

Rough weekend for basketball

Men's and women's teams both lose to Randolph-Macon and Virginia Wesleyan. -- Page 7

Is Beta coming back?

Beta Theta Pi fraternity was kicked off campus in 2004, but now their national headquarters is talking with W&L about re-colonizing. -- Page 2

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006 BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897 VOLUME CX, NUMBER 9

Fire at Beans Bottom

Fire damages students' country house, but none of the occupants are injured

By Alden Wicker
STAFF WRITER

Junior Phi Psi and swimmer Alex Sweet lost all of his belongings when his off-campus house caught fire last Wednesday.

"Basically, my room was submerged in flames," Sweet said.

Sweet and his two housemates, Bret Cogan and Chris Pow, have also been forced to move out of their house at Beans River Bottom. The house is now uninhabitable after the fire gutted a downstairs bathroom and Sweet's bedroom.

The fire started in the bathroom when Pow's towel got stuck in the small electrical heater--which Pow had left turned on--below the towel rack and caught fire. Within 15 minutes, the fire moved through the drywood walls and up into Sweet's closet above the bathroom.

Cogan was in his second story bedroom checking his email around 8 a.m. when he smelled smoke.

"I opened my door and it was white with smoke. You could not breathe or see," he said.

He ran out to the balcony and called 911. Then he jumped off. He went back inside and tried to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher, but he realized that most of it was inside the walls.

Meanwhile, Sweet was just getting out of class and got the message from Cogan saying the house was on fire. He rushed home.

"On the way I heard all these sirens, and I was like 'Dammit,'" Sweet said.

"I knew those were for my house."

When he got there, there were five engines from three different stations attending to the fire.

The fire engulfed Sweet's bedroom. It moved from the closet to his bed, blew out the windows, and burned his other closet. It climbed the wall and burned through the roof.

Now the room is a charred black hole.

"My TV got melted in half," Sweet said. "I lost every article of clothing I have."

His fish were also burnt alive in their fish tank.

"They died a pretty terrible death," he said. "I feel really bad about that."

Although he was lucky enough to have his computer and books with him, Sweet thinks his grades will probably suffer, especially since he lost thousands of note cards he had made up for his bio-chemistry class.

There was also "tremendous water damage" to the whole house. The fire department chainsawed a hole in Sweet's roof and put hoses in to put out the flames.

The downstairs was damaged by smoke, with holes smashed in the walls where the fire department checked for flames. Plaster, drywall, and mud covered the floor where the firefighters trooped through.

"It is completely unlivable," Sweet said.

The house's exterior looks normal, except for a boarded up window upstairs and an inconspicuous tarp stretched over the hole in



MICHAEL KEENAN / Staff Photographer

Plywood covers a broken window at a house in Bean's Bottom. The student house caught fire Wednesday morning.

the roof. According to the fire department, there is about \$50,000 worth of damage to the house. It won't be renovated and ready to live in again until next year.

Sweet and Cogan have moved into a suite in Gaines Hall for the remainder of the year. Pow moved into a KA house at Beans Bottom with his fraternity brothers.

Although Pow was the one who

left the heater on, his housemates don't blame the fire on him.

"None of us are mad at Chris," Sweet said. "We don't blame him; it was a mistake anyone could have made."

Pow would not comment.

Sweet thinks the blame rests with the poor upkeep of the house.

"My house was a matchstick

waiting to erupt," he said. "I realize now it was really stupid to live there."

He hopes this will serve as a wake-up call to students who move into run-down housing.

"I will be more diligent to check that kind of thing," Sweet said.

But Cogan, who did not lose anything in the fire, is just happy

the landlords are not angry at them.

"They have also been really easy to work with," he said.

When Sweet's mother helped the boys move their stuff into the house, she tried to tell the boys the house was a fire hazard.

"My mom told us 'This place is going to burn down,'" Sweet says. "Sure enough, it did."

Country needs to quiet down

Supervisors say noisy students must continue working to find common ground with their neighbors

By Jacob Geiger
NEWS EDITOR

Julia Garrett is one of the neighbors bothered by the student parties on Windfall. She lives across from Winding Way Road -- the driveway that goes to the Windfall Hill houses.

"The music gets turned down, but the [Traveller] buses keep running until 2 a.m. and there is a roar of voices," Garrett said. "This goes on Wednesday through Saturday. What I want to emphasize is that when the music stops, the party is not over."

Country parties are safe again after the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors decided last Monday not to pass a tougher, more restrictive noise ordinance.

Instead, the board will let students and their neighbors try to work out a solution that satisfies all groups. But the supervi-

sors warned that students living on Windfall Hill and at the Pole Houses must keep working with their neighbors if the current peace is going to hold.

"If the students behave and the neighbors are satisfied, we will leave things alone," said Harvey Hotinger, the supervisor who represents the area around Windfall Hill and the Pole Houses. "We are just trying to make the neighbors happy."

Garrett said that she would be happy if the compromise between students and neighbors works, but she said some serious problems need to be addressed.

Repeated complaints by neighbors who live near the student party areas prompted the board to consider a much stricter plan. The proposed ordinance would have required a permit for parties with loud music or more than 30 people.

"If the students behave and the neighbors are satisfied, we will leave things alone. We are just trying to make the neighbors happy."

HARVEY HOTINGER, Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors

The ordinance also would have banned music and other loud noises after 10 p.m. on weeknights and after midnight on weekends.

Students and administrators from Washington and Lee turned out Monday night to argue that a new noise ordinance was unnecessary. Most of the people from W&L have been serving on the Community Campus Coalition, a group Director of Student Health Jane Horton started last fall with Dean of Students Dawn Watkins.

Executive Committee Presi-

dent Rob Rain told the board he was concerned that a stricter ordinance might drive a wedge between students and the community.

"Since the student body became fully aware of the seriousness of this issue, many steps have been taken to resolve this issue in a civil manner," Rain said during his speech to the board.

Garrett Clark, a sophomore who will be living on Windfall Hill next year, is a member of the coalition. He asked the board to

postpone action on the ordinance.

Clark also said he thought the proposed ordinance was far too broad. He said the ordinance could have unintended consequences that would harm other residents of the county.

Clark said that if county residents want to have a weekday party, under the proposed ordinance they would have to register the party and then send everyone home at 10 p.m.

Residents who live near the student houses said the coalition had been working hard to find common ground. The coalition held a meet-and-greet earlier this month for at the Pole Houses for students and neighbors. Another dinner is planned for Wednesday night on Windfall Hill.

David Dugan said he went to the first meet-and-greet dinner and was pleased with the results. "Allow us and the students to con-

tinue to work together," he said.

Don Ford, who lives near Windfall Hill on Woodridge Lane, said he had seen a difference in student behavior this year.

"I hope things continue to improve," he said. "I would not mind giving the students more time if they continue being serious."

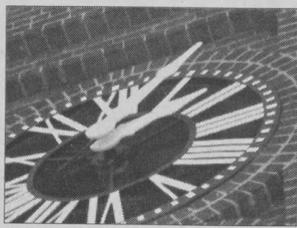
Neighbor Ed Bauer told the board to enforce the ordinance it has now. "Bring [the proposed ordinance] back up if problems continue," he said.

The coalition has also invited landlords and law enforcement officials to share their input. Joe Shaner, the landlord for Windfall Hill, told the board that he has enjoyed good relationships with his student tenants.

"We are now renting to the second generation in some cases,"

See "NOISE" on page 2

news



Stopping sexual assault

Summit gathers student leaders from 15 schools to discuss ways to reduce campus assaults

the numbers behind sexual assault at W&L:

1 in 4

college-age women will suffer rape or attempted rape from the time of their 14th birthday.

In the past year,

21.1%

of female W&L students reported sexual touching against their will. This is

twice

the national average.

In a recent survey of the student body asking students to classify various scenarios as "rape" or "not rape," women and men differed significantly

30%

of the time.

Source: "Sex at W&L," The Gender Relations Committee

By Wesley O'Dell
STAFF WRITER

Senior Matthew Loar is a busy guy. After all, combating sexual assault takes time and heart.

Loar, Chairman of the Gender Relations Committee, Co-Chair of 1 in 4, and a volunteer at the Project Horizon women's crisis center, gets his motivation from an experience close to home. A female friend of his was raped while in high school but didn't tell anyone about it until college.

"Her situation really struck a chord with me, and it made me realize that since I had the power to make some change, I needed to," Loar said.

Part of his work is running the GRC. Its programs like Date Night and Candycane grams are designed to promote healthy gender interaction. Loar's latest project was a GRC-sponsored summit at W&L designed to "bring students and administrators together from other universities to collaborate on efforts to prevent sexual assault."

He characterizes the summit as a big success. "We brought more than 50 people together from 15 different schools. We spent the weekend discussing programs, successes, obstacles to success, and a myriad of other topics related to sexual assault."

He especially enjoyed the all-student discussion group. "It was refreshing for me to see so many other students who cared about this issue. Everybody was very enthusiastic about taking back new ideas to their campuses."

The event's keynote speaker was the national founder of 1 in 4, a men's group that educates men about sexual assault and how to help survivors. It takes its name from the statistic that one in four college-age women will suffer rape or attempted rape from the time of their 14th birthday.

Chapter Co-Chair Bill Larson believes 1 in 4's presentations and sponsorships are paying off.

"The number of sexual assaults at W&L seems to have lessened slightly and awareness has improved...but there is still a lot to be done."

Larson believes sexual assault is offensive to the "honor and civility inherent in the W&L community. All members of the community should work to end sexual assault on our campus."

Junior Paten Hughes, the president of Knowledge Empowering Women Leaders (KEWL), says getting people involved is an important part of the solution. "We have to find a way to penetrate the culture, to work within it."

KEWL sponsors monthly discussion forums—including one on sexual assault—and is selling T-shirts in the commons atrium

"Every group at this university has the power to ... alter the kind of environment that fosters the behavior that leads to sexual assault."

Matthew Loar, Chairman of the Gender Relations Committee

for charity. KEWL's mission is "to form a community of great women who are leaders, who are smart, who have things to say."

Getting women to speak out is also the goal of SPEAK, a women's organization educating women about sexual assault. SPEAK's membership has tripled since its first meeting, and it produced a video and program to present to all freshmen women in the fall.

SPEAK President Catie Fulton said, "We want women on this campus to be aware of the various resources available to them if they or a friend have been assaulted. Talking about sexual assault...is one of the first steps, in my opinion, towards eliminating the problem."

In addition to presentations to freshmen, SPEAK sponsors programs like Take Back the Night, a vigil against sexual assault featuring survivors.

University Counselor Jennifer Sayre points to W&L's high sexual assault rate as evidence of a problem.

such as a dean. CAIRs are wonderful resources and can advise a student about a range of options from a formal report to less formal resolutions."

CAIRs are faculty and staff members trained to assist students with problems involving sexual misconduct. Survivors may also go to the Student-Faculty Hearing Board to seek justice. It is a confidential body that may impose a variety of sanctions. It does not, however, enforce Virginia law.

Sayre explained that "to begin the process of filing criminal charges, the police must be contacted. If a student is making a criminal report immediately following an incident, it would be best to go to the Health Center so that a counselor can accompany the student... for formal evidence collection."

As for the future, Sayre would like to see "our entire community come together to end sexual violence on our campus."

Loar agreed. "Every group at this university has the power to...alter the kind of environment that fosters the behavior that leads to sexual assault."

He considers Greek participation vital, "particularly the men, because they really wield the greatest influence on campus, and thus, they have the greatest power to effect positive change if they choose to do so. It's up to all of us to do our part."

Beta Theta Pi wants to re-colonize on campus

Members of the last pledge class say they felt betrayed by Beta nationals

By Cody Beauchamp
STAFF WRITER

They're bringing Beta back. Yep.

The Beta Theta Pi fraternity hopes to re-colonize a chapter at Washington and Lee University, confirmed J.B. Scherpelz, the organization's Director of Expansion and Recruitment.

Scherpelz (representing the fraternity) and Jason Rodocker (representing the University as Director of Student Activities and Greek Life) both confirmed that preliminary discussions were already underway about the possibility of Beta re-colonizing.

The chapter was suspended from campus in 2004 for hazing incidents.

University Director of Religious Life William C. "Burr" Datz, who was involved with investigating the hazing allegations, declined to comment on what specific hazing acts of which Beta was accused.

According to both Datz and Rodocker, the fraternity was found to be in clear violation of University anti-hazing policy and was accordingly suspended for a period of one year.

Rodocker said that the fraternity's national office handed down a longer suspension to the chapter, refusing to allow any sanctioned activity until all of the members of Beta at the time—including the pledge class who had been hazed—had graduated the university.

Barring an unexpected complication, this would mean the suspension would be lifted sometime next year—by which time all previous Beta members are expected to have graduated.

Rodocker said that the representatives from the national office said re-colonization could happen shortly after. However, he also said the national organization wants to see what they consider to be a strong alumni base that would support the new chapter.

Rodocker also said the national office has several concerns that will need to be addressed. The national executives are interested to see if the chapter can sustain itself without reverting back to its previous behavior.

Scherpelz said that Beta's national organization also hoped to see greater involvement by the re-colonized chapter in regional and national leadership seminars.

The fraternity's website describes their "Men of Principle" initiative as one that hopes to give "a new voice to the enduring values of our Fraternity...calling on men to become leaders and giving them the tools they need to do so."

Scherpelz said that the national organization will also stipulate that the chapter house property be completely dry, although he said that this would not necessarily mean the fraternity chapter itself would have to be dry.

Scherpelz said the ban would only forbid alcohol on the physical grounds and property of the

"The chapter that was suspended is not what a Beta chapter, in the eyes of our national organization, should be."

J.B. Scherpelz, BOP Director of Expansion and Recruitment

chapter house, with possible exceptions for certain social functions.

Scherpelz also added that potential new members would have to maintain a grade point average higher than the W&L all men's average to receive a bid and go through new member education. The average male GPA at W&L is a 3.159.

"We are anxious to return, but if we do, we want to return as an organization that contributes and is a valuable part of a community, not a chapter that behaves like the one that was suspended did," Scherpelz said.

"We are anxious to meet with the university's Inter-Fraternity Council and Student Affairs Council in the spring to see how we can go about doing that."

To Ted Clark and Matt Leisman—both of whom were members of the last Beta pledge class before the fraternity was suspended—the stipulations are likely going to make re-establishing the chapter more difficult.

"If it's going to come back with those rules, they're going to have a hard time rushing people,"

said Clark.

Leisman believes any new chapter would not see much involvement from any pre-suspension brothers.

"I think all of us felt betrayed by nationals," said Leisman. "None of us really want to help them out much."

"It's sort of an issue too of them not wanting to be involved with us than us wanting to be involved with them," said Clark.

Scherpelz confirmed that was the national fraternity's position, saying that while he feels that what happened to Clark's and Leisman's pledge class was "unfortunate and definitely unfair," the fraternity's national board had already decided at the time of the suspension that the class would not be welcome in any future re-colonization efforts.

"The chapter that was suspended is not what a Beta chapter, in the eyes of our national organization, should be," said Scherpelz.

"When the chapter closed, it was for very good reasons," said Scherpelz. "It is definitely regrettable, but no one involved with that is really welcome back."

Noise rules unchanged

Continued from page 1

Shaner said. "The music and noise get over emphasized. Give the students some more time to work things out."

Shaner also said that he has changed next year's leases in an effort to control noise and trash from parties.

Watkins said the coalition was started to encourage and support student self-governance. Supervisor Carroll Comstock said Watkins was doing a good job, but that real change would only occur if students stepped up and took action.

Watkins said she agreed with Comstock, and that's why she has been working to involve students in the coalition.

"We went to the Student Affairs Committee first: the Executive Committee President, the Chair of Traveller, the Head Dorm Counselor, the Chair of the Student Judicial Council, and the Presidents of the IFC and Panhellenic," Watkins said. "We invited each of those student leaders to participate or send a designative representative in their place."

Other students, Watkins said, were either recruited by the student leaders or volunteered.

"Garrett Clark walked in to my office this sum-

mer and volunteered. He had some ideas and suggestions and then he has started recruiting more students for the coalition."

Watkins and Jane Horton, the Director of Student Health, started the group last fall after receiving a grant in the summer of 2005 from the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Clark said the coalition hopes to become a permanent part of campus life.

"We are going to try and make [the coalition] more formal," he said. "We can use infrastructure to develop good relationships with our neighbors, which we were really bad at."

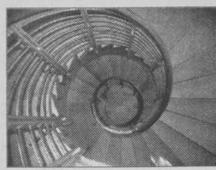
Rain said a long-term solution will involve continuing communication through the coalition.

"We want to establish a custom of communicating with your neighbors when you move out to the country," he said. "We want neighbors to call students instead of calling the sheriff."

Julia Garrett still remains a bit skeptical.

"The students are just two different people—the party and the person at the meeting," Garrett said. "I think we have come a long way, but it has been a year and a half now... there is a long way to go. I am just for whatever works."

opinions



The dangers of Black Friday

Injuries, thefts, general chaos on this busy shopping day are the opposite of the Christmas spirit

By Grace Andrews
COLUMNIST

Today's topic is Black Friday.

For those readers who are not familiar with Black Friday, let me explain.

Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving, that Friday when stores have their huge Christmas sales.

It's the busiest shopping day of the year by the number of people out there.

I usually refuse to shop on Black Friday out of concern for my personal well-being.

I am a bit on the shorter side, and attempting to outrun the stampedes with the small appendages that I call legs could be disastrous.

However, this year I ended up shopping on Nov. 24: Black Friday.

I was just picking up a few snacks for my road trip back to school and not participating in any sort of Christmas shopping.

While finishing my shopping

list, I saw a friend of mine with a cart full of items.

She had a DVD player, a laptop, a printer/telephone/fax machine and a digital camera.

All that she was missing was a life-size robot that could do housework for her.

The only problem with her shopping was that it was around 1:30 a.m.

Wal-Mart's sale did not start until 5 a.m., but my friend wanted to get there early to beat the mad dash that would happen at 4:58 a.m. when the sales officially began.

The problem with her being so prompt was that she had to wait from 1:30 a.m. until 5 a.m., when the Black Friday deals would begin.

I am not going to lie, the deals were fabulous, but I do not know if I would have been willing to wait that long to get them.

For a second, I considered getting a few items and waiting around until five to get the deals.

Then I realized that I was



GRACE ANDREWS,
columnist

The teen even attempted to reach into my friend's mother's cart and remove the item.

wearing flip-flops instead of sneakers, thus eliminating my ability to win a footrace to any of my favorite items.

Also, I had not done Tae-Bo in months and would not be able to defend myself from anyone who wanted to abduct my items.

When I asked my friend why she was there four hours early to buy her items, she informed me that Wal-Mart had a limited number of some of the items. For example there were only 19 laptops on sale, so if she did not go early, she would not get any of the items that she had

wanted.

She then told me a story of an incident that occurred last year.

Apparently, her mother had gone to Wal-Mart at 5 a.m. and was almost assaulted by a teenager who wanted an electronic item that was already gone from the store's shelves.

The teen even attempted to reach into my friend's mother's cart and take the item.

After this, my friend and her mother wisely decided that they would just go to the stores offensively early and wait until the sale hours began.

It is because of problems like

this that Wal-Mart had three on-duty police officers that day to monitor the doors and walk around the store.

The saddest part about my shopping trip to Wal-Mart was that there were other individuals who had begun shopping early as well.

They all seemed to be wandering aimlessly in the aisles, trying to squander four hours.

They looked extremely bored and restless.

What a shame!

It made me sad to see them spending their day after Thanksgiving shopping relentlessly, especially since I was headed home to eat more Thanksgiving food, watch football highlights with my brother and go to sleep.

Later that day, when I arose from my food-induced coma, I decided to take a look at the news and see what Black Friday chaos had ensued.

As usual, there were stories of people being trampled, toys being snatched from the unsuspecting hands of parents and

people being robbed outside of department stores and shopping centers.

Now if that isn't the Christmas spirit, I don't know what is! (Sarcasm intended.)

Seeing those stories put a damper on my spirit.

Christmas is not about receiving gifts or accumulating every item you want.

It is about giving to others unselfishly and brightening up someone's day.

As the world around us becomes more chaotic with finals, last minute shopping and Christmas list writing, I would like for you to remember that there is more to life than getting that great deal on that new high tech gadget that you want or buying those stylish new shoes.

It is about spreading joy.

So whether you do that by donating some items to the Union Mission, giving to the Salvation Army or sponsoring a child in the area through Nabors, remember that there are countless ways to give this season and throughout the year.

County residents should just deal

College students everywhere throw loud parties. So why are Rockbridge residents surprised we do, too?

By Craig Malkmes
COLUMNIST

Rockbridge County is really getting on my nerves.

Not only have I recently received a higher punishment for a speeding ticket on my way out to the Mill than my roommate received when he got a DUI in St. Louis, but the whole noise ordinance issue is far beyond absurd.

Granted, it didn't pass on Monday, but it's still up in the air. Things could still change if we, as students, don't show any effort to decrease the noise.

Many neighbors around the Pole Houses are furious and can't believe that the decision has been simply put off.

They want to push for a new noise ordinance so strict that, on Wednesday nights, parties would have to be shut down before many students even go out. That's ridiculous.

Some neighbors claim that it is impossible to sleep and that the bass from our speakers is unbearably loud long past midnight.

I know for a fact that the music is turned off at Pole Three when it's supposed to be, so that seems like a pretty unwarranted complaint to me.

Moreover, the neighbors have the audacity to label students as a bunch of rich kids whose parents will pay for any fines received for noise violations.

They further complain that they have to wake up at 7 a.m. or 8 a.m. for work, whereas students can supposedly sleep for the rest of the day.

Many students who attend here do come from wealthy backgrounds.

However, it is obvious that they have not been spoon-fed

Technically, we were here first, so in all actuality, the neighbors shouldn't be making demands.

their entire lives. In qualifying for enrollment to this school, one must surely have a great deal of responsibility.

Even the existence of an honor system shows that students understand and are willing to face consequences for irresponsible behavior.

They don't neglect to observe the repercussions of misdemeanors simply because they assume that their parents will pay the fine. They also must attend classes that can possibly begin at 8 a.m., which many times influences their decision to drink the night before.

What the neighbors must realize is simply that this is college, and these things are going to happen no matter what school you live near.

Moving into a college town means constant interaction with students. Therefore, the lifestyles of those students are going to have a big effect on residential areas.

Citizens moving into Lexington should have already considered this before purchasing a home near students. If they have not, Rockbridge County must have some pretty devious real estate agents.

College students are going to drink underage. They are going to throw obnoxious parties. They are going to do insane things, like throw kegs on cars, trip into rivers, fall into fires, or even make visits to Stonewall Jackson.

Deal with it.

Also, how can neighbors complain about 'noisy Traveller buses' keeping them up at night?

Without that system, there would be much more traffic and parking issues, as well as the danger of a huge amount of drunk driving.

Lexington has grown up around the school, not the other way around. Without Washington & Lee, Lexington would not exist as a town. The 'Ruins' we know of today include a three-story building that was built in 1793, which was recognized as the largest building in the entire county at the time.

Obviously, the business from students and faculty at the school gave merchants and craftsmen a reason to settle nearby and eventually form a town.

Technically, we were here first, so in all actuality, the neighbors shouldn't be coming into this town and making demands.

Everyone remembers what it was like to be a college student - to drink five nights a week and stay up until four in the morning playing beer pong.

I personally only have two and a half more years.

The seniors this year just experienced what will prove to be their last Christmas Weekend.

So just let the students do their thing, please.



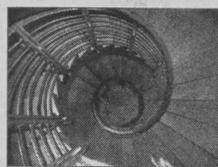
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YOU BE THE JUDGE!**

*Midnight Breakfast at Tiffany's
An Elegant Affair to Remember*

Monday, December 11th
10:30 P.M. - Midnight

Join your favorite professors and staff members as they exhibit their culinary skills in the Marketplace for this exquisite midnight exam breakfast.

opinions



The Democrats' worst nightmare

McCain-Giuliani for president in 2008 now very likely

By Abel Delgado
COLUMNIST

Just a few days after Election Day 2006, forward-thinking Republicans were celebrating everywhere.

That's right, after getting a good old-fashioned whipping, Republicans were rejoicing.

Why? Because McCain-Giuliani is not only the Democrats' worst nightmare, the pair is now looking more likely than ever.

Nov. 8 was a definite wake-up call for the Grand Old Party.

The Democrats did not really win this election, but the Republicans most definitely lost.

The Republicans did not just lose, they were completely and utterly dismembered by the voting public.

Incumbent Republicans whose names were linked to the Jack Abramoff scandal probably would have lost to the likes of Walter Mondale.

The Democrats did not take any chances. They had learned their lesson and realized that actual Democrats were not going to win any elections.

So they nominated people like Jim Webb, a former Republican whose only claim to donkey allegiance is the fact that he opposed the Iraq war and that there happened to be a (D) following his name on the ballot.

There were a lot of moderate candidates for the Democrats this time, and the strategy paid off. Voters got to vote for Republican-minded candidates without voting for the disgraced Republican Party.

In a way, the Democrats were

The Democrats have a whole two years to remind the American public why they kept losing elections.

better at being Republicans this election than the Republicans were.

So what's there to be happy about if you're an elephant?

Well, just a few days after the excommunication of the Republican majority in Congress, two extremely prominent, respected, and moderate Republicans finally made their 2008 plans official.

Rudolph Giuliani, America's mayor, and John McCain, everyone's favorite maverick senator, both have started what we call presidential exploratory committees.

They may not be every conservative's favorite duo, but they are every Republican's last hope. We, and I say we both as a moderate Republican and an American, need McCain and Giuliani.

We need people who do not decide their stands on issues based on party affiliation, but on personal conscience and public sentiment.

Both these men represent all that is great with this country, and the Democrats know this.

Every poll of expected 2008 presidential candidates shows that there's really no way either of them would be defeated by any Democratic candidate, especially Hillary "I should be in jail right now for Whitewater but my hub-

bie was president so now I'm a senator" Clinton. Yes, her middle name is much too long for her to have a chance.

And who else has a shot for the Democrats? John Edwards and Wesley Clark could not even beat John Kerry. That says something about their chances in a general election. And does the average voter even know what Evan Bayh, Bill Richardson, or Tom Vilsack looks like?

What the Democrats also know is that before Nov. 8, the chances of either McCain or Giuliani winning the Republican nomination were not too great.

There was far too much distance between them and the base. But now the base has no choice.

The Republicans are desperate enough to pick whoever has the best chance of beating the Democrats, and the Democrats have a whole two years to remind the American public why they kept losing elections before.

If losing in 2006 means Democrats show Americans they're a bunch of grade-A do-nothings and McCain or Giuliani gets the nomination, then maybe Republicans did not really lose.

Maybe this was the best thing that could have possibly happened to the party of Lincoln and Teddy.

letterfromtheeditor

Editor makes a final request

Outgoing editor asks all students to open up

It's hard to believe, but it has been a year since I took over this 110-year-old publication that "nobody reads."

In that time, the newsroom started working the way a real newsroom does, on new software, on new computers.

But the one thing we still can't win is you.

I've found that it doesn't matter what sits between our pages. Each week, there are articles covering students helping charities and performing on stage.

We raise issues that affect student life—like how the community feels about you, or how the laws affect your nightly activities.

And yet we're still unpopular. No one wants to be caught dead reading the Phi in the Commons.

That is, except the 500-plus people who tear the issues off the stands on Monday nights.

Funny, but despite the claims otherwise, the newspaper has been around so long for a reason.

It's true that the Phi doesn't

have a perfect track record for great journalism; for example, they used to love to reprint an incoherent article from the 1960's explaining how the Phi got its weird name.

(By the way, "Ring-tum Phi" used to be a phrase in some tongue-in-cheek football cheer drunk fans used to yell out back in 1897.)

It's also true that the Phi has done some pretty groundbreaking work to tie the community together over the years.

I've always been an idealist, and it shows in the staff editorials each week. I would love to think that in a perfect world, we could set out to write stories that you all care about. I'd love to give you exactly everything you want and need.

But I've found that the world is, shockingly, not perfect.

For starters, you don't talk to us.

On the most important stories, the ones that scream to be talked about, you all say

"no comment."

In doing this, you are handing yourself over to the rumor mill, where, trust me, you'll be butchered for it.

I know why you do it: At least, if it's just a rumor, no one could ever know if it's really true.

But if you want us to reach you, you have to let us in.

I started my tenure as editor here with a proposal. I asked you to stick with me, believe in me, and the newspaper, and to wait and see what we could do.

As I end my time here, I want to ask another favor: Open up to us. Realize that we're not here to hurt you; we are you.

But we can't tell the truth unless you give us your side. We can't reach you unless you reach out, too.

When I came on as editor, I told you we would try to make sure good journalism started coming out of this publication.

As I leave, I'd like to ask you to do your part.

Kat Greene, Editor-in-Chief

The Pope's fighting words

Benedict's anti-Islamic quote demands action against suicide bombers

By Cody Beauchamp
COLUMNIST

The most iconic Christian alive is telling Islam to put its money where its mouth is.

Thank God/Allah.

First, before I write another word, let me roll out the disclaimer—this article is not an attack on the religion of Islam. I understand and acknowledge that, for the millions who count themselves as Muslims, Islam is a legitimate and very real faith. I know that it at its core is not violent. Do not take me to be a blatant racist or soon-to-be crusading evangelical.

That being said:

On Sept. 12 (note the date, only one day after the 5th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorism attacks), the leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI, made a comment during a speech at the University of Regensburg in Germany that—to put it delicately—did not go over well with many Muslims.

In his lecture, Benedict quoted a passage written by Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus, in which Manuel said, "Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

Ouch.

It is obvious that Muslims would have reason to be insulted by anyone who read this statement or made this assertion.

The problem is these terrorists don't understand they are not acting in accordance with their faith.

This brings up an interesting question—this statement was used in a lecture by the man most representative of all Christians in the world: the Pope.

Why?

Believe me—it is not that the pontiff did not know what he was doing. Joseph Ratzinger (as Benedict was known before adopting his papal name) is one of the greatest theological heavyweights alive today and has been for literally decades.

He served for years in important Church policy-setting bodies, not the least of which was his stint under John Paul II as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He was one of John Paul's most trusted advisors. He knows his Muslim/Christian politics well.

Given that, you will be hard-pressed to convince me he chose to use that particular passage because he either could not find a better one or did not realize that it basically called Islam an evil, militant religion.

Why then?

Why would the leader of the

largest Christian body all of a sudden call Islam a violent faith?

Because Benedict is telling the faithful Muslims and their leaders to put their money where their mouth is and prove that their faith is not anchored in violence.

Think about it—name the one unifying thread that runs between the suicide bombers in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, between the race riots Europe (especially France) faced last year and between the terrorists who killed innocent people in New York, Washington D.C., Madrid and London.

You guessed it—they all claim to have been acting out of religious fervor and faithfulness. Faithfulness to Islam.

Now, I understand that these men (and sometimes women) do not accurately represent the Islamic faith. I understand they are extremists. So does Benedict. So do a large majority of Muslims.

The problem is these terrorists do not understand they are not acting in accordance with their faith.

Benedict called out the ele-

phant in the room when he used a quote that said Islam is by nature violent. He expected outraged Islamic leaders to rail against the idea, to claim that Islam is not violent.

And now that they have, Benedict gets to ask them to prove it.

It is a masterstroke: as the most visible Christian leader, Benedict gets to show the Islamic world how the Catholic Church has condemned past violence by Christians (the Crusades, anyone?) and declared itself to be a peace-seeking religion.

That is the church's modus operandi for the spread and protection of itself as a religion.

He gets to say that Christians are using faith to expand, not for fighting.

At that point, the outraged imams and clerics will have to respond. How can they make the same claim Benedict can without decrying the acts of the terrorists and drawing clear separation between Islam and the terrorists?

They cannot.

John Paul II helped bring down communism by supporting the Polish Solidarity movement, when Poles rejected communism as a system that failed them.

Benedict XVI could help bring down terrorism by forcing Muslims to reject terrorists as not acting in accordance with true Islamic faith.

Praise Allah. Thank God. You choose.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

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MISSION STATEMENT: It is the mission of THE RING-TUM PHI to accurately, truthfully, and thoroughly report news affecting the Washington and Lee community for students, faculty, parents and alumni. Our goal is to look deeper into news affecting campus life and hold leaders accountable. Through our reporting, we aspire to spark discussions that lead to discovering information that prompts change.

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arts&life

Mystery of rush unveiled

Recruitment rules in place to create more comfortable, low-pressure scene for potential members

Greek life stats for W&L women:

Last year,
198
women participated in recruitment.

88%
of women who participated joined a sorority.

Overall,
76%
of W&L women are in Greek Life

Source: "W&L Greek Life News," Office of Student Activities and Greek Life

By Cody Beauchamp
STAFF WRITER

Rules in place regulating the sorority recruitment process (rush) at Washington and Lee are designed to protect the women thinking about joining sororities, said Panhellenic Recruitment Chair Kathryn Heberg.

Heberg understands that the list of rules can often seem confusing, but said these rules serve the purpose of protecting both the sororities and the potential new sisters.

"There are a lot of pressures that come with adjusting to college life," Heberg said.

"[Panhellenic] understands that, and we don't want to add to those pressures with sorority rush."

Heberg said the sorority recruitment rules put into place by Panhellenic also seek to promote better relations between the five sororities at W&L.

As an example of how the rules seek to take the pressure out of the rush experience for potential members, Heberg pointed towards rules against involving men in the recruitment process and consuming alcohol in the presence of potential members.

There are also rules requiring that rush dates must be composed of certain ratios of sisters to potential members.

Heberg said that rush dates where potential members are outnumbered by sisters would be understandably intimidating experiences for the potential members, so Panhellenic has rules that ensure the dates never have more sisters than potential recruits.

Heberg said she believes that if alcohol were shared by sorority sisters and potential members, it would make the potential members feel strongly pressured to drink.

"When you're looking at one house, and there are sisters from that house encouraging you to drink with them, you would feel a greater pressure to drink, even if you didn't really want to," Heberg said.

Heberg also said Panhellenic has rules during formal recruitment that prevent both potential members and sisters from drinking. She said the rules are similar to the requirements that are in place during the informal rush events of Fall term.

"Plus," Heberg said, "Alcohol and drinking shouldn't really be the focus of that week."

When asked why potential members were forbidden from being in any of the sorority houses except during special events, Heberg pointed to the privileges that come from being in a sorority.

"It's definitely different from

the fraternities," Heberg said about having closed houses.

"But that's a privilege that comes with members to the sorority—getting to go in the house."

Heberg said that potential members are barred from Greek fraternity-sorority mixers because membership in a house should carry some perks and privileges.

"You want to have something to look forward to," Heberg said.

Heberg also said that mixers inherently have an element of men—the fraternity members—promoting a sorority above the others by association.

"We definitely seek to have a level playing field with all the sororities," Heberg said.

She also said it is this desire to foster and maintain good inter-house relations that also is the reason behind rules against "dirty rush" and buying items for potential members.

"The recruitment process has the potential to really create bad feelings between the sororities," Heberg said.

"We want to have rules that make sure the process creates as little tension between the sororities as possible."

Heberg reinforced the fact that once Fall term ends, the formal rush process begins for potential members.

Among the things potential

Rules for formal recruitment week

- potential members are not allowed in the sorority house with the exception of Greek events and rush week
- no contact is permitted between active and potential members during Winter break and rush week
- drinking is discouraged for potential members during formal rush week

members can expect to see are the implementation of no-contact rules between sisters and potential members and formal rush week invitations to come spend time around sisters in their respective houses.

"The no contact is there to take away some of the pressures surrounding the decision-making that potential members have to do," Heberg said.

"Sororities will get their allotted time with the evening meetings, but after that it's a time for the potential members to work on their decisions without pressure."

Heberg said that potential members can expect to receive invitations from all the sorority houses, after which the potential members and the sororities both list their preferences for membership.

After that, a weeklong elimination process starts for both the potential members and the sororities, leading up to the extension of bids to potential members on the Friday of formal rush week around 5 p.m.

After formal bids are distributed, both the sororities and fraternities welcome their new members with tear night celebrations.

Heberg encourages potential members with any questions to talk to their Rho Gammas, who are sisters who volunteered to "de-affiliate" from their sorority for the term in order to provide impartial advice and guidance to potential members.

Heberg said: "Ultimately, we want to make this entire process as enjoyable as possible."

**Happy Holidays
from the Ring-Tum Phi.**

The Best Newspaper that Comes Out on Monday

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arts&life

Fratty Lights

The Phi's second annual awards for best and worst dressed frat houses are back by popular demand

Photos by Kat Greene and Melissa Caron
Text by Jessica Shaw and Jacob Geiger



MOST IMPROVED: SAE makes drastic improvements over last year's single strand of pink lights and deflated Santa Claus. This looks truly classy.



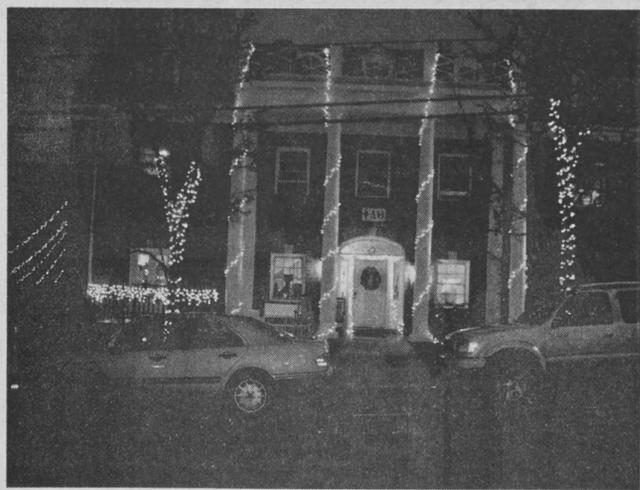
CLASSIEST: Phi Psi presents a symmetrical display with lights defining the staircases and columns.



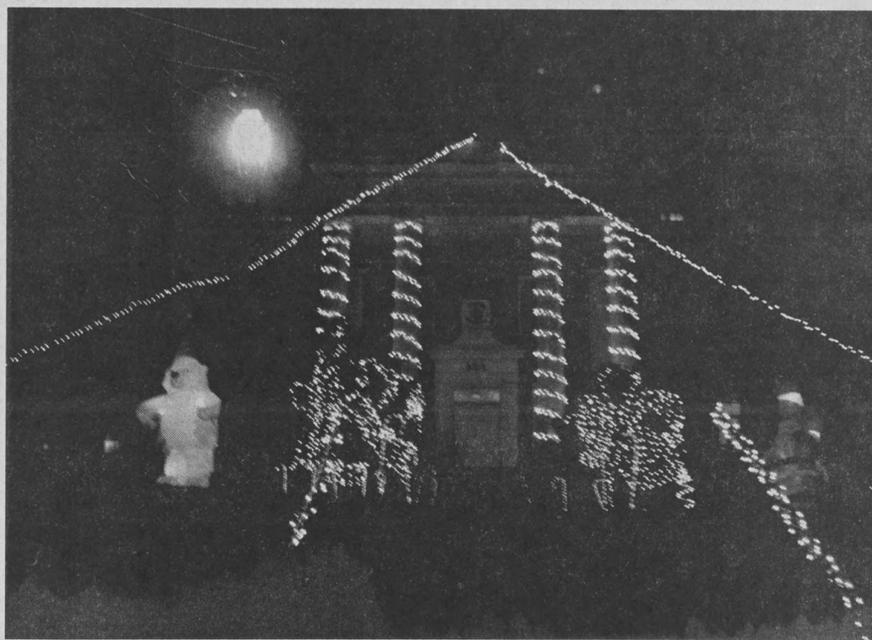
DECKED HALLS: Sigma Nu celebrates in style with halls filled with Christmas decor and a glowing Santa figure emerging from the chimney.

This year's

BEST DRESSED



MOST UNIQUE: Phi Delt utilizes icicle lights and colored strands to create an interesting, creative display that draws attention.



WINTER WONDERLAND: Lambda goes all out. With the oversized polar bear and elaborate nativity scene perched on the roof, it illustrates a holiday utopia.

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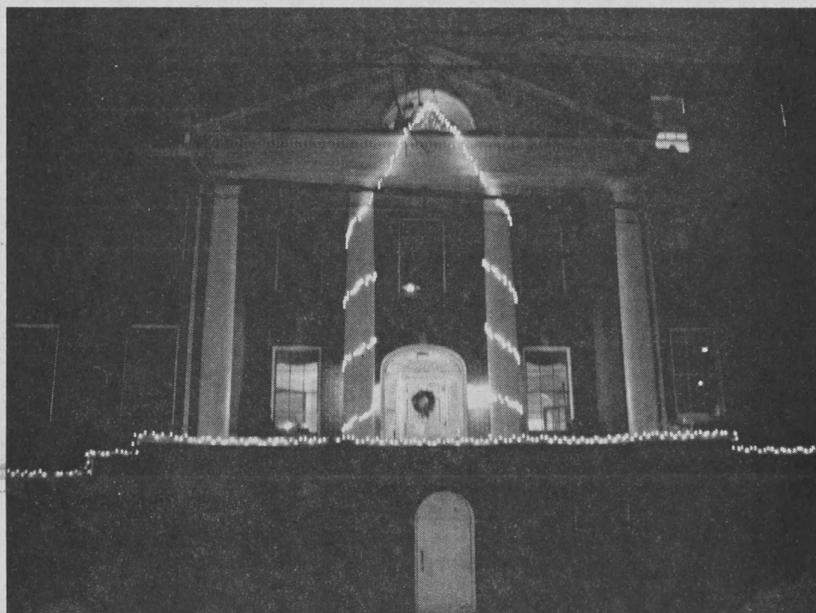
Who wore it best?

Sigma Chi steals the win with its interspersed zig-zag light designs.



This year's

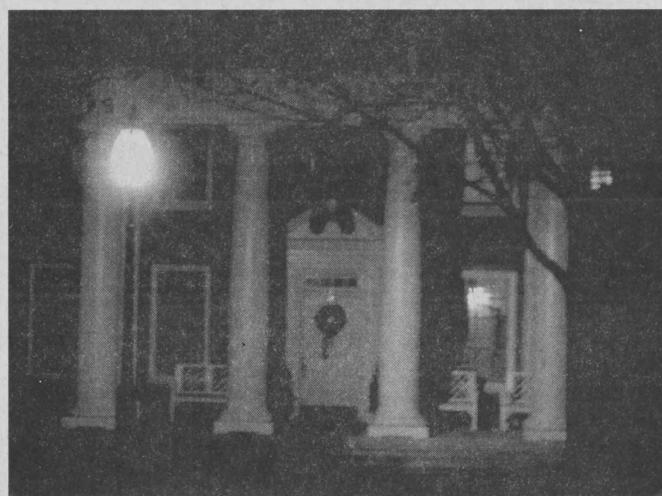
WORST DRESSED



MOST PATHETIC: Phi Kap would have earned the title of least effort, but KA forgot to turn its lights on. Get real - fraternity dues should cover more than two strands of lights.



NICE TRY: Pi Phi must have been too distracted dominating the soccer field to bother decorating for the holidays. The pink and blue add an awkward touch.



LEAST EFFORT: KA looks just a little out of place with its lack of holiday spirit. Is Mother Alpha just too cool for Christmas lights?

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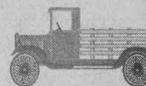
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Men's Indoor Track

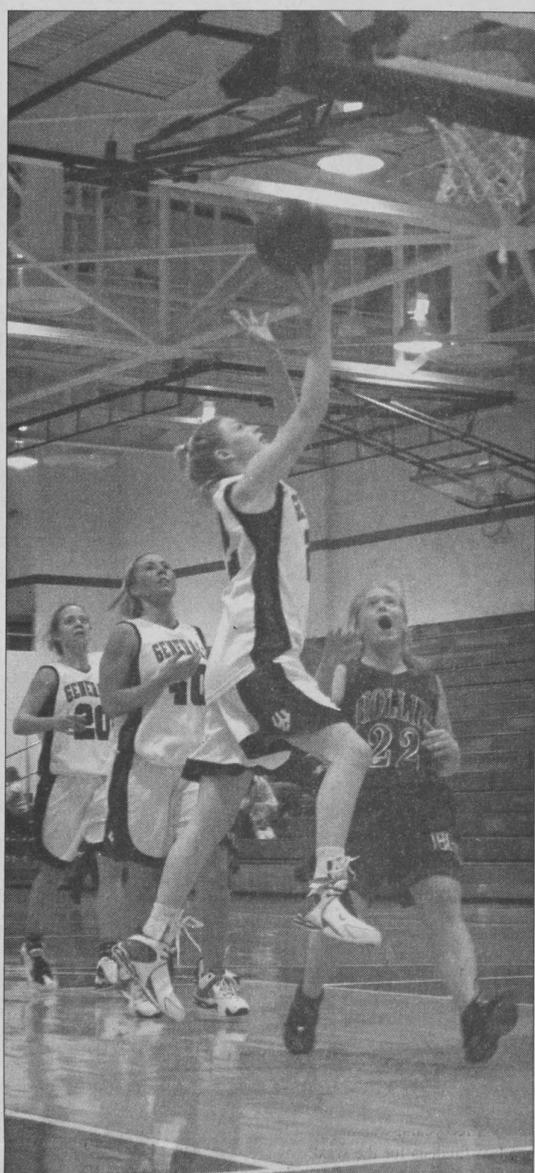
The 2006-07 indoor track season got started on Saturday afternoon at the Liberty Invitational. The Washington and Lee men were led by sophomore Drew Martin, who finished second among all Division III competitors in the pole vault with a height of 13'9". Freshman Billy Billington placed second in the shot put with a toss of 12.25 meters, while sophomore Ben Wilson placed third in the weight throw with a toss of 11.50 meters. Additionally, the 4x400 meter relay team finished second among Division III teams and third overall with a time of 3:37.97. The team was comprised of sophomore Chip McCoy, freshmen Brian Bondurant and Ryan Castle and junior Marshall French. In the ODAC pre-season poll, the men were picked to finish 4th in the conference. The Generals return to action on Sat., Jan. 20 when the team competes in the Marietta Invitational.

Women's Indoor Track

The Washington and Lee women's track and field team also opened their 2006-07 season by competing at the Liberty Invitational. The W&L women were led by freshman Kat Telfeyan, who placed first among all Division III runners in the 5000 meters with a time of 18:56.83. Junior Elizabeth Brandler also placed second in the pole vault with a height of 3.0 meters, while sophomore Grace Andrews placed fourth in the shot put with a distance of 9.01 meters and fifth in the weight throw with a school-record toss of 9.54 meters. Sophomore Tara Hildenbrand finished fifth in the 400 meters with a time of 65.52 and set a school record in the 60 meter dash with a time of 8.63 seconds. The Lady Generals will also return to action when they compete at Marietta.

Wrestling

The wrestling team finished 14th at the Messiah Petrofes Invitational on Friday and Saturday. The Generals tallied 23.5 team points and were led by junior Anthony Boniello, who placed seventh at 165 pounds. Most members of the team struggled against the tough opposition. Heidelberg placed first overall with 173.0 team points. The Generals also competed at the Fall Brawl before Thanksgiving break. Although no overall team scores were kept, the Generals had two competitors finish in the top four of their weight class. Junior Jesse Sataloff placed fourth in the 174-pound weight class, while sophomore John Christopher took fourth in the 285-pound weight class. W&L next returns to action on Sat., Jan. 6 as it competes in the Gettysburg Quadrangular beginning at 12 p.m.



MICHAEL KEENAN / Staff Photographer

Freshman guard Lauren Heitshusen goes in for a layup in the Generals record-setting 90-26 win over Hollins.

Ballers fall to foes

Generals drop two close decisions over the weekend

By Mike Fahey
SPORTS EDITOR

After setting a school record for most points scored in a single game, the Washington and Lee women's basketball team lost two close games this past weekend against ODAC opponents.

The Generals got off to a great start on their season, capturing the Swarthmore Tip-Off Classic and an incredible win over Hollins. Unfortunately, the Generals fell at the hands of Randolph-Macon and Virginia Wesleyan.

Sophomore Kara Nadeau said, "I was really proud of us for winning the tip-off tournament, and even though our last two games were losses, I think we are gaining good experience for later on in the season."

Virginia Wesleyan defeated the Generals 66-54 in ODAC action on Saturday afternoon. The Generals jumped out to an 11-1 lead just 3:29 into the game, but the Marlins came right back with a 10-0 run to even the game at 11-11 with 13:37 left in the first half. The game was a back-and-forth contest for several minutes before Virginia Wesleyan closed the first half with an 11-3 run for a 33-25 lead at the break. W&L battled back in the second half to tie the game at 46-46 on a three-point play by sophomore forward Kara Nadeau with 8:22 left in the game. However, after the Marlins posted an 8-0 run over the next 2:02 the Generals had no answer.

The Generals were led by senior center Jessica Hunsinger, who notched 16 points and pulled in eight rebounds. Nadeau added 13 points and seven boards.

On Friday evening, the Generals recovered from an 11-point halftime deficit to pull within one point in the final minutes of the game. They could not pull off a road win, however, losing 66-64 to Randolph-Macon in an ODAC battle.

W&L was led by sophomore guard Bethany Ridenhour, who tied a career-high with 16 points and added six assists, four rebounds and three steals. Krouchick notched 14 points and eight boards, and Hunsinger tallied seven points, a game-high 11 rebounds and five blocks.

Earlier in the week, the Generals set a school record for points scored and largest margin of victory with a 90-26 win over Hollins on their home court.

The Generals held Hollins scoreless for the first five minutes of play and had a 49-12 lead at the break. The 64-point victory surpassed the former record of 55 set against Mary Baldwin in 1998, while the 90 points eclipsed the 89 points scored against Emory & Henry last season.

Ridenhour had 16 points, while five Generals were in double figures. Krouchick notched 15 points, while junior guard Wolff added a career-high 14 markers. Junior forward Amanda Kane scored 12 points and Hunsinger chipped in 11 points, while pulling down eight rebounds. Senior guard Sarah Otey contributed a career-high 10 assists.

The W&L women's basketball team claimed its first in-season tournament title since the 1997-98 season with a 52-45 win over Swarthmore in the championship game of the Swarthmore Tip-Off

Tournament.

Krouchick scored 18 points in the championship game and notched six rebounds en route to being named tournament MVP. She was joined on the all-tournament team by Ridenhour.

The Generals had opened their 2006-07 campaign with a 62-24 victory over the City College of New York.

Despite the recent losses, the team is rebounding well. As sophomore Bethany Ridenhour said, "We are learning quickly and realizing that we can be a dominant team in the ODACs this year and perhaps even win the league."

The Generals have put in long hours on the court in the pre-season, preparing for a run at the ODAC championship. It is this drive and determination that have contributed to the team's great start.

Nadeau said, "I think we all worked really hard in the off-season and have been practicing hard every practice."

Backed by a strong group of returning stars, the Generals already have a proven court chemistry that will be very beneficial to them as the season draws on.

"We are probably the hardest working team in the conference and we are looking to prove it," Ridenhour said. "Everyone on the team has improved their game and stepped it up so that our team is as deep as can be."

As the team continue its quest for an ODAC title, Nadeau would like to see the student body come out and support the team. "I am expecting all of my friends to come to the games and cheer and hold up signs," she said.

Men's basketball team drops the ball

Continued from page 10

ing advantage of 28 points from Greg Bienemann, the Generals held off a second-half comeback and notched a 78-65 victory, to go to 2-1 on the season.

After being out-rebounded in their first two games, W&L turned the tide against Dickinson with a 39-24 advantage in this category.

The squad next hosted Oberlin College. Despite playing in

front of just 125 spectators due to Washington and Lee's Thanksgiving Break, the Generals rose to the challenge and defeated the Yeomen of Oberlin 65-52, relying on 25 points and 8 rebounds, both game highs, from Bienemann.

The victory, along with the earlier triumph over Denison, moved the Generals to 2-0 on the season against teams from the powerful North Coast Athletic Conference.

The 3-1 record that W&L took

into conference play is the best since the 2002-2003 season, when the Generals started off 3-1, only to drop 14 of their next 16 games en route to an 8-17 season.

Fourth-year Head Coach Adam Hutchinson notes that the initial successes are due in part to the teams base of juniors and seniors.

"I think a lot of it can be attributed to carry over," Hutchinson said.

"In the past, we had to rely a lot on freshmen for a good number of minutes, and that's not the case this year."

On Saturday the men faced off with Randolph-Macon, a team the Generals have not beaten since 1977. Though Bienemann, with some help from Femi Kusimo kept the Generals close, Randolph-Macon pulled away in the final minutes for a 63-58 victory. Virginia Wesleyan trounced

the Generals 74-50, outrebounding W&L by a 43-17 margin.

"We know we can play with these teams," said Hutchinson, citing close losses last year to Randolph-Macon and other top conference foes.

Added freshman forward John Twomey, "The next three games (against Randolph-Macon, Va. Wesleyan, and Eastern Mennonite) will really show us how far we've come as a team."

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Generals fall to Wilkes

W&L suffers tough 42-0 loss in first round of the NCAA tourney

By Brian Devine
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee Generals football had its best season in 25 years this fall, winning the Old Dominion Athletic Conference outright and reaching the post-season for the first time since 1951.

Their success in the regular season did not carry over to the playoffs, however, as the Generals fell by a score of 42-0 to the Wilkes University Colonels in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The Colonels held every advantage on paper coming into the game and they proved themselves worthy of their top seed in the East Region.

Led by a swarming defense that forced three W&L turnovers, the Colonels jumped to a 21-point first quarter lead and never looked back. Four of Wilkes' first five drives ended in touchdowns.

The Generals were hurt by the early turnovers.

On the game's third play, W&L freshman quarterback R.J. Varner was intercepted by Bryan Vivaldo, who returned the errant throw for a touchdown.

The Generals' second drive fared no better, as sophomore tailback Stuart Sitterson fumbled a pass reception on his own 30-yard line that was recovered by

the Colonels' John Darrah, giving the home side excellent field position.

Capitalizing on the Generals' second mistake of the quarter, Wilkes tailback Jason Nabba scored to make it 14-0 with only five minutes gone off the clock.

Even without the visitors' mistakes, the undefeated Wilkes offense easily outgunned its W&L counterpart.

Led by quarterback Al Karaffa and tailback Tom Andreopolous, the Colonels amassed 387 yards to the Generals' 141.

The Generals frequently failed to convert on third down. Doug Sweeney punted eight times and Ben Long missed two field goals.

The Generals' defense, so effective against regular season ODAC competition, could not contain Andreopolous and the Wilkes offense.

Rotating three running backs throughout the game, Wilkes wore down the W&L defense.

Andreopolous, the team's usual starter, had 169 yards on 15 carries. Freshman fullback Drew Letcavage added 55 yards on 16 carries, and short-yardage specialist Nabba chalked up 40 yards and two touchdowns.

The mistake-filled game was a disappointing end to the best football season in W&L's recent history.



MICHAEL KEENAN / Staff Photographer

Sophomore defensive end Tommy Matteo and senior linebacker Chris Joseph tackle a Wilkes player in the loss.

The list of awards and records is a long one: twelve Generals were named all-ODAC for their performances this year.

Head Coach Frank Miriello, in his 12th season, was named the conference's coach of the year after taking a team picked to finish fourth in the ODAC to a 7-4 overall record.

Junior cornerback Mark Snoddy, who set a new school record with 17 career interceptions in only three years, was named one of two finalists for the small-college Dudley Award, given to the outstanding Division II or III football player in Virginia.

Varner was named ODAC rookie of the year and finished the

season with over 1000 yards passing, despite only playing eight games.

The Touchdown Club of Richmond named Bryant Fulk its Virginia Division II-III defensive lineman of the year.

Last in this impressive spree of accomplishments, do-everything senior Colton Ward ends his

career as the University's all-time leader in pass receptions with 161, as well as second in kickoff return yards with 1586 and third all-time in all-purpose yards with 3740.

Next season, the Generals will return Varner and Sitterson as the core of their offense and should be expected to finish at least second in the conference.

Patiently waiting for the big honors

Jeter and Manning continue to seek important hardware despite receiving recognition in other ways for their careers

By Adam Lewis
COLUMNIST

Dan Marino, Karl Malone, Tony Gwynn.

Hearing these three names mentioned in the same sentence can imply only one thing: great players who retired without winning a championship.

These athletes compiled some of the best statistical careers in recent history. Yet when sports fans and analysts discuss the greatest players of all time in football, basketball, and baseball, they often leave these names out for the sole reason that their hands lack jewelry.

Having held the same discussion on numerous occasions, I understand the logic. At the end of the day (or season for that matter), only one thing matters—the championship, not the regular season stats.

But let me reverse that argument, coming to the defense of players like Peyton Manning and Alex Rodriguez, who could very well join the likes of the previously mentioned athletes.

This past week, the Minnesota Twins' Justin Morneau was

awarded American League's M.V.P., to the dismay of Derek Jeter, who was a close second.

Over the past decade, Jeter has been regarded as one of the most elite athletes in the four major sports, and undoubtedly one of the best postseason players in history, (in baseball terms, he is often thought of as "clutch").

As a fifth year player in 2000, he already boasted four rings, tying him with the great Lisa Marie Presley.

But equally as notable is the fact that he still remains lacking an M.V.P. award, and that is the foundation of my argument.

I am in no way downplaying his tremendous postseason heroics and statistics. But to me, it is only fair to attribute the championships he won to the rest of his team as well, which goes without saying, as they are indeed the Yankees.

The same goes for players like Tom Brady. He may have won three Super Bowls, but his stats are far inferior to Peyton Manning. Until Manning gets his ring, Brady will be regarded by most as a better quarterback.

If you look at the teams of Jeter and Brady, certain things become clear.

Jeter's Yankees, under the ownership of George Steinbrenner, spent by far the most

money in baseball since the beginning of their dynasty in 1996, so obviously Jeter had plenty of help.

In contrast, someone like Alex Rodriguez has won two M.V.P. awards, yet will continue to be criticized until he wins a championship.

Not to undermine the postseason performances of Tom Brady, but in each of his three Super Bowl seasons, he was equipped with one of the league's best defenses. The defensive unit played more than a little role in the Patriots' dominance.

Manning, on the other hand, simply put up record-setting numbers during the regular season; however, he was not fortunate enough to have such a powerful defense.

But my object is not to defend Manning, nor is it to downplay Jeter and Brady.

Rather, I want to point out that championships in no way define a player's ability, and furthermore, they carry way too much weight in the argument of the "bests" in the various sports.

Just because a player is not surrounded by championship-worthy talent should not immediately remove him from the argument, and in my mind, as well as that of "Borat," his career should still be considered a "great success!"

Soccer booted from tourney

Generals lose in Elite 8 after knocking off top seed

By Mike Huntress
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee's women's soccer team got knocked out of the NCAA Division III quarterfinals Nov. 19 in a fashion emblematic of how they've played all season.

They recorded a shutout. It took penalty kicks to decide a winner, with both teams playing stalwart defense.

Ranked 24th nationally, the Generals loss came at the hands of 19th ranked Virginia Wesleyan.

Goalkeeper Kiki Moreo was solid as usual, turning back several scoring opportunities in a game where it was clear a single goal would be the deciding factor.

Sophomore forward Anne Van Devender nearly put one away for the Generals on a one time shot from ten yards out, but her attempt sailed harmlessly over the bar. Penalties went 4-3, Virginia Wesleyan's way to send the Generals' home packing.

The Generals troubles with Virginia Wesleyan were well-documented this season, as the two teams had gone up against one another twice already.

Back on Sept. 23, Wesleyan snapped the Generals five-game winning streak to start the season. That game ended in a 0-0 draw after two overtimes.

On Nov. 1 the Generals

yielded their second goal of the season to Wesleyan and lost 1-0, knocking them out of the ODAC tournament.

Wesleyan dominated early, and after their goal the two team's settled into a virtual stalemate.

It seemed fitting, although frustrating, that the only team who had previously been able to beat the Generals should reappear in the NCAA tournament to send them home packing.

The penalty-kick ending capped off what was a remarkable season for the Generals. Including their NCAA performance, they were 19-1-3, setting a school record for victories and setting a new program record for allowing only three goals the entire season, after starting the season with fifteen straight shutouts.

The Generals, despite losing in the ODAC tournament, had the best regular season record and entered that ODAC tournament with the top seed.

The Generals had an amazing run in the NCAA tournament, knocking off top-seed Washington University in St. Louis in the Sweet 16 of the tournament, 2-1. The Generals were led by goals from junior Martha Caulkins and sophomore Erica Giordano. Caulkins was a force for the Generals offense, and Moreo continued her stellar season in goal for W&L.

On an individual level it was also a special season. Head Coach Neil Cunningham was named

ODAC Coach of the Year, and the Generals had nine players recognized by on the All-ODAC team.

Sophomore sensation Van Devender, senior captain Maggie Megear, and junior captain Haley Bunting were named as first-team All-ODAC players.

Freshman Maggie Sutherland, seniors Anne Wiltshire and Jamie Dorsey, and sophomores Marisa Van Brunt and Moreo received All-ODAC Second Team honors. Freshman Roz Klann received an Honorable Mention.

Four players were also recognized by the All-South Region team. Van Devender was named to the First Team, while Wiltshire, Megear, and Moreo were all named to the second team. Three Generals were recognized by the Academic All-District team. Junior Martha Caulkins was given First Team accolades, while sophomore Kate Corr and Van Devender were selected to be on the Second Team.

Of the nine players recognized by the All-ODAC team, six of them return for what should be a very formidable team next year.

With eight total seniors leaving after this year, there will be gaps to fill, but much of that will be made up by the increased maturity of this year's strong sophomore and freshman classes.

The Generals ended the season ranked tenth overall in a national poll, and set a school record for the best showing by the team in the NCAA tournament.

sports



ondeck

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Men's Basketball			vs EMU 7:00pm				
Women's Basketball		at B'water 7:00pm					

in the numbers

163

Number of passes caught by senior Colton Ward, who ends his career with the Generals as the all-time leader in pass receptions. He also finishes second all-time at W&L in kickoff return yards with 1586 and third all-time at W&L in all-purpose yards with 3740.

90

Number of points scored by the women's basketball team in their 90-26 victory over Hollins this past week. The Generals set a new school record for most points scored in a game, surpassing their previous record of 89.

9

Number of interceptions this season recorded by W&L junior cornerback Mark Snoddy, who lead the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. Snoddy also led the conference with 20 passes defended. He holds the school record for career interceptions with 17, breaking a record that had stood for 55 years. Snoddy was named as a finalist for the Dudley Award, presented to the top college football player in the state of Virginia.

3

School records broken by the men's swimming team in this past weekend's NIKE cup held at Kenyon College. Alex Sweet set a new school record in the 100 freestyle and led off the school-record setting 400 freestyle relay team. The record in the 100 freestyle was the second-longest standing record on the team. Paul Crook also set a school record in the 500 backstroke for the Generals, who placed fourth overall at the meet.

soapbox

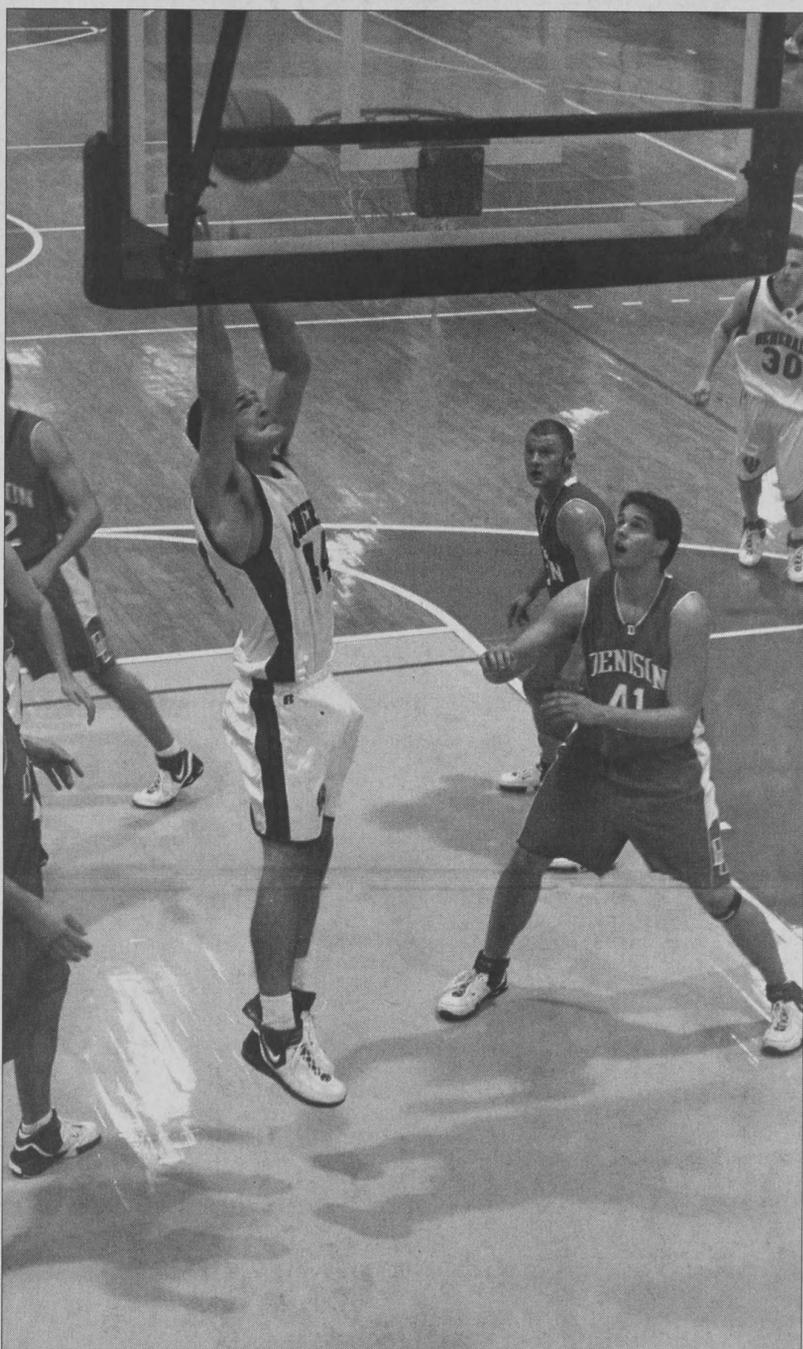
"It was cool because he wore it on the Jay Leno show and it was all fun, like 'OK. He's wearing it.' And then afterward I was like, 'Oh man. That's all I could say, 'Man.'"

— USC WR Dwayne Jarrett on Snoop Dogg wearing his jersey while getting arrested. Snoop Dogg was arrested after an appearance on the Jay Leno show this past week on charges of drugs and weapons charges, courtesy of SI.com

"Probably balloons, parades, a lot of signs that say, 'Welcome home.'...It'll be magical."

— Jets coach Eric Mangini on the reception he expects Sunday when he returns to New England, where he was an assistant coach for six seasons. The Jets defeated the Patriots 17-14., courtesy of SI.com

Dribbled away



Sophomore guard Craig Sauers grabs a rebound in the Generals' 82-71 victory over Denison in the Washington and Lee Tip-Off Tournament held over Thanksgiving break.

MICHAEL KEENAN / Staff Photographer

Generals drop two tough ODAC games over the weekend

By Kevin Trempe
STAFF WRITER

Just four games into the season, the Washington and Lee men's basketball team was already exceeding preseason expectations.

Off to their fastest start since 2002, the Generals had taken advantage of a veteran roster and have won three out of their first four non-conference games, including a run to the final round of the W&L Men's Basketball Tip-off Tournament here in Lexington. It remains to be seen if the momentum of the early season can carry over into conference play.

After falling to Division I VMI in an exhibition opener, W&L hosted three other schools in the W&L Men's Basketball Tip-off Tournament. The Generals drew Denison in the first round, and, aided by a 21-5 run in the second half, dispatched the Big Red by a score of 82-71.

Senior guard Chris Halkitis led W&L with 15 points, in a game where 10 different Generals scored.

W&L then moved onto the finals to face Averett College. Averett relied on near-perfect shooting and led by 23-point at halftime.

The Cougars went 15-17 from inside the three-point arc in the first half and didn't miss a shot from inside the arc until one minute before halftime.

Despite 16 points from sophomore guard Isaiah Goodman, the Generals could not close this half-time deficit, and took their first loss of the season by a score of 79-56. Goodman and junior forward Greg Bienemann were named to the all-tournament team.

After the disappointing finish to their home tournament, W&L looked to rebound on the road against Dickinson College. Tak-

See "MEN'S BASKETBALL" on page 8

Swimmers stroke ahead

Sweet sets two school records and qualifies for NCAA championships

By Lara Jordan
STAFF WRITER

The men's and women's swimming teams continue the season with strong finishes, school records and individual cuts to qualify for the NCAA meet.

The women's swimming team finished fourth out of 11 teams at the Franklin & Marshall Invitational on Sunday Dec. 3.

One technique that the team has used to achieve a strong record is specialized practices.

"We have training specifically with what you compete in," said freshman Jenna Worsham. "For example, I swim IM, so practices are designed specifically for that race, targeting what you need."

Also, the team has been very focused on nutrition this year.

"Our coach handed out pamphlets on nutrition," said freshman Annaria Nardone.

"We have to learn how to keep hydrated, eat a lot of protein, and when to eat throughout the day,"

she said.

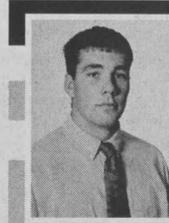
The teams will also be going on a training trip to Florida after Christmas, where they will be coached by Olympic swimmers and have meets twice a day.

"For the training trip, we have a few Olympians come coach us and help us with our technique," said Worsham. "We come back in really good shape with a lot of momentum to send us through the rest of the season."

The Washington and Lee men's swimming team finished fourth at the NIKE Open, hosted by Kenyon College on Dec. 2. The men broke three school records and made five NCAA cuts.

One reason for the men's strong finishes is improvement with their breaststroke and butterfly swimmers.

"We are zoned in on every race and really getting some good experience early in the season," said Alex Sweet, who set a new school record in the 100 freestyle. "Additionally, our breaststrokes



ALEX SWEET, Junior

100-yd. Freestyle: 45.30 (school record, NCAA "A" cut)

400-yd. Freestyle relay squad: 3:04.14 (school record, NCAA "B" cut)

and flyers are really stepping up this year, and it looks as if we are going to have a great year in that department."

Sweet was the feel-good story of the weekend. After his house burned down on Wednesday morning, Sweet rose to the occasion and qualified for the NCAA national championships.

With 10 freshmen, the seniors have made an effort to take new members under their wing and to take full advantage of a large team.

"We have a huge freshmen

class, but also have a much bigger senior class than last year," said Sweet. "We have the experienced swimmers who can help the freshmen make the necessary adjustments. This will become increasingly more important as conference and nationals approach."

The goal of the women's team is to win ODACs.

"We are hoping for another win at the ODACs," said Worsham. "And we want to beat our biggest rival--Randolph Macon Woman's College. We can definitely do it, but it's going to take a lot of training and competitiveness."