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Olympics over, controversies not

Crighton Allen recaps highlights of the 2008 Olympic Games

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Sarah Palin:

VP potential or a campaign's fatal flaw?

Columnists Cody Beauchamp and Abel Delgado debate McCain's bold choice

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WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

VOLUME CXII, NUMBER 1

Identity crisis

W&L aims to revamp graphic ID, student facebook group says, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

By Allison Chopin
MANAGING EDITOR

The unveiling of Washington and Lee's proposed redesign of the "graphic identity" in July has created quite the uproar among students.

The university hired North Charles Street Design Organization (NCSDO) of Baltimore, charging the firm with "an assessment of the various graphic elements used to represent W&L and suggestions for improvements, with the goal of creating a strong, cohesive identity system to serve all units," according to the website.

Dennis Cross, Vice President for University Advancement, explained in an e-mail to the university community that W&L will not be eliminating its current symbols, namely the Crest, the Trident and the Seal. The university and NCSDO aimed to

"It's not even the way [the design] looks. It's the lack of student input... It seems to me to be a bit of a wasted resource. We could do this internally."

JONATHAN WRIGHT, 3rd year law student

review and redesign the "wordmark/logo," which is used for stationery, business cards, the website, and similar publications.

The current wordmark/logo was designed in 2006 and features "Washington and Lee University" with an image of the Colonnade. The last review of the identity before 2006 occurred in 1987.

"We want to return to the goals of the successful 1987 review, because we have strayed from them," Cross said in his e-mail.

"The current situation—more than 30 different logos in use—is unacceptable, not to mention confusing," he added. "The vast majority agree that we need to discard the current identity, which was created in 2006 with neither an inclusive process nor wide support."

NCSDO's proposed wordmark/logo features a blue circle or coin shape around the letters "W&L." According to the website, the firm examined the university's archives and "found many University identifiers placed within circles or on coins." The firm also "thought it would be an advantage to give 'W&L,' our widely known nickname, a formal presence."

After the results of NCSDO's review and redesign were made public, students responded immediately. The majority of reactions were not of approval.

Law student Jonathan Wright, creator of the Facebook group bemoaning W&L's proposed graphic identity and boasting over 400 members, pointed to what he sees as faulty decision-making on the part of the university.

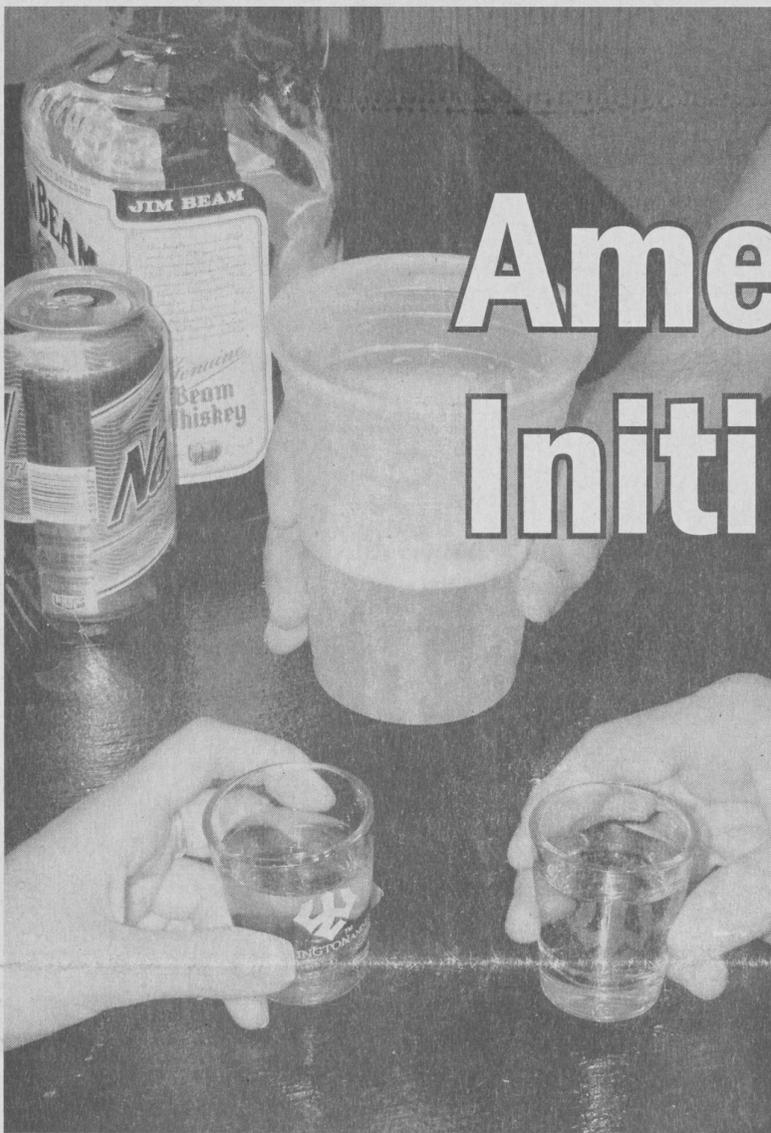
"It's not even the way it looks," he said. "It's the lack of student input."

Through the honor system and other forms of student self-governance, students at W&L are treated as adults who can make their own decisions and shape the image of the university. Thus Wright asks why students were not involved in developing the new graphic identity.

Wright further objected to the fact that W&L chose to "outsource" the project to a design firm. "It seems to me to be a bit of a wasted resource," he said. "We could do this internally."

As Wright and the members of his Facebook group suggest, an overwhelming number of students have been willing to share their thoughts on the future of W&L's logos. Many believe that the blue circle is too similar to images used by other universities and even corporations, and thus they would prefer something that is more unique.

See Graphic Identity on page 2



Amethyst Initiative:

W&L joins debate over minimum drinking age

Widespread binge drinking on college campuses has prompted discussion among 129 colleges across the nation about the effectiveness of current policies regarding alcohol.

CODY BEAUCHAMP / Opinions Editor

By Brett Holton
STAFF WRITER

Is 21 still a viable minimum drinking age? That's what the Amethyst Initiative hopes to find out.

The initiative, launched this July, aims to "rethink the drinking age." W&L President, Kenneth Ruscio, joined 128 other university presidents around the country in supporting the initiative, which calls for open, dispassionate debate about the

United States' minimum drinking age of 21.

"Like the other presidents who have signed the Amethyst Initiative, I believe that the significant problems created by some college students' abuse of alcohol demand thoughtful consideration of whether or not public policy in this area has worked, and what alternatives we might consider," Ruscio said in a letter to the W&L community.

The initiative began this July af-

ter John McCardell, W&L class of '71 and now President Emeritus of Middlebury College, was invited to speak at a meeting of the Annapolis Group, comprising roughly 120 liberal arts colleges. McCardell contacted several Annapolis presidents to see what they thought of the current drinking age, and they found a common desire to reopen public debate on the matter. The initiative signatories hope this debate will cause elected officials to reconsider

current alcohol legislation and invite new, safer alternatives to drinking amongst young adults.

A statement on the initiative's website claims that by limiting drinking to people ages 21 and over, dangerous binge drinking habits emerge, particularly on college campuses, among those deemed not old enough.

"Adults under 21 are deemed

See Amethyst Initiative on page 2

Changes to Traveller routes

New stops added, but some off-campus houses cut out of service

By Joel Poelhus
STAFF WRITER

Changes designed to improve service on the Traveller safe ride program will limit access to within five miles of campus.

Traveller Dispatch, which provides transportation for students going to and from parties off campus, will continue to serve 165 of the 173 off-campus houses on record with the program, according to Traveller Chair Rebecca Koval. The houses that are no longer receiving service include Cedar Creek, Compton, Hooterville, Lazy River, the Mill, Pink Palace, Sex Panther and Upper Todd Run.

Koval said the changes are intended to cut down on wait times for students by eliminating long loops that strain the system's limited resources. She also cited increased safety for the Dispatch drivers, who previously operated without phone service or radio contact with the dispatcher on long runs in the county. The lack of communication combined with poor road conditions and signage put stress on the drivers, Koval said.

Dispatch drivers George Gelinas and Eddie Rodriguez agreed.

"If you didn't know where you were going and got lost, you're in

trouble," said Gelinas, who said he has been lost for over an hour on country roads due to poor directions from passengers.

Rodriguez said he has had several close calls with deer on unlighted roads.

To students who live outside the five-mile radius, the new policy comes as an unpleasant back-to-school surprise. Tucker Lawrence, a resident of Pink Palace, said he feels the school is forcing distant residents to "fend for ourselves" in an environment where taxis and other forms of public transportation are scarce or nonexistent.

Will Lewis, Lawrence's housemate, said the residents affected by the changes were left out of the decision-making process. Lazy River resident Austin Colpini agreed, saying that the policy was not announced until students had already signed binding leases which place them outside the service area.

Lawrence said that while the situation is tough for himself and other residents of country houses, it is harder on large groups of partygoers.

"We hire sober drivers, but a lot of people use Traveller," he said.

Colpini said those living outside

the service area are considering how best to petition for a reversal of the policy. He said that while he understands the rationale behind the change, he believes it runs counter to Traveller's mission of providing service to those living off campus and was done with an irresponsible lack of input from the student body.

Koval said that the Traveller board is open to discussion. Interested parties should contact her via email with comments or complaints. She said in the future, funding for GPS in the Dispatch vehicles could make driving on the back roads safer and more efficient.

While the Traveller Dispatch service is reigning in its range, the Traveller Express bus lines have expanded with several new stops. The new blue line will follow the approximate route of last year's regular Traveller line and the red line will go to areas previously served by the Country Express.

New stops include the Log Cabins and increased service to the law school. Koval said that during the evaluation period it became clear that law students needed more convenient stops. Other changes to the service will include training drivers to deal with hostile passengers.

Tips from Traveller Dispatch drivers

- Don't rush the car in a group—there is limited space in the car and there may be other cars driving on the road.
- If you call dispatch, it may be better to walk to a less crowded area nearby to meet the driver.
- If you called dispatch, identify yourself to the driver when they pull up so they know who you are.
- Be nice to the drivers, they're out there to help.

news



Feeding the hungry

Jenny Sproul becomes new Campus Kitchens coordinator



Photo courtesy Jenny Sproul

Campus Kitchens coordinator Jenny Sproul and volunteer Rosemary Kelley prepare meals at Beta fraternity house.

By Jamie Kim
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee alumna Jenny Sproul has started her postgraduate career by returning to W&L as the coordinator of the Campus Kitchens Project.

Campus Kitchens, a hunger relief project in connection with W&L's Shepherd Poverty Program, collects unused food from the school's dining hall and makes nutritious meals for Rockbridge County's needy.

Sproul took over the Campus Kitchen from another W&L graduate, Robbie Turner '02, who is now the coordinator for the Bonner Program, which is part of the Shepherd Poverty Program.

Sproul said she has two main goals for the year ahead: expanding into parts of the county that aren't currently being reached by Campus Kitchens and carrying out a work release program with the Natural Bridge Juvenile Correction Center.

"We are going to expand further out into the County where it's less accessible, like Goshen and Glasgow," she said.

Sproul has already organized the work release program, which will allow a cadet from the correction center to come to W&L to work in the Campus Kitchen, recently relocated from

the Beta fraternity house to Kappa Sigma, starting in October. There will be one cadet working at a time, and he will be paid the equivalent of work study wages for 20 hours a week.

"After a few months, if our cadet graduates the program, we will hopefully receive a new placement," Sproul said. "The cadet should learn valuable skills in the kitchen and administrative duties."

The Campus Kitchens has been and will continue to take every precaution to ensure that safety is a priority, she said. Sproul said the cadets would wear GPS ankle bracelets.

Majoring in politics and sociology and participating in the Shepherd Program, volunteering has always been appealing to Sproul. The first time she became interested in the Campus Kitchens was when she visited the Magnolia Center by her friend's invitation.

After visiting the Magnolia Center, a day program for developmentally-disabled adults in Buena Vista, she realized how much she enjoyed the interaction with the community. Sproul said delivery is her favorite part of the job.

She remembers serving one of the residents at Magnolia Center who was hostile at first. "By consistently coming to visit and sharing meals,

we've built a friendship," Sproul said. "So now we look forward to our time together on Fridays."

Ever since then, her college life has been filled with various volunteering activities. She volunteered for Campus Kitchens her entire junior year and she was on the leadership team. She participated in the Department of Social Services Foster Care Program, tutored and mentored in Rockbridge County schools, and led Young Life camp.

Since it started in August 2006, Campus Kitchens has delivered over 23,000 meals, worked with eight partner agencies and has had over 650 volunteers. Anyone can join the Campus Kitchens Project, Sproul said. After preparing meals in the kitchen, volunteers deliver the food to people in Lexington, Buena Vista and Rockbridge County, taking time to eat and talk with them.

"One unused tray of food from the D-hall can feed about 40 people in the county," Sproul said. "Food mostly comes from the D-hall, but we also get donations from Kroger and other organizations."

Now the head of Campus Kitchens, Sproul intends to work in the project for two years.

continued from page 1

Amethyst Initiative

capable of voting, signing contracts, serving on juries and enlisting in the military," the statement says, "but are told they are not mature enough to have a beer."

The effort does not, however, call for a lower drinking age, a widely held misconception that has challenged the Amethyst Initiative since its outset.

The initiative garnered negative attention in the media after its first appearance in the Associated Press, when a flurry of inaccurate stories came out regarding the initiative as a proposal to lower the drinking age to 18.

W&L's new executive director of communications and public affairs Jeff Hanna knows that is not the case.

"In some ways it was unfortunate that it got a little bit ahead of itself so that there was an immediate and fairly sharp reaction from opponents of lowering [the drinking age]," he said.

Hanna has been tracking the initiative since its inception and has been keeping Ruscio abreast of its developments in the media.

Hanna said that people both in favor of, and opposed to, lowering the drinking age have signed on to the initiative.

"It's clear people want to have a conversation about it," he said.

Sophomore Merritt Poling is glad that these debates are being held, but remains skeptical as to their outcome.

"I find it interesting and encouraging that they are ... concerned about so many things that [students] are concerned about ... but ultimately it's a national law, and very difficult to change," he said.

"I don't think anything startlingly new is going to come from this," Poling added.

Lucy Hundley, a junior at W&L, said though she supports the initiative's motives, she does not see it as a way to reduce risky drinking behavior amongst students.

"[Drinking] is not going to be safer, it's just going to be legal. If it were legal, most people would be drinking. I don't think that's bad at all, but I do think that drinking is something that tends to develop as a habit more often than not," she said.

Nevertheless, Hundley applauds the University for participating in the Amethyst Initiative.

"Overall I definitely support it because if anything it's dialogue, and having communication with students is important. Students don't give the administration enough credit sometimes. Their spearheading this is a vote of confidence in the student body," she said.

Ruscio joined the other signatories in hopes of furthering the debate.

"I want to explore a variety of efforts to address the problem of irresponsible and dangerous drinking on our campus," he said.

"I am committed, first and foremost, to finding an effective way to educate college students--especially W&L students--about their responsibilities when it comes to alcohol."

continued from page 1

Graphic Identity

"Most students that I've talked to think the Crest is the way to go," said Wright. "It's a symbol worthy of representing the fine institution that is W&L."

Other members of the W&L community, though smaller in number, applauded the university's decision to review its graphic identity.

"Washington and Lee's graphic identity was muddled at best," said Lisa R. Miller, graduate of the Class of 2005, in an e-mail. "It was unclear, messy, and not standardized."

Miller also explained the importance of developing a clear identity. "The basic idea of any branding effort is to clean up and clarify communications with the external community," she said.

"What would Coca-Cola be without that red and white symbol we know so well? This can only help the University's status as a premier university on a national stage."

By the end of the fall, W&L and NCSDO plan to draft guidelines detailing the use of the university's new images. These guidelines will be in the form of a short manual that "will codify the elements of the identity" and suggest rules for their implementation.

The Graphic Identity Working Group welcomed comments from students and others over the summer, but it is unclear as to how student input has actually shaped or altered the process of redesigning the graphic identity.

Dennis Cross, member of the Working Group, could not be reached for comment this week.

Grant will fund new courses

Environmental studies gets \$600,000 for Chesapeake Bay research

By Victoria Taylor
STAFF WRITER

Washington and Lee University recently received a four-year, \$600,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to further expand its Environmental Studies program, which gained approval in May 2007 to move from a concentration to a major.

The grant will allow the department to create a place-based program in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This will add a domestic counterpart to the study abroad program in Brazil.

"[The Chesapeake Bay watershed] is a very important environmental resource," said Professor James Kahn, John F. Herndon Professor of Economics and head of environmental studies, "and also a very stressed resource because of all of the urban growth in the mid-Atlantic."

Nutrient pollution, chemical contaminants, air pollution, landscape changes, erosion and over-harvesting of fish and shellfish are also harming the Bay and watershed, which are home to more than 3600 species of plants and animals.

Assistant professor of biology Robert Humston will be teaching courses related to Chesapeake Bay

and watershed management as well as developing research and other co-curricular opportunities for students interested in ecology, conservation and management.

"This program has some great benefits... the opportunity to examine one of today's most important environmental issues right in our backyard."

ROBERT HUMSTON, biology

Professor Humston, who has background in fisheries ecology and management, is developing three courses directly related to the program. The first is an aquatic ecology course through the Biology department in which the labs will focus on monitoring a new

stream restoration effort in Rockbridge County. The others will be a two-course watershed sequence containing a winter term course intended to be a broad introduction to watershed issues for students from a variety of disciplines, and a spring term field course for students who are interested in getting "up-close and personal" with the material.

"The winter term course will consider watershed management from a broad perspective, considering the scientific and cultural underpinning of current conservation issues," Humston said. "The Chesapeake Bay will provide the context for most of these topics, but the course will also consider other systems for comparative purposes."

The field course will look specifically at the habitats and stressors within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and give the students a chance to see how the fundamentals they learned during the winter term appear and "play out at ground-level."

"This program has some great benefits, with the biggest being the opportunity to examine one of today's most important environmental issues right in our backyard," Humston said.

"The Brazil programs give the opportunity for place-based learning in Brazil but we didn't have a good domestic counterpart to that, so the Chesapeake Bay Program was a natural way to incorporate that with the rivers up here and the Chesapeake Bay watershed," Kahn said.

Thanks to the U.S.-Brazil Program, a grant competition run by the governments of the two countries, W&L has a strong exchange program with two Brazilian universities: Universidade Federal do Amazonas in Manaus and Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. Interested students take intensive Portuguese, followed by classes at one of the Brazilian universities: two interdisciplinary environmental studies courses, a directed research project with a Brazilian professor and an elective.

The formation of the Chesapeake Bay program will allow those Brazilian students studying at W&L as part of the exchange to be eligible for funding to do research or internships with agencies in the Bay areas.

"It's a very exciting program to be part of, especially as it is just getting started," Humston said.

1987:

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The last major redesign of the graphic identity produced this wordmark/logo and a series of guidelines for use of images in 1987.

2006:

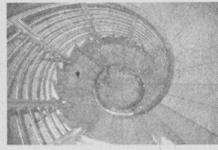
WASHINGTON AND LEE
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W&L updated the wordmark/logo in 2006 but did not revise the guidelines for use of the graphic identity.

2008:

Washington and Lee University

NCSDO proposed this new wordmark/logo in July.



opinions

Palin's Problem

Was McCain crazy to pick Palin?...

By **Cody Beauchamp**
OPINIONS EDITOR

John McCain has lost his ever-lovin' mind. That's all there is to it.

How else could you explain his pick of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate?

There are so many problems with Sarah Palin being the second highest executive in the land, it's mind-boggling.

Let's begin, my friends, with experience. McCain's greatest asset this campaign was his impressive resume. He beat Obama's resume no matter how eloquently the Illinois Senator tried to argue otherwise.

McCain's best bet strategy was to make this election about experience, his over Obama's lack thereof.

But when Obama picked Biden as his running mate, he went a long way towards blunting McCain's edge. McCain decided to go ahead and completely throw it away by picking Palin.

Technically, yes, Palin has more executive experience than any of the other three - McCain, Obama, Biden - but you can't claim with a straight face it's any kind of experience that qualifies her for the Vice Presidency.

Her time as mayor of Wasilla, Alaska (pop. 7,025) compromises the bulk of her 'executive experience,' at six years.

I know this - Palin claiming she's ready for the Vice Presidency because she was executive of a population that is 1/42,704th that of the United States' is ridiculous.

Using that kind of logic, my fraternity president is ready, right now, at this moment, to be Governor of a state with 1.1 million residents.

To be fair to Palin though, she is a governor - her resume is slightly better than just mayor of a tiny town.

So what's her record for two years as Alaska's governor? Is this the sweet spot where she gains military experience (as commander of the Alaskan National Guard), foreign policy experience (as Governor of the only state save Hawaii to actually see combat on its soil in the last century), and executive experience that trumps Obama, and more accurately Biden?

As for military experience, the Alaskan National Guard has only been called into duty once by Palin. To battle forest fires. And, might I point out, her command of the Guard is ceremonial; just like all the other 49 governors who technically 'command' their state's guards.

How about foreign policy experience? In 2000 then-Governor Bush had a marginally valid claim to have gained some foreign policy experience from Texas' dealings with cross-border Mexican states - can Palin make a similar claim?

Hardly. She's never been to Russia. She's also never arranged any kind of government deal with

the Yukon, Alaska's Canadian neighbor, though she has helped broker a few deals between US and Canadian oil companies that have led to, as McCain would gleefully put it if Palin were Democrat, a 'greater dependency on foreign oil.'

She does have a hell of a biography though, and I love the idea of a 'hockey mom' becoming the new symbol of the common American voter. 'Soccer moms' were becoming passé anyway.

But she's got so little experience that Obama's resume looks downright amazing by contrast. Biographies be damned, Obama's experience beats hers (his biography too!).

And lest we forget, Biden is more accurately her rival, and his experience slaughters hers like a grizzly going at salmon.

But beyond the fear that McCain's potential Veep has the least experience out of any of the four, let's examine for a second the most chilling thing of all - Sarah Palin could realistically be President of the United States if McCain is elected.

John McCain loves to trot out his 95-year old mother, Roberta, and point to her as sign longevity runs in his family. Not so fast Mac.

McCain's father was Admiral John S. McCain, Jr. He died at age 70, from a heart attack. McCain's grandfather was Admiral John S. McCain, Sr., and he died at age 61, again of a heart attack.

Neither of the two of them ever suffered six years of torture at the Hanoi Hilton. I'm not a physiological expert, but I'm willing to bet that McCain's stint as a F.O.W. took years off his life.

So you've got a man with a familial history of heart trouble, who spent years in brutal captivity, and who - according to family medical history - is already defying odds to still be alive running for the most stressful job on the planet.

The person he's picked to be a heart-beat away from the Oval Office has essentially no meaningful experience.

McCain's choice of Palin for running mate isn't insane because she's a woman.

Don't let Republicans happy to have a claim to 'diversity' for the first time in their party's history fool you on that count.

Ferraro already shattered that glass ceiling, and Hillary not a year ago did much to prove we're moving into a post-gender political world.

McCain's choice of Palin for running mate is insane because in an election where he's saying experience is the thing you base your vote on, his ticket is suddenly the most inexperienced.

Now McCain has not only lost his most effective tactic against Obama (short of racism), he's allowed his running mate to highlight just how screwed we'd all be if his considerable age gets the best of him.

Still don't think McCain's lost his ever-lovin' mind?

Palin's Promise

...or was it a choice of sheer genius?

By **Abel Delgado**
COLUMNIST

The latest ridiculous twist in a presidential campaign too strange for comparison was not John McCain's choice of Governor Sarah Palin as his running mate - it was the Obama Campaign's reaction to it.

Democrats who defend their candidate by saying judgment is important and experience is not say that Palin does not have enough experience to be a 'heart-beat' away from the presidency.

They spent most of their convention on biography and very little on record and now want you to ignore Palins' amazing biography and focus instead on her lack of foreign policy experience.

Did I miss something or did the Democrats just become the 'Republican Attack Machine' they have told others to ignore?

The attacks on Palin are so similar to the ones Republicans used on Obama that they look copied and pasted.

Robert E. Lee would call that an HV. He certainly wouldn't think the media's treatment of her and her family is 'gentlemanlike' either.

Critics say that Palin is just the Republican version of Obama.

Palin is actually the Republican version of what Obama wants us to think he is.

While 'post-partisan' Obama was voting with his party over 90% of the time, Palin was unseating a Republican Governor, forcing out a corrupt Republican Attorney General, and naming Democrats and Independents to her cabinet.

While 'anti-big oil' Obama was voting for tax breaks and subsidies for oil companies and receiving more political contributions from Exxon than John McCain, Palin was battling the oil companies by opening up competition, increasing production taxes, and using the extra money to give Alaskans a tax refund so they can pay for rising energy costs.

So critics charge she has no experience. They don't mention that she has more executive experience than Obama, Biden, and even McCain

have...combined.

This is important considering the four of them are running for the two highest executive posts in the land.

Palin-critics remind us that Alaska has a smaller population than Austin, Texas.

They forget it also provides us with 20% of our oil - 10% more than the Middle East. This is important considering the energy crisis we are currently in.

No doubt many people questioned whether Palin could handle the pressure when she was picked.

After her acceptance speech, the more pressing question is how Democrats are going to handle her.

Obama claims he has more executive experience than Palin because of running his campaign. If running a campaign is all the experience you think a President needs, then vote for Obama.

One of the more disgraceful arguments being made by Democratic operatives is that Palin is a 'gimmick'.

Of course this is insulting on so many levels and ignores the records both McCain and Palin have of caring more about people than politics. Would she be the VP if she were a man? Maybe not. Would she be called a gimmick if she were a man? Of course not.

These people would have called former Democrat and long-time Senator Joe Lieberman a gimmick if he had been the VP choice, and they would have said the same of the reform-minded Governor Bobby Jindal.

According to them if you're not white, protestant, Republican, and male, supporting John McCain makes you a gimmick.

The DNC apparently thinks the most important experience required of women and minorities is a (D) behind their names.

Sarah Palin may not be experienced enough for their liking, but she is certainly experienced enough to expose them as frauds.

staffeditorial

Applause for Amethyst

Ruscio commits to the kind of honest debate we need

It's not often that these pages bear praise for administrators.

Which is why the Phi is so excited to say a hearty 'good call' to any and all who had a hand in Washington and Lee's recent decision to join the Amethyst Initiative.

The Initiative, which as of press-time has 129 signatories, is one of those movements Washington and Lee couldn't *not* be a part of.

Alcohol and its effects on individuals and - more importantly - society is a pillar of the W&L zeitgeist. There is nothing hyperbolic in the claim that alcohol has affected absolutely every single person's life at this school.

For our money, alcohol is a chief factor behind the University's decision to not cooperate with the Princeton Review. Whether or not our failure to be listed at all in the publication's 'Best 368 Colleges' will have any fallout in the long-term is yet to be known.

But it's clear that our administrators weren't pleased with W&L continually earning top marks for beer consumption, hard alcohol consumption, partying, and Greek life.

Alcohol's effects on gender relations at this school cannot be understated either.

Last year, the Interfraternity and Pan-Hellenic councils flirted with an initiative aimed at potentially drastic changes for Greek life at W&L. Then-IFC President Andrew Duckworth said to an IFC meeting that the troubling number of sorority women getting the morning-after pill from the health center following last year's tear night was a huge factor behind the initiative.

Let's re-phrase that for clarity. Two bodies governing 80% of the student body felt parties - alcohol-fueled parties - were placing a disturbing number of W&L women into very real sexual crisis.

And the problems with our image or our Greek life due to alcohol are only the tip of the

booze iceberg.

An inordinate and chilling number of students need medical care, even hospitalization every month because of drinking.

An expensive safe-ride network is, sadly, necessary at Washington and Lee.

While plenty of other colleges have Traveller-like systems in place, we at the Phi doubt many receive the near-universal and overburdening use Traveller does.

If there was ever a school that needed to have a frank discussion on the drinking age its Washington and Lee. If there's a college in America where the students need to have a voice in determining what alcohol consumption and responsibility should mean, it's W&L.

Not because we're the best at it - we aren't. But because (if last year's Bracket and DTF fiascos prove anything) we've seen the price of ignoring social problems.

Washington and Lee is a tight-knit community, and we know our own problems well. Last year proved the college has the capacity for talking through problems and moving forward responsibly.

The Amethyst Initiative proves President Ruscio is committed to responsibly addressing drinking at Washington and Lee. Whereas he and the administration could have ignored the issue until problems came to a head (no beer pun intended), they opted for the pro-active course and committed W&L to honest and open debate.

Because make no mistake, that's what the Amethyst Initiative will do for Washington & Lee.

Ruscio not only threw W&L's name behind a national call for a debate on drinking responsibly, he committed his administration to a likewise frank conversation here on campus.

For that, we say cheers! Ken, the next round's on us.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

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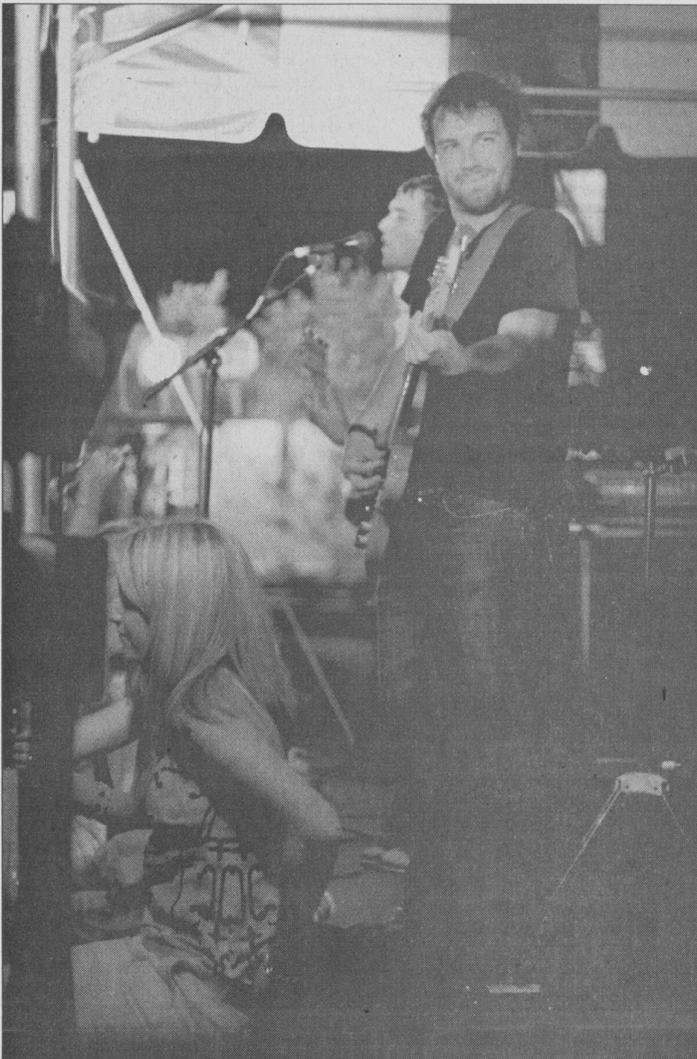
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arts & life

Benjy Davis Project rocks O-Week



Baton Rouge-based Benjy Davis Project performs on Cannan Green.

MORGAN HARRIS / Staff Photographer

Baton Rouge band performs at W&L

By Kimber Wiggs
STAFF WRITER

Going above and beyond the call of duty, this year's FOC (First-Year Orientation Committee) kicked O-Week into high gear by inviting Baton Rouge's The Benjy Davis Project to perform last Monday night. The Louisiana group is gaining popularity and momentum in the music world. First-years and upperclassmen alike came out for rocking tunes and free pizza.

At nine o'clock, a flood of first-years burst onto Cannan Green. They were met by the funky sounds of the Lalai Damas, whose set was already in progress. Singer Malcolm Hines was joined by bassist Robert Wason, guitarist Spencer McElroy, and drummer Keith Friend. As the winners of last year's Battle of the Bands, the Lalai Damas did not disappoint. Their cover of Outkast's "Roses" showcased the house band's award-winning talent.

Following the Lalai Damas was an all too brief set by W&L's resident folk troupe Rikki Tikki Tavi. Singer, songwriter, keyboardist, and a modern day Jill-of-all-trades, Julie Slonecki, started the set off with a little Rilo Kiley. Singer-songwriter Michael Morella finished the set off with his own "Postcards from Australia." Drummer Morgan Harris kept the beat while guitarist Will Stewart wowed the crowd with his fiery guitar solos.

By the time the headliners took the stage, the free pizza had diminished

and the crowd had somewhat thinned, but a strong contingent of music lovers had remained. It is a testament to the Benjy Davis Project that they were able to hold of a respectable crowd of W&L students when most of the school's population was probably taking advantage of the fourth consecutive night of O-Week parties. A few first-years, when asked, admit-

I think I speak for everyone present that night when I express the wish that we could all go aboard the BDP rock boat.

ted that they had not known about the Benjy Davis Project before the concert, but they thoroughly enjoyed the show. The band's brand of alternative jamming was a good fit for the campus.

Sadly, a city ordinance governing noise on a school night meant that the BDP was forced to end their set just before 11 p.m.

I had a chance to talk with bassist Matt Rusnak. This newest member of the BDP gave me a scoop that will surely delight fans of the band both new and old: after six years of trying, the Benjy Davis Project has been signed. The label is Rock Ridge Mu-

sic, an independent label that has also represented such acts as Sister Hazel and Reel Big Fish. Being signed will mean a lot of important things for the band, including the re-recording of their album *Dust*. The new release will include three new songs, Rusnak told me, so fans of the band should be on the look-out.

Noting the band's Dave Matthews-esque sound, I asked Matt about his musical influences. Grinning, he revealed that a better question would be to ask what he does not listen to. (Old-school country is one genre.) He said he likes anything with a good bass line and a good beat - he admires the band's own drummer Mic Capdevielle. He also cited southern rock as a major influence.

When asked why the Baton Rouge-based band came all the way to Virginia, Rusnak revealed that W&L would not be their only port of call in the area. He also told me that the group had just finished a short run in the Midwest and Chicago area. For fans of the Benjy Davis Project and water, the band will soon be performing on a "rock boat." The term means exactly what it sounds like: a few bands, one cruise ship, and endless rocking.

I think I speak for everyone present that night when I express the wish that we could all go aboard the BDP rock boat.

Big Brother Big Sister luncheon a big success

University Big Brothers and Sisters help welcome the Class of 2012, forge friendships with first-year students

By Valaree Tang
STAFF WRITER

The Freshman Orientation Council (FOC) organized its annual University Big Brother/Sister event. In order to welcome the new students, upperclassmen were paired with freshmen for a luncheon on September 2.

Like past years, many fraternities hosted cookouts. While many University Big Brothers and Sisters took the new students to fraternity barbecues, some chose a different option. "I look my freshmen to the Kwan last year for a barbecue, which was really fun, but this year, I took them to the Bistro for dinner," said Farrell Ulrich, who has been participating in the program for two years.

The event allowed upperclassmen to introduce freshmen to student life. The older students were able to answer any of the questions and quell the fears of the members of the class of 2012. "[They can] give first-years ad-

vice about scheduling, academics, and social life, as well as any other questions they may have," said FOC Big Brother/Sister co-chair Eric Hamscher.

The event gave freshmen the opportunity to meet upperclassmen and learn more about academic life. "I got a chance to talk about teachers, and it was helpful to learn about majors and professors. Everyone found someone who knew about what they were interested in studying," said freshman Sarah Offutt.

While the FOC program informed the first-year students about life on campus, it also offered another asset for the new students. "It gives the freshmen an upperclassman they can recognize when they're on the Hill, as opposed to being totally lost. In my involvement with campus activities, I've already seen my Little several times just randomly. If they have questions about classes or Greek stuff or religious life, they have an additional resource," said Sam Gilleran.

For some, lasting relationships were built at one of these luncheons. "I think the program is really effective in introducing freshmen to W&L, especially for those who do not know any up-

"It gives the freshmen an upperclassman they can recognize when they're on the Hill, as opposed to being totally lost...If they have questions about classes or Greek stuff or religious life, they have an additional resource."

SAM GILLERAN, sophomore

perclassmen at first. It gives the freshmen a chance to connect with upperclassmen from their hometown or home state, which is really beneficial," said Ulrich whose university little sister ended up being her sorority little sister as well.

While the program helped to answer questions and formed

friendships among students, it was a chance for upperclassmen to give back to the program as well. "It was really great for me this year to experience the Washington and Lee Big Brother

Program from the other side of the spectrum. As a freshman last year, I was able to utilize my Big Brother to ask questions about the Rush process, residential life, and academics," said Jack Pandol. "After spending all year experiencing the school for myself, it was great to be able to pass that information on to a new class of

freshmen."

Like Pandol, Hamscher also had a very different experience this year compared to last year. "Last year, I was never actually contacted by my assigned Big, so I wanted to get involved this Fall to ensure that everyone was placed and hopefully contacted by their assigned Big," said Hamscher who felt that his experience on the Freshman Leadership Committee helped him in planning a successful luncheon.

Pandol also stated that the FOC program is a vital part of student friendships on campus and is more than just a chance for upperclassmen to share their prior experiences with freshmen. "The program allows for freshmen to have a much more accessible and personalized first-year experience than any other university I know. One of my favorite things about Washington and Lee is the tight-knit community that we share around campus, and this program is an integral part of that community," said

Pandol.

He believed that the Big Brother/Sister Luncheon program was a success. Yet, the achievement came at a price. The Big Brother/Sister chairs of the FOC, Eric Hamscher and Ted Kingsbery, put in numerous hours. Following the initial task of pairing the siblings, both Hamscher and Kingsbery were responsible for resolving any problems that may have occurred. According to Hamscher, "Every first-year was paired with a Big Brother/Sister...any and all complaints from participants were addressed... I believe that the majority of students enjoyed Tuesday's luncheon," said Hamscher.

Though Hamscher considered the event a success, he stated that improvements could still be made to the program. "We have come up with new ideas on how to make next year's program more successful for everyone involved," promised Hamscher.

Open-mic night student performances entertain audience

University dance troupe hosts a night of diverse performances, including comedy, dancing, singing and beat-boxing

By Jean Chapman
STAFF WRITER

Some of the most talented musicians and shower singers at Washington and Lee came to the annual Open-mic Night hosted by the KLASICZ, a student dance troupe. The event was held in the Marketplace. The promise of free ice cream drew a small but very enthusiastic crowd. Rashaq Lawal, a member of the KLASICZ, said that his group hosted the event last year, and "it was a hit, so when the opportunity came up again we basically leaped at it."

Throughout the night, a variety of musical styles were presented, ranging from hip hop

to 1980s pop rock. Lawal commented that even though he had thought that "there would be no talent and it would just be a night of karaoke and fun...there turned out to be a lot of good performances from a female rapper, guitar and harmonica player and a beat boxer."

First year student Jasmine Jimenez of Chicago opened the show with an original Christian rap. Jimenez first became interested in performing around the age of 12. She explained that because she was never very talented with singing, she became drawn to composing and performing rap. Jimenez said that most of her raps are influenced by Christian

themes or center around God, but as the crowd's positive response showed, the songs maintained a broad appeal.

Michael Morella, a junior, performed second. Morella began his act with an acoustic version of Rihanna's "Take a Bow". He followed his interpretation of the chart-topping pop ballad with an original composition entitled "Patch" which included both acoustic guitar and harmonica solos.

Following Morella's performance, co-host Isaiah Goodman gave a beat-boxing performance. Goodman included a little audience participation that truly highlighted the diversity of talent at

Washington and Lee.

Morgan Harris, a senior and a Residential Advisor, also performed two acoustic songs as well as delivering some stand-up comedy.

After the original performances, the karaoke repertoire that followed ranged from funk to 80s pop to 90s hits, and was performed by first years, upperclassmen, and groups of both. As Lawal put it, "we were off to a slower start this year but once we started off the karaoke with 'Brick House' and some other rocking tunes there was no resisting the fun and laughs." Towards the end of the night, Kimber Wiggs delivered a show-stop-

ping rendition of "Total Eclipse of the Heart" which she had performed previously as a member of General Admission. Members of the audience accompanied her as backup singers while others danced interpretively to the emotional song.

The final performance of the night was, appropriately enough, "Bye, Bye, Bye." A courageous group of men sang and danced to the notorious 90s melody. The act was received with a number of cheers, laughs and the spontaneous participation of audience members.

Over all, the Open-mic Night drew together people of both genders and all classes for a night

of fun and frivolity. A first year student said that the event was "really funny...it was a good idea" and also added that she "would come again" if another such event were to be held. Another audience member said that he enjoyed the event, but that "it would have been great to have even more people attending."

Undeniably, Open-mic Night was enjoyed by all who did attend, and co-host Lawal said that "I think this event is a great, clean and fun alternative to the barrage of parties during 'O' Week and it is a good testament to the fact that there is more to do than just party."



sports

Fall sports preview

Sport: Men's Cross Country

2007 Post-Season: Placed 1st in the ODAC Championship meet; placed 4th in the South/Southeast Regional meet

ODAC Coaches Preseason Poll Ranking: 1

South/Southeast Regional Preseason Ranking: 4

Key Returnees: Michael Welsh, Vance Berry, Alex Jackson

Key Losses: Tom Brower, Andrew Friski

Previous Results this Season: Finished first out of 11 teams at the W&L Invitational on Sept. 6

Coach John Tucker's Expectations: "Being competitive in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference is certainly one of our top priorities. We would like to be in a position to compete for that top spot."

Sport: Women's Cross Country

2007 Post-Season: Placed 1st in the ODAC Championship meet; placed 3rd in the South/Southeast Regional meet

ODAC Coaches Preseason Poll Ranking: 1

South/Southeast Regional Preseason Ranking: 2

National Preseason Ranking: 32

Key Returnees: Kat Telfeyan, Becca Taylor, Elizabeth Webb, Christine Ballistreri, Katherine Fenwick, Dorothy Todd

Key Losses: The 2007 Generals did not have a senior among their 7 best runners.

Previous Results this Season: Finished first out of 12 teams at the Virginia Wesleyan Invitational on Aug. 30; finished first out of 10 teams at the W&L Invitational on Sept. 6

Coach Kris Hoey's Expectations: "It is energizing working with 17 women as talented as this. Each member of the team will have a hand in blazing the trail to Hanover [NCAA Championships] in November. They all have different strengths, and we need every single one of them to get there."

Sport: Field Hockey

2007 Record: 11-7 (5-2 ODAC)

2007 Post-Season: Did not compete in post-season

ODAC Coaches Preseason Poll Ranking: 3

Key Returnees: D Emily Mathews, F Sallie Armstrong, D Liz Garson

Key Losses: M Kendall Korte, GK Tara Rubenstein

Previous Results this Season: Lost 2-1 to Centre on Sept. 6; lost 3-2 to Rhodes on Sept. 7

Coach Wendy Orrison's Expectations: "I am extremely excited about this year's team. My senior leadership is solid and the team is showing a level of commitment and mental toughness that is top notch; I'm excited and privileged to work with this stellar group of athletes."

Sport: Football

2007 Record: 6-3 (4-2 ODAC)

2007 Post-Season: Did not compete in post-season

ODAC Coaches Preseason Poll Ranking: 4

Key Returnees: OL Greg Kurkis, RB/WR Stuart Sitterson, DL Tommy Matteo

Key Losses: DB Kyle Luby, OL Alex Skotnicki, LB Bryant Fulk, DB Mark Snoddy, WR Jack Martin, LB Kyle Harvey

Previous Results this Season: Lost to Franklin & Marshall 24-0 on Sept. 6

Coach Frank Miriello's Expectations: "We have had 4 consecutive seasons with 6 or more victories and want to perform at a level that will give us a shot at doing something that has never been done in the history of W&L football — 5 consecutive seasons with 6 or more victories."

Sport: Men's Soccer

2007 Record: 12-3-3 (6-1-2 ODAC)

2007 Post-Season: Lost 2-0 to Roanoke in the ODAC Championship

ODAC Coaches Preseason Poll Ranking: 5

Key Returnees: D Fletcher McCraw

Key Losses: M Josh Dodds, F Jack Palmer, GK Ted Sheedy

Previous Results this Season: Beat Shenandoah 2-0 on Sept. 6; beat Piedmont 2-1 on Sept. 7

Coach Rolf Piranian's Expectations: "I think we're going to get better as the season goes along. We have come uncertainties about the team that will be worked out as we face competition."

Sport: Women's Soccer

2007 Record: 16-4 (9-2 ODAC)

2007 Post-Season: Lost 2-1 to Roanoke in the ODAC Semi-Finals

ODAC Coaches Preseason Poll Ranking: 4

Key Returnees: F Anne Van Devender, M Roz Klann, D Marisa Van Brunt

Key Losses: D Haley Bunting

Previous Results this Season: Beat Centre 3-1 on Sept. 6; Lost 3-1 to Transylvania on Sept. 7

Coach Neil Cunningham could not be reached for comment.

Sport: Volleyball

2007 Record: 29-6 (9-1 ODAC)

2007 Post-Season: Beat Bridgewater 3-0 in the ODAC Championship; lost 3-0 to Southwestern in the first round of the NCAA Championships

ODAC Coaches Preseason Poll Ranking: 1

Key Returnees: OH Laura Maurer, OH Rachael Phillips, RS Jessica Ulrich

Key Losses: RS Jess Huddock

Previous Results this Season: Won the W&L Invitational by beating Dickinson 3-0 and Mary Baldwin on Sept. 5 and then also beating Southern Virginia 3-0 and Marietta 3-0 on Sept. 6

Coach Bryan Snyder's Expectations: "I feel that we have a lot of talent at all of our positions, and this is the most experienced team we have had in probably four years. We have set very lofty team goals for ourselves, and if everyone works hard all year, I believe we can accomplish them. I am very excited about this season and can't wait to see what we can do."

XC teams start well

Both teams place first at W&L Invitational

By Kevin Corn
STAFF WRITER

The Men's and Women's Cross Country teams were victorious at home Saturday as they competed in the Washington and Lee Invitational. The men took first out of eleven teams, while the women were first out of ten teams. With high-ranking, individual finishes and fast times, there is no doubt that the cross country teams are ready for another great year.

On the men's side, the team was led by senior Vance Berry who finished third with a time of 29:34. Close behind him was first-year Matt Gossett whose time of 29:38 was good enough for fourth. Senior Alex Jackson snatched sixth with a time of 29:55, and junior Stuart Vassey rounded out W&L's top finishers with a ninth place ranking after running the course in 30:03.

"It's great to come out with a win in the first meet, but we know that the competition we saw today is nothing like what we will be seeing the rest of the year," commented Gossett. "It was a great opportunity to see where we're at though, and the fact that we have such great depth this year is re-

ally going to help us win ODACs."

Speaking of Gossett, Vassey commented on how the first-year "was a nice surprise today finishing 2nd for the team and 4th overall."

The men's team was able to secure a first-place finish even without two of its top five runners competing. Both Michael Welsh and Anthony Ives were unable to race because of injury. Coach John Tucker "was very pleased with the team's performance" even without these two important runners for the team.

Senior Elizabeth Webb led the women, not only for the Generals, but all other teams as she finished first in a time of 24:12. Junior Kat Telfeyan was close behind in second with a time of 24:36. Senior Becca Taylor finished the course in a time of 24:48, which put her at fourth. Meanwhile, junior Dorothy Todd finished sixth with a time of 25:08.

"The 2008 Women's Cross Country team is one of the best in the history of W&L" commented Webb after the meet. "We come into the season ranked 32nd among all Division III teams, our first national ranking — ever. This year we've really clicked as a team. Coming into preseason, it became very clear that

everyone on the team had put in the miles over the summer. That really showed today as we put four Generals in the top six finishers."

"Winning this weekend on our home course was so great!" added Todd. "Before the race, Coach [Kris] Hoey really encouraged us to try to run in groups so that we could push each other and encourage each other during the tough parts of the race. We are so lucky this year to be able to work together with our teammates not only during practice but in the meets as well. We really do have the strongest women's team that W&L has ever seen! It really is so much easier to make it up the hills or catch the girl in front of you when you have your teammates telling you that you can do it."

"The best compliment I heard after the meet was that our team, unlike the rest of the competition, didn't have looks of death or fatigue on our faces once we came up [the infamous] Fanghorn hill," mentioned Taylor. Instead we all looked determined and ready to push it to the end. And we are ready...ready to have an amazing rest of the season."

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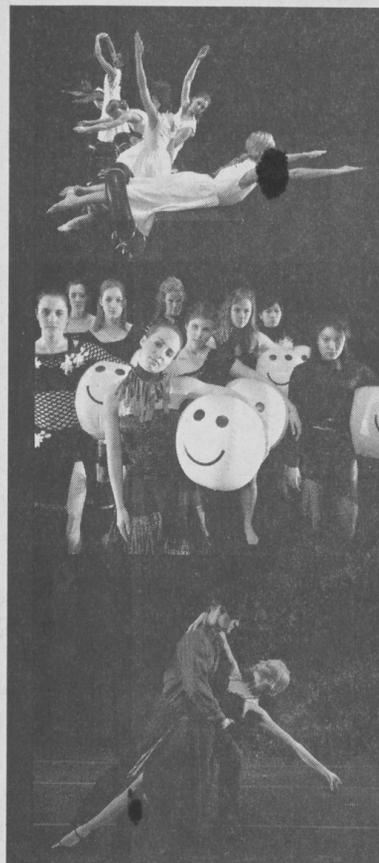
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sports



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Football						at Sewanee 1:30 p.m.	
Field Hockey						at McDaniel 2 p.m.	vs. Johns Hopkins 11 a.m.
Men's Soccer							at Maryville 1 p.m.
Women's Soccer						vs. Roanoke 1 p.m.	
Volleyball			vs. Eastern Mennonite 6:30 p.m.			vs. Randolph & Averett 11 a.m. & 3p.m.	
Women's XC							
Men's XC						at James Madison Invite	
Women's Tennis							
Men's Tennis						ODAC Individual Tournament	

in the numbers

13

The number of consecutive years that the New York Yankees have made the playoffs. As of press time Sunday night, the Yankees were 9.5 games back in the American League East and 7.5 games back in the Wild Card.

0

The number of winning seasons in Tampa Bay Rays history prior to the 2008 season. With 85 wins this season and 21 games left to play, the Rays have already clinched a winning season. They also currently sit atop the American League East standings.

255

The number of career regular season games played by quarterback Brett Favre for the Green Bay Packers. After being traded to the New York Jets this offseason in a retirement controversy, Favre played for a team other than the Packers for the first time Sunday since his rookie season with the Atlanta Falcons.

32

Washington and Lee women's cross country team's national pre-season ranking, according to the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. The team is also ranked second in the South/Southeast region and first in the ODAC.

soapbox

"It's something I don't think anyone has ever done before. Have I ever had a reason for why I do what I do? I'm having fun."

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver formerly known as Chad Johnson on legally changing his name to Chad Javon Ocho Cinco, courtesy of bengals.com.

"I got the bags back—empty. So he's [Tatum Bell] got a bunch of my underclothes. What he's going to do with that, I don't know. He's got some socks and boxers."

Detroit Lions running back Rudy Johnson on Tatum Bell's returning Johnson's Gucci bags without any of their contents. Bell reportedly stole the belongings out of the team locker room after he was cut from the team, courtesy of yahoo.com.

Recapping the Olympics

Allen reviews highlights, controversies of Summer Games

By Crichton Allen
STAFF WRITER

I have a word for you. Just one. Olympics. Perhaps you heard about it. If you're like me, you probably feel like Bob Costas is a part of the family.

I had my wisdom teeth taken out right in the middle of the Games, so I filled most of my time for a week lying on the couch, milkshake close at hand, watching Team USA. The final verdict on these Games is still years away from being finally delivered. Beijing delivered moments of oddity, scandal and triumph, all in equal proportions. All these episodes blended together to create an event unlike any humanity has witnessed ever before.

I myself still don't quite know how I feel about it all. When I close my eyes, I can see Michael Phelps' crooked smile radiating the pride and joy he must surely feel at winning an epic eight gold medals. But I can also see the bitter irony of China, a nation that in many respects has yet to accept even basic standards of human rights, hosting an event that is supposed to bring the world together in an atmosphere of peace and mutual respect. Therefore, I can only offer you my overall impressions.

For starters, how about the Opening ceremony? The imagination of Zhang Yimou, the director of the event, is unreal. He makes Stanley Kubrick look like a cloistered monk. The lights, drummers, the acrobat seemingly floating through the air to light the torch, and the fireworks all blended together to create an atmosphere

that seriously toed the line between spectacular and trippy. It wasn't my style, but it was Zhang's gig, so it gets a pass.

Here's what doesn't get a pass: the age controversy surrounding Chinese gymnast Yang Yilin. The International Olympic Committee stipulates gymnasts must be or reach sixteen years of age in an Olympic year to compete. Take a look at this girl; there is no way she is sixteen. My ten-year-old brother looks like he could be her grandfather.

Time and time again Chinese officials insisted she and all other their athletes were of legal age and provided the corresponding documentation. Normally, I would take a government official's word. However, China's government has, what the folks in the PR business like to call a little "credibility problem." China still jails journalists whose writing are viewed as unacceptable, their human rights record is, I don't want to say abysmal, but when the horrors of Darfur are backed by the Chinese government, forgive me if I don't nominate Wen Jiabo, the Chinese Premier, for Man of the Year. Bottom line, if Yang Yilin is sixteen, I've got abs like Dara Torres.

But at the end of the day, the Olympics are fundamentally about celebrating the men and women who take upon themselves the great honor and privilege of competing for their respective nations on sport's grandest stage. And how much there was to celebrate.

A word about Michael Phelps. What we witnessed for that week in the Water Cube was the single greatest athletic ac-

complishment in history. Period. Better than Jordan in any Finals, Lance Armstrong in any Tour de France, better than Roger Bannister on that magical day he broke the four minute barrier in the mile. Usain Bolt, the great Jamaican sprinter who himself had a dominate Games proved the only thing faster than his legs may be his mouth when he quipped "I am an athlete. Michael Phelps is a swimmer." The man swam seventeen races in nine days. Experts say that is the equivalent of running nine marathons in as many days. The physical toll that presses on a body is extreme, equaled only by the psychological stress placed upon him by the eyes of the entire world. He got every competitor's best shot and rolled with all punches. True, a Herculean effort by his teammate Jason Lezak in the 4x100 meter freestyle made his record eight gold medals possible, but that aside, the man owns 16 gold medals, the most by far of anyone else in history.

Phelps was not the only American who shone in Beijing. The grace and elegance of Nastia Liukin and the athletic explosiveness of Shawn Johnson brought gymnastics home to many Americans in a way never before seen. The aforementioned Dara Torres won three silver medals at the age of 41. Her Olympic career began at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, a year before Phelps was even born. Did I mention her six-pack?

Beijing, through good and bad, enthralled the world for a magical two weeks. London 2012: good luck with the follow-up.

Men's soccer kicks off season

Team beats Shenandoah 2-0 Saturday and Piedmont 2-1 Sunday

By Adam Cancryn
STAFF WRITER

One small flick of the head from midfielder Drew Crowley turned a frustrating Saturday afternoon into a hard-fought first win for the Washington & Lee University Men's Soccer team.

Receiving a corner kick from forward Whit Larkin, Crowley re-directed the ball into the back of the net, ending 64 minutes of scoreless play and lifting the Generals to an eventual 2-0 victory over Shenandoah University.

"We wanted to get the first goal and pin them down," said Crowley of his team's strategy. On the corner kick opportunity, "the goalie froze and the ball just kind of plopped in."

While the strategy was simple, for much of the game the execution proved much tougher.

Already three games into their season, Shenandoah came in prepared and hungry for their first win. And at points, it seemed the visiting Hornets would take advantage of W&L's first-game jitters.

Despite playing the ball almost exclusively in their end in the early going, Shenandoah broke through with the first

real scoring chance of the game. Taking advantage of a W&L defensive misplay, midfielder Karim Kamara fired an open shot from the right side that flew past the keeper's outstretched arms. Luckily for the Generals, the ball glanced off the inside of the left post and back into play, saving an early goal.

Following the initial scare, W&L settled into its possession play and took back momentum.

They started to methodically work the ball into the Shenandoah zone, getting their best chance on a James Pymm breakaway that forced the keeper to make a spectacular sliding save. While, according to head coach Rolf Piranian, Shenandoah was "the more athletic team," the Generals were neutralizing them by "playing smarter."

Coming out of the half tied 0-0, W&L showed a marked difference in intensity and tempo.

Using the accelerated pace and increasing physicality of the game to their advantage, the Generals immediately put Shenandoah on its heels. It was not long after that Crowley headed in the team's first goal, putting them in the lead.

With about 25 minutes still left to play,

W&L hunkered down and turned away a number of Shenandoah challenges, utilizing their team depth to keep everyone fresh.

"Sometimes you (the team) start to lag, and we go in there to pick up the intensity," said first-year midfielder Stiles Harper on the role of a sub.

Shenandoah tried frantically to equalize, but in the end it was the Generals who got the break.

With the Hornets goalie coming out to handle a long ball, pressure from forward Huntley Johnson forced him to botch the catch. A quick tap of the ball into the open goal sealed the game.

Following the match, Coach Piranian said he felt play was sloppy overall and insisted the Generals would and could play much better in the future. Yet, in what he called a "gut check" game, W&L came away with the best possible result: a "W" in the books and a positive start to the new season.

The Generals continued their week-end homestand on Sunday against Piedmont College. Crowley's early score and Harper's sudden-death overtime goal gave W&L the 2-1 win over the Lions.

SENIOR MEETING

Tuesday, September 9
5:00 p.m.

Commons Theater

This meeting is for ALL seniors!

Meet the staff and get information about the job search process.

Learn about the procedures for on-campus interviews.

Hear from '08 grads about their job search experiences.

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