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Sad MockCon is over?

We are too. Find out what people liked, disliked and who thinks Ann Coulter is sexy.

OPINIONS / page 5

Have more reasons to party!

Take a break, kick back and discover a new holiday to celebrate.

ARTS&LIFE / page 6

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012 BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897 VOLUME CXV, NUMBER 14

Mock Con Picks Mitt



COY FERRELL / staff photographer

Thousands of students, parents, alumni, faculty and interested visitors turned out for the final session of the 2012 Republican Mock Convention at W&L.

By Neil Haggerty
STAFF WRITER

After years of planning and meticulous research, the Washington and Lee Mock Convention predicted Saturday that former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney will run against Barack Obama as the Republican candidate for president.

Romney's won the nomination with 1,781 delegates over Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum and Ron Paul after Indiana gave all 46 of its delegate to the former Massachusetts governor.

Not only did the 2012 Mock Convention have the first-ever interactive website with live streaming, this convention also set the record for the most money raised in the history of Mock Conventions at W&L. The organization collected about \$200,000 from over 650 donors.

At the start of the weekend, Mock Con faculty advisor Professor William Connelly said that this year's convention leaders were "poised to produce the best Mock Convention in the history of Mock Conventions at Washington and Lee."

These leaders of the executive committee included the first female general chair in Mock Con's history, Tricia King, as well as political chair Zach Wilkes, personnel chair Tucker Pribor, executive secretary Laura Ball and executive treasurer Brandon Allred, as well as the steering committee and state chairs.

These leaders helped to elevate the convention to being the most accurate convention in Mock Con's history at W&L.

King led the convention asking students to be ready for the "phenomenon and national storm that [Mock Con] is."

"W&L is a school like no other... [Mock Con] defies the nation's expectations of young people," said King.

On the day of Romney's nomination, keynote speaker and former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour said, "I can't wait until the afternoon is over, because I know you are going to get it right."

Romney's ability to lead America out of the major budget deficit was a major theme throughout the speeches during the convention as well as the need for Americans to come together behind a

Republican candidate.

Carville v. Coulter

Mock Con weekend kicked off with a debate between popular right-wing political commentator Ann Coulter and successful liberal campaign coordinator James Carville, who is the first out of party speaker in Mock Con's history. This debate was moderated by W&L graduates Mike Allen '86, the chief White House correspondent for POLITICO, and Kelly Evans '07, a W&L Business Journalism major and reporter for the Wall Street Journal.

During the debate, Coulter said Romney is the most electable candidate for president in the Republican party "but it's just hard to take out an incumbent."

Along with Obama's incumbency, Coulter said, "He's charming, he's got the mainstream media."

Carville also said that he believes that Romney is going to be the nominee for president, but "Romney cannot beat Obama...because Romney is just a bad candidate."

"Mitt Romney is a generic Republican. He's kind of a square....After four years of [Obama] wrecking the country, square is going to be very appealing," Coulter said.

On the other potential Republican leaders, Carville said that he would love to see Newt Gingrich win the nomination.

Coulter responded to this comment saying that Gingrich's candidacy would be a 49-state landslide. However, she said that New Jersey Governor Chris Christie would be a very strong candidate and a good running mate for Romney.

"Chris Christie is a once in a lifetime politician," said Coulter.

The issue of Obamacare and the coverage of contraception in insurance was also discussed in the debate.

Carville said, "I am for women having contraception at every junction."

Coulter said, "This is madness that insurance will have to cover contraception," calling Obamacare "communism."

W&L hearts Huckabee

Following the debate between Car-

ville and Coulter, former Republican primary candidate and Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee opened the convention saying, "The accuracy is reason enough why any politician wants to be [at Mock Con]."

Huckabee said to students that "the best government we will ever have... is self-government" and that "lowering taxes is an effect of self-government."

Huckabee described self-government as an aspect of the Republican party's platform that allows people to move up in society on their own.

"I am the first male in my entire family lineage to graduate from high school," said Huckabee. He added that "unless something drastically changes starting with this election," young people today won't live better lives than their parents.

"What a terrible kind of legacy," said Huckabee.

Huckabee said that the current graduated tax system of the Obama administration will prevent the current generation from living better lives than their parents because it "punishes people who are trying to be productive."

Huckabee said, "It is not the government's job to referee" and that the government's job is to make sure that the winners are the ones who are responsible and the losers are the ones who live recklessly.

Huckabee closed his address asking students to elect someone that will challenge Americans. "I want your world to be every bit as good, if not better, than the one I have...It is our responsibility to do unto others as we would have them do unto us," said Huckabee.

Session One

Mock Con began with two video calls from Speaker of the House John Boehner and Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, followed by several politicians who emphasized the need to elect a Republican president to bring back constitutionality to the federal government.

"Exercises such as the Mock Convention can provide people a special insight on how we choose our leaders," said Boehner.

Portman added that conventions are

"one of the most exciting and important traditions in all of American Politics" and that it is "time for the government to stop spending more than it can pay."

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell followed Coulter as one of the many politicians who spoke during the weekend-who supported Romney as the candidate for the Republican party. McDonnell said, "[Romney] is the right guy at the right time for America"

According to McDonnell, Republican governors like Romney have been able to cut \$65 billion in deficits and that they govern 7 out of 10 of the states with the lowest unemployment rates.

McDonnell also pointed to the unconstitutional healthcare system under the Obama administration and failed entitlement and environmental policies as aspects of the current federal government's work that Republicans can improve.

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli followed McDonnell's speech emphasizing that if the federal government breaks the law, people need to push back.

"The president seems to think that his agencies will follow the law whenever he likes the law...we are fulfilling the vision about how federalism should work in the real world" by pushing back, Cuccinelli said.

West Virginia district Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito did not point to a specific candidate that she supports but said a strong conservative needs to fill the "vacuum of leadership" in Washington.

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor closed the first session. He reflected on the traditions of honor, mock political conventions and national unity at W&L as a model for the rest of America to follow.

Cantor said that the Mock Convention is an opportunity for students to learn the Republican party's platform.

"[Mock Con] reflects the traditions here at W&L that support young leader involvement...we are a party of ideas," said Cantor.

Cantor said the Republican party's system of freedom can bring back the

American Dream, in which generations improve upon generations.

"As the president has co-opted how we Republicans talk, he has not co-opted how we Republicans walk," said Cantor.

He added, "The President's concept of a fair shot and mine differ...if you work hard and play by the rules, everyone in America should have a fair shot."

Cantor said that wealth distribution is an aspect of Obama's policy that does not give everyone a fair shot. He said that the poor should receive a "hand-up, not a hand out."

Session Two

Session two of the 2012 Mock Republican Convention included speeches by Michigan Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, former Republican Presidential primary candidate and Governor of Utah Jon Huntsman Jr, and former Oklahoma Congressman J.C. Watts. These speeches emphasized the need for Americans to come together in the face of an adverse economy.

"I'm happy to be with young people...[people] don't necessarily respect the fact that wisdom comes with no age," said McCotter.

McCotter added that in the current times in which we face, the Democratic party failed to recognize the need for self-government.

"Why would you let the federal government choose your doctor and tell you what kind of healthcare you should have?...This is why [the democrats] are not progressive, they are regressive," said McCotter.

He told students that they must fight against the current government regulations. "You are wide awake and you will make a difference," said McCotter.

After a video call from 1980 W&L graduate Chris Burnham, in which students were commended for their commitment to service, Huntsman spoke to students about focusing on America, not partisan politics.

Continued on page 2

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news

What'd you think?

Students, alums and parents sound off on the weekend

By Tommy Kent
STAFF WRITER

First Session

Dick Warren '53: "Mock conventions are always wonderful and terribly interesting due to the devoted efforts over a long period of time by W&L students. The speakers were marvelous. They were inspiring, including some of the students."

Juhi Amin '13: "I think [the speakers] were able to represent a wide range of different viewpoints. They make you think. It wouldn't be exciting if they said everything you wanted to hear. You want speakers who will invoke thought. Even though they were all from the same party it was interesting to see how they had different views."

Second Session

Mark Sowinski '14: "I really enjoyed it. J.C. Watts told some really moving stories."

Tyler Grant '12: "I'm fired up. I like what J.C. Watts said: 'We need an American campaign, not a Republican campaign.' I think the general message is: We can't be divisive. We need to look at the bigger picture. The speeches were really bold. I really liked the speeches."

Lauran Lukas '12: "I thought [the speakers] were very enthusiastic. They had a lot of energy. A lot of repeated themes: self-governance. Self-governance was the key message. It was a good one. I really liked how Huntsman incorporated our motto."

Liz Bell '12: "I loved [Thaddeus McCotter]. I thought from his facial expressions, that we were just supposed to laugh at everything. As a Democrat, I would say leaving the convention, I'm a little more open to the Republican party's platform."

Mary Decembrino (mother of '12 graduate): "I thought it was great. I would say I find J.C. Watts very inspiring. John Huntsman had a lot of great things to say. I could relate to a lot of the issues he was referring to. It was engaging and informative."

Third Session

Amanda Dixon '15: "I think we had really impressive speakers who had a lot of personal insight. Thompson gave a lot of personal insight."

Gordon Leggett '54 (Board of Trustees Emeritus): "My impression was that the speakers with the exception of Dick Morris, were awful, especially Fred Thompson. I did enjoy McMaster. He was the second best. Fred Thompson was just too long and just too dry. It is a great tradition at W&L and this has been one of the best I have ever attended. I came all the way down from Philadelphia to hear this. I'm very curious who they are going to nominate. One of the things that puzzles me, is why there has been so little mention of Gingrich or Santorum. Strong Republican platform that has very little mention of Gingrich or Santorum is surprising."

Fourth Session

Clarke Morrison '12: "I think it was well done but predictable."

Tommy Joe Bednar '15: "I thought it was going to be Romney all along. I was surprised by the margin we gave him and the choice of vice president."

Gary Franke, wrestling coach (attending his 10th Mock Con): "I think they are always different, because the student body always changes. It is always exciting."

Continued from "Mock Con..."

"What this evening is about is your motto...not unmindful of the future," said Huntsman. "You have a duty and an obligation and a responsibility to give back."

Huntsman emphasized the politician's goal of gaining the heart of America and not to be political.

"It's an intimidating deal when you look somebody in the eye and say 'I want your vote,'" said Huntsman.

Although he talked about his political past, he said politicians and citizens must remember what's really important.

"We must regain confidence...I am an American before I am a Republican. We are Americans first and foremost."

Watts's speech, which closed the night, echoed Huntsman's point that Americans need to be united.

"This is not your American, it's not my America, it's our America," Watts said. "We are part of an American campaign, not a Republican campaign."

Session Three

The third session speakers included Dick Morris, political commentator and former White House advisor to Bill Clinton, South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster, Virginia Congressman Bob Goodlatte, former Virginia Governor George Allen and former Tennessee Sena-

tor and actor Fred Thompson. These speeches reiterated the necessity of a Republican president at this time in our country.

Dick Morris kicked off the session three speeches, saying: "I used to work for Bill Clinton. I know what it takes to re-elect a president and Obama doesn't have it."

Morris reflected on the need for a true conservative president like Ronald Reagan, because "[Obama] inherited a disaster and created a catastrophe."

"[Obama] borrowed so much money that he tipped the entire world into what is called debt implosion... Obama literally declared war on the upper income tax payers," said Morris.

Morris said that Romney is currently the candidate with the best ability to beat Obama in November, but that he needs to make people believe that he is a conservative. Morris added that both Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich would also beat Obama.

"My head is for Romney, my heart is for Gingrich, and my gut is for Santorum...Obama will be a bad dream," said Morris.

McMaster followed asking students to push themselves, ask questions and be proud of America, in order to live in the light of some of the greatest people in America like W&L's namesakes, George Washing-

ton and Robert E. Lee.

Following a video call from W&L grad Congressman Joe Wilson, Goodlatte continued the sentiment that the debt caused by Obama needs to be erased by a Republican President.

"The reality is that the Obama administration has 4000 regulations... [Republicans] are committing to enacting a meaningful tax reform" to decrease the burden on taxpayers, said Goodlatte.

Goodlatte said, "We need a balanced budget and an amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

The amendment that Goodlatte is supporting is one that does not accept the federal government running trillions of dollars in debt.

A convention like the Mock Convention at W&L is a great opportunity for students to learn about the political process and realize a party platform, according to Goodlatte.

"You've spent months studying how the process works...you have the same feel [of a real convention]," said Goodlatte.

While most of the speakers either supported the W&L convention's nominee or did not choose a candidate, Thompson said that he supported Newt Gingrich.

"The way we view these candidates has to do with the way we view our country...the fact that [Gingrich] may not play well with others who

are working in Washington doesn't disturb me a bit," said Thompson.

"The process now rests with our candidates. Somebody needs to take the lead... and have the courage to speak straight with the American people," said Thompson.

Session Four

Before the final state roll call and the announcement of Mitt Romney as the Republican nominee for the 2012 election, keynote speaker and former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour addressed the crowd.

"Nominate the right candidate for our party who will be the next president and who will change our policies," said Barbour. "Who has got the best chance to beat Obama?"

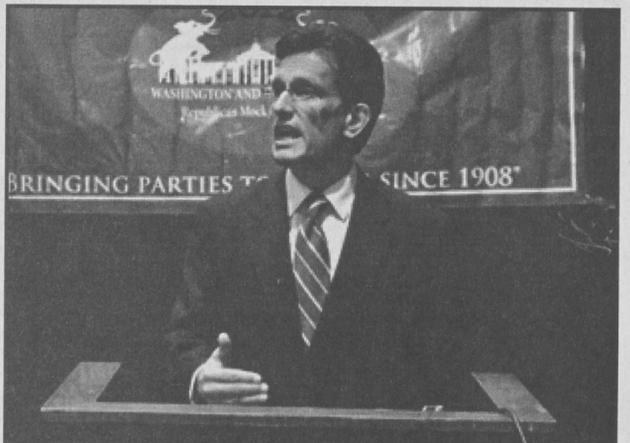
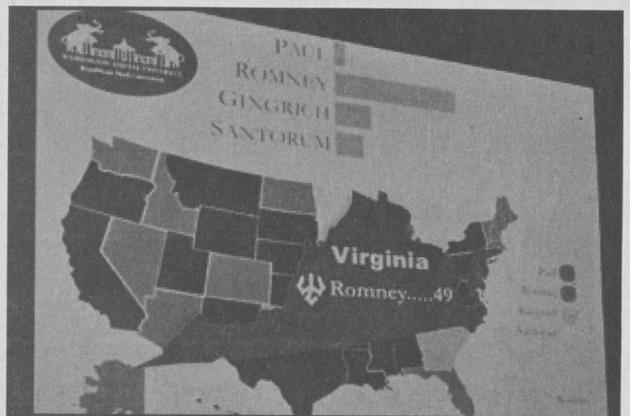
Barbour also said that the incumbent president is always the favorite and that we are not looking for perfection in a Republican candidate.

"Even when you disagree with him, your job is promoting what unites us as Republicans," said Barbour.

Following Barbour's speech was the state roll call. After Indiana gave all 46 of its delegates to Romney, he was announced as the nominee for the Republican party and Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell was announced as the nominee for Vice President.

Romney's wife, Ann Romney, accepted the nomination via video call.

Said Romney: "We are truly fighting for the soul of America."

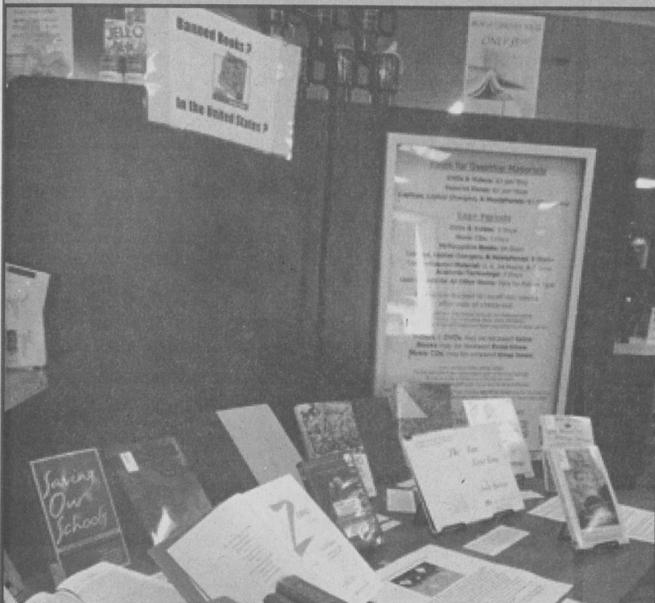


COY FERRELL / staff photographer

Books banned in Ariz.

Law eliminates Mexican-American studies programs and others, worries professors

By Drew Carlos
STAFF WRITER



A banned books display in Leyburn Library was set up to raise awareness about a new law in Arizona eliminating programs that promote ethnic solidarity.

An Arizona law banning books has unsettled many people across the country, including professors at Washington and Lee.

Recently, The Huffington Post reported, a state law was passed that will ban ethnic studies in Arizona's Tucson Unified School District.

W&L professors say they were shocked and upset by the law, especially its broad scope.

English Professor Christopher Gavalier said if he were in Tucson, Ariz., teaching his Thrilling Tales class would be difficult.

Associate Professor of English Deborah Miranda said that the real shock set in once she confirmed the reports that books were being banned because they were on the Mexican-American Studies Program reading list.

Books are being taken off the shelf because they may create resentment or emotions among their readers.

"Isn't good literature supposed to arouse emotion in the reader?" Miranda said.

Gavalier said students, profes-

sor and librarians at W&L must become aware of the stakes of the issue.

"Many people think universities are somehow 'immune' to censorship, but it takes a lot of work on the part of professors, librarians and administrators to continuously provide materials that teach and challenge students, rather than keeping them in the comfort zone to which they've become accustomed," Miranda said.

These types of laws could affect everyone, Miranda said.

"Every professor has at least one book they loved that was on the banned list, a book that had changed our lives, and thus, has also changed the lives of all the students each professor has taught," she said.

There is currently a display in Leyburn that features the books from the Mexican American Studies Program that have been banned.



news

Students represent states in parade

By Tommy Kent and Coy Ferrell
STAFF WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER

In between all the serious business in the Warner Center, W&L students had a bit of fun Friday morning with the Mock Convention Parade.

"You can kind of see how everyone was inspired to take part in this convention and show their pride for their country and their states," said sophomore Emily Crawford.

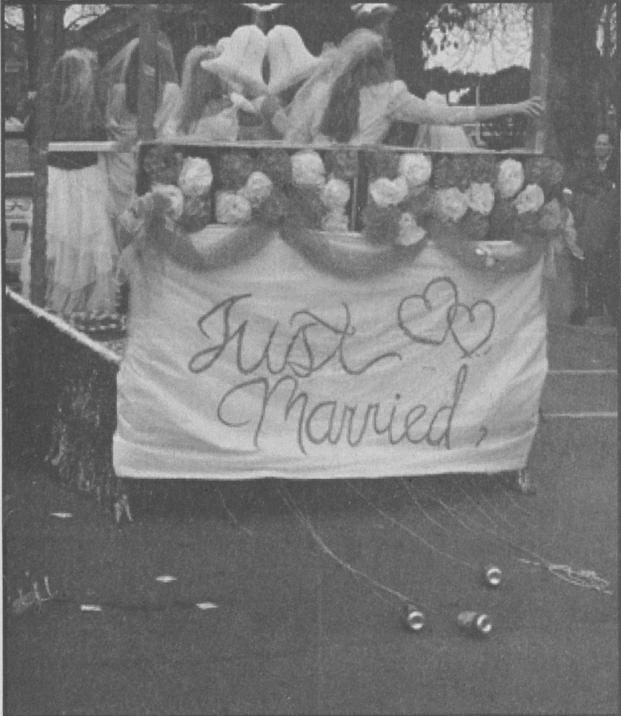
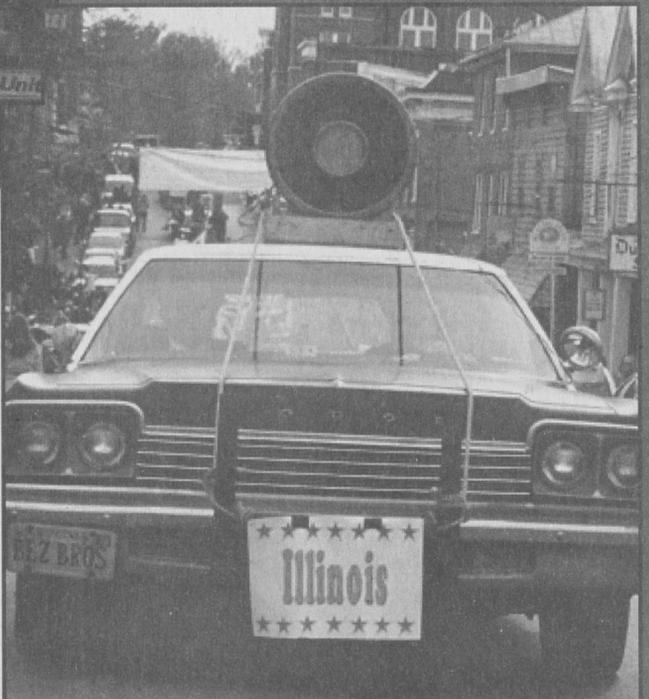
The delegation from South Carolina took home first prize in the float contest, but all states represented themselves well in the students' eyes.

"I was really surprised by how everything came together. I was here last night to about midnight, and there were still a few floats without anything on them," said first-year Amira Hegazy.

For many students, the parade was just as important a part of the convention as the sessions.

"I think it is just a chance to be creative. It is tradition," said junior Wyn Boerckel.

"That's the whole point. That is why it's fun."



opinions



letter to the editor: response

Dear Rachel,
Thank you for your letter.
As a regular reader of the *Phi*, you have probably noticed that one of my goals is to entertain. I frame my observations of W&L's campus, the Greek system, weekend nights, and gender relations in a humorous light because some occurrences on our campus are so ridiculous, they are funny (i.e., the "I kinda saw her bra" reference).

I could not be more opposed to upperclassmen encouraging underclassmen to objectify women. As disgusting as the scenarios I describe may seem, they

happen. I believe it is most effective to draw attention to these gender relation and Greek system issues in an easy-to-read article rather than an easy-to-ignore pamphlet, a threatening, accusatory letter, or a vague statistic. Additionally, it is important for girls to understand what goes on behind fraternity doors—information is power. The group that performs "Sex Signals," a show brought to campus by SPEAK and One in Four, uses the same technique to raise awareness for sexual assault.

You took my "They have been through a lot and deserve our respect,

but beware that they may be a bit big-headed" quote out of context, and made it seem as if I applaud boys for treating women disrespectfully. This comment was made in reference to the difficulties of pledgship. Fraternity pledges run the W&L social scene; whether planning and setting up parties, giving sober rides, or cleaning up houses the following morning, they are constantly on call. This is a lot for anyone to handle, let alone an 18-year-old boy in his first year away from home. Imagine juggling pledgship with your course load and extracurricular activities. Sounds difficult.

I do not think that it is unreasonable to applaud their mental strength and perseverance.

Additionally, it is silly to pretend that a two-hour cookie baking party will have the same effect as a round-the-clock servitude stint with a group of peers. Sorority bonding involves going to a comfortable house, talking to a couple of best friends, and avoiding interactions with girls you would rather not "bond" with. Pledgship, on the other hand, forces cooperation and cohesion. It entails working with every member of your pledge class, regardless of how well you get

along. It means putting older brothers' priorities ahead of your own and sacrificing every ounce of free time. As a member of a sorority, I can assure you that the level of unity within fraternities is higher come March than within any other group on campus.

In conclusion, my articles are meant to be funny, not offensive! I hope I have cleared up any misunderstanding.

Sincerely,

Campbell Burr

Warning: people do not change

Campbell Burr advises that voters look at candidates' past actions when deciding who deserves their vote



By Campbell Burr
OPINIONS EDITOR

February break is just around the corner. Over breaks, I sometimes spend a less-than-busy day going through old scrapbooks. Last time I was home, I discovered letters I had written home from camp when I was 10. The stories I shared and the way I reacted to events mirror my mindset today. These statements could be mistaken for texts I send my mom from college.

Exhibit A: "At the dance I danced

with two people. One of them was from Illinois. With my two partners I just talked and tried to bring up a conversation." (Is this a text I sent my mom after the Mock Con party in the Pavilion?)

Exhibit B: "The food isn't that good. Some of it probably isn't healthy." (We're talking about food from a sorority retreat, correct?)

This does not only apply to me. In a camp letter my sister wrote home at age 12, she asked my mom to send her some items she had forgotten. At the end, she added, "PS, I'll take care of S&H charges!" Would I have ever thought about reimbursing my parents for shipping and handling charges in the sixth grade? She remains very conscientious today.

You can also look at the way that people spend their free time. My sister and I spent our free time differently when

we were growing up, which accounts for the differences in our personalities today. My sister realized that the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus were nonsense unacceptably early. She enjoyed tackling very advanced puzzles and inventing her own artistic hairstyles (ask her about "the unicorn"). At age 12, she read *Reader's Digest* cover-to-cover.

Rather than sitting in my room reading about New York's crime rate, I spent my time teaching my dolls how to add and subtract, sitting in the driver's seat of my mom's parked car with a mug of coffee pretending to wait in the carpool line, and betting boys in the neighborhood that I could school them in soccer. On the rare occasions when I opened *Reader's Digest*, I turned only to one section: Jokes.

Today, these differences are clear

through conversations around the dinner table. While my sister is sharing her views on world events and discussing her interpretations of complex philosophical statements, I am mimicking people, imagining ridiculous scenarios, and telling embarrassing stories (on the first day of school, I tripped down an entire flight of stairs and almost fainted). The differences in our favorite childhood pastimes mirror the differences in our personalities and interests today.

Serious cheaters are further proof that people don't change. You know that partner who cheats once, promises to never do it again, and cheats again? My high school lacrosse coach told us that the same boy who cheated on her in high school cheated on his wife years later. Think about how many marriages would be intact if people did not stay with part-

ners who had been dishonest with them.

This idea may seem obvious, but when you're casting a vote this election season, remember that people don't change.

Take the Newt Gingrich-Freddie Mac scandal. Is it safe to trust Gingrich with the presidency? Look at Joe Biden. He has been caught plagiarizing in the past—will he do it again? I would not be surprised if he began his next speech, "Four score and seven years ago." Just saying.

Based on my observations of the candidates and a thorough analysis of their pasts, there's only one thing I can say. I'M WIT MITT!

letter to the editor

On Friday afternoon, I decided not to go to Session One of Mock Con (a controversial decision, I know!) in favor of getting all my work done to attend the other sessions. I was walking back to my house when I received a text informing me that General Admission, one of W&L's a cappella groups, had been introduced at session one as being "W&L's only co-ed a cappella group."

This was soon followed by a flurry of texts from others informing me of what had happened, each with a different level of annoyance. Why?

Because we're the Washingtones, W&L's other co-ed a cappella group.

We're not that new; Washingtones has been active on campus for five years. We were founded by Neville Fogarty (of *Phi* crossword fame), and have been spending at least an hour a week singing together ever since. We perform fairly regularly at things like WLUR's *Open Airwaves*. We've been at Relay for Life and the Parents' Weekend a cappella concert. We're an official organization and we have a webpage on the Performing Arts section of W&L's website.

But apparently we don't exist – and that attitude is starting to grate on the 20 members of the group who come to practice and enjoy performing. Every year is an uphill battle for us, because we are rarely, if ever, invited to perform at W&L events. Everything we do, we do because a group member has taken initiative and tracked someone down to get us on the roster.

Mock Con has really put this into perspective. There were four sessions and four renditions of the national anthem to be sung. Every a cappella group was in-

cluded to sing except us.

Let me be absolutely clear when I say that I have nothing against the other a cappella groups. I'm friends with a lot of the people in them and I enjoy listening to them sing. But I'm not going to lie – it hurts to be told several times a year that GA, JubiLee and SoCo were invited to sing and we weren't. It's frustrating that no matter how hard we work or how often we send emails, we cannot achieve some level of acceptance.

We don't feel like we're asking for a lot. We don't want sympathy, but we do

want a chance to prove ourselves. We'd love to share our music and fun-loving spirits with everyone at W&L. We love entertaining our audiences.

We are W&L's fourth a cappella group and we want everyone to know that we are worthy of receiving the same opportunities as the other campus a cappella groups...

...and that above all, we will keep singing.

-Danielle Maurer, Class of '12 and President of Washingtones

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THE RING-TUM PHI is published Mondays during the undergraduate school year. THE RING-TUM PHI is a member of The Media Board, which can be reached at mediaboard@wlu.edu, but is otherwise independent. THE RING-TUM PHI welcomes all letters. We reserve the right to edit submissions for content and length. Letters and advertising do not necessarily reflect the opinion of THE RING-TUM PHI staff. This newspaper observes current court definitions of libel and obscenity.

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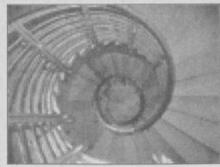
-The Washington Post (12/30/11)

Premium local burgers, fresh doughnuts,
fries, Homestead Creamery milk shakes,
daily soups and stews...only the good stuff.



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for menu updates and news

coming soon: beer!



opinions

Impressions of Mock Con

W&L's Mock Convention was a HUGE hit! Thank you to everyone who was involved in putting together such a fabulous, memorable weekend. Take a look at what students are saying about the event:



Robert Uhlman
Class of 2012

Best speech: Huckabee
Three words to describe Ann Coulter: Smart, sexy, opinionated
Three words to describe James Carville: Personable, lively, incorrect
Favorite social event of the weekend: Parade
Most attractive speaker: Huntsman
Person you wish had come to campus: Ron Paul... riding an elephant
Favorite float in the parade: Vermont
Funniest state fact during roll call: Hawaii's pineapples
If you were a speaker, what song would you want played as you walked on stage? "Welcome to the Jungle"
Do you agree with the prediction? Yes
Would you rather vote for Mitt Romney or Obama? Ron Paul, but Romney if I HAD to pick one

Camie Carlock
Class of 2013



Best speech: Tie between Jon Huntsman and Eric Cantor
Three words to describe Ann Coulter: Sassy, bold, jaw-dropper
Three words to describe James Carville: Hilarious, engaging, snappy
Favorite social event of the weekend: Pavilion Party
Most attractive speaker: Jon Huntsman (nix the tan)
Person you wish had come to campus: Senator John McCain
Favorite float in the parade: Kentucky... you can't go wrong with something as preppy as the Derby
Funniest state fact during roll call: Maryland (especially because Kirsten Kyne rocked the costume!)
If you were a speaker, what song would you want played as you walked on stage? "Never Let You Go" by Jakaranda (The Parent Trap soundtrack)
Do you agree with the prediction? You bet! Mock Con's "getting it right" in 2012!
Would you rather vote for Mitt Romney or Obama? Haven't decided yet, but I was very persuaded this weekend!



Brendan McGoldrick
Class of 2014

Three words to describe Ann Coulter: Ravishing, insightful, clever
Three words to describe James Carville: Imposing, comedic, philosophical
Favorite social event: The band party
Most attractive speaker: Ann Coulter
Person I wished came to campus: George W. Bush
Favorite Float: Oregon
Funniest state fact during roll call: Guam
Do you agree with the prediction: Yes
Would you rather vote for Mitt Romney or Obama: Mitt "The Sh*t" Romney

Nico Ciniolo
Class of 2012



Best speech: Rep. Bob Goodlatte's rhetorical questions got me all riled up
Three words to describe Ann Coulter: F**k, marry, kill
Three words to describe James Carville: Looks like Gollum
Favorite social event of the weekend: VIP Dinner on Friday night
Most attractive speaker: Kelly Evans wins it in a 49 state landslide
Person you wish had come to campus: THE HUNTSMAN DAUGHTERS
Favorite float in the parade: Kentucky
Funniest state fact during roll call: "Michigan, home to Detroit, where the temperature isn't the only thing keeping you from going outside."
Do you agree with the prediction? Sure, but I don't think it will be that kind of blowout
Would you rather vote for Mitt Romney or Obama? Ron Paul

Alexandra Uiers
Class of 2014



Best speech: My favorite speech of the weekend was Huckabee. Although he's idealistic, I really thought he was a great speaker, and I would love to live in his version of America.
Three words to describe Ann Coulter: Hot, bold, strong-willed
Three words to describe James Carville: Understands his audience
Favorite social event of the weekend: Parade!
Most attractive speaker: Huntsman
Person you wish had come to campus: Marco Rubio would have been interesting to hear, especially since his name has been tossed around as being the VP candidate.
Favorite float in the parade: Puerto Rico obviously!
Funniest state fact during roll call: Puerto Rico!!! Those girls were hot.
If you were a speaker, what song would you want played as you walked on stage? "Party in the USA"
Do you agree with the prediction? As a state chair, I completely agree at least on behalf of my territory. Zach is so smart, and he really knows what he's talking about, so I respect his opinion on the prediction. It will be interesting to see if Romney does win.

Philip Bassani
Class of 2012



Best speech: Eric Cantor's speech was phenomenal, but I would still have to say that Congressman Thad McCotter's was my favorite. It really made me think about "the times in which we live."
Three words to describe Ann Coulter: Uncompromising, pragmatic, sexy
Three words to describe James Carville: Ragin', engagin', cajun
Favorite social event of the weekend: I loved being in the parade. Fun for the whole family!
Most attractive speaker: Jon Huntsman. Impeccable hair.
Person you wish had come to campus: Herman Cain! I was really looking forward to seeing him speak. Too bad he couldn't make it.
Favorite float in the parade: My own float, American Samoa
Funniest state fact during roll call: Oregon, the beaver state
If you were a speaker, what song would you want played as you walked on stage? "I am a Real American" by Rick Derringer
Do you agree with the prediction? Absolutely. Mitt will surely get the nomination.
Would you rather vote for Mitt Romney or Obama? Since Romney won't continue to run up our national debt and run our economy into the ground, he's America's only real choice.

arts&life

February got you down?

...Cynthia Lam has the cure, several little-known holidays to get excited about

By Cynthia Lam
COPY EDITOR

Oh. It's February. This dreary realization immediately brings to mind grueling midterm exams and chubby, half-naked cupids. After the hype of the New Year, the rest of the season pales in comparison to the excitement of the holidays. Instead, we are left with stale Superbowl wings, barely-existent snow flurries, and stubborn leftover pounds as we lazily drag ourselves through winter term.

Luckily, the *Ring-tum Phi* has found the cure for these Winter Blues, with our innovative ways to celebrate lesser-known national holidays. Forget about Valentine's Day – these wild and wacky festivities will fill each day with thrills and excitement! Here are just a few of

the holidays you might have overlooked last month in the hazy blur of January:

Squirrel Appreciation Day (21st) – Get ready to go nuts! Show some love for your favorite furry friends by wearing plastic buckteeth and fuzzy brown clothing from head to tail. For a truly authentic wildlife experience, scurry up oak trees, nibble on acorn cookies, fight off chipmunks, and dig random holes in the back trails of the Blue Ridge Mountains to bury your precious nuts. After one day as a squirrel, you'll never want to go back to being a stressed-out human college student again.

Measure Your Feet Day (23rd) – Go all out by measuring your feet length,

width, size, surface area, and volume. For extra fun, measure your friends' feet. Better yet, stop random people heading to class on the Colonnade and measure their feet. Footsie competition, anyone?

Belly Laugh Day (24th) – Do you get annoyed when people laugh obnoxiously loud? Well, today is your chance to laugh just as loud by showing off your deepest, rowdiest belly laugh. That means throwing your arms up in the air, doubling over in laughter, and shaking uncontrollably on the ground every chance you get. But don't stop here – text LOL!!!, ROFL!!!, and LMAO!!! in bold, size 36 font all day long to share your belly laugh with everyone. Laugh-

ing out loud has never been more fun.

Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day (25th) – Pop. Pop. Pop. We're excited. Are you? Line your dorm halls with bubble wrap, and you'll always be able to tell when people come and go.

Thomas Crapper Day (27th) – As the inventor of the toilet, Thomas Crapper is definitely one of our most under-appreciated geniuses. Without him, life would be pretty messy... but let's not even go there. To make it up, show Mr. Crapper some love by singing "Happy Birthday" to him every time you go to the bathroom. Thanks to him, we can literally flush our "troubles" away.

Insane Answering Machine Day

(30th) – Admit it. We've all been tricked by those ridiculous messages. Well, today it's your turn to have some fun. Try out these classic lines for a good laugh!

"Hey, this is WLUR, you're on air."
"Hello, this is the Rejection Hotline. How can I help you?"

"Hi, I'm probably here, just avoiding someone I don't like. Leave a message, and if I don't call back, it's you."

Now that you've seen all the enticing holidays you missed in January, keep an eye out for the ones in February. **Beans (Dried and Fresh) Month**, anyone?

Director relates prisoner's tale

Film director Alexandra Sviridova spoke to students about the terrors of Gulag Labor Camps

By Anna DiBenedetto
STAFF WRITER

Renowned Russian film director Alexandra Sviridova told Washington and Lee students the story of a Gulag Labor Camp prisoner who survived frigid winters and cannibalistic fellow inmates.

In Leyburn Library last Tuesday,

Sviridova recounted the experience of Varlam Shalamov, a Russian writer who was placed in the Gulag Labor Camp in the Kolyma Region of Germany in 1937. Kolyma is known for its six-month cold winters with average temperatures of -10

degrees Fahrenheit.

Shalamov's wrote a book about his time in the camp, *Kolyma Tales*. In it he recalls how some prisoners were called "pigs." Pigs were veteran prisoners who would befriend new prisoners by taking

them under his wing and looking out for him. He would feed him extra pieces of bread, and then in the winter, when there food was scarce, the "pig" would kill the less-experienced prisoner and feed on his body.

Sviridova was born in Moscow in 1951 and has received numerous awards for her work as a filmmaker and as an author. She was brought to campus on behalf of the Russian area studies program.

Happy Valentines Day!



sports



ANDREW RENALDO

STEPHEN PECK

Jeremy Lin, the new point guard extraordinaire for the New York Knicks, has been the hottest topic in the NBA for the past week. The "Linsanity" keeps growing with each game, as Lin not only continues to put on stellar performances, but has also led the Knicks to five straight victories—despite missing marquee players Carmelo Anthony and Amar'e Stoudemire. The fact that Lin has galvanized the team with these two stat-happy stars on the bench has led some to believe that the Knicks may be better when Lin is the focal point. However, while Anthony and Stoudemire do need to adjust their playing style upon returning to the lineup, analysts should not get carried away. Lin will remain integral to the Knicks' success, but the team should still revolve around Carmelo and Amar'e.

For those who missed it, Jeremy Lin emerged from obscurity last week to lead a struggling Knicks' team back to relevance. Some may remember him from his days at Harvard or from his brief stint with the Golden State Warriors, but most knew little about him until he recently catapulted to Tebow-esque levels of fame and popularity (if you need proof, he's already the first suggested search when you type "je" into Google). In addition to distributing the ball well, Lin has shown an incredible scoring touch. After scoring 25 points against the Nets, he added 28 points (and a blue-gatorade-tinged-tongue-out celebration) against the Jazz, and a whopping 38 points against the Lakers. With each game, Lin convinces more fans that his rise is no fluke.

The Knicks have succeeded over the past five games due to Lin's ability to fulfill his team's needs from the point guard position rather than his ability to replace Anthony and Stoudemire. Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni prefers an up-tempo style that puts a premium on the point guard's command of the game. While Lin is not a fast-break machine, he excels at the pick-and-roll, a play that utilizes his decision-making skills. Lin offers D'Antoni a point guard with the desired poise and versatility to control games. This attribute, and not his scoring, has helped the Knicks the most. Despite Lin's impressive numbers, his performances should be kept in perspective. Without detracting from his amazing run, Lin may not be able to maintain his scoring pace against the Eastern Conference's best teams. The Knicks will need an elite, crunch-time scorer like Anthony to compete with the Miami Heats of the world, even if his shots translate into fewer scoring opportunities for Lin. Lin has excelled against a few bottom-dwellers as well as several good teams, but the Knicks need extra offensive firepower to beat the best.

Many think Anthony's style of play will not fit with Lin's, but there's reason to believe Lin's game will complement both Anthony's and Stoudemire's skill sets. Prior to his injury, Anthony had been scoring loads of points, but inefficiently. He took lots of shots and slowed the Knicks' pace by demanding the ball in half-court sets. In fairness to Carmelo, though, he had to assume an unaccustomed role of point forward during the Knicks' search for a competent point guard. When he returns, Anthony will have to be content with having less of a creative role and allowing the ball to be more often in Lin's hands. In return, Lin's ability to penetrate defenses should give Anthony more open looks on kick-outs. Even more enticing is the prospect of Lin combining with Stoudemire on pick-and-rolls (Stoudemire's favorite). During their time in Phoenix (with D'Antoni as their coach), Steve Nash and Amar'e ran pick-and-rolls to devastating effect. Lin may not quite be at Nash's level, but his style is similar and should keep Stoudemire happy with a steady supply of alley-oops.

To succeed, then, the Knicks need Lin, Anthony, and Stoudemire to adjust their styles in order to suit each other's strengths. Although easier said than done, this collection of players can definitely thrive together. Lin has starred during the latter two's absence, but the Knicks will need all three to be in top form to contend for an NBA championship.

Are the Knicks better off with Jeremy Lin in the lineup, or Carmelo Anthony and Amar'e Stoudemire?

Stephen and Andrew give you their two cents.

There are two Jeremy Lins. There is Jeremy Lin the player. And there is Jeremy Lin the phenomenon.

Their combined effects have instilled life in New York basketball and have clearly shown that the formula for the Knicks' success should rely on a heavy dose of number 17, and not their overpaid superstars, Carmelo Anthony and Amar'e Stoudemire.

Lin's style of play is not overpowering. He doesn't overwhelm with a single skill. It doesn't matter. Jeremy Lin, the player, is exactly what this Knicks team needs to win.

Head coach Mike D'Antoni's up-tempo system relies on fast breaks and pick-and-rolls. D'Antoni wants to force the defense to run around, then exploit the split second when they are off balance. D'Antoni's system needs a point guard who is patient, who is a supreme ball handler, who is constantly looking for the open man, and who can hit the open jumper when it is

there.

He had Steve Nash in Phoenix. He now has Jeremy Lin in New York.

Granted, the former is a seven-time all star, two-time MVP, and surefire Hall of Famer, and the latter has only started four NBA games. But the similarities are there. And the success when the system works is there as well.

Lin can score on his own. His drives to the hoop are whirling, spinning, works of art in which he usually flies into the paint, absorbs contact and finishes with a finger roll layup. He makes it look easy.

But what makes Lin so important to this revitalized Knicks team is his ability to distribute. Instead of crawling into a half court set, and waiting for Carmelo to break down his defender one on one, the rest of the Knicks are involved. Tyson Chandler is on the receiving end of a handful of alley oops from Lin each game. Iman Shumpert of all people is suddenly a viable offensive option. Games are now a team effort for the Knicks.

And the rest of the Knicks are excited. They seem to love to play with Lin because he genuinely seems to enjoy himself on the court. Which leads us to Jeremy Lin, the phenomenon.

Lin is a walking Disney movie. He is an Asian-American from California and was lightly recruited coming out of high school. He ended up at Harvard and went undrafted coming out of college. He was picked up and cut by Houston and Golden State and was toiling in the D-League before an injury to Chauncey Billups gave him a chance in New York.

Four games, four wins, and 109 points later (the most points scored in a player's first four starts ever), Linsanity has gripped America.

He's hard not to like. He plays with enthusiasm. He's humble, soft-spoken, and deeply religious. He scores. He passes. He wins.

So many people are rooting for him. And that includes the rest of the Knicks. The team appears simultaneously energized and relaxed. They seem involved in every possession now, instead of sleepwalking down the court and letting Carmelo and Amar'e force up shots.

Carmelo and Amar'e are supreme talents, but the Knicks are better off with Lin running the show. Because the reality is, as cliché as it sounds, teams are better than individuals.

Jeremy Lin won't light up the scoreboard every night. He was outplayed by Ricky Rubio when New York played Minnesota on Saturday night.

But the Knicks are winning. And they are winning the right way with the right player on the court. And that player's last name is Lin, and not Anthony or Stoudemire.

A-Rod goes deep, Wang hurt

By CHRIS BURGAN
OF Sports Illustrated

HOUSTON — China's Ming Wang pitched five scoreless innings before spraining his knee, and Alex Rodriguez hit a three-run homer in the top of the ninth to lead the New York Yankees to a 12-0 win over the Houston Astros on Sunday.

Wang (8-2) pulled up as he rounded third on Derek Jeter's two-run single during the Yankees' eighth-inning lead. He hopped with landing, the way he had pointed to his right knee after scoring. A trainer checked on him and Wang was helped off the field.



FAIL

MISSISSIPPI'S literacy program shows improvement

FAIL

ON TEENAGERS, ADULT!

Statistics show that teen pregnancy drops off significantly after age 25.

Mary Anne Tetreault, Republican state senator from Colorado Springs
(contributed by Harry F. Pinner)

MONDAY DECEMBER 1999

FAIL

Find an error in this week's Phi? We're running low on copy editors.

Email the phi at phi@wlu.edu with your corrections!

The person with the most gets baked goods, my undying gratitude and a shout-out in the next issue!

sports



ondeck

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Men's Basketball			vs EM 7:00pm				at VaWes 2:00pm
Women's Basketball		vs E&H 7:00pm			vs Lynchburg 7:00pm	vs Randolph 4:00pm	
Men's Lacrosse		vs Ferrum 5:00pm					at CNU 1:00pm
Women's Lacrosse							at CNU 3:00pm
Men's Swimming			Bluegrass Mountain Champs	Bluegrass Mountain Champs	Bluegrass Mountain Champs		
Men's Tennis				vs Lynchburg 3:30 pm			at JHU 2:00pm
Women's Tennis			vs Radford 4:30pm				vs Bridgewater 10am vs JMU @ 1:00pm

in the numbers

11

The number of personal bests for the women's track team in back-to-back meets.

109

Total number of points New York Knick Jeremy Lin has scored in his first four career starts. This is an NBA record.

9

Total number of golfers with 40 career PGA tour wins after Phil Mickelson won the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Sunday.

15

Total number of goals scored in the African Cup of Nations title game. Zambia defeated Ivory Coast 8-7 after penalty kicks..

soapbox

"We're a poor road team, and that's what we need to turn around. If we could figure out a way to win games on the road, our record would be much, much better."

-- Laker Kobe Bryant after the Lakers won just their fifth road game of the season. The Lakers are 18-12 on the season, from SI.com

"It's certainly [Boehim's] deepest team. Whether or not it's his best team, rest of the season will tell you that. I have not seen one of his teams be deeper than they are."

--UConn Assistant Head Coach George Blaney about Jim Boehim and the Syracuse basketball team after the Orange beat the Huskies on Saturday, from SI.com

Women's T&F strong at Naval Academy

Fugate, Maddison, and Schultz lead team at Navy Sweetheart Meet

By Catherine Tinney
STAFF WRITER

The women's track and field team had several strong performances at the Navy Sweetheart Meet this past Thursday.

The meet consisted of two other Division III track programs and three Division I track programs. James Madison University, Johns Hopkins University, Navy, Loyola, and McDaniel all brought their women's teams to the all-female meet.

Action for the Generals was highlighted by a new school record. The Generals established the sprint medley relay with a time of 4:28.40.

First-years Janey Fugate, Jillian Katterhagen, sophomore Annelise Madison, and senior Natalie Stier combined to place fourth.

Other strong performances include Madison in the mile, Katterhagen in the pole vault, and junior Lauren Schultz in the 3,000 meter run.

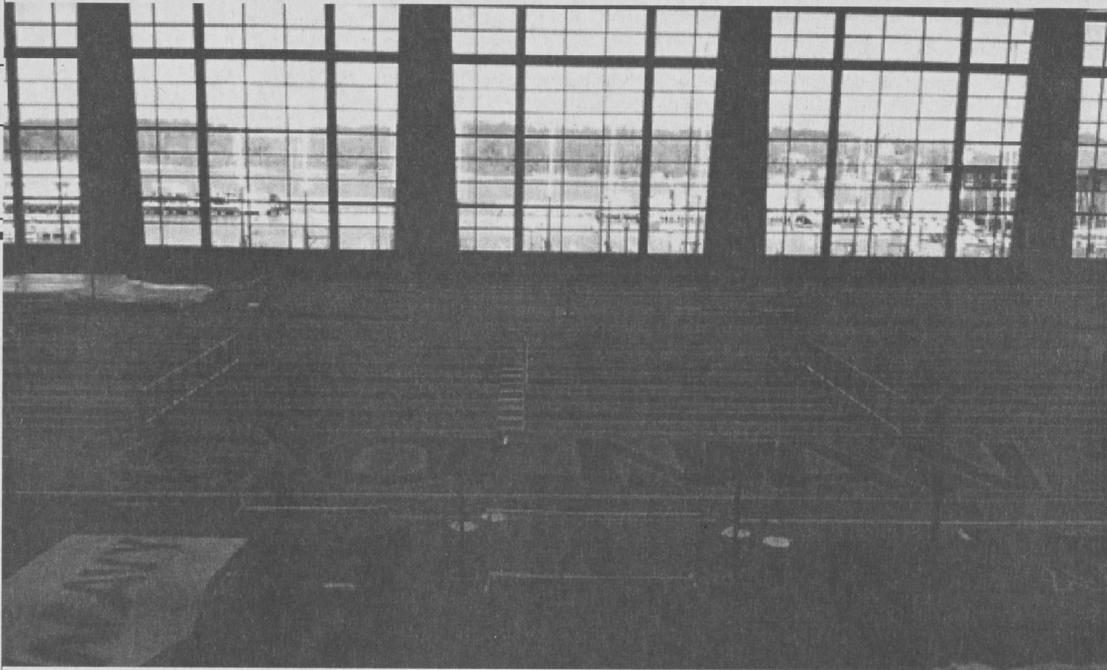
Madison ran a time of 5:15.35 to place second. It is the fastest mile run in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference all season.

Katterhagen also leads the ODAC in her event. She vaulted 3.15 meters to place fourth

in the meet.

Schultz took fourth in the 3,000 by running a time of 10:44.38. The next day she, along with sophomore Brandie Huffman, was honored by United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. They both are Division III All-academic honorees for their performances during the cross country season.

The women's track and field team will be back in action at the ODAC championships on February 24.



LEIGH DANNHAUSER / sports editor

Tallman runs into record books

Generals continue to break records as the ODAC championships loom closer

By Leigh Dannhauser
SPORTS EDITOR

Washington and Lee's men's track and field team continues to break records on its way to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference championships.

Two more records fell yesterday at the Bucknell Winter Classic, the last meet before the ODAC championships.

Sophomore Zander Tallman broke both the 200m record and the 400m record, en route to placing first among Division III competitors in

both events. Tallman also placed first overall in the 400.

Tallman ran the 400m in a time of 49.06. Not only was this a school record, but the time places him among the Top 10 for all Division III runners in the event this season. He also holds the top ranking in the ODAC in the event.

In the 200, Tallman ran a time of 22.31 to place third overall. First-year Aaron Jeong ran

a time of 23.34 in the same event to place third among Division III competitors.

Other notable performances include Matt Gossett's mile time of 4:25.67 to place fourth and Kane Thomas' 800m time of 1:59.09 to put him in the ODAC.

The Generals return to the track on February 24 when they compete for the ODAC title.

Women's swimming leading ODACs

After 2 days of competition, the Generals boast a lead of almost 200 points

By Leigh Dannhauser
SPORTS EDITOR

After two days of competition and three broken school records, the women's swim team headed into the last day of the ODAC swimming championships, leading with a score of 658 points. Randolph-Macon was in second with 489 points, and Sweet Briar was in third with 244 points.

The first day of the three-day meet was highlighted with a new school record in the 400 medley relay. Seniors Jocelyn Cassada and Dana Fredericks teamed up with sophomore Meredith Hardy and first-year Caroline

Hamp to swim a time of 3:59.44. The astounding performance set a meet record.

The Generals also won the 200 free relay and the 500m freestyle. The 200 free relay team consisted of Cassada, Fredericks, Hardy, and junior Izzy Brassfield. Junior Delaney Rolfe won the 500m free.

Two more records were broken on the second day of competition as the girls surged forward, smashing the 800 free relay and the 100 breast times.

The 800 free relay team consisted of Rolfe,

Hardy, senior Elizabeth Starnes, and sophomore Lauren Kasoff. They swam a time of 7:49.1 to break the school record, the meet record, and the ODAC record.

Fredericks broke the 100 breast record with a time of 1:07.47.

The Generals continued to compete on Sunday with preliminaries in the morning and finals at night. Results from either session were not available.

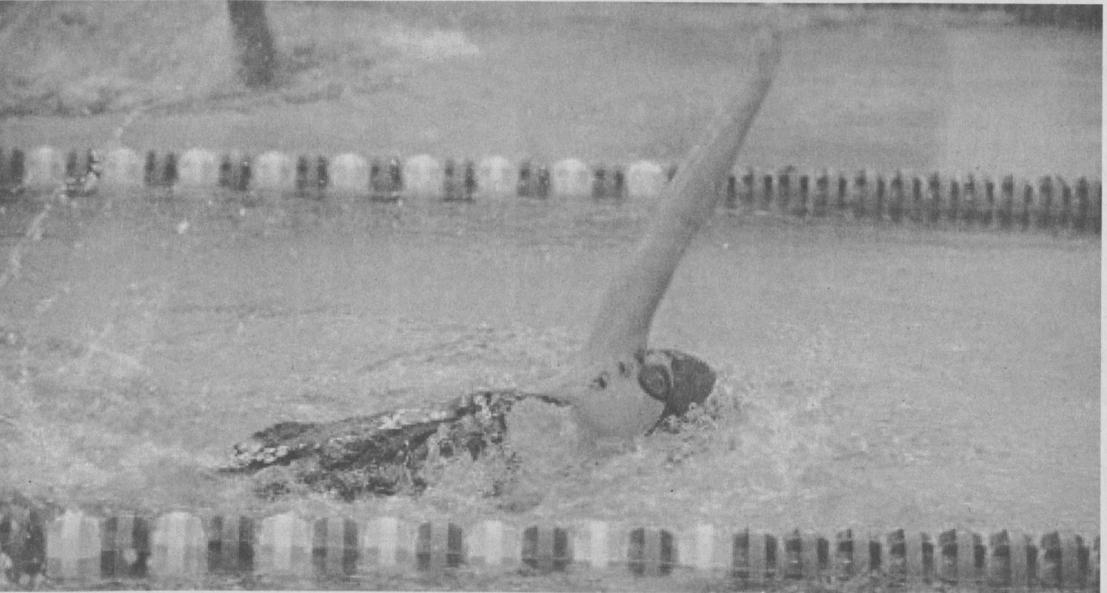


PHOTO COURTESY OF GENERALSPORTS.COM