publish more pages and give students more information. The *Phi* staff is to be commended for those improvements. But Mr. Roddey's success should not be taken to mean Mr. Catalano and Ms. Butler have failed. It is an inappropriate comparison.

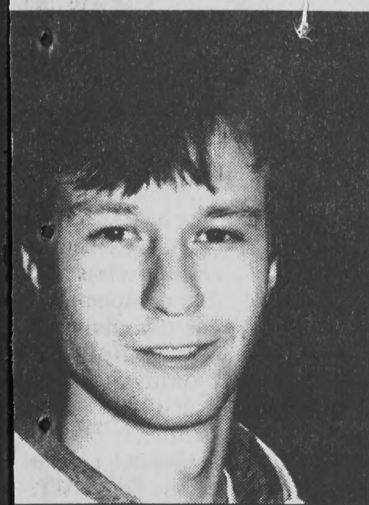
Many of the members of the EC have worked hard to understand the importance of student publications to the campus, and to accommodate the need for those publications. Mr. Tompkins' letter is an insult to them as well as to the *Calyx* and *Phi* staffs. His letter does, however, make obvious one thing. As a politician-in-training, he has mastered the basic tools: half-truths, buck passing, and petty posturing.

Brian Richardson
Publications Board Advisor

TALKBACK

Interviews and Photos
by Joe Framptom

What's your favorite Co-op food?



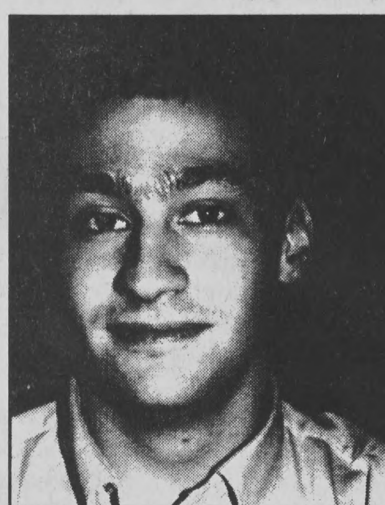
Matt Jackson, '94, Hanover, Pa. — "Team of broccoli because it will talk with you the rest of the day."



Wright Marshall, '95, Griffin, Ga. and Lauren Guthrie, '97, Lansdale, Pa. — "Blow-Pops because you have to suck real long and there's a surprise inside."



Michael Jones, '95, Pensacola, Fla. and Charles Ferguson, '95, Abilene, Texas — "We like the fruit salad."



Alex Churchill, '94, Tacoma, Wash. — "Grilled cheese because they're cheap, but they really don't have anything I like."