Sophie Kerr Weekend Guest Confirmed

New Programs in Store for Lit House and Writing Program

By Will Bruce

Highly-acclaimed author and poet Mary Karr has been confirmed as the speaker for this year’s Sophie Kerr Weekend.

Karr will speak on March 27 at 5 p.m. in Norman James Theater as part of the annual weekend program for prospective creative writing students hosted by the Sophie Kerr Committee and the Rose O’Neill Literary House.

Her 1995 memoir “The Liars’ Club” spent a year on The New York Times’ Best Seller list. She is also the author of several volumes of poetry and currently teaches at Syracuse University in New York.

The event is open to the college and the public.

After the event, prospective students will join Karr for dinner and a Q&A session at President Tipson’s home. Further details will be announced as the date of the event draws near.

Karr’s reading is not the only event that prospective students will have to look forward to this year. Visiting students will find a creative writing program that is about to begin a new period of growth.

Literal House Director Joshua Wolf Shenk, who was hired in the summer of 2006 to replace interim director Benjamin Anastas, is hard at work renovating and creating new programs to bring the House out of a “passageway of transition” it has been in and into a new era of creativity and innovation.

The most visible evidence of this effort is the newly renovated Lit House kitchen. It has been fitted with a new stove, dishwasher, and coffee maker, stocked with tea, and re-organized for easy use.

Shenk said that the kitchen was the first room to receive attention because it “is a representation of the mission of the house. The idea of this place is for writers to have a place to come where they can work, and create, and interact with other writers creatively, and the kitchen is a space where they can do it. It’s a small signal of what we are trying to foster and of the new era.”

The other signals Shenk is sending are much larger.

His newly created program for the Lit House, which he emphasizes is still in the midst of its evolution, uses its funds to finance semester-long “themes” for speakers, events and classes revolving around the House.

Last semester’s theme was creative non-fiction. This semester, the theme is “Humor and Satire.”

In addition to a class taught by Shenk on the subject, a conference is being organized, featuring writer George Saunders.

Saunders was recently granted a Guggenheim Fellowship and the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, a $500,000 grant that is known in literary circles as the “genius grant.”

The conference will also feature New York based storytelling collection Stories At The Moth, a world-class group that The Wall Street Journal called, “New York’s hottest and hippest literary ticket.”

Shenk, who at one time worked as a vice-chair on the board of The Moth said, “They are currently on a nation-wide tour. The stops are Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, Denver, Miami and Chestertown.”

The creative writing program is growing in new ways. “You have to look at it this way – when the Lit House was founded, there was one creative writing professor. Now there are five, and there is an additional position opening up for another poetry professor,” said Shenk.

In addition to these programs, the Lit House will be the first time in the history of the college that there will be a space that’s specifically designed for music,” said Garry Clarke, Chair of the Department of Music.

Plans for redesigning Tawes Theatre began more than twelve years ago, according to Joe Holt, Executive Vice President of Washington College.

However, it wasn’t until two years ago that the school hired an architect to work with the faculty and assess the expansion options.

“The building was built in 1965 so there are going to be surprises and things we don’t know about Gibson that may cause delays,” said Reid Raudenbush, Head of Buildings and Grounds.

The most recent discovery revealed that the floor and ceiling tiles were made of the hazardous material asbestos. The necessary precautions are being taken to ensure their safe removal.

Tawes Construction Begins

Asbestos Found in Floor and Ceiling

By Katie Blaha

Washington College is making roughly $20 million worth of changes to Tawes Theatre to create three new performing arts theatres. The changes will be made as early as the fall of next year.

The new addition will include a theatre, a “black box theatre” for experimental plays, and a recital hall.

“It really needed a renovation. This will really be the first time in the history of the college that there will be a space that’s specifically designed for music,” said Garry Clarke, Chair of the Department of Music.

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Birthday Ball Theme Revealed to Students

BY GUY TAYLOR
Elm Staff Writer

After deliberation, the planning committee for this year’s Birthday Ball has decided on “Club W” as the event’s theme.

“George Washington and his friends go down to the clubs in order to celebrate his birthday, so we invite the Washington College community to Club W to celebrate George Washington’s birthday,” said senior Jarret Cambi, co-chair of Birthday Ball and Student Events Board president.

Plans for this year’s Birthday Ball are well under way, according to Student Events Advisor Bob Hooey.

Extra steps have been taken to ensure that students are able to have a fun and safe time:

• Similar to last year there will be “a separate area for [people] over 21,” said Hooey.

• Wristbands will control alcohol sales. “Going in, if you can prove that you are 21 you can buy a fist tab wristband, a three tab wrist band, or a one tab wrist band. Once they are gone they are gone, you can’t buy a second wrist band. This policy is put into effect to limit the number of drinks attendees are able to have during the course of the night.

In addition, there will be “a touch more added security so that you are checked at the door,” said Cambi.

When asked if the drinking rules will impact attendance or enthusiasm, Hooey replied, “it didn’t have that much of an effect last year, people still came.”

Hooey and Cambi agreed that the main goal for the organizers is to make the event “elegant and classy.”

A tuxedo rental company will be on campus Feb. 7-8 and 14-15 so that students can order a tux for the event.

Students will be able to pick up their tuxedos Feb. 21-23. “[The company] is pretty cheap as far as tuxedos go,” said Cambi.

Hooey went on to emphasize that Cambi and his co-chair Junior Nicholas Bryant make the decisions as this is a student-run event.

Club Budgets Up for Vote Next Week

Birthday Ball Tickets on Sale
Starting Monday, Feb. 5

The SGA’s agenda for the upcoming semester is highlighted by the desire of both the SGA and club leaders to compile an organized and fiscally responsible budget. According to SGA Secretary of Financial Affairs Jess Weitzen, the SGA Budget Committee spent considerable time ironing out the wrinkles that have plagued previous budget forecasts.

In other SGA Related News:

Academic Affairs:
• The school is looking for two students to serve on the Miller Library Building committee.
• A Survey is in the works to judge campus-wide interest in the creation of a classics department.

Financial Affairs:
• Budget will be up for approval at next week’s meeting.

Social Life:
Birthday Ball tickets will go on sale February 5th from 10:00am-2:00pm up until the Friday before Birthday Ball.

Service Learning:
• WC will be in an energy competition with other colleges and universities. The college that conserves the most wins.

Honor Board:
• Three pending cases to be held on Thursday. No additional information was given.

OIT Installs New Login Page

BY RORY CARLIN
Elm Staff Writer

In an attempt to comply with federal legislation requiring heightened internet security, the College has implemented a new login on their internet server.

Complaints of “blacklisted” WC email accounts and the possibility of unwanted government intrusion acted as the impetus behind the change, according to WC’s Chief Information Officer Billie Dodge.

The law in discussion, the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA), was passed in 1994 and signed into law by President Clinton. The Act is a mandate against tele-communications companies, among others, that have the ability to secretly monitor customers for law enforcement purposes. The deadline for compliance is May 14th of this year.

The new login system is also a firewall that prevents hackers from penetrating the network. “We have to be able to know who is on the server,” said Dodge. The firewall and login will enable the college to monitor the network in compliance with government standards. This is also the reason that the network resets every morning at 5:30am, the time when the fewest people tend to be connected to the network. The reset forces unwanted users off the network.

In addition to login to the network each WC account will only be able to have one account active on three computers simultaneously.

The technology in use at WC has been in use at most large universities for several years. “This has been in the plan for sometime, said Cal Coursey, Assistant Director of IT Infrastructure.

Access to the Internet has also been severely curtailed for WC students who enjoy online gaming. Currently only selected Xbox and PC games are compatible with the new system.

OIT recommends that students contact them if any games or programs are not working properly. “If there is a way to accommodate you [we will try our best], said Dodge. “Nobody likes it when things are less open.”

OIT believes that students will adjust to the inconvenience, as this is a permanent change.

Write for The Elm!
Assignments available for News, Opinion, Features, Lifestyle and Sports, as well as photography.
E-mail elm_editor@washcoll.edu
SAFETY, CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

FEBRUARY 2, 2007

SAFETY
This attack is one of the issues which the PUB will be examining as Public Safety prepares for its annual review. The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, a group that specializes in college and university campus safety, will conduct the review before spring break. It will evaluate the in and outs of Public Safety, from its staffing to how well doors lock in dormitories and academic buildings. The group will then issue a report with recommendations aimed at improving Public Safety.

However, according to Bryan Matthews, Associate Vice President of Administrative Services who oversees Public Safety, those recommendations may not take effect immediately.

“Anytime costs money,” he said. “Recommended actions will go under a budget process. There is no quick fix . . . The budget for Public Safety is pretty lean. There isn’t any fluff in it. . . . Within the next five years, WC anticipates an increase in the student body with the addition of new residence halls on the athletic field next to Hartford Hall. This may impact Public Safety’s resources.

“At this time, there is no X, Y and Z,” Matthews said. “We are at a planning point in planning what needs to be done. We are looking at the impact of all the recommendations will have and whether we should increase technology, add additional staff members and call boxes.”

Meanwhile, students have mixed feelings about their safety on campus.

“I do not feel safe on campus at night because of the lack of lighting,” said sophomore Matt Swanson. “At night I feel that the Public Safety force is not watching out for potential attackers. I feel around campus, alert, ready to defend myself.”

“I do feel safe on campus,” said junior Katie Jurowski. “I know Public Safety is making an effort. I went to Public Safety’s self defense program [Jan. 31] and I believe that being aware and taking precautions is the right thing to do to protect yourself.”

Weitzel feels that she will never be safe on campus again. “I am constantly on guard,” she said. “I drive around campus, no matter how short the distance. I never walk alone anywhere now.”

In light of the recent events, Public Safety plans to offer students, faculty and staff the chance to participate in a two-day self-defense course called the Rape Aggression Defense System. The program addresses practical self-defense techniques. The date is to be announced by Public Safety.

The Zeta Tau Alpha sorority is also planning a self-defense course called “Step Up, Stand On” by Feb. 19. Weitzel, a member of the organization, will be speaking about her experiences at the event.

Student Affairs has voiced support for these programs. “We want people to take precautions. We want to people to take precautions,” Melita Dutka, Vice President for Student Affairs, said. “We want students to take responsibility for their personal safety.

“I never want to see this happen to someone else on this campus,” Weitzel said.

“We give a student a month’s supply, and they come back a week earlier,” said Najmi Sheikh, the director of mental health at Hurtado Health Center at the College Avenue campus. “They say ‘I lost it on the bus.’ If it happens once, it can happen. But if it’s a repeated pattern, we get suspicious.”

Despite the illegality of taking prescription drugs prescribed to someone else, and even with the potential adverse effects that can occur, college students who use them seem to feel like the risks are outweighed by the concentration and alertness they gain.

The larger the size and academic competition of a college, the more prescription drugs are used and abused, said psychiatrist Eric Heiligenstein at the University of Wisconsin.

Since the drugs are designed to offset imbalanced neurological chemicals in the brain, the use of a drug like Adderall XR by people who are not prescribed it can produce unwanted side effects. Users have reported hyperactivity and even mild paranoia when attempting to study after ingesting one pill. The misuse of the stimulant can result in sudden death or cardiac abnormalities.

These incidents are rare, but can occur if someone has a cardiac problem they are not aware of. These drugs have recently come to require a “black box warning” on their packaging, which informs the user of these potential risks.

The number of students who use these drugs -- gathered from studies -- may be lower than the actual figures, according to a prepared statement. Often, people are hesitant to admit to the misuse of a prescription drug, and the use of these drugs is hard to track for police.

The drugs are designed for individuals who suffer from disorders, such as ADHD, a condition that results in abnormally high activity and an inability to concentrate. Their use counteracts symptoms of these disorders by stimulating activity, and by balancing key neurotransmitters in the brain.

All faculty and staff have moved their offices out of Gibson and into trailers located between Smith and the new theater. In addition, the school rented storage units to house objects such as props and costumes.

Tawes currently seats 600 people, which Raudenbush said, “is a very awkward size because the room is too big for student productions and is way too small for assemblies and guest speakers.”

“The new theater will hold approximately 400-425 seats with a front section and a cross aisle,” in addition to a 100 seat balcony said Raudenbush. A new lighting and seating arrangement will prevent small audiences from scattering throughout the theater.

Another major change will affect the entranceway to the building. There will be a well-lit canopy at the front of the building leading to a big, busy street.

In response to parking pressures which have resulted from construction demands, the college has reserved 40 spaces in the Kibler parking lot and 15 along the road running in front of Goldstein and Larabee buildings for faculty and staff.

“Everything is in place right now,” said Troy Holt, the associate director of Campus Security.

“We all have to practice safety measure because we will have a major construction on campus. The path will be impaired but the payoff will be worth it since it will be a big improvement,” said Goldstein. There is an added security that will be put in place for the construction.

“Public Safety’s self defense program will then issue a report with recommendations aimed at improving Public Safety,” Matthews said.

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LITERARY CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

STAFF REPORTS

Daily Texan (U. Texas)

Design Contest Hunts for Future of Dorm Rooms

Interactive walls, a combination one-piece sink and toilet, and glass walls with adjustable transparencies could all be features of the dorm room of the future.

These features were all part of a winning model by Boston-based architectural firm Jonathan Levi Architects in a competition for the most innovative and cost-efficient dorm rooms. This was first in a series of design competitions, known as the 21st Century Project, looking to envision college residential halls of 2030.

"It's pushing the envelope of what dorms and food pellets. It's not the Jester or Star Trek," said James Shuman, a professor for the Association of College and University Housing Officers International.

The 21st Century Project, presented by the association, strives to create affordable, state-of-the-art student housing that promotes academic growth, said project coordinator Michael Coakley.

"The process of student dorm rooms isn't really driven by the needs of the students, it's driven by financial issues," Coakley said.

Yet the savvy, high-tech components of the new dorm rooms aren't exactly cheap, Baumann said. One idea uses an eye retina scan or thumb print scan to gain access to dorm rooms. The competitors were challenged to make the designs affordable.

"I wouldn't mind an improvement to having to keep track of keys, but I'd rather not see a drastic increase in my tuition because people don't want to carry around keys," said Cassie Zhang, a biomedical engineering senior and resident of Prather Hall Dormitory at the University of Texas.

Whatever technologies are brought into the residence hall have to be balanced with what the student will pay for those services through higher room rates, said Doug Garrard, associate director of the University of Texas' Division of Housing and Food Service.

"One look at finalists, Austin, Texas-based American Campus Communities with WDG Architecture, uses pre-modular, self-contained components that are interchangeable with other dorms around," said Garrard.

Pre-modular manufacturing will cut down construction and dorm costs, said Robert Keane, principal at WDG Architecture. He compared the increasing popularity of flat-screen television sets to how the public will accommodate to the 2030 dorms and their cost.

"It's kind of cool and crazy today, but it might just be commonplace in 25 years," Keane said.

Designers at American Campus Communities and WDG Architecture made the major focus of the room interactive surfaces that put a virtual keyboard into the surface of a student's desk and interactive walls that replace posters.

Another feature involved switching one-person units into two-person units and vice versa by adding or removing walls.

"If UT is having a housing crunch, (then) the shared bedroom units can be turned into private units," said Mike Reaves, director of business development projects at American Campus Communities.

The project also focused on using alternative energy sources in new units and buildings, everything from solar panels to wind energy, Keane said.

Texas dorms, such as Almetris Duren Residence Hall, which opened this semester, are already utilizing energy-efficient technologies. A heat wheel in the new residence hall recaptures the heat and energy from exhaust air and recycles it back into the system, taking less energy to heat or cool the building, Garrard said.

"I think that's the direction technology is going in," said Christie Ko, chemical engineering major and Jester Center resident at the university. "We just have to make sure the technology helps and is efficient."
Changing the World One Complaint at a Time

BY REILLY JORET
Elm Staff Writer

I'm new to this whole thing. A few of my friends nominated me to rant weekly about something that annoys or both–ers me. What bothers me might bother the people, who read this article, or maybe I'm the only one who's going to care about anything I say. Who knows, maybe I won't even care about the stuff I say in this column. So, I guess that's about it for the introduction, but feel free to write in with stuff that iritates you. If it vexes me too, maybe I'll write an article about it, or maybe I'll just write about how people keep sending me emails and it's clogging up my inbox.

The topic I want to begin with (I like that phrase; it makes it sound as though I'm speaking from a podium) is something that I'm sure we've all come across throughout our schooling. We usually begin sometime around middle school, and it's what students automatically do after they take an exam. You walk out of the exam room, exhausted and unable to think clearly, and the person who happened to have finished at the same time as you looks at you for a moment as you hold the door for them, and then, as the door shuts, turns to you and asks, "How'd you do?" You look back at this person—this face you recognize from other classes, but don't know well—and in the midst of your post-test stupor say something like, "All right, I guess. How 'bout you?" So there's your conversation.

Now, I recognize that I myself have said this many times. As I said, this automatically happens and we all grow accustomed to doing it. I don't know where the impulse comes from, but I guess it stems from some sense that the exam you have just experienced together has created a bond between you and something needs to be said to express this newfound bond verbally. This, however, necessarily leads to awkward conversation and always seems to be short-lived after you part ways with your classmate.

It seems that the "No Talking During the Exam" rule should apply for everyone until they get back to their room. The rule should be: "For the sake of everyone, "No Talking During or After the Exam Except with People who are not in this Class." This new rule prevents us from winding up in awkward conversations. Really, I won't be offended if you have nothing to say to me. I don't even know why. But if we must converse, let's have the decency and courtesy to talk about each other apart from the exam we just took.

But here's what's really absurd: how am I to know how I did on the exam? When the professor gives back the grades and we're walking out of class, then you can ask me. But after I just spent time and energy trying to keep myself aflame amidst a sea of questions, I don't want to think about how I did. Sure, sometimes you get a feel for how you did, but I've found these feelings to be mostly inaccurate. You only really know when you've done terrible. So perhaps we should instead ask each other, "Did you flunk it?" Then we might have an answer worth discussing.

This type of question also leads to the much more sinister form of, "What did you get for number three?" I say sinister because this question leaves the innocence and generosity and forces the interviewee to re-live what I can only assume was not a pleasant experience. Please, people. Let's not go through the whole thing again.

Perhaps my complaint will lead to very quiet walks down the steps of William Smith with some other person. Well, that may be true, but it doesn't have to be. Next time you leave an exam with another person, try asking some other questions that are more personal and can be made to last longer. "How do you like the course so far?" "Do you like the reading/professor?" That stuff makes for a much friendlier time spent leaving an exam.

What Germans Think of Americans

BY TINA IRGANG
Elm Staff Writer

With winter break over and your favorite German tour guide back in the New World in one piece, here goes the next part of our German cul-
ture 101. This time: what Germans think of America.

Germans have the most pro-
ounced opinions on American poli-
tics. In fact, they seem to know a lot more about the American political system than they do about the Ger-
man one. But put them some slack, the German political system is the social science equivalent of a badly trans-
lated Japanese DVD player manual.

This may explain why a substantial percentage of the German popula-
tion is under the impression that they are fat. Conventional wisdom says that Americans only eat fries and chicken and some sort of container. In terms of being able to thoroughly confuse people, they are only rivaled by the German political system and quan-
This is probably why they are so eager to go to "der Beach" or just relax in "der Whirlpool.

Germans believe that Americans are solely responsible for global warming. In particular, the fact that Americans don't seem very big on recycling makes German emotions run high. In Germany, every commu-
nity has its own recycling scheme. These are dubbed variously "yellow bag system," "green ton system" or something else involving a neon color and some sort of container. In terms of being able to thoroughly confuse people, they are only rivaled by the German political system and quan-

Write a Letter to the Editor! Voice your opinion! E-mail elm_editor @washcoll.edu.
“I think we should arm the public safety officers. I would feel a hell of a lot safer if they were packing.”

“Provide transportation whenever, wherever you want for free and provide fur coats for the PS officers.”

“Make sure the campus is well-lit, especially the Harford walk.”

“Hand out weapons and build a moat with an alligator and jellyfish. No one wants to be stung by a jellyfish.”

“PS already makes me feel safe.”

By Jill Kelly
Elm Staff Writer

Last Saturday, I joined tens of thousands of demonstrators in the largest anti-war rally since the war in Iraq began in 2003. This was my first protest, and though I did not become a political prisoner as I had hoped, I wasn’t disappointed. Speakers included Rev. Jesse Jackson; 2008 Presidential contender Rep. Dennis Kucinich; dirty Hollywood liberals Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins and Jane Fonda; and Bob Watada, the father of the first U.S. soldier to refuse deployment to Iraq. We all went to Washington, D.C. with a message for Congress – stop funding the war so we can bring the troops home.

Saturday’s demonstration, which was sponsored by United for Peace and Justice, was actually planned a few months ago, before Bush announced his misguided decision to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq. This rally, however, proved that the anti-war movement is not limited to one segment of the population. This isn’t a movement driven by radical students; it’s a movement driven by the 66 percent of Americans who have had enough of Bush’s deceit, who don’t want to send any more troops to die in a failing war, who hold out hope that one day the U.S. will be respected by the world again.

Bush now says that he is the “decider.” No, Mr. Bush, we the people are the deciders. We decided on Nov. 7th that we had enough of you and your Congressional sycophants. We’ve already decided that we don’t want a “surge,” we want out. Bush is acting like a petulant child, putting his hands over his ears to drown out the sound of a very pissed-off electorate. I have a theory that he’s accepted his status as a lame duck president and just wants to waste his last two years messing with us.

As with every protest, there is also a small group of counter-protesters. The 30 counter-protesters who were present accused us of not supporting the troops. I think we support the troops more than they do. We don’t want them to stay in a war-torn country where they are the target of the growing hostile population. We don’t want them to come back to the U.S. with no jobs, no health care and no support. We are asking the President to bring them home and take care of them. The troops don’t need magnetic car ribbons; they need the benefits they are entitled to and not receiving.

In four years, what have we accomplished in Iraq? We said that after we brought democracy, they would be much better off. The only aspect of democracy we successfully bestowed upon them is the ability to botch an execution. Maybe next we can teach the Iraqis how to screw up an election.

Bush needs to face reality and accept responsibility for this failed war. After all, a real man should know when to pull out.

Remember you can check missing or incomplete documents for Financial Aid on Web Advisor.

2007-2008 Need-Based Financial Aid Application Information for Returning Washington College Students

Deadline for FAFSA – FEBRUARY 15, 2007

☑ 2007-2008 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - with Washington College school code #002108. If you have not yet filed your 2006 Federal tax return, please use estimated figures.

Deadline for other documents – APRIL 15, 2007

☑ Completed and signed Washington College Application for Need-Based Aid. Application forms can be downloaded from http://fa.washcoll.edu/formsandresources.html.

☑ Signed copies of student’s 2006 federal tax returns and all accompanying schedules.

☑ Student’s 2006 W-2 forms.

☑ Signed copies of parents’ 2006 federal tax returns and all accompanying schedules.

☑ Parents’ 2006 W-2 forms.

☑ If either parent is self-employed, or has full or partial involvement in a business, corporation or partnership, a 2006 Schedule C, and/or corporate return must be submitted.
Elizabeth Clay Wins Frederick Douglass Fellowship

BY ANN TREBITZ
Elm Staff Writer

This year’s recipient of the Frederick Douglass Fellowship, junior Elizabeth Clay, saved the committee with her proposal.

“The committee was especially impressed by the originality of her work, which is truly taking her into unexplored historical territory: the experiences of local African-Americans as they made the difficult transition from slavery to freedom,” said Adam Goodheart, director of the C. V. Starr Center.

Her research on the history of Kent County African-Americans and their transition from slavery to freedom after the Civil War stood out from the pool of strong applicants.

The Frederick Douglass Fellowship, now in its third year, is designed for students with a commitment to working on the project. It encourages cross student/faculty partnerships, stimulates innovative work, brings wonderful visiting fellows to campus, and builds bridges between Washington College and the local community.

One of last year’s winners, senior Albin Kowalewski, said the fellowship helped him research his project, “Free African-Americans in Chestertown, 1790-1850.” “The fellowship provided a great opportunity for research and for new historical discoveries to be made by students,” said Clay. “I applied for the Fellowship because I had heard a lot about it and thought it would be a good way to continue some research that I had begun last year into the records of the Freedmen’s Bureau for Kent County,” she said.

Among these records are letters and reports about rejoining African-American families and solving legal issues of former slaves. For her project, she wants to learn more about the African-American experience in Kent County after the Civil War.

Clay, who has always been interested in the history of the Civil War era, will be working with Dr. Carol Wilson, Associate Professor of History.

The committee is looking forward to Clay’s results of her research, which she is going to present at the end of this semester. Most importantly, Clay is excited about being a part of the Frederick Douglass Fellowship.

“The fellowship provides a great opportunity for research and for new historical discoveries to be made by students,” said Clay. “So I am looking forward to working on the project.”

Elizabeth Clay, junior, pictured left, with one of last year’s Fellowship recipients, Albin Kowalewski, senior. Carimanda Baynard, junior, also received the Fellowship last year.

“Her research on the history of local African-Americans as they made the difficult transition from slavery to freedom was given the chance to do some pretty sophisticated research and uncover some history that hasn’t been analyzed in 200 years.” Kowalewski is currently working on grad school applications and research with the C.V. Starr Center.

Junior Carimanda Baynard was also a recipient of the Fellowship, which contributed to her project entitled, “Media Coverage and the Disappearance of African-American Women.” Clay is not a “newbie” in the field of historical research. “I applied for the Fellowship to the WC community, it encourages close student/faculty partnerships, stimulates innovative work, brings wonderful visiting fellows to campus, and builds bridges between Washington College and the local community,” she said. Clay is excited about being a part of the Frederick Douglass Fellowship.

The committee is looking forward to Clay’s results of her research, which she is going to present at the end of this semester. Most importantly, Clay is excited about being a part of the Frederick Douglass Fellowship. The fellowship provides a great opportunity for research and for new historical discoveries to be made by students,” said Clay. “So I am looking forward to working on the project.”

Elizabeth Clay, junior, pictured left, with one of last year’s Fellowship recipients, Albin Kowalewski, senior. Carimanda Baynard, junior, also received the Fellowship last year.

“Her research on the history of local African-Americans as they made the difficult transition from slavery to freedom was given the chance to do some pretty sophisticated research and uncover some history that hasn’t been analyzed in 200 years.” Kowalewski is currently working on grad school applications and research with the C.V. Starr Center.

Junior Carimanda Baynard was also a recipient of the Fellowship, which contributed to her project entitled, “Media Coverage and the Disappearance of African-American Women.” Clay is not a “newbie” in the field of historical research. “I applied for the Fellowship to the WC community, it encourages close student/faculty partnerships, stimulates innovative work, brings wonderful visiting fellows to campus, and builds bridges between Washington College and the local community,” she said. Clay is excited about being a part of the Frederick Douglass Fellowship. The fellowship provides a great opportunity for research and for new historical discoveries to be made by students,” said Clay. “So I am looking forward to working on the project.”

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Lit House Installs New Associate Director

By Neha Datta
Elm Staff Writer

In a bout of recent changes to the Literary House, writer Priscilla Hodgkins has taken on the facility’s administrative position, Associate Director.

Hodgkins grew up on tiny island in New Castle, N. H., and she has adjusted well to life in Chestertown.

“It reminds me of home,” she said. She said she has even won the affection of Edith Wharton, the Lit House cat.

Hodgkins worked as the as the associate director of the Bennington Writing Seminars at Bennington College for 15 years.

“I was very happy to be part of a team that created such great programs,” she said.

Coming to the Lit House, Hodgkins had many great ideas. One of the new programs she wants to start with Lit House Director Josh Wolf Shenk is to help freshmen at the annual “Freshmen Reading.”

All the freshmen participating would attend workshops that would improve their oration. It would help them pace themselves and present their work properly.

“It will take collaboration as a team with Josh Shenk,” said Hodgkins.

Another idea that is still in the musical words that made up four of the poet’s pieces. “Nephew,” the oldest of the readings included in Campion’s published book of poems, “Other People,” followed by “SFO” and “Lilacs,” were three short pieces that overtook the audience with eloquence while being met with approving nods and inspired smiles throughout the room.

“Lions,” a fairly new poem of Campion’s, was the last to be read, and its twelve pages evoked the most vivid images and deepest emotions.

When asked where he gets his inspiration for such powerful poems, Campion credited “other art,” including music and books.

“What I love about poetry is that it combines music and fiction,” Campion said.

Throughout life, his creativity has manifested itself through several art forms, including visual arts and music. Finally, during his last years of high school, Campion realized that writing was his true passion and soon found his niche in poetry.

Lit House Installs New Associate Director

By Brittany Parsells
Elm Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Jan. 21, Washington College had the honor of receiving Peter Campion not only as a professor, but also as a distinguished poet.

As a highly respected colleague and well-liked professor, it came as no surprise that Campion’s first on-campus poetry reading brought forth a significant crowd.

Professionals, faculty, students and on-lookers alike filled the Sophie Kerr room to take in his words. The audience, with eloquence, while being met with approving nods and inspired smiles throughout the room.

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By Michael McGrath
Elin Columblast

In between dropping classes, searching for the right photogenic Paris Hilton smoking tampons and getting yelled at by the Registrar, I have time to think. I mean, I’m “From Rolling Stone,” the MTV reality show delivered weekly half-dead on Sunday nights. It is not a good show, the idea of fame of reality TV, and it has been rewarded ethically with low ratings and an uncertain future. How differently this all looked last March, when I first heard about the show and decided to apply. After all, the application longer than any college app I have ever completed, even to super popular make your famous schools, and answering such questions as “When was the last time you cried,” (true answer: the previous Realty TV Show), “After witnessing the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and realizing how helpless we all are and how we guaranteed that I would be from any of these terrible shows, they hide behind some wild costume guy from Austin, and I am in the rare position of feeling bad for celebrities. Usually I reply in C-list hijinx, surfing the web for hours to find possibly fake footage of a reported sex tape or proof of a Val-Trex prescription. I do not even feel bad for Brandy. But this show puts you in such a vulnerable position with such uninteresting characters that they end up looking like one of those. I found on candid camera, glancing around and wondering if they are going to get in trouble now that they were being taped.

Another more troubling thought crossed my mind when I watch “I’m From Rolling Stone,” that I am in the rare position of feeling bad for celebrities. Usually I reply in C-list hijinx, surfing the web for hours to find possibly fake footage of a reported sex tape or proof of a Val-Trex prescription. I do not even feel bad for Brandy. But this show puts you in such a vulnerable position with such uninteresting characters that they end up looking like one of those. I found on candid camera, glancing around and wondering if they are going to get in trouble now that they were being taped.

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And the Nominees Are...
Five Films Compete for the Best Picture Award

BY LEAH GANSE
Elm Staff Writer

With films ranging from a World War II epic to a quirky family “dramedy” to a quiet World War II epic to a quirky family “dramedy” to a quiet World War II epic to a quirky family “dramedy” to a quiet World War II epic to a quirky family “dramedy,” the 79th annual Academy Awards ceremony has no clear front-runner for the Best Picture honor.

This year’s hopefuls are “The Departed,” “Little Miss Sunshine,” “The Queen,” “Babel” and “The Departed.”

The star power of the ensemble cast in director Martin Scorsese’s commercially successful “The Departed” rightfully earned the film its nomination.

Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Wahlberg, Matt Damon, Martin Sheen, and Alec Baldwin star in Scorsese’s crime drama set in Boston.

The film’s tagline, “Cops or criminals. When you’re facing a loaded gun, what’s the difference?” sums up the plot. Nicholson plays Frank Costello, a crime boss who befriends Colin Sullivan (Damon) at an early age and uses him as a mole within Boston’s police department. Enter Billy Costigan (DiCaprio),played flawlessly by DiCaprio, who works undercover for the State Police to bring down Costello’s crime ring.

Surprisingly, out of the many talented actors in the film, only Wahlberg garnered a supporting actor nomination for his portrayal of Sergeant DeNiro, a tough-talking but ultimately moral officer.

DiCaprio, who should have been nominated for his performance, received a nod for his work in “Blood Diamond.”

Instead, and Nicholson was overlooked in part because the film’s meatiest roles went to the younger actors. Scorsese’s status as a notably “Oscarless” director among Hollywood royalty along with overwhelming critical support gives “The Departed” its shot at the win.

An equally talented cast brings life to the independent success “Little Miss Sunshine.” The film tells the story of seven-year-old Olive, an unconventional actress in any of the best picture nominated films is “The Queen” star Helen Mirren, who has already received both the Golden Globe and SAG award for her performance. Director Steven Frears’ quiet film tackles one of the most tumultuous times in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, during the publicity of Diana’s death.

Mirren embodies the Queen in all her iciness and regality from the opening scene. Frears’ talented directing coupled with the film’s first-rate acting and writing make “The Queen” one of the more likely contenders to bring home the Oscar.

Not to be discounted are “Babel” from director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (“Amores Perros,” “21 Grams”) and “Letters from Iwo Jima.” “Babel” stars Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett and Gael Garcia Bernal in a multilingual epic which weaves the characters’ distinct stories into a cohesive whole.

Clint Eastwood’s “Letters from Iwo Jima” is a World War II drama and companion film to “Flags of our Fathers,” which depicts the same battle from the American perspective. With the popularity of both directors, either could be honored on Oscar night.

Such complex and critically acclaimed films will make for an exciting awards show and an even more exciting season for movie-goers.

The awards show will be broadcast on Sunday, Feb. 25th, live from the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

This Weekend at the Chester 5....

FRIDAY:
The Good Shepherd 4:30 7:45
A movie about the early history of the CIA, directed by Robert De Niro and starring Matt Damon as one of the agency’s operatives struggling to balance the secrecy of the organization and his family life.

Stomp the Yard 4:40 7:20 9:45
A troubled youth uses his dancing abilities to turn his life around.

Epic Movie 5:25 7:25 9:35
The writers of Scary Movie return to parody the industry’s biggest films.

The Queen 4:25 7:10 9:10

The Academy Award nominated film, starring Golden Globe-winner Helen Mirren as Queen Elizabeth II during the publicity of Princess Diana’s death.

Dreamgirls 4:00 7:25 9:40

The glitzy musical with a star-studded class including Beyonce, Jamie Fox, Eddie Murphy and American Idol winner Jennifer Hudson is nominated for eight Academy Awards, including best supporting actress and actress.

SATURDAY:
The Good Shepherd 1:15 4:30 7:45
Stomp the Yard 2:00 4:40 7:20 9:45
The Queen 1:45 4:25 7:10 9:10
Dreamgirls 1:35 4:00 7:25 9:40

SUNDAY:
The Good Shepherd 1:15 4:30 7:45
Stomp the Yard 2:00 4:40 7:20 9:45
The Queen 1:45 4:25 7:10
Dreamgirls 1:35 4:00 7:25

Compiled by Justine Hendricks
SUPER BOWL XLI:
The Monkey v. The Midway

By Eric Lickstein
Elm Staff Writer

Often considered the best player in the NFL, Peyton Manning has set multitudes of passing records yet has seen the Lombardi Trophy elude him time and time again. Finally, after nine years in the league, Manning has a chance to toss the proverbial ‘monkey off his back’ and lead his Indianapolis Colts to victory over the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI in Miami on Sunday.

The focal point of the game will be which team’s unstoppable force prevails: the Bears’ stifling defense or the Colts high-octane offense. Historically referred to as the ‘Monsters of the Midway,’ the Bears’ defense is led by middle linebacker Brian Urlacher who, besides having dated Paris Hilton (no video available), has been known to dole out bone-rattling hits against his opponents.

Urlacher and the rest of the defense will try to attack Manning by applying pressure on the quarterback and implementing confusing zone-blitz packages.

The issue with the Bears defense is two-fold: The Bears are missing big play safety Mike Brown and wrecking-ball defensive lineman Tommie Harris due to injuries and have struggled in their absences. Especially with inexperience at the safety position, watch for big plays by the Colts offense early and often.

Although the Bears’ defense has struggled of late, never underestimate Urlacher and Chicago defensive coordinator Ron Rivera. Success in tight end coverage could allow the d-line to penetrate and apply pressure to Manning, forcing mistakes.

Manning will try to use deception with the no-huddle offense to limit the time for defensive personnel switches and confuse the Bears Cover 2 defense. If rookie Joseph Addai is able to dissect the tough Bears line and rush for 100 yards, the Colts have a good chance of winning.

Besides the ‘Monkey off the Back’ v. the Monsters of the Midway, this game features the first two African-American head coaches ever in the Super Bowl. Tony Dungy, looking to become only the second man to win a championship as a player and coach (Mike Ditka was the other), is the Colts head coach and Lovie Smith serves as the Bears head coach.

A few things to watch: the x-factor for the Bears is dynamic return man Devin Hester, who if he returns a punt for a touchdown will become the first man to perform the feat in the Super Bowl. On defense, look for the playmaking ability of Colts safety Bob Sanders and the pure speed of defensive end Dwight Freeney. The Bears quarterback, Rex Grossman, has often been erratic, if the Colts defense can create turnovers, leaving the ball in Manning’s hands for too long could prove disastrous for the Bears.

My prediction is that Peyton Manning tosses the gorilla off of his back, throws three touchdowns passes and leads the Colts to a resounding victory over the Chicago Bears 34-24.

Enjoy the commercials, wings, and the halftime show performance by Prince. I wish Janet Jackson was performing; that would be nice.

Women’s Basketball Dominates Owls

BY LAURA REITER
Elm Staff Writer

Coming off what proved to be a successful winter break, the Shorewomen dominated Centennial Conference rival Bryn Mawr Saturday, winning with a score of 82-46.

The women were impressive, with many of them putting up big numbers. Junior Elise Conway led the team in scoring with 19 points and also contributed nine rebounds and five assists. Fellow captain, senior LaToya Turner, kicked in another 18 points along with a career-high eight steals and another five assists.

Younger players also contributed as sophomore Chris- tie Rogers put up nine points and five assists and freshman Jane O’Donnell added ten points. Fellow freshman Melissa Joseph tallied eight points and two blocks in the win.

This victory came on the heels of a very successful set of winter break games, in which the Shorewomen had a four game winning streak, as well as victories over fellow Centennial Conference members Gettysburg, Franklin and Marshall, and Muhlenberg.

After a rough start to the season, the team’s record stands at 9-10 overall, with a conference record of 4-9.

Women’s basketball returns home on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. to take on Centennial Conference rival Muhlenberg.

WC Swimming to Honor Nine Seniors this Weekend

BY JUSTINE HENDRICKS
Lifestyle Editor

This Saturday, nine Shoremen will swim in their final home meet as WC faces McDaniel at 1 p.m. in the Casev Swim Center.

The seniors – Colin Segre, Mike Manen, Erin Jones, Liz Shoemaker, Sidra Carman, Caitlin Auger, Kimmy Kraer, Kelsey Pont and Ally Simons – will be honored before the meet.

“It’s definitely a special class,” said Head Coach Kim Lessard. “They’re just a great group of kids.”

“We really get behind each other at meets,” senior captain Erin Jones said. “We want to work together and be supportive. It doesn’t matter if you’re the best swimmer on the team...all the swimmers are important and we try to emphasize that.”

The talented group of seniors and underclassmen have performed well in 2007, with wins over conference rivals Goucher and Ursinus. Both the men’s and women’s teams lost to Dickinson in a close contest that wasn’t decided until the final event of the meet.

During the team’s annual training trip in Florida over winter break, the women’s 200 freestyle relay team – junior Megan Morse and freshmen Kathy Gerhart, Callin Eisele and Liz Thomas – placed first out of ten teams at the Orange Bowl Swim Classic.

The team will wrap up its regular season on Wednesday at Swarthmore before “focusing on resting and zeroes in on their events” for the Centennial Conference Championships, held Feb. 16-18 at Franklin & Marshall, according to Lessard.

“I’ve worked so hard this season; it would be great to finish on a good note and get my best time [at the championships],” Jones said, adding, “I want us to finish above Dickin- son in conference.”

Office of Academic Skills (OAS)
2nd Floor, Miller Library
Ms. Cassandra C. Green, Director
Academic Success Workshops
February 2007

Wed., Feb. 7: Setting Academic Goals to Time, 6 p.m.
*Students must bring a textbook to workshop
Wed., Feb. 28: Cutting Reading time in Half and Increasing Comprehension
*Speed - Range-Reading Technique 6 p.m.

Workshop Presentation by Request: The Director of the OAS will present workshops to campus groups and organizations. Requests can also be made by faculty members for presentations to their advising groups or classes. Please contact the OAS for more information, or to schedule a presentation (x-7883).

Individual Assistance: In addition to the workshops, individual appointments may be made with the Director of the OAS for assistance on the above topics. Students may schedule a one-time appointment or continued appointment throughout the semester. Please contact the OAS for more information, or to schedule an appointment (x-7883).

Do you want to play?
Intramural Basketball
Pick up Roster in LFC Due Feb 8, 12pm
Games begin Feb. 13 2007

PHOTO BY ZACH DIXON

PHOTO BY ZACH DIXON

PHOTO BY D'ANDRE PHILLIPS

PHOTO BY D'ANDRE PHILLIPS

For more info contact:
D'Andre Phillips
dphillips2@washcoll.edu
Men’s Basketball Fights Hard as Season’s End Approaches

BY JOE COVENEY
Elm Staff Writer

During winter break, while most of you were sitting by the fire eating holiday cookies, the boys in maroon and black were sweating it out in Cain Gym as they played seven games against Keystone, Navy, Salisbury, Johns Hopkins, Gettysburg, Franklin and Marshall, and Dickinson. They went 1-6 over break with the single victory over Keystone.

The young and undersized squad beat Muhlenberg last Saturday, 71-65, for its 3rd win of the season, then dropped games against Swarthmore, 78-83, and #22 Johns Hopkins, 54-72.

Last Saturday’s contest against Muhlenberg featured senior forward Joey Breslin, the theme of all the games throughout the rest of the week.

Breslin collected his fifth double-double of the season, 15th of his career. He had a game high 26 points and 10 rebounds in the victory over Muhlenberg.

The senior also reached the career milestone of 1,000 points against rival Johns Hopkins. He is currently the 4th leading active scorer in the Centennial Conference.

In the victory over Muhlenberg, the Shoremen had all cylinders running, getting quality performances from sophomore swing man Tim Kohlru and sophomore point guard Todd Green.

Keys to the game were the Shoremen’s inability to hit their free throws, very uncharacteristic of the 2nd best free throw shooting team in the conference. Green hit his career high 21 points, and Breslin added 17 before fouling out with 6:47 left. Freshmen Matt Hamm and Andrew Chambers were sparks off the bench adding 10 and 9 points respectively.

The Shoremen will next face conference opponent Gettysburg College on Saturday on the Bullet’s home court.

Upcoming Home Events

Saturday, Feb. 3
Men’s and Women’s Swimming
v. McDaniel*
1:00 p.m.
Casey Swim Center

Tuesday, Feb. 6
Women’s Basketball
v. Haverford
7:00 p.m.
Cain Athletic Center

Wednesday, Feb. 7
Men’s Basketball
v. Haverford
7:30pm
Cain Athletic Center

* Centennial Conference Contest

By Darren Colananni
Elm Columnist

Nitric oxide is the new superstar in the supplement industry, with manufacturers claiming that nitric oxide will increase the “pump” you get during a hard workout in the gym.

Despite all the hype of NO manufacturers ranging from strength increase to putting on pounds of lean body mass, there is very little data to support these claims. To say that supplement manufacturers are overstating the muscle building effects of nitric oxide is an understatement. In fact, there’s even been one study, sponsored by an NO supplement manufacturer, that demonstrates that NO supplements are worthless for increasing lean body mass.

The study concluded: “Nitric oxide supplementation appeared to be safe and well tolerated, and positively influenced one rep max bench press. However, nitric oxide did not influence body composition or aerobic capacity.”

Early studies suggested nitric oxide could increase growth hormone levels but in truth, these effects were found in very high doses and were short-lived. These spikes in growth hormones don’t appear to have any positive effects on muscle mass or performance in healthy athletes.

Nitric oxide is a messenger molecule related in one way or another to virtually every pathway in the human body. Therefore, simply raising NO will have both positive and negative effects, most of which are not known at this time. Having chronically elevated levels of NO above normal may not be a good idea. For example, though NO is associated with some potential positive effects mentioned above, elevated NO levels are also associated with some negative effects.

Chronically elevated levels of NO are associated with increased levels of peroxynitrate, an extremely powerful pro-oxidant, which can lead to oxidative stress, immune disorders, chronic fatigue, and increased inflammation.

However, even though NO is a bust as a muscle building supplement, it does have its health benefits. Recent data suggest that Nitric Oxide may help improve overall blood flow, which is important to people suffering from ischemic issues.

Another study suggested that nitric oxide greatly improved penile function in men with penile dysfunction, as NO is essential for blood flow involved in getting an erection.

From a health perspective, nitric oxide may have some real uses for people with high cholesterol, coronary artery disease, and even men with erectile dysfunction.

As for athletes and gym rats, things become much less clear. Bottom line, I would not recommend Nitric Oxide to people at this time for increasing either muscle mass or performance.

Nitric Oxide: Muscle Builder or Marketing Hype?