

MAR 30 1984

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**Future shock**  
Although the current job market is the best in recent history, Associate Dean of Students Mike Cappeto reports increased anxiety in W&L seniors.  
Page 3

**Back in the game**  
Coach Dennis Daly's W&L lacrosse team broke a 4-game slide with a 17-7 win over Guilford College yesterday.  
Page 6



**Your Exam Weather**  
Friday: Partly cloudy. High in the low 50s.  
Saturday: Partly cloudy. High in mid 50s; low in upper 30s.  
Sunday: Chance of precipitation. High near 60; low near 40.

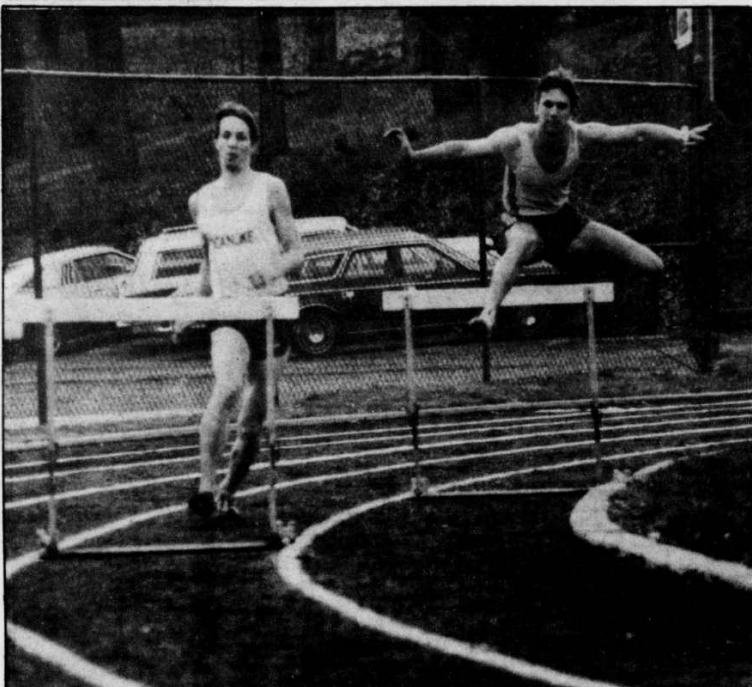


# The Ring-tum Phi

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VOLUME 83      NUMBER 23      Washington and Lee University      Lexington, Virginia      March 29, 1984



**On track** — Junior Chris Ives took the lead in the 400-meter hurdles from the beginning and never let go, finishing first in 60.3 seconds at the tri-meet Tuesday at Wilson Field. Story on page 7. (Photo by Rick Swagler)

## Committee rejects Thanksgiving break

*One-week break in October recommended as substitute*

By G. BRUCE POTTER  
News Editor

The faculty calendar committee will recommend a one-week October vacation as a substitute for Thanksgiving vacation to President John D. Wilson next month.  
After rejecting a proposal for a two-day vacation in the middle of October and a three-day vacation over Thanksgiving by a 3-6 vote, the committee Friday supported its original decision for an October vacation by a 6-2 vote, with one abstention.  
Student representative Lee Feldman said he and Rob Woods, the other student representative, voted for the two

short vacations and against the plan that was approved.  
The committee also supported its earlier decisions recommending continuation of the 12-12-6 calendar and extension of classes from 50 to 55 minutes. A recommendation that students register for all of their following year's courses in the spring of the preceding year was clarified, Feldman said. The committee voted "to recommend to the faculty that they look into ways to relieve the burden of registration," he added.  
Saying the committee "waffled" on the issue of the Thanksgiving vacation, Dr. John Wise, chairman, added that no formal recommendation will be made to Wilson regarding Thanksgiving break, but that the October break is viewed as a "substitute" for it.  
"Some people seem to think (Thanksgiving vacation) should be nothing," Wise said. "Other people seemed to think that we  
(continued on page 3)

## \$15,000 Contact fund shortage goes unnoticed

By MIKE ALLEN  
Staff Reporter

Contact, the student organization that brings speakers to campus, has a section on its budget reports titled "funds dispersed," which is perhaps more appropriate than the term that is presumably meant, "funds disbursed."  
University records show the organization ran a deficit of nearly \$10,000 last year, at the same time that Contact's own accounting showed a \$950 surplus for the year.  
That deficit, added to the nearly \$6,000 negative balance that the University showed Contact began last year with, put this year's organization more than \$15,000 in the red before the year even started.  
Apparently no University or Contact officials were aware of the shortfall until last month, when Contact co-chairmen Marty Harmon and Gov Slahor attempted to

withdraw non-existent funds from the group's University account.  
"They have come up short," University Treasurer E. Stewart Epley said.  
"I don't know what the explanation is." Founded in 1965, Contact is funded by student body taxes, by the Interfraternity Council and by individual contributions. The IFC has appropriated \$7,500 for the organization for the last two years. In addition, the EC contributed \$8,500 in student taxes last year and \$9,400 this year.  
The final budget report prepared by Contact '83 (as the 1982-83 group was known) showed that it spent \$19,996.54 while taking in \$20,958.38, putting the organization \$961.84 in the black. According to University accounting, however, Contact '83 started the year with a deficit balance of \$5,789.71 which had been carried forward from the previous year's organization.  
During the next operating year, it had

expenditures of \$25,592.40 on revenues of \$16,075, a difference of \$9,517.40.  
"This was a very expensive year," said assistant University treasurer Vernon Snyder, who handles student body accounts.  
Therefore, although Harmon and Slahor did not realize it until late February, according to University books the \$16,900 in funding they began the year with was credited against a deficit balance of \$15,307.11, leaving them only \$1,592.89 in effective operating funds.  
According to its Dec. 6 budget report to the EC, the group spent close to that amount just on the solicitation letter which was sent to parents last fall.  
The deficit, had anyone noticed it, looked smaller on paper than it actually was, because the \$7,500 IFC appropriation intended for this year's Contact was

deposited in April and credited to Contact '83.  
Outgoing IFC President Emery Ellinger explained that the organization does its budgeting and appropriation in the winter, just before the new officers begin their terms.  
"We've just given Contact the money and haven't watched over it," Ellinger said.  
Because they have differing categories for disbursements, line-by-line comparison of University and Contact reports is impossible.  
In addition, Contact maintains a checking account of its own at United Virginia Bank. Transactions involving that account are reflected in reports prepared by the student organization, but do not appear on University statements.  
(continued on page 8)

# Contact

(continued from page 1)  
 Snyder has not traced the deficit back any further than the \$6,000 negative Contact balance at the end of the 1982 fiscal year. To do so, he said, would involve records which are now "in the vault." He said he would initiate such a search at Epley's direction.

Neither of the two University officials was certain why the shortfall was not realized and the organization's officers contacted.

Contact is provided with monthly, computerized statements showing the exact status of its University account. In interviews, both Harmon and Slahor acknowledged having received the reports.

"People go by the budget they're given," Slahor said. "We'd been allotted the budget,

so we assumed we had that much money to spend."

"I don't think it's incumbent on the new, entering committee to be the watchdog for former committees," he said. "I don't think it was up to us to catch it."

Epley said he expects the funding problem would have been noticed when the books were closed for this fiscal year, which ends June 30. "I think we would have blown the whistle then," he said.

"We thought sooner or later they'd get caught up," Snyder said. "We thought they might have sources of revenue we knew nothing about."

"We rely on the students to budget and spend responsibly, spending no more than they have," Epley said. "We got surprised this year."

Michael D. Drinkwater, co-

chairman of Contacts '82 and '83, said when reached by telephone in Dallas that he was unaware of any deficit spending involving Contact. "It would have been quite apparent if we'd had a negative balance," he said.

"I would tend to think there's been some sort of mixup," he said. "I have trouble believing that six or ten thousand dollar deficits wouldn't have been pointed out if they had actually been occurring."

Shortly after Contact's deficit problem came to light, it was determined that \$13,500 in additional funds would be needed to meet the obligations already incurred by Contact '84 and still keep the organization solvent, according to Epley.

An agreement was arranged under which a portion of the shortfall would be recovered immediately from Executive Committee reserve funds, and the rest would be realized through deductions from the next two years of Contact budgets.

In the meantime, Epley said the University would fulfill Contact's obligations using "general University revenue."

The plan calls for \$2,900 to be taken from the EC reserve fund and, assuming the same level of funding for Contact as in past

years, for \$5,200 to come from its 1984-85 budget and for \$5,400 to come from its 1985-86 budget.

"That means they would probably reduce the number of speakers, or get less expensive speakers," Epley said. "The alternative was to cut out Contact completely for a year or two, and nobody wanted that."

Referring to the \$2,900 appropriation from the EC reserve fund, Epley said Snyder "could make that entry right now and capture that amount."

Thus Epley was under the impression from Slahor, who was the liaison, that the agreement was binding.

However, EC Vice President Dave Judge, who manages student body funds, said that the document in question is a "tentative agreement" and that the committee has not voted on it.

He said he is investigating Contact's financial status and will make a presentation to the committee early in the spring term.

EC President Robert C. Jenevein said that he is aware of the situation but has not yet brought it before the committee. He said the matter has not been discussed in executive session.

The payment agreement, which is dated March 15, is on

Executive Committee stationery, and is signed by David C. Judge, Gov Slahor and Martin Harmon.

It is titled "Proposal for Contact Committee Repayment Plan," and concludes by stating, "These funds are to be paid to the University."

When informed that the EC had not approved the funds, Epley said that because the three had signed it, he thought the plan had been finalized.

"By 'proposal,' I thought they meant that the terms were agreeable to them if they were agreeable to us," Epley said. "They were agreeable to us."

He said that Slahor did not inform him of the apparently tentative nature of the document.

"I think there is little doubt as far as I understand it that the EC will approve it," Slahor said. "It was not in my view a flippant gesture on their part."

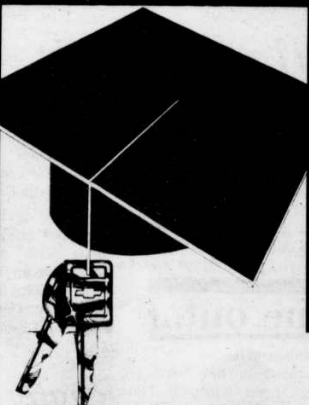
"When I talked with Epley, we could either cancel the program, or find a solution," he said.

Slahor said he considered the amount requested from EC reserves "quite fair."

"We inherited the problem from the previous Contact," Harmon said. "We had to work out a compromise that wouldn't hinder this program or those of future years."

If you are going on leave Spring term, and would like to have your Calyx mailed, please leave your name, mailing address, and \$3.00 to cover postage in the Calyx mailbox in Carole Chappell's office.

## CHEVROLET COLLEGE GRADUATE FINANCING PLAN



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**Contact: T.G. Woody, Jr.**  
 Woody Chevrolet Sales, Inc.  
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**NOTICE**  
 The staff at the infirmary reports that someone has left a watch in the infirmary since March 8, and asks that the person to whom it belongs retrieve it.

The Washington and Lee chapter of Sigma Delta Chi will hold a mandatory meeting tonight at 7:30 to elect officers for next year. The meeting will be in Reid Hall, Room 203.

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