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Homecoming Queen responds

Quiana McKenzie takes issue with Cody Beauchamp's column and argues that students -- not the administration -- are responsible for the diversity-promoting activities on campus.

OPINIONS / Page 3

Now premiering: the Phi's movie review column

In our first movie review column, Scott Centorino breaks down American Gangster, the new Ridley Scott movie that stars Oscar winners Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe.

ARTS & LIFE / page 4

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2007

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

VOLUME CXI, NUMBER 7

TraveLLer
traveller.wlu.edu

TRAVELLER EXPRESS
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights
10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

THE COUNTRY EXPRESS ROUTE IS HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

TRAVELLER BUS STOPS

1. Woods Creek Apartments
2. Law School parking lot
3. Behind Sorority Houses
4. Borden Commons
5. Freshman Dorms
6. Parking Lot Behind Southern Inn
7. International House
8. White/Moist Street
9. Davidson Park - East near Kappa Sigma
10. Davidson Park - West near Pi Phi Fraternity
11. Lee Chapel Parking Lot (To Country)
12. Windfall Hill
13. Sandbridge Ln.
14. Pole Houses
15. Lee Chapel Parking Lot (From Town)

* Routes are subject to change
** Look for black benches at most stops

Items in BOX are significant landmarks

Traveller 3 SERVICES

COURTESY OF TRAVELLER

Problems have continued with the TraveLLer safe-ride system. On Monday night someone at the Pole Houses threw cans at a dispatch van. When the driver got out, bystanders said the student ran away.

Drivers reflect on driving, students over Parents' Weekend

By Wes O'Dell
STAFF WRITER

It's shortly after 11 p.m. on Parents Weekend, and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons are blaring in the background. The girls in the back are tipsily trying to get the names of their cadet escorts straight—then the chorus hits and they abandon their efforts in order to sing along. The music is loud and spirits are high as "December, 1963" gives way to "You Make Me Feel Like Dancing."

It's just another night on one of TraveLLer's buses.

The TraveLLer safe-ride system, the network of professionally contracted buses and student-driven taxis designed to get partygoers home safely, has faced a particularly challenging year; physical damage to the buses, verbal abuse from students, and a renegade malevolent bus driver have all strained

nerves at a program that has expanded exponentially over the last few years to meet tremendous student demand.

It has done so in the wake of several failed

"On average, I think they do really well. Most show respect, but then you have the oddball ..."

John Smith, TraveLLer bus driver

safe-ride systems that have graced W&L's campus over the last two decades.

The drivers themselves had much to say

about their job on recent ride-alongs conducted by the Phi.

The Good

The men and women who drive for TraveLLer do so because they genuinely enjoy the job.

"I love it; this is my relaxation time. I have a good time driving...I get to chat with the kids," said driver Mike Hudnall, a "four or five year" veteran of TraveLLer.

"It feels pretty good [keeping drunk drivers off the road]," he added.

Similarly, the drivers agree that, despite recent troubles, most riders are polite and well-behaved.

"On average, I think they do really well," said Jerry Massie, the site manager and lead

See "TRAVELLER" on page 2

Ruscio defends proposed four-week Spring Term

Current structure strains faculty, undermines academic exploration

By John Henderson
STAFF WRITER

President Ruscio made the case for a shorter Spring Term on Monday to students, stating that two classes in the spring is too many. "If we don't do something, spring term is going to be in real jeopardy," he said.

But he made his pitch to a largely empty room. Two student forums—one on Oct. 15 and one on Oct. 29—drew just one student to each meeting.

That miserly turnout suggests that student input won't be a major factor when faculty vote on the plan today.

This year, students will be required to take two classes during Spring Term, which Ruscio believes will defeat the purpose of having a shorter semester. He is concerned that Spring Term will become a condensed fall or winter term, not the immersive academic experience it was meant to be.

Last year, the faculty voted in favor of a two-class requirement for Spring Term, believing that many students were treating Spring Term like a six-week vacation. A more intensive term would keep students focused on school, they reasoned.

But as Ruscio pointed out, 25 percent of the student body would have to leave to accommodate regular class limits. Otherwise, classes would have to get bigger. Ruscio fears that small classes encouraging academic exploration, which are the essence of Spring Term, would be replaced by large, ungainly ones.

"If we don't do something, Spring Term is going to be in real jeopardy...we have one foot on the gas and the other foot on the brakes."

Ken Ruscio, university president

Ruscio's plan would limit students to one class during the four-week term and thereby keep classes small. He said that his model would revert Spring Term to its original format: a short, intense academic experience with greater flexibility.

Ruscio stressed that he is not trying to get rid of Spring Term but save it. He said, "I'm worried that in two years it would really collapse... This is a way of rejuvenating Spring Term." He said that students would still have the option of going abroad for a full six weeks or doing spring internships such as the Washington Program.

Ruscio sees a lot of potential in a four-week Spring Term. Without scheduling constraints, professors could be creative

See "RUSCIO'S PLAN" on page 2

Volleyball back in NCAAs

Team upsets No. 1 seed Bridgewater to win another ODAC crown

By Michael Keenan
SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time in years, the Washington and Lee women's volleyball team did not enter the ODAC playoffs as the top seed. However, this only made them more determined to win as they steamrolled their way through Emory & Henry, Randolph-Macon College, and Bridgewater to win their seventh consecutive ODAC title and assure themselves a place in the NCAA playoffs. The Generals entered the tournament as one of the league's hottest teams, riding a 22 game winning streak dating back to September 22.

On Friday evening the Generals opened the tournament against seventh-seeded Emory & Henry. The Generals took the sting out of the Wasps who only managed a meager 0.073 hitting percentage for the match. Offensively, the Generals were led by junior Laura Maurer's 10 kills and eight aces and sophomore Rachael Phillips' 10 kills. Preparing the way for the attack were setters senior Lauren Rudolph and sophomore Kristi Stevens, who tallied 17 and 20 assists, respectively.

"We just focused on our game and played at our own pace, not thinking about what team was on the other side of the net," said Phillips about the team's focus in the early rounds.

The final score was 30-19, 30-17, 30-12. The win advanced the Generals to the semifinals where they would face sixth-seeded Randolph-Macon who upset Virginia Wesleyan to advance.

The Generals did not drop a game to Randolph-Macon in the two matches they played during the regular season. The streak continued as the Generals swept the Marlins 3-0 with games scores of 30-14, 30-17, 30-25. Phillips and Maurer continued to lead their way, tallying 18 and 12 kills respectively. Stevens and Rudolph combined to chip in 36 assists, and senior Jess Hudock added seven kills and eight digs.

"We had no doubt that we were going to win the game against Bridgewater. We have a much tougher schedule than they do and have battled good teams and come out on top, so we had the edge in that area."

LAUREN RUDOLPH, team captain

In the finals, the Generals faced a Bridgewater team that had not lost since September 15 and had swept the Generals in the Warner Center earlier in the season. However, the team knew this match would be different.

"We had no doubt that we were going to win the game against Bridgewater," said Rudolph. "We have a much tougher schedule than they do and have battled good teams and come out on top, so we had the edge in that area. The first time we played Bridgewater we did not play as well as we wanted to, and we lost. Of course we hated losing to them

in the regular season, but that game helped us see what we needed to improve upon to get better as a team, so we focused on those things and have improved dramatically since then."

The Generals played like a team on a mission, grounding the Eagles' plans to foil the Generals' hopes for a seventh straight ODAC title. En route to a 30-22, 30-19, 30-18 victory, the Generals were led by the usual sus-

pects. Phillips, Maurer and Hudock all registered double-digit kill totals while Rudolph and Stevens combined for 39 assists.

"It is amazing to have won ODACs every year that I have played," said Rudolph. "Being a part of a program that is this successful is amazing and I'm sure that tradition will continue long after I'm gone because of the coaches and players that constitute the W&L volleyball program."

The team title was not the only piece of

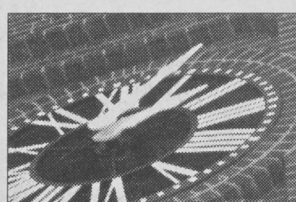
See "VOLLEYBALL" on page 2

Ruscio's plan

- A shortened four-week Spring Term will replace the current six-week term.
- Students will only be required to take one intensive academic class. Ruscio believes this will revitalize the academic conversation and allow professors to structure their classes in new and exciting ways.
- Requiring one class during Spring Term instead of two will also allow classes to stay small.
- Students still have the option of going abroad for a full six weeks or doing spring internships such as Washington Term.
- Teaching, credit, and major requirements will be reduced. Professors will only have to teach 5.5 courses per year, which means five courses one year and six the next.
- If faculty approve the plan it will take effect during the 2009-2010 school year. This spring and next spring would operate under the previous system, where students can take one or two classes during the six week term.

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news



Life on Traveller

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bus driver; “most show respect, but then you have the oddball...the one’s that are good try to be good for the one’s that aren’t.”

Hudnall has actually seen marked improvement over the last few years; while he received “no thank-yous” his first year at W&L, he now says a majority of riders thank him.

“For the most part, students are very polite,” said driver John Smith, “[but] every crowd has one or two jerks.”

The Bad

According to Smith, there are three kinds of drunks: “the happy go-lucky drunk, who is nice and sweet, the guy who wants to fight, and the sick and blacked-out kind.”

Rude and belligerent riders are a pe-

rennial problem none of the drivers believe will ever go away. Each deals with them in their own way.

Hudnall, for example, is fond of slowing down near the county jail and directing the angry rider’s attention that way: “there’s free room and board there!” he exclaims.

Music can also sooth the savage drunk; Massie and Hudnall’s buses are both equipped with sound systems. “They ask for music,” said Massie, “[it’ll] keep them calm until we get where we are going.”

Sick students are a sore spot: “Use the bucket, don’t use the bus,” said Hudnall. John Smith—who has taken three students to the Health Center already this year—vividly recounted an episode in which a rider at the back of the bus was so sick that the evidence of his sickness ran all the way to the front of the bus.

Liquids of any sort are forbidden; visual evidence of alcohol earlier this year

even provoked the police to search a bus. This Parents Weekend, one rider tried to bring what Smith described as “a trash bag full of beer” on the bus. When Smith explained that the spirits would have to stay behind, the spurned rider was “very upset.”

The drivers agree that students don’t understand the buses.

“When they get on the bus, it’s like ‘what can you do for me?’” said Smith. Students don’t realize that Traveller is a system to get them home safely. Many also can’t wrap their minds around the idea of Country Express, which runs a continuous route from Red Square to the country after midnight to reduce wait times.

Riders tend to swarm the buses near the end of the night, fearful of being stranded. Drivers have seen some students nearly trampled in the rush, despite the fact that the buses will generally make another run after 2:00 if the

crowds warrant it; Traveller Country Express didn’t return to Red Square on Parents Weekend Saturday until 2:29.

Despite recent troubles, Massie is optimistic that the Traveller organization and the students can solve their problems: “Together, we’ll all get this ironed out.”

The Taxi

There is no typical night for a Traveller Dispatch driver. On October 26, for example, driver Jess Steinmetz (with a Phi reporter in tow) was sent to a non-existent address in town, mistaken for a Dominoes delivery vehicle, and offered a chance to purchase narcotics sometime in the future by a particularly grateful rider.

“It was such a slow night,” she said—without irony—afterward.

Operated by the students for the students, the Dispatch service operates a number of taxicabs that ferry students

throughout the town and county. Thus far into the year, drivers have been confronted with an unusual amount of abuse on the part of the riders.

“People think [it’s] their right, a privilege,” Steinmetz said in reference to the program, which relies in large part on the willingness of service-minded students to give up their party nights to help make the community safer.

The pay they receive is often comparable with that offered by fraternities to their school-mandated sober drivers, but the treatment they receive at the hands of riders is often worse thanks to the sense of entitlement many students attach to the Traveller service.

Nonetheless, Traveller drivers soldier on, both for the pay and for the satisfaction that comes with helping fellow students.

“I’m supposed to get off at 2:00,” said Steinmetz. “I’ve never gotten off at 2:00.”

Ruscio’s plan

continued from page one

with how they structure their classes, he said. Students would have more time and attention to dedicate to one class and would get more out of it.

The plan would “revitalize the academic conversation and get us thinking in new and exciting ways,” Ruscio said.

Ruscio’s plan is not just to shorten Spring Term but to lessen the teaching, credit and major requirements as well. Professors would only have to teach 5.5 courses per year, which in practical terms means five courses one year and six courses the next. Teaching is more complex than ever, Ruscio said, and professors need more time to teach, advise, write and do research.

Ruscio said that most other liberal arts schools have far smaller requirements than we do, but at W&L we try to do too much. “We have one foot on the gas and the other foot on the brakes” he said.

But Ruscio also feels that W&L has the best environment of any liberal arts college for teaching and learning. He believes that if W&L can rethink its requirements, it will become a leader among liberal arts colleges. “We’d be like the Red Sox sweeping the Rockies” he said.

Ruscio will present his plan to the faculty today. If approved, the plan would go into effect in the 2009-2010 academic year. Spring term would go back to its original format until that time six weeks long with only one required class.

Volleyball

continued from page one

hardware the Generals took home. Phillips was named ODAC MVP. She was joined on the All-ODAC team by Maurer and Hudock.

The Generals now move on to the NCAA playoffs where they could be sent to Texas or New Jersey.

“We want to have another great NCAA run like last year, and it is definitely possible,” said Rudolph. “Once we find out who and where we play, that first game will be our focus, but if we continue to play the way we have the past few weeks, I think it will be a great NCAA tournament for us.”

“Whether we win or lose, we just hope to play all out and leave everything on the court,” said Phillips. “And if we do lose, we want to go down fighting.”

Seven straight

- Aside from Bridgewater’s title in 2000, W&L has won every ODAC crown since 1997
- The regular season loss to Bridgewater was the first ODAC loss since 2001

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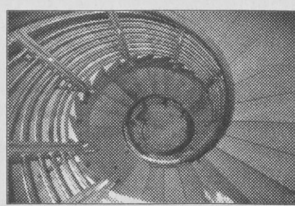
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opinions

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When I think sometimes

Why do we laugh at situations that really are not funny?

By Lenora Nunnley
COLUMNIST

Why exactly do we laugh? That's right; I am asking why do we laugh, in particular at other people? Many of the things that we giggle, chuckle, and double over laughing at are not really funny at all once you stop and think about it.

I'm sure you've found yourself, at some point in your life, laughing at a person because they are running. Yes, running, which by itself is not hilarious. However, given that all surrounding people are calmly walking and there's that one man who is sprinting as if being chased by a cheetah that hasn't eaten for 91.2 days, you just might find running rather funny.

Would you laugh? Even if you're not the laughing type, most would smile or at least make a little humming sound as if to contain a laugh.

Why? Because we find it funny when other people run and we are unaware of the reason. Of course the man could be running to save a baby who is being suspended over a balcony by a very pale high-voiced male or perhaps he is running to help a 97-year-old lady cross the street. However, because of his inability to share that valuable information, he will be the source of someone else's laughter.

Sadly, I cannot honestly say that it would make much of a difference even if he were being chased by a hungry cheetah. It's my bet that after the bystanders ensured their own safety, they would most definitely bend over and laugh at the man who was running for his life.

This is not funny. However, if such a thing were to happen, I guarantee you that 99.5 percent of the witnesses would laugh, call someone else and tell an exaggerated version of the story, and/or bring up the situation for comic relief at some point in

the future.

Why do we laugh when people fall? Here's how it usually happens: Somehow you fall, quick like lightning you get up, rearrange your clothes, and wipe off a single bead of perspiration, and you look around two to four times to make sure you were not seen.

If you have witnesses, you look down at your feet and floor and exclaim "what was that?" loud enough for everyone to hear, pretending that something besides your own two feet caused your fall. As you

Of course the man could be running to save a baby who is being suspended over a balcony by a very pale high-voiced male... but because of his inability to share that, it's funny.

carefully walk away looking confused, you listen for whispers or laughs. Once you're out of sight of the witnesses you sigh while thinking, "That was so embarrassing."

That's mostly likely how you reacted when you fell. A deviation would be if you fell on your face or in front of kids. If you fall on your face, never jump back up; most likely your face will be stinging so badly that you won't be able to anyway.

However, even if you feel like you can get up, stay on the ground motionless and wait for someone to run to your rescue; that way people will be more apt to feel sorry for you or at least see if you are okay before laughing. Actually, when you fall it's

always best to stay on the ground for a few seconds rather than jump back up; with every second you remain on the ground, the level of sympathy you will receive increases exponentially.

But if you fall in front of a group of kids, you better be prepared for an earthquake. Yes, the earth will shake with high pitched laughter. A vivid description of your fall will definitely be the first thing out of all the kids' mouths when they see their parents.

Most likely after one of these falls you will start preaching that falling is not a laughing matter and can be very serious because people can get hurt. Your pride will probably be the only things hurting at the time, but you will try to convince the kids otherwise by making up some story about someone who fell and had to go to the hospital. The extreme may even say that the person died because of their fall.

If your trip, you will also get laughed at. However, trips are more disappointing, at least for the witnesses. So you're walking, whistling a cheerful tune, and you trip; there is a split second between a trip and a fall, and it's during that split second that suspense builds and people become excited.

During that split second, people around you will start celebrating within themselves as they think they are about to witness a fall. However, you terminate their anticipated climax of you hitting the pavement when you catch yourself and do not fall.

Of course, some will ask you if you are okay, but they are secretly very dismayed; others will laugh anyway to mask their disappointment.

I've given you three examples of things we laugh at that are not exactly funny, however, the list could go on. By no means am I advising anyone to stop laughing. Laughing is good for your health; I just want you to stop and ponder why we laugh.

letters to the editor

Diversity needs student participation

W&L's first Black Homecoming Queen addresses student shock at her win

I was not surprised to find an article attacking diversity on our campus in the Parents Weekend Edition. It is a yearly tradition after all. I was taken aback, however, by the number of factual errors within "Guilt Fuels Diversity Initiatives." Before I address the substantial concerns about diversity on our campus, let me set a few things straight.

There are indeed special diversity awareness weeks, meals in the dining hall, and speakers. Most of these initiatives are hosted by student organizations, not the administration. The Multicultural Student Association (MSA) sponsors heritage months that recognize the contributions of the various cultures and groups to W&L life and American society. The Student Association for International Learning (SAIL) often collaborates with the D-Hall to sponsor special menus, drawing attention to the diversity that exists within our student body. I imagine that if I came from another country, I would want to share some aspect of my culture with others. Why not food? We all have to eat.

The article also mentions that there are special programs to help non-white students "transition" into life at W&L. I like to think of myself as rather informed, and to my knowledge,

there are no special transition programs for multicultural students. In general, students have access to the same transition programs. If there are efforts to help multicultural students adjust to campus, they are initiated and controlled by other students.

It is not my intention to focus on these surface-level details about diversity. Instead, like the author, I want to challenge the common perception of diversity on our campus. The problem with diversity on our campus lies not with the administration but with the student body. Let's discuss the Homecoming Queen controversy.

I am honored to be the 2007 Homecoming Queen and indeed, W&L's first Black Homecoming Queen. What is sad about the experience is that so many of us were shocked that it happened. Despite my work on campus, love for this university and some (not all) of its traditions, I was afraid that I would not be named Homecoming Queen because of my race. Many students are genuinely excited that I am Homecoming Queen, yet others would deny me the opportunity because I am black. It's disappointing to think that students, my peers, would not be able to see past my race and acknowledge my connection to

this university. In a community that claims to be inclusive, it's hard to deal with this conflicting perspective.

I am positive that when those students expressed shock about a black Homecoming Queen that other students stayed silent and did not challenge their statements. I recognize that there are "unofficial" pressures on campus to change who one is and conform to different ways of thinking, acting, and even dressing. I know that there is a tendency to ignore or disparage other students because of their gender, sexual orientation, Greek affiliation (or lack thereof), race, or ethnicity. We criticize the actions of our administration but how often do we consider our own actions? Those pressures, those statements, and that way of life come from within our student body.

So what is diversity done right? The first step to "doing" diversity right is to stop thinking of it as a burden upon our university rather than a benefit. We should all consider how increased diversity can broaden our perspectives and help us further engage in our local and global communities rather than focus on unrealistic hypothetical changes to our university (such as white southerners becoming a minority group).

Diversity done right includes initiating open dialogue among students about our campus culture and acknowledging that not every tradition is perfect. Diversity done right includes initiatives by students to assess inclusiveness on campus. It also includes a student commitment to diversity in its many forms. Like the author, I look forward to the day when it's not a novelty that a deserving woman of any background is named Homecoming Queen. In order to see that day, however, W&L students will have to take an active role in bringing it about.

Therefore, it's not a bad thing to celebrate that W&L has a black Homecoming Queen. It is an example of the progress W&L has made. But let's not stop there. We as students need to come together and figure out what we can do to make our campus environment more inclusive. Stop expecting change from the top and instead focus on what we can do on a peer-to-peer level. Diversity on this politically correct and tradition-mired campus will not happen naturally. It's an admirable notion, but an inclusive community on this campus requires proactive student initiatives. We need active student participation. I am ready whenever you are.
—Quiana McKenzie '08

Sororities create student divide, hierarchy

As a member of a Greek organization, I am truly aware of all the positive aspects that the Greek system embodies; otherwise why would I bother? That being said, my positive experience has been tainted by a huge flaw in W&L's Greek system.

One of its biggest draws, the all-inclusiveness touted as so unique to our school, actually serves to exacerbate the "elitism" and "doubting of self-worth," a problem acknowledged by Dane Boston's article. By its very nature, the inclusion of a vast majority of the student

body creates a hierarchy within the Greek community and alienates those not participating.

The all-inclusiveness of our sorority system works to separate the students, not unite them. There exists a huge struggle for recruitment. Instead of the potential end goal in recruitment to be in a Greek organization and part of the Greek system as a whole, the emphasis moves to try to join the sororities at the top of the hierarchy. What is the point of an all-inclusive system if it doesn't even protect the feelings of potential new members? Our

campus as a whole has decided to ignore this problem and continues to promote the idealized notion of total participation.

For now, seeing as the administration continues to propagate false beliefs about the function and intention of the Greek system, the burden falls upon potential new members to see beyond meaningless stereotypes and the dangerous tendency to extract a measure of self-worth from one's membership.

Yes, joining certain organizations will change your W&L experience, and at this point in

your university career, it might seem as though this change will be for the worse.

But let me emphasize, in a few years removed from the emotionally-charged chaos that is sorority recruitment, you'll see the emphasis on your affiliation wane, and life becomes more about *who* you are, not *what* you are. Appreciate the Greek system for the opportunities it provides, but do not allow the system to tell you that two or three Greek letters define who you are.
—Jenny Plaster '08

Strikes = reruns

Why pay more for disappointing quality?

By Kathie Scott
COLUMNIST

The information from my fall television lineup may now be obsolete since Hollywood writers have called the first strike since 1988.

The contract between The Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers expired on Oct. 31.

So what is this big nonnegotiable quarrel over? The most popular source of problems: money. The writers want more.

Once upon a time, writers could profit only from VHS and the one television slot they were appropriated. We all know this has changed in this new age of technology.

After all, how many of you watch your favorite show online? Now we have iPods, cell phones, computers and DVD players all providing viewers with more access to the shows they love the most.

With television shows gaining more visibility, writers feel they should be paid more for their script-writing abilities. And in all fairness, don't songwriters obtain financial compensation whenever their song is played on a radio station, a movie, or a television show?

The big question, of course, is how does this affect me? As a viewer, the effects of the strike will not be felt until next season. The scripts for this season have already been finished. The troubling times will occur in January when new airings will be replaced with reruns.

The only saving grace in this matter is the surprisingly still popular reality television frenzy. These shows do not heavily rely on writers and will therefore continue producing new shows. The first shows to suffer will be late night shows like The Jay Leno Show and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. Then daytime and primetime shows like General Hospital, Heroes, and Grey's Anatomy will provide an appropriate dose of déjà vu with reruns galore.

The more pressing matter is how this strike affects the economy. The entertainment industry contributes to \$30 billion dollars a year or seven percent of Los Angeles' economy. In L.A. the amount of lost revenue totals \$2 billion dollars a month

and 82,000 lost jobs.

The scariest part to think about is that this strike has a domino effect. It's not just the writers who lose money. The owner of Television and Cinema Wardrobe Cleaners manages 2,000 garments a night for certain television shows. There are some Landscape companies who specialize in greenery for television show sets. Restaurants that cater to certain studios have already experienced a decline in customers since talks of a strike began. And of course Talent Agencies might begin layoffs.

Now, when all these repercussions are fully processed, I begin to think the writers are selfish. If the writers continue with this strike, the studios will be forced to either show reruns or recreate past ideas from earlier episodes. Oh wait, they already do that anyways.

From analyzing the fall lineup, I learned that the Hollywood motto is "Reuse, Renew, and Recycle." So will anyone really notice if the writers go on strike? Do writers, who already make \$200,000 dollars a year plus residuals, really need their pensions doubled?

In fact, WGA writers made \$56 million dollars in surplus for DVD sales. What's more, does anyone really care if Hollywood writers aren't getting as much money as they "deserve" when they're already getting paid well enough given the quality of the scripts?

Is anyone else really disappointed in "Grey's Anatomy" lately? I don't think that writer should get twice as much money. As entertaining as "Heroes" can be at times, does that writer really deserve double his already large income?

Basically, I think the writers should quit their whining. Show me new scripts, with new ideas and new twists, and then I'll entertain the idea of doubling their money as a reward for all that they do.

Invest in Netflix. If January comes around and the strike is still going strong, invest in an obscenely large movie collection and you will be just fine. The strike in 1988 lasted 22 weeks, I'm sure this strike will not last any longer.

Now, if the actors follow suit and strike, then some concern would be appropriate.

arts & life

Students Support Sudan

W&L students show support for Sudan while showing off their talent in Showcase



By Kimber Wiggs
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, the Student Association for International Learning (SAIL) held the second annual Showcase for Sudan. The competition brought acts from all over campus to entertain and to promote the cause of stopping genocide in Darfur.

W&L was treated to a wealth of homegrown talent, ranging from the comedic to the incredible. MarkHeavens Tshuma and Linnea Bond amused the crowd with a song from the musical comedy *Urinetown*, while the Hotness, featuring Zaq Lawal, Sophie Xiong, Colton Payne and Chris Washington, had the audience agape with their astonishing moves. In the end, Eric Reitz came in third place, Julia Pleasants landed second, and the Hotness walked away with the ultimate prize. The dance group then wrapped up the evening with an encore of their winning performance.

Though the night was entertaining, to say the least, it is important not to forget the reason for the evening. The goal of the Showcase was to raise money for and awareness about the continuing genocide in Darfur. When the Showcase for Sudan was first conceived last year, the Darfur conflict was a major news story, bringing it to the attention of one of SAIL's sister organizations, IDR (International Development Relief Groups). I had a chance to interview Grace Andrews, member of IDR and one of the masterminds behind Showcase for Sudan.

One question many people have is "Why Sudan?"

"Sudan is the genocide of our generation," said Andrews. She and her fellow SAIL members felt that the injustice in Darfur was something particularly relevant to our age group, something for people to rally behind and be passionate about. The conflict began back in 2003. Since that time, UN officials estimate that over 400,000 people have lost their lives due to starvation and disease as well as ethnic violence. When faced with such statistics, it is difficult to remain complacent, which is why the Showcase was created. If a few more people are made aware of this crisis and begin to further support the cause, then I say the evening was a success.

The Showcase was also successful on a more local level, because it was an opportunity for student organizations from all over campus to come together for this important cause. The General Activities Board contributed time and money, paying for the winners' trophies and cash prizes. The faculty and administration were very supportive of the planning and execution of the event. Greek organizations helped spread the word among their membership. The Production Club ran lights and sound. As Andrews ran through a list of organizations, it seemed as if the entire campus was involved in some way, which is a truly inspiring notion.

"Sometimes there's a disconnect," said Andrews, "because so much is going on. For this effort, everyone really came together... I don't think it happens as often as it should."

Indeed, it doesn't, but thanks to events like this, we are perhaps making strides toward a more united and conscientious community.

American Gangster

New Scott film good but not best suited for actors Washington and Crowe

By Scott Centorino
STAFF WRITER

"The loudest man in the room is the weakest."

So says Frank Lucas, portrayed by Denzel Washington in the new crime film, *American Gangster*. Unlike other crime lords, Lucas' sharp yet subtle dress marks both his physical appearance and attitude toward the family business. Lucas slowly rises to the top of New York City's drug trafficking business in the late 1960s and early 1970s in a cool but brutal fashion.

American Gangster, directed by Ridley Scott and starring Washington and Russell Crowe, is a gritty and violent slice of life during the Vietnam War. Its direction, costumes, soundtrack and supporting cast all make the film an excellent way to spend two and a half hours.

It is well-paced, entertaining, thought-provoking at times and does not drag. Scott's previous films, such as *Black Hawk Down*, *Gladiator*, and *Kingdom of Heaven*, have many of the same qualities in terms of setting moods and transplanting viewers into another era. However, the film's weaknesses also spring from similarities to other films. For the most part, *American Gangster* is an updated, African-American version of *The French Connection*.

Scott's lack of originality can become tiresome for anyone who has seen *The French Connection*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1971. The same basic plot of a cop (Gene Hackman in *The French Connection* and Russell Crowe in *American Gangster*) cracking a drug trafficking scheme in the greater New York City is copied well, but copied nonetheless.

Going to a movie starring two Best Actor winners still in the prime of their careers, one expects fantastic acting to carry the film. Washington and Crowe have given some of the most memorable performances of the last twenty years, but neither performs with the depth that their characters deserve.

However, looking back on Ridley Scott's record, we see great movies, not great actors. For example, *Black Hawk Down* didn't mesmerize us because of terrific acting. Ridley Scott crafted the film so the acting just "fit in" with his directing. Scott made *Black Hawk Down*, not Josh Hartnett. However, none of Ridley Scott's previous hits were character driven. Perhaps Scott doesn't have the ability that other directors have in bringing out the best in actors, or perhaps he just shines with epics that are entertaining rather than a product of quality acting.

Regardless, *American Gangster*, although billed as an epic, is no epic. No crime film is an epic. Not even *The Godfather* is an epic film. Crime films are naturally small scale, character driven films. Acting made *The Godfather*, as well as *The Departed* and *Goodfellas*.

American Gangster is simply a mismatch. Ridley Scott excels in non-character driven, historical epics. Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe excel in smaller, character-driven films, which *American Gangster* should have been. Despite all of this criticism, the film is superbly entertaining and compellingly dirty.

For fans of the genre, it satisfies a craving. But in the end, we see Ridley Scott try to over-direct this film, shadowing the acting talent he has at his disposal. Scott's enormously powerful direction actually hurts the film.

"The loudest man in the room is the weakest."



Top: Dancers Rasaan Lawal, Sophie Xiong, Colton Payne and Chris Washington took 1st place with their dance to Hotness.

Middle: Sophomore Markheavens Tshuma and freshman Linnea Bond sing a song from the comedy, *Urinetown*.

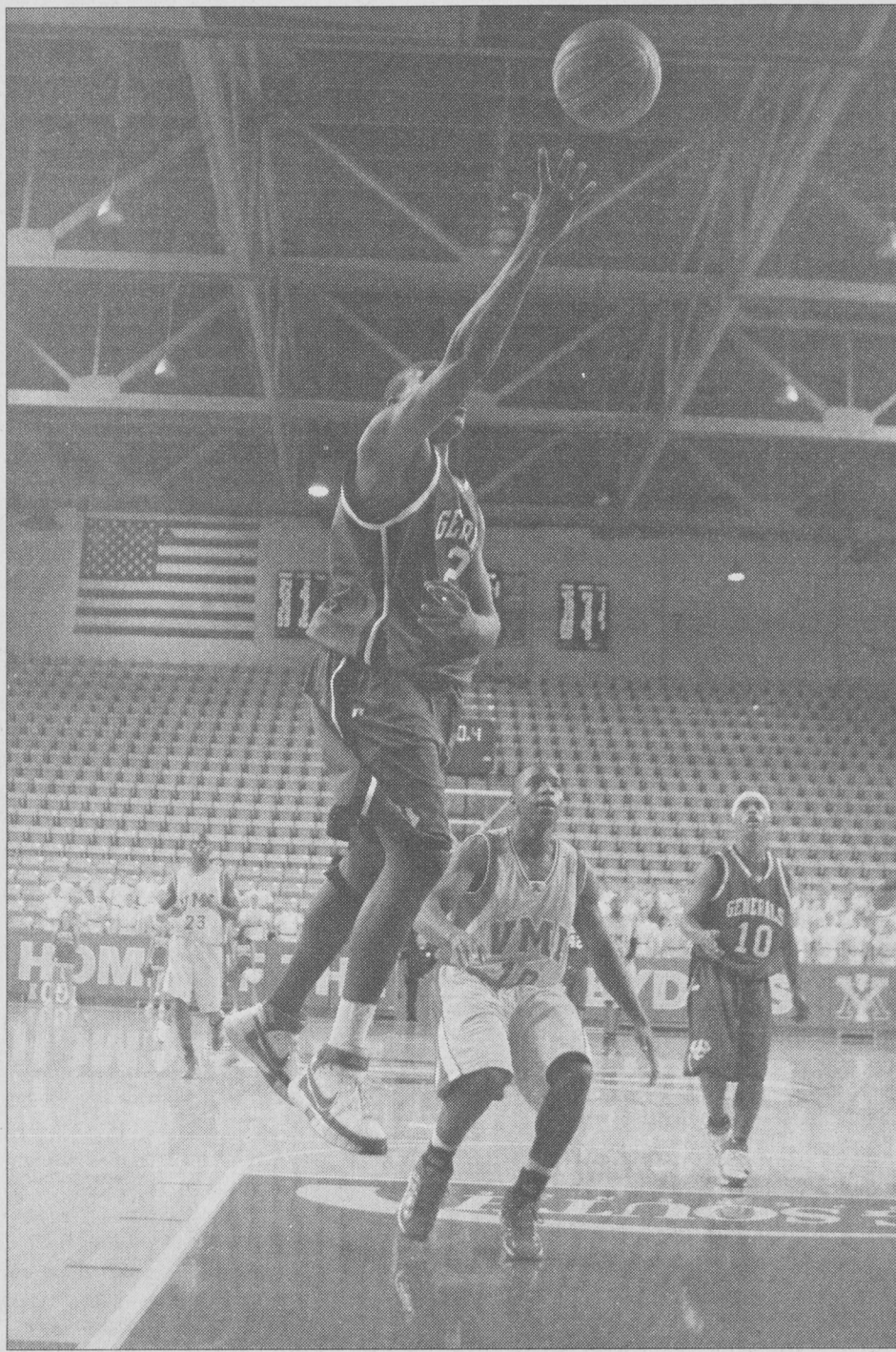
Far Left: Sophie Xiong showing off her dance moves

Middle Left: Is anyone listening? These students are trying to raise awareness for Sudan!

Near Left: Julia Pleasants showing her excitement for the cause.



sports



Men open season at VMI scrimmage

Team returns four starters from last year's 11-14 squad

Left: Senior forward Femi Kusimo lofts a layup with 0.4 seconds left in the first half of Thursday's scrimmage against D-I Virginia Military Institute as junior guard Isaiah Goodman looks on. The Keydets, who reached the finals of the Big South tournament last year, defeated W&L 98-81.

Below: In this sequence of photos, Kusimo goes up for a rim-rattling dunk. In frame three, guard Chris McHugh (No. 14) likes what he sees. The Generals are coming off their best season in 16 years and have been picked to finish seventh in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

The team returns five of its top six scorers, including senior Greg Blenemann, who averaged 17.8 points per game last season and was named to the all-ODAC team.

MICHAEL KEENAN / Sports Editor



The Birth of a New Evil Empire

Why two Red Sox titles in four years isn't necessarily a good thing

By Amor Neill Thupari
STAFF WRITER

A lot has to happen for a team to win a World Series these days. You need to have excellent pitching from your starters to the heart of your bullpen. You need to have consistent, timely hitting in every tough playoff situation. And maybe more so than you think, you need to have some luck, or a lot of luck if you can, to help you along the way. The 2007 Boston Red Sox had all of these things and more on their way to sweeping the Colorado Rockies. The city that was once synonymous with heartbreak, disappointment and failure in baseball now stands atop the league once again, and it doesn't look like things are going to change anytime in the near future.

As it stands right now, there is no salary cap in Major League Baseball, meaning that any team can spend as much money as they want, depending on the financial capabilities of its owner. This has led to the New York Yankees having a payroll of over \$195 million while teams such as Washington, Florida and Pittsburgh struggle to reach \$50 million. The Yankees are no longer a team but simply a bizarre collection of amazing talent that cannot seem to win championships the way they did in the mid to late 1990s when they were an actual squad of 25 baseball players working together.

The same cannot be said about the Red Sox given their recent success in the postseason, but it must be noted that they have a payroll of over \$143 million, easily the second highest payroll in all of baseball. In the last off-season they paid over \$51 million just to talk to Japanese pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka and eventually signed him for a contract that could be worth \$60 million. This year they also

playing according to the rules of the game, and as long as there is no salary cap in baseball, they are allowed to spend how much they want on whoever they want.

Using this tool to their advantage, the Red Sox were able to win the World Series this year despite having just eight members of their 25 man roster be homegrown products of the Red Sox farm system. The rest of the team simply came together from

the least bit hesitant to because of the truth and reality of it, the Red Sox completely show what is wrong with baseball by buying their way to a World Series. They did nothing different than what the Yankees have done, and along the way they even lost some of their prized free agents to the Yankees and other teams in bidding wars. They didn't look for team chemistry but rather relied on blind luck as to what would happen and whether or not the team would gel over the course of the season. It's the baseball purists' worst nightmare: a new Evil Empire that actually wins World Series titles.

Hoads of Red Sox "fans" now flock to opposing stadiums and feel obligated to carry on like the little kid in your neighborhood who got a new bike and comes to show it off for everyone else and then proceeds to tell everyone just how inferior their bike is in comparison to his. Did he earn his bike? Of course not. Mom and dad had to buy it for him so he'd stop complaining and actually shut up for a while. Pretty soon, fans of the Red Sox will be put into the same position as Yankees fans are now, and if they don't make it to the World Series often and win them with regularity, each season will be a disappointment. So enjoy it while you can, Red Sox fans, because come next April it will have been five months since your last World Series win. It's unbearable, isn't it? How unfair.

Hoads of Red Sox "fans" now flock to opposing stadiums and feel obligated to carry on like the little kid in your neighborhood who got a new bike and comes to show it off for everyone else and then proceeds to tell everyone just how inferior their bike is in comparison to his. Did he earn his bike? Of course not. Mom and dad had to buy it for him so he'd stop complaining and actually shut up for a while.

spent \$14 million on the listless and hopeless J.D. Drew, whom Boston fans have constantly berated all season until Drew hit a grand slam home run against Cleveland and all was magically forgotten.

Now, I'm not trying to make it seem as if this is an unfair attribute of the Red Sox. They are

other cities in search of a bigger contract. Boston outfielder Manny Ramirez even said in an interview when down 3-1 in the ALCS, facing elimination to the Cleveland Indians, "It doesn't happen, so who cares? There's always next year. It's not like it's the end of the world."

It's sad to say it, but I'm not

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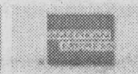
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sports

Swimming splits duel with Centre

Men improve to 3-0 with 161-96 win, women drop to 1-2 after losing 141-121



MICHAEL KEENAN / Sports Editor

Senior Will Hartman cruises to victory in the 200 IM, one of his three individual victories.

By Michael Keenan
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second time in three meets, the Washington and Lee swimming teams split the meet with their opponent. This time, the men defeated Centre College 161-96 while the women fell by a score of 141-121.

The men jumped out to a 15-2 lead by taking first and second place in the opening event, the 200 medley relay, and never looked back. The Generals would win all but two events on the day.

"It's a mental attitude that we talk a lot about both in the pool during practice and outside the water," said sophomore Josh Gonzalez. "(Coach) Joel (Shinofield) often tells us that you have to keep in mind that every time we are racing in the pool, we are racing everybody in the country. Swimming is about racing; every meet is an opportunity to race and you can't pass that up."

The men were led by senior Will Hartman's three individual victories. Hartman took gold in 100 back, 200 back, and 200 IM. Paul Crook was a double winner, touching first in the 200 free and 500 free. Five other Generals won individual events and the meet concluded with the 400 free relay team of Crook, senior Tim McGlaston, sophomore Brandon Barnds, and senior Alex Sweet winning the final event in a time of 3:11.90.

The women's meet was close the entire day. The two teams split the 12 individual events, notching six victories each.

The Generals were led by juniors Susan Mahoney and Lindsey Strachan, who won two events apiece. Mahoney won the 100 breast and 200 IM while Strachan

was victorious in the two backstroke events.

After losing the first relay, the Generals took four of the next five individual events. However, Centre responded by winning six of the next seven events to build their lead. Going into the second-to-last event, the 200 IM, the women trailed by 12 points. A Centre victory would have effectively ended the Generals' chances of winning the meet. Mahoney trailed going into the final length of freestyle but finished strong to out-touch Centre's Ana McMurtry by 22 hundredths of a second.

Mahoney's win helped the women to get within seven points of Centre going into the final event, the 400 free relay. If the Generals could take first and third, they would win the meet by two points. However, leadoff leg sophomore Sarah Simpson jumped the gun, disqualifying W&L's top relay. It would not have mattered as Centre's relay finished in a time of 3:44.48, breaking a 23-year-old pool record. With the one-two finish, Centre widened its lead and won the meet by 20 points.

"The girls fought hard," said Gonzalez. "That was a great meet to watch."

With the loss, the women drop to 1-2 on the season. The women return to the pool this Friday evening to open their ODAC season against Emory & Henry. Both teams will travel to Pennsylvania to take on Gettysburg on Saturday.

"We really aren't sure of what Gettysburg has brought in this year and they've been known to have their on and off years in the past," said Gonzalez. "Besides, we are traveling to their house so I'm sure they'll be fired up."



MICHAEL KEENAN / Sports Editor

Senior Kendall Korte is the second General to be selected to play in the NFHCA Division III All-Star game

IM flag football sees new rules changes

Some teams don't like new rules, but referee says using them has been easier than expected

By Jacob Gelger
MANAGING EDITOR

Flag football has long been one of Washington and Lee's most popular intramural sports. So Ray Ellington, W&L's campus recreation coordinator, knew that making changes to this year's IM league would be difficult.

The biggest change is a move to link W&L's flag football league into a national competition between college intramural champions. That means the winner of W&L's league gets to travel to the University of Maryland over Thanksgiving break to compete for a spot in the national flag football championships.

The campus recreation department will pay the winning team's hotel and travel costs.

But the ensuing rules changes — especially a rule that says all blocking must be non-contact — are being questioned by some IM participants.

Since the regional championships are played under non-contact blocking rules, Ellington said W&L's winning team will be at a major disadvantage if the league doesn't use the standard national rules.

But Chris Stevenson, a junior in his second year as chairman of Phi Kappa Sigma's IM program, said the new rules are ruining W&L's most-popular IM sport. Phi Kap won last year's football championship.

"They completely take away from the sport of flag football. You can't even use your hands to block on offense or defense," Stevenson said. "It takes away all aspects of football. The game is now just an NCAA-esque QB Option. There is rarely an actual football play."

Junior Jamila Seaton says refereeing under the new rules has been easier than she expected.

"At first I was thinking it would be impossible and that football was all about contact, but the field is so big and there is so much passing that there really isn't any need for blocking," Seaton said. "People seem to be having more fun even though at times the frustration of no contact sets in."

She said that teams haven't always liked the rules but haven't been criticizing the referees.

Another new and controversial decision is a new plan that grades each team's sportsmanship on a 4.0 scale. At the end of the regular season, teams scoring below a 3.0 won't be allowed into the playoffs.

And if any team receives a GPA rating of 0-1.9, that team is immediately disqualified from the playoffs.

Stevenson said the GPA may sound good in concept but is "terrible in execution."

"Most of the complaining done by teams [is] the result of the terrible new rules," he said. "All of the arguing last year was due to the competitive nature of the sport ... now the arguing is solely at the ref to enforce the new rules, even if both teams don't agree with them. The refs are paid too little to be yelled at."

Stevenson said that he has struggled to field a team on some nights this year because players don't like the new system.

He said his criticisms aren't an attack on Ellington and he appreciates the attempts to make changes. Still, he wishes Ellington had let the IM chairs vote on the new rules before implementing them.

Seaton thinks that the new rules will gain acceptance as time goes by.

"I think it's natural for us to complain because we're so used to doing things a certain way, but in reality it's not that hard," Seaton said. "It's more [of a] habit and it can be broken."

FH season finishes with loss to Lynchburg

By Michael Keenan
SPORTS EDITOR

After defeating Bridgewater 7-0 in the first round of the ODAC field hockey playoffs, the Generals hoped to avenge their regular season overtime loss to rival Lynchburg College. Though they would get the chance, they would come up short again, losing 1-0 at Lynchburg to end their season.

By virtue of being the third seed in the ODAC playoffs, the Generals gained home field advantage for their opening round match against Bridgewater College. In their final home game of the season on Parents' Weekend, the Generals put on an offensive barrage against the Eagles, easily winning 7-0.

The Generals started the scoring 15 minutes into the game and proceeded to find the net seven times in the next 45 minutes. The first half belonged to seniors Kendall Korte and Melissa Dolan who scored two goals apiece to give the Generals a 4-0 lead going into half.

In the second half, the Generals came out firing again as sophomore Alex Caritis scored just 1:15 into the period. Less than three and a half minutes later senior Kay Dyt scored to make it 6-0. Junior Louise Bance registered the final tally for the Generals with just over 12 minutes to play.

All three goalkeepers got playing time for the Generals in the shutout, but only sophomore Caroline Habliston was forced to make a save.

The Generals out-shot the Eagles 27 to one, with 20 of the Generals' shots being on target. W&L also won 13 penalty corners while giving up only four.

The game against Lynchburg was a much different story. Lynchburg controlled much of the play in the first half. The Generals managed only one shot and zero penalty corners to the Hornet's 15 shots and four penalty corners. However, senior goalie Tara Rubenstein rose to the challenge, tallying six saves in the first half.

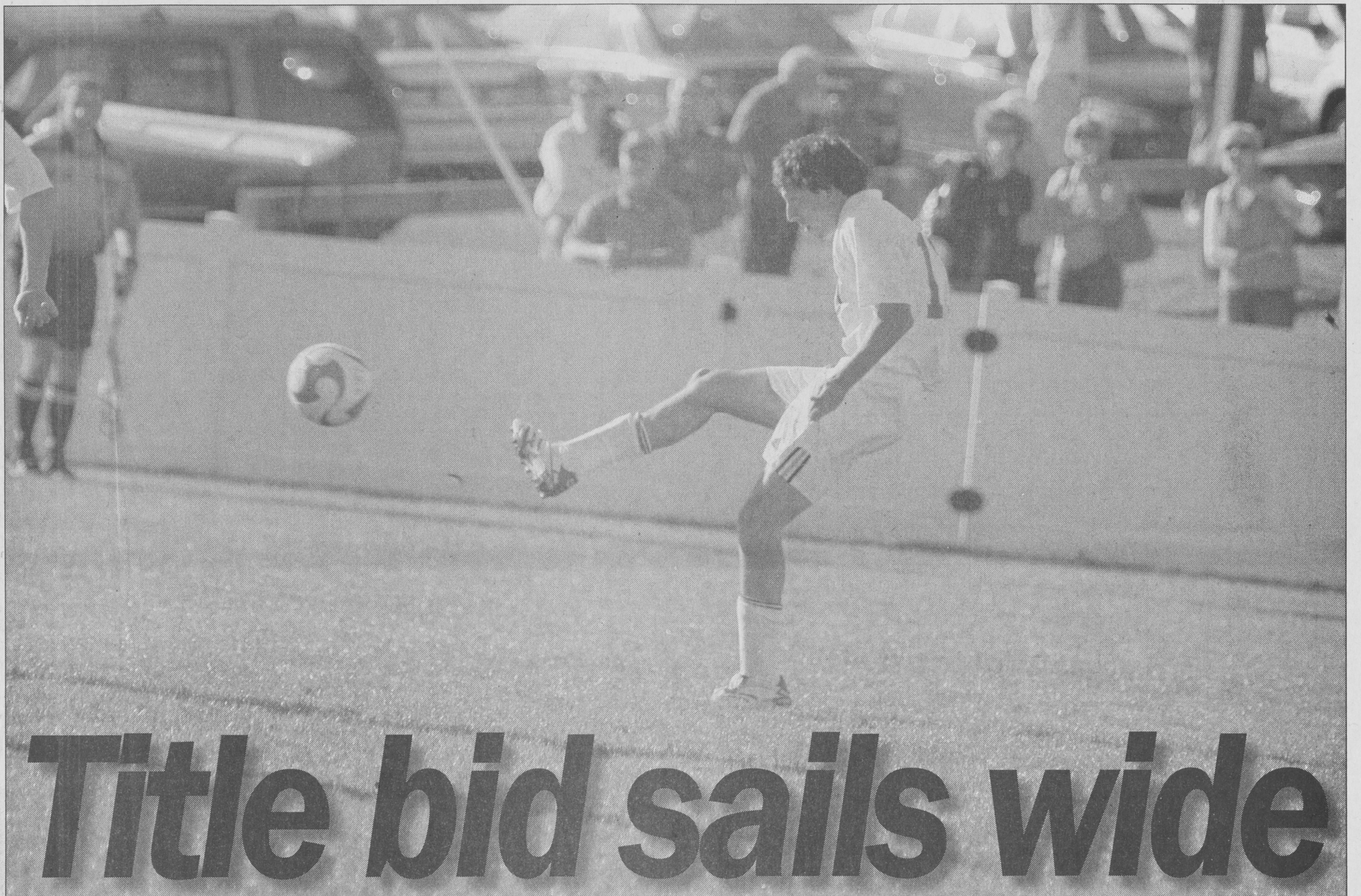
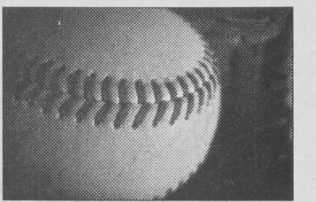
In the second half, the Hornets finally broke through when sophomore forward Allie Weir found the back of the net with 10 minutes to play. Though the Generals won four penalty corners in the second half, they were still unable to put a shot on goal and Lynchburg survived 1-0.

Much like the loss in the regular season, the Generals were dominated in almost every statistical category except goals. The Generals managed only three shots the entire game, none of which were on target, and Lynchburg goalie Sarah Cates was not forced to make a save. The Hornets fired 26 shots, nine of which were on goal. Rubenstein finished with eight saves in the game.

With the victory, the Hornets moved on to the ODAC finals where they would later defeat EMU on Saturday 1-0.

The loss ends the season for the team but senior Kendall Korte will continue for one more game as she was selected to play in the 2007 National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Division III All-Star game on Nov. 17 at Ursinus College. Korte leads the team in assists with five and is second on the team with five goals.

sports



Title bid sails wide

Senior Travis Short fires a shot into the back of the net to give the Generals a 1-0 lead against Lynchburg in the opening round of the ODAC playoffs. Senior Josh Dodds headed in a rebound minutes later to add an insurance goal for the team. Dodds finished the season with 10 goals, while Short sent five into the back of the net.

MICHAEL KEENAN / Sports Editor

Men roll through early rounds but came up a little short against Roanoke in ODAC final

By Russ Weems
STAFF WRITER

The improbable run to an ODAC title fell short Saturday night for the men's soccer team as they fell to Roanoke 2-0.

Picked in the preseason to finish fourth in the conference, the team led the league standings for most of the season and finished in a tie for second place.

On Friday, the Generals took on the Hampden-Sydney Tigers at Virginia Wesleyan College in the semifinals of the ODAC men's soccer tournament. The game

started quickly as Hampden-Sydney's Matt Swaney scored off of a corner kick taken by Jason Powell in the 10th minute.

This early goal did not shake the Generals. They kept battling and tied the game when senior midfielder Travis Short put one past Hampden-Sydney goalie John Robert Pyler in the 40th minute. The game went to half-time tied 1-1.

The second half started as quickly as the first had. A Hampden-Sydney foul in the penalty box in the 47th minute gave the

Generals a penalty kick. The intense game featured six yellow cards and 27 fouls in total.

Junior defender Fletcher McCraw seized the opportunity and buried the PK in the back of the net to give the Generals the lead. The Generals played tough defense for the rest of the game and W&L went on to the 2-1 victory.

In the end, the Generals had outshot the Tigers 10-8, whereas Hampden-Sydney had the corner kick edge 10-2.

Senior goaltender Ted Sheedy provided three saves in the vic-

tory. The win gave the Generals their 12th victory of the season and an opportunity to play in the ODAC final for the first time since 2003. The Generals were enthusiastic about their win and looking forward to the championship game.

On Saturday evening, the Generals faced the fourth seed Roanoke Maroons in the ODAC's final game at Virginia Wesleyan's Foster Field. Roanoke came out strong and registered an early score in the fourth minute as midfielder Shaman Douglas got one

past Sheedy.

After the goal, the scoring settled down a bit. The score stayed 1-0 for the majority of the game until Roanoke added another one in the 70th minute when Kayvon Sarmadi scored unassisted.

The Generals battled hard in the second half but could not beat Roanoke's goaltender Austin Rose, who had five saves for a clean sheet. Despite the 2-0 score, shots and corners were relatively even. The Generals had 17 fouls and three yellow cards to the Maroons' nine fouls and one yellow

card.

Sheedy provided two saves for the Generals. Despite the loss, the team is proud of their season and their effort in the second half of the game. They are hoping for an at-large bid in the national tournament. They ended the ODAC tournament with a 12-3-3 record.

The date of the Generals' next game is unknown. They will have to wait to see if they will get an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. The selection process took place after the Phi went to press.

Women fall to Roanoke in ODAC semi-finals

Generals beat EMU but lose to

Roanoke for a second time this year

By Hank Nathan
STAFF WRITER

The women's soccer team went 1-1 in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference tournament this past week, ending their hopes of an ODAC title.

Four days after defeating Eastern Mennonite 3-1 in the regular season finale, the two teams met in the first round of the conference tournament. This was the 19th-straight season that W&L advanced to the tournament.

The game was played at home on Watt field this time. The Generals asserted themselves early by putting pressure on Eastern Mennonite at the outset. W&L controlled the ball on the Royals' side of the field for a majority of the first half.

In the 21st minute, Anne Van Devender broke free from the defense and notched her 15th goal of the season. Just 13 minutes later, Roz Klann scored an unassisted goal, improving the score to 2-0. The Generals took this 2-0 lead into halftime.

W&L came out in the second half the same way they started in the first half, controlling the ball on the opponents' side of the field. Under 15 minutes into the second half, Martha Caulkins added in another goal off of a pass from Katie Kern. From then on, the team did not look back.

Eastern Mennonite tightened the contest by scoring a goal with 10 minutes to play. However, it was not enough as the Generals rolled past Eastern Mennonite 3-1 and into the semi-finals of the tournament.

W&L amassed a staggering 36 shots in the match compared to four by Eastern Mennonite.

The Generals then traveled to face rival Roanoke in a game where the winner would advance to the conference champi-

onship. The two teams played each other less than two weeks ago in a grueling double overtime match in which Roanoke won 2-1. W&L had revenge on its mind this time.

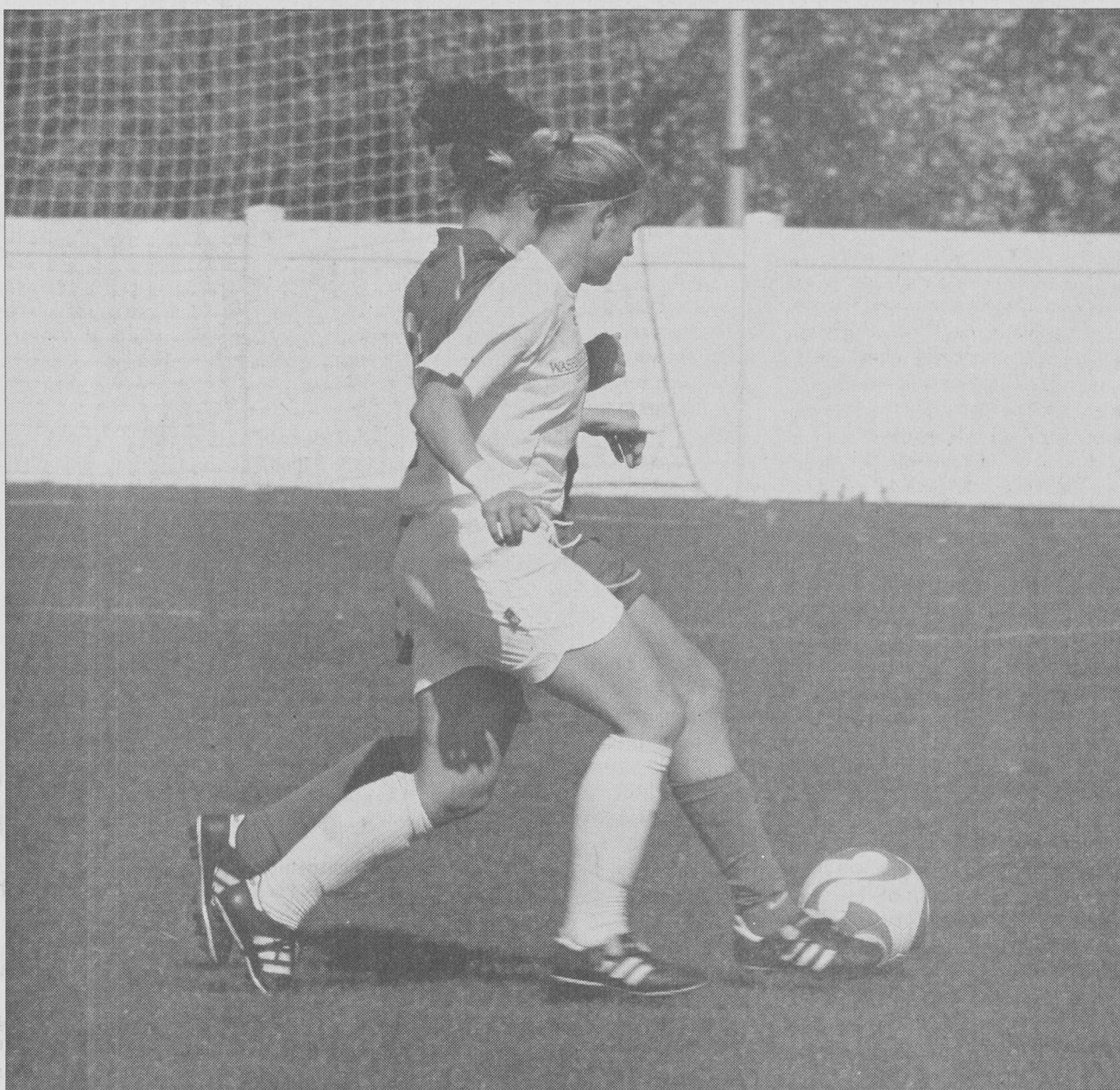
Once again, the importance of the game was matched by the intensity exerted on the field. Each team countered the other by attempting to go down the field and score, but the teams came up empty in the extremely physical first half. Each team committed five fouls in the first half and W&L ended up with two yellow cards in the outing.

The scoring drought quickly ended when a flurry of goals came early in the second half. In the 54th minute, Roanoke's Kristen McCoy knocked in a shot off of a cross from Meredith Grunewald. Four minutes later, W&L's Shana Oltmans knotted the game at 1-1 after taking a shot that deflected off the crossbar and went into the back of the net.

"Marisa [Van Brunt] took a great free kick, and I was able to flick it on behind me, and then the ball ended up popping back out to me and I was able to chest it and half volley it into the goal," said Oltmans of the goal. "I was ecstatic after we scored, and I definitely thought we were going to have the momentum and score a few more."

However, momentum immediately shifted back toward the Maroons as Jessica Joyner put in a rebound off of a shot deflected by the Generals defense at 61:08. This goal turned out to be the game winner as Roanoke quashed W&L's goal of an ODAC title.

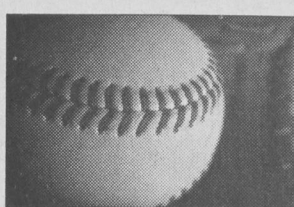
The soccer team must now wait for the announcement of whether they will receive an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, which was unknown when the Phi went to press.



LENORRA NUNNELY / Staff Photographer

Senior Haley Bunting challenges an EMU player for the ball in W&L's 3-1 victory in the first round of the ODAC playoffs.

sports



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	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Football						Carnegie Mellon 1:00 p.m.	
Women's Swimming					vs. E&H and SBC 7:00 p.m.	vs Bryn Mawr & Gettysburg 2:00 p.m.	
Men's Swimming						vs Gettysburg 2:00 p.m.	
Mens and Women's Soccer	Both teams found out Sunday night if they received an at-large bid					at NCAAAs???	TBA
Volleyball				at NCAA regionals TBA			
Women's XC						at NCAA Regionals Nov. 17	
Men's XC						at NCAA Regionals Nov. 17	
Men's basketball					at Drew University tournament Nov. 16-17		
Women's basketball						vs Alvernia Nov. 17	

in the numbers

7

Consecutive ODAC titles for the women's volleyball team. The title is the 10th in W&L history, all of them since 1997.

0

Games lost in the ODAC Tournament by the women's volleyball team. The generals swept their way through the tournament, defeating Emory and Henry, Randolph-Macon and Bridgewater by 3-0 scores.

6-0

The football team's record when senior Ahbinav Kapur shows up in body paint. With the win against Bridgewater on Parents' Weekend Kapur capped an undefeated career as a W&L student.

23:48.80

Sophomore Kat Telfeyan's winning time in the ODAC championship six kilometer cross country race.

soapbox

"It's a mental attitude that we talk a lot about both in the pool during practice and outside the water. Joel often tells us that you have to keep in mind that every time we are racing in the pool we are racing everybody in the country. Swimming is about racing, every meet is an opportunity to race and you can't pass that up. ... You can't swim fast at a meet if you don't train fast. Finally, every swim at every meet is a step towards what we hope to accomplish at the end of our season, they are benchmarks against which we can measure our progress, so there's always the aspect of looking forward which helps to focus you."

Sophomore swimmer Josh Gonzalez

"Honestly, this win hasn't even hit me yet. I can't wait to talk to everybody back home. This is definitely bigger than just one football game."

Navy linebacker Matt Wimsatt after his team broke a 43-game losing streak to Notre Dame with a 46-44 victory in triple overtime. Navy's last victory came in 1963 when the team was a national powerhouse.



STACY DOORNBOS / Contributing Photographer

The men's and women's cross country teams celebrate their fourth consecutive ODAC titles. This is the first time either cross country team has won four titles in a row.

Two dynasties roll on

Men and women sweep ODAC cross country meet

By Kevin Corn
STAFF WRITER

The Washington and Lee men's and women's cross country teams have truly become dynasties in the conference after winning the ODAC Championships for a fourth year in a row. Both teams took control of the course and advantage of the home field as the men finished first out of nine teams and the women took first by a very slim one point over second-place Roanoke.

"Winning a fourth ODAC title was like dancing with your eldest daughter on her wedding day and hearing her whisper 'I love you daddy' into your ear," said senior and captain Andrew Friski.

The men's team was led by junior Michael Welsh who finished second in a time of 27:56.35, while senior and captain Tom Brower took third, crossing the finish at 28:03.97. Juniors Vance Berry and Alex Jackson, and Friski finished sixth, thirteenth, and fourteenth, respectively. Their respective times were 28:33.19, 29:26.50, and 29:36.98.

Jackson described the highlight of the day: "The best part of the day was the moment Friski and myself finished the race and everyone went absolutely nuts. There was an indescribable energy in the air when everyone realized that we had defended our title. Hugs were given out generously."

Brower agreed. "I couldn't have asked

for anything more perfect than Saturday. It was a very emotional day between how well the race went personally, how well the team ran, and having my parents there. Having spent four years running for W&L and never letting the ODAC title leave Lexington is a very special thing, something I'll always remember."

Meanwhile, the women were led by sophomore Kat Telfeyan and junior Becca Taylor, who took first and second respectively with times of 23:48.80 and 24:09.25. Junior Elizabeth Webb finished in a time of 24:40.80 to take sixth. Freshmen Christine Ballistreri and Katherine Fenwick took 11th and 13th with times of 25:27.24 and 25:34.59, respectively. Sophomore Dorothy Todd rounded out the leaders by finishing 14th with a time of 25:37.74.

Because of her win, Telfeyan earned ODAC women's cross country Runner of the Year honors.

Telfeyan commented, "Personally I was very excited to win the race; it was the first time I had won a cross country meet. I think we all knew how close it would be with Roanoke and that every point counts and it helped knowing that every one of us was going to put everything into that race."

Webb spoke about the emotions of the day for the women. "I still haven't come down from cloud nine. I think we're all still in shock that we actually pulled off a fourth victory and by just one point. After

Roanoke defeated us at our home invite earlier this season, we were pretty disappointed, but we refocused and continued to train hard. We all knew that the victory in October would be the one that would matter. By the time ODACs rolled around, we were ready. Everyone on the team contributed that day. I still get chills thinking that if any one of us had let another Maroon jersey slip by, we would have come in second. The close races are the ones that you remember forever."

Brower was named the ODAC men's cross country Scholar-Athlete of the Year for the second-straight year and Coach John Tucker was named the ODAC men's cross country Coach of the Year for the sixth time in his 19 seasons here at W&L.

Taylor was named the ODAC women's cross country Scholar-Athlete of the Year for the second straight year and Coach Kris Hoey was selected the ODAC women's cross country Coach of the Year for the fourth time in her five seasons at W&L.

The teams will try to advance to Nationals on Nov. 10 at the NCAA Regional in Williamsburg.

An enthusiastic and optimistic Todd commented, "We are so excited about the opportunity to run at Regionals and are really looking forward to shaking things up at the race! A lot of teams have underestimated us this season... I think that they are going to be in for quite a surprise come Saturday!"

Football extends win streak to three

Team snaps seven game losing streak to Bridgewater in final home game

By Brian Devine
STAFF WRITER

Wilson Field has seen a lot. Since its construction in the first decade of the 20th century, Washington and Lee football has seen highs - a trip to the 1951 Gator Bowl - and lows - a cheating scandal and removal from NCAA D-I two years later. Now, a century after students clamored for a permanent home to play their favorite sport, Wilson Field has seen its final match.

It was the Parents' Weekend football game, an annual tradition of gridiron in the cool October air. The Generals, fresh off shutting down Guilford's top-ranked offense, faced the Bridgewater Eagles, ranked 19th in the country.

It would be almost a disservice to Wilson Field for W&L to lose its final game to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference's traditional doormat, though the Eagles have now become one of the conference's powers. The elements for a classic were all there - a full stadium, a raucous crowd, and the knowledge that this game would be the last at the grand old ground.

Playing better than they had all season, the Generals delivered. The Blue Menace had another outstanding defensive performance, holding Bridgewater to 212 yards of total offense and just 14 points, the Eagles' lowest point total of the season.

Safety Kyle Luby again led the Generals with 11 tackles, and the visitors' star running back Phillip Carter had only 103 yards rushing. The Generals were led by Stuart Sitterson, who racked up his third consecutive 100-yard game, totaling 216

all-purpose yards, including 103 on the ground.

The Blue Menace looked to be in trouble early on when Carter ran roughshod over the hosts on the visitors' first series, scoring a touchdown just 4:12 into the contest. But Luby and his cohorts started closing the gaps and Carter was not to see the end zone again.

The Generals started their rally with two touchdowns at the end of the first half, first on a 22-yard pass from R.J. Varner to Ty Parrino and then a two-yard connection from Varner to Billy Murray with 30 seconds remaining. Mark Snoddy then kicked a field goal in the third quarter to give the home side a 17-7 lead.

With Carter's success limited, the Eagles turned to the air in the second half. Bridgewater quarterback Jeff Highfill pulled his squad within three points but the Generals' defense held strong to preserve the win.

As soon as the final whistle blew, the thousand of fans left Wilson Field in its current configuration for the last time. Two days later construction crews started dismantling the aging metal grandstand and the Blue-and-White started looking toward their next conference game, on Saturday at Emory & Henry.

A loss at E&H would discount the Boys in Blue from any chance at the ODAC title. But Jack Martin, largely absent from the Parents' Weekend victory, was not about to let that happen. Martin

hauled in a 61-yard touchdown pass from Varner with 67 seconds remaining to win the game by the same scoreline, 17-14. In the remaining time the Menace forced the Wasps to turn the ball over on downs and the win was preserved.

Sitterson was again his dynamic self, recording a career-high 100 yards on the ground in addition to 89 return yards and eight receiving yards. Varner had one of his best games, turning in 193 yards passing. Tommy Matteo recorded nine tackles and Bryant Fulk had eight plus one interception.

Even with the win, though, the Generals fell short of their goal of returning to the postseason. Randolph-Macon's Saturday victory over Bridgewater left them atop the ODAC-table with a 5-0 conference record with one game to play. Sitting third with two losses, the Generals cannot finish any higher than second.

The conference title and its automatic playoff berth will be decided next Saturday in suburban Richmond when R-MC hosts second-placed Hampden-Sydney. The Generals, finished with their conference schedule, face Carnegie-Mellon to finish their season.

It will be nine frantic months before the Generals start another season at a new, more modern stadium for a football program that once again has taken hold of the support of the university's sports fans.