

Absolute Fratlord salutes women of Washington and Lee

This past week was amazing. But why is that? I had a twelve-page midterm to take care of, in addition to another paper and a test. Furthermore, I had to supervise IM Basketball all week long, since last year I made that fateful decision to sell my soul to the intramural program. I didn't get a lot of sleep. I lost some money in poker. I ran out of clean socks and never got around to do laundry. I ripped a hole in my favorite pair of corduroys. My truck almost ran out of gas. Truthfully, given all these things that drove me crazy, the week probably seemed sorta crappy, right?

But I stand by my comment - It was an amazing week! Any guesses why?

As the weather gets warmer, we all get to see the most beautiful thing about W&L, and it's not the red brick buildings or the blossoming flowers. It's the girls.

W&L girls are unbelievable. I firmly believe that every male student at W&L is spoiled by our proximity to some of the most wonderfully attractive ladies in the world. As with all things, W&L tends to put its own

unique twist on the typical college experience, and with W&L ladies, it's no different. Maybe it has to do with the Southern debaucherous heritage or with the Greek system or whatever, but I really do think that there's something about W&L girls, the way they dress, the way they behave, or just who they are that places them worlds apart from the typical American college females.

Seriously - which frat guy, in going down to help freshmen move in during the first day of orientation week, hasn't sighed and marveled at the ridiculous girls who are entering the school? Freshman Face-Books are transformed into the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issues, with all W&L guys debating over which new ladies compete for the "Hottest Girl to Stroll the Colonnade" Award. During the first few weeks of fall term, upperclassmen frat guys are generally more concerned with "rushing" freshmen girls than the guys, knowing full well that frosh guys will follow the girls just about anywhere.

Now with the weather getting warmer,

it's like stumbling into a department store catalog. One of my pledges has an internet poll on the best thing about spring, and, sure enough, at the top of the list is the obvious answer: Girls in Mini-Skirts. I wonder if any observant students have noticed the big goofy smile on my face as I walk down Stemmons Plaza, passing girl after wonderful girl, thanking my lucky stars that I've had the opportunity to spend four glorious years in this paradise.

I'm sure there are some critics. I've heard a few myself - all those naysayers who have convinced themselves that W&L girls are spoiled elitists Southern daughters who've been bred to understand how immaculate they are. Typically though, these critics are bashing sororities, not the girls in them. I've had my own negative comments towards characteristics of the sororities at this school (towards fraternities too for that matter). But I think you'd be hard-pressed to find a student who, after meeting these supposedly "elitist" girls individually, would not be impressed by the charm, the kindness and the genuine nature that the majority of W&L girls have.

I expect a few reactions to this article. One generally held perception, or at least it's one that I've heard before, is that I write certain things in my articles so that I can "score" with the W&L ladies. My response, with all I've written above, is this - CAN YOU BLAME ME? Before I get ahead of myself, I am currently in a relationship, but really, what's so ridiculous about that idea?

Also, this is not intended to be some "gender role" article. I'm not arguing that girls at this school are so attractive because they maintain some accepted social position or some garbage like that. If you'd like to debate my views about gender roles in the American society, feel free, but I'm not trying to make a political statement in this case. I'm simply stating that W&L girls, in general, have no equal among the college world.

In a pretty crappy week, warm weather and W&L girls brightened my days - I think most W&L fellas will agree that, with Spring Term fast approaching, they look forward to the sundresses and the tans and the girls that make this school an even more amazing place than it already is.

Φ ABSOLUT FRATLORD
TIM SMITH '04

ALL CALL FOR EQUALITY.



CODY GRAVES/ The Ring-tum Phi

Guerilla Girls. On March 2 a comedy troupe called The Guerilla Girls performed in the W&L Elrod Commons Theater. The troupe, who has been performing since 1985, consists of anonymous feminists that take the names of dead women artists, appear in guerilla masks in public and use humor to highlight and start discussions on sexism and racism in art, film, politics and culture as a whole.

Is Passion anti-semitic?

Jesus of Nazareth hangs from the cross near the end of Mel's Gibson's "The Passion of The Christ," when a Jewish thief, hanging from his own cross to Jesus' right insults him. "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

This rebuke is part of a pattern in The Passion.

The release of "The Passion," Mel Gibson's explicit depiction of the final 12 hours of the life of Jesus is laden with controversy. Jewish religious groups have protested the film, saying that the movie will inflame anti-semitism by its portrayal of Jews playing a large role in the crucifixion. Hollywood critics have accused Gibson of employing unnecessary violence to incite hate and anti-semitism. Journalists have repeatedly knocked on the door of Gibson's father, Hutton, seeking one more outlandish quote about the Holocaust from the 85-year-old man.

But having seen "The Passion" personally, I was disturbed and relieved to find these accusations of the film were fraudulent. The pattern in the film is not anti-semitic; it is a pattern of duality. Are there evil Jews in the film? Yes. Are there also Jewish heroes? Absolutely.

After the criminal hanging from Jesus' right slights the Christ, another Jewish thief crucified on Jesus' left replies, "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

The problem with Gibson's critics is that they fail to recognize the film's Jewish heroes and heroines and focus on the negative portrayal of the Pharisees, the Jewish hierarchy which coerces Judas to deliver

Φ THE I-FORMATION
JAKE TROTTER '04

Jesus to them and later persuades Pontius Pilate to crucify him.

However, like the man hanging from Jesus' left, the film has plenty of Jewish heroes. Do not forget that the primary protagonist of the plot, Jesus, is Jewish. His mother, the Virgin Mary, not only is a Jewish character, but is played by a Romanian Jew. John, the disciple who follows Jesus all the way to Golgotha and watches after Mary, is Jewish. Simon of Cyrene, the laborer who carries Jesus' cross for him when he is too weak to carry it himself and who fends off the mob from attacking the beleaguered man, is Jewish. Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' followers—saved by the phrase "he who is without sin, cast the first stone"—loyally stands beneath Jesus while he slowly dies on the cross. Nicodemus, the Pharisee who ardently defends Jesus during the trial in front of the Sanhedrin, is Jewish. The "woman," who brings Jesus a cup of water and a shawl after he collapses while carrying the cross, is a Jew. Even Judas, who often in Christian lore is portrayed as an evil man, is portrayed sympathetically vulnerable instead of wicked.

Like the two men crucified next to Jesus, there are bad guys who are Jews, and good guys who are Jews in "The Passion." A lot like real life, isn't it?

QUICK HITS

Φ Which possesses more hotness? Colton Ward's rat tail or Travis Smith's VMI basketball sweater vest?

Φ Hell Week: Since no one has pledgedship anymore, can we haze the administration?

Φ Since they go unrecognized too often, I want to recognize and make all aware of the Minority Student Dream Team, Kisha Barnes, Zakiyah Bradford and Kaela Harmon.

Φ Look at the panoramic picture on the third level of the library. Are the two men on the far left and the far right not one and the same? Weird.

Φ Will my paper ever finish itself?

Φ Do the professors ever tire of teaching? Because I'm getting tired of going to class.

Φ Has anyone else noticed how cute the Italian-looking pizza guy in the Marketplace is?

Φ Quick Poll: Harry Winston vs. Tiffany engagement ring: No-Brainer, Harry Winston, OF COURSE! For those who don't understand, if Tiffany equals Mercedes-Benz then Harry Winston equals Rolls Royce. It's as simple as that.

Φ Damn Brittany and her masochistic ways for cutting the tail of our gerbil.

Φ Shout out to the SAO for sponsoring the first video game tournament.

Φ More on that: Has everyone heard about the Halo Team Tournament on March 12?

Φ Still more: Way to go SAO! Official recognition by the EC as a student organization.

Φ Kisha would like to announce her plans to be engaged to Jeb later in the month.

Φ I understand that Martha was found guilty on all four counts, but can we please stop the "How to Brighten Up Your Prison Cell" jokes already?

Φ Today in transportation: Both the CSS Virginia and the Goodyear blimp were first launched today, in 1862 and 1972, respectively.

Φ In Canada, yesterday was Alanis Morissette Day.

Φ Erin Julius did not go Fancy Dress. If you see her, try to cheer her up, especially if you're a Keydet.

Φ First on FD: The decorations were great and the Voltage Brothers were awesome!

Φ Another: Professors I'd love to see at FD that didn't come— Futch, Coach Stickley, Pleva, DeLaney, McRae.

Φ More: It was really terrible that the bars ran out of soda and cups as early as 11:00.

Φ Still more: I enjoyed the slow dances. There aren't enough slow dances at W&L. You can't ever slow dance in a frat basement, so FD is really the only opportunity.

Φ Yet one more: Did anyone else notice a lot more kissing and blatant, out-in-the-open chugging from flasks than in years past?

Φ Still yet one more: Where was the chocolate river?

Φ Finally: I'm sick and tired of hearing coeds complain about importing. They can do it as well, but that would be admitting defeat.

Φ Is anybody else hungry right now?

Φ Here's to a happy and safe un-Hell Week with lots of un-hazing.

Φ Stunningly, my pre-FD plans at the Mirage didn't have any takers. Same went for the after-party at Domino's.

Φ Thank heavens the Guerilla Girls have come and gone and those miserable posters are no longer a blight on our fair campus.

Φ Congratulations to the St. Edward Eagles on winning their ninth state ice hockey championship!

Φ What is up with that girl playing the theme from Forrest Gump in the Commons 24/7 on the piano?

Φ Whoever is blaring that annoying Eiffel 65 "Blue" song from Graham-Lees needs to stop.

Φ Beer goggles or Wonkavision?

Φ "Raging Intellectuals"— little more than malicious, hateful, childish whining. Garbage like that shouldn't be printed.

Φ I'm happy the Co-op is now carrying Diet Coke with lime.

Φ Do your part to keep our campus beautiful: Don't walk on the grass.

Φ E-mail your anonymous Quick Hits and laments about the lack of fun Hell Week pranks to phi@wlu.edu.