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WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY  
LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE

## Men's basketball ups win streak to four

Team wins fast against Emory and Henry on Wednesday, pouring in 115 points before slowing it down for a 66-51 victory over Hampden-Sydney Sunday. The team has won eight of its last nine.

SPORTS / Page 8

## IFC, Panhel launch Greek vision

After worst tear night in a decade, Greek student leaders are looking for ways to reform the system, fight high-risk alcohol abuse and repair the Greek community's shaky reputation among faculty and local residents.

NEWS/ page 3

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

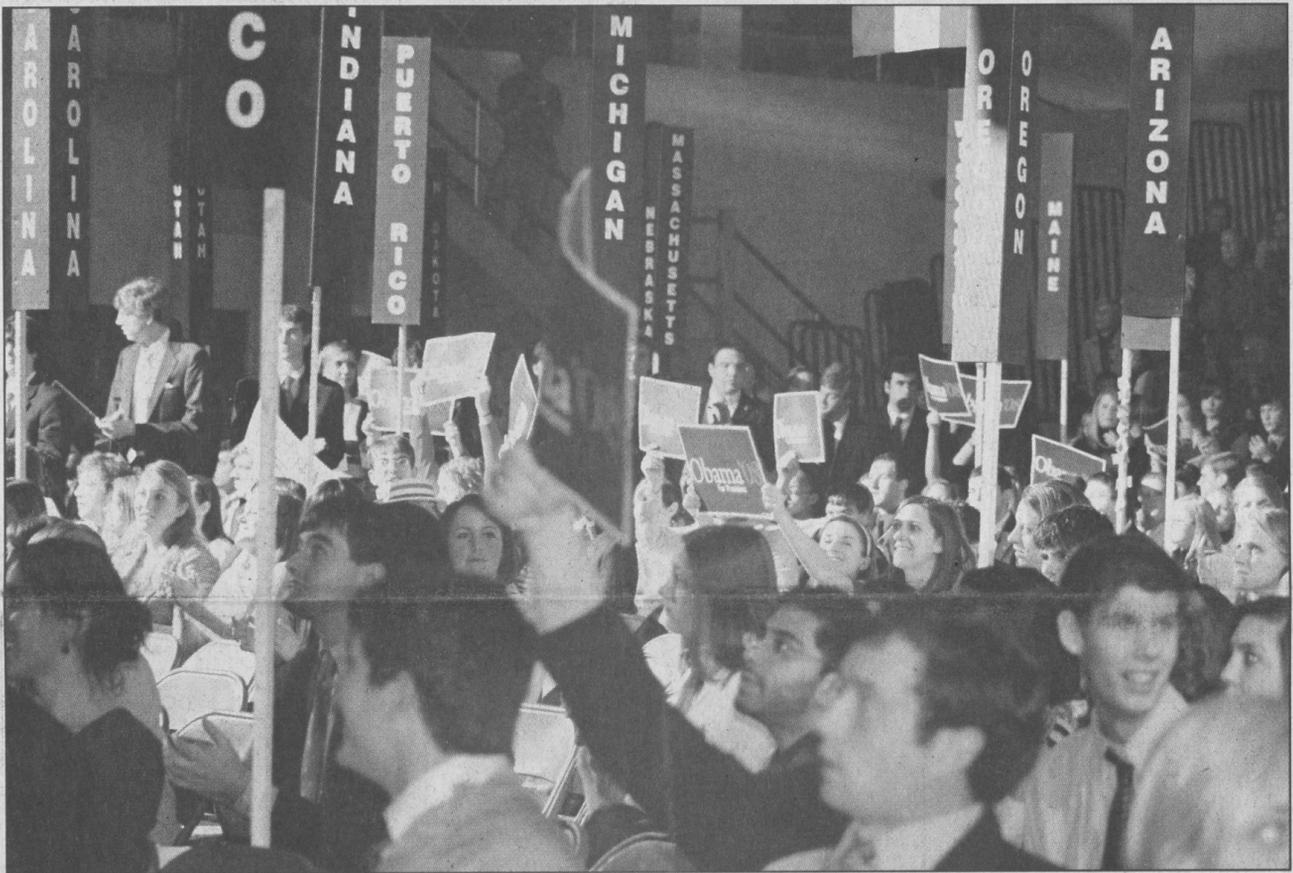
# THE RINGLETUM PHI.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897

VOLUME CXI, NUMBER 12

# Mock Con picks Hillary



*Speakers deliver diverse messages on change, gender and war*

By Wes O'Dell  
STAFF WRITER

"Save my children," was all he said. It was all he needed to say. The audience, already energized by the presence of as notable a figure as the Rev. Jesse Jackson, repeated after him: "Save my families. Save my environment. Stop the war."

The centennial Mock Convention was in full swing Friday as Jackson took the stage; he was preceded by two other Democratic icons: former congresswoman and vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro and former senator and Vietnam veteran Max Cleland.

### 'Honored to be at this place'

Jackson prefaced his remarks with warm words for the other attending dignitaries and for W&L itself. "I'm honored to be at this place, at this time," he said.

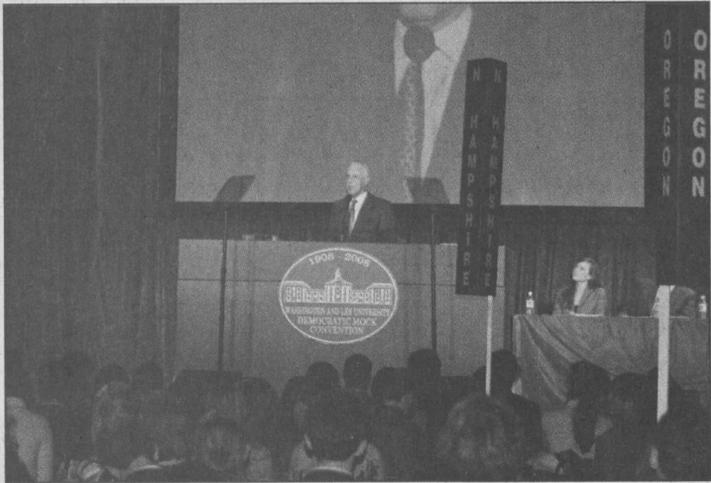
His speech, an eloquent and emotional address, immediately

touched upon the issue at hand: the Democratic primary. Jackson called the impending South Carolina primary, the first test for the Democratic candidates in a state with significant numbers of African-American voters, a test for the American political system as a whole: "our maturity is at stake, our character is being tested."

Jackson went on to decry what he called the separation of the nation's "moral center" from its "political center." He also criticized voting rights irregularities in the 2000 and 2004 elections, declaring that "we deserve a better America than that."

Jackson spoke about the need for "Selma democracy"—an inclusive democracy embracing all Americans, regardless of class or race, pioneered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—to oppose the "Philadelphia

See "WORDS" on page 3



PHOTOS BY LENORA NUNNLEY / staff photographer

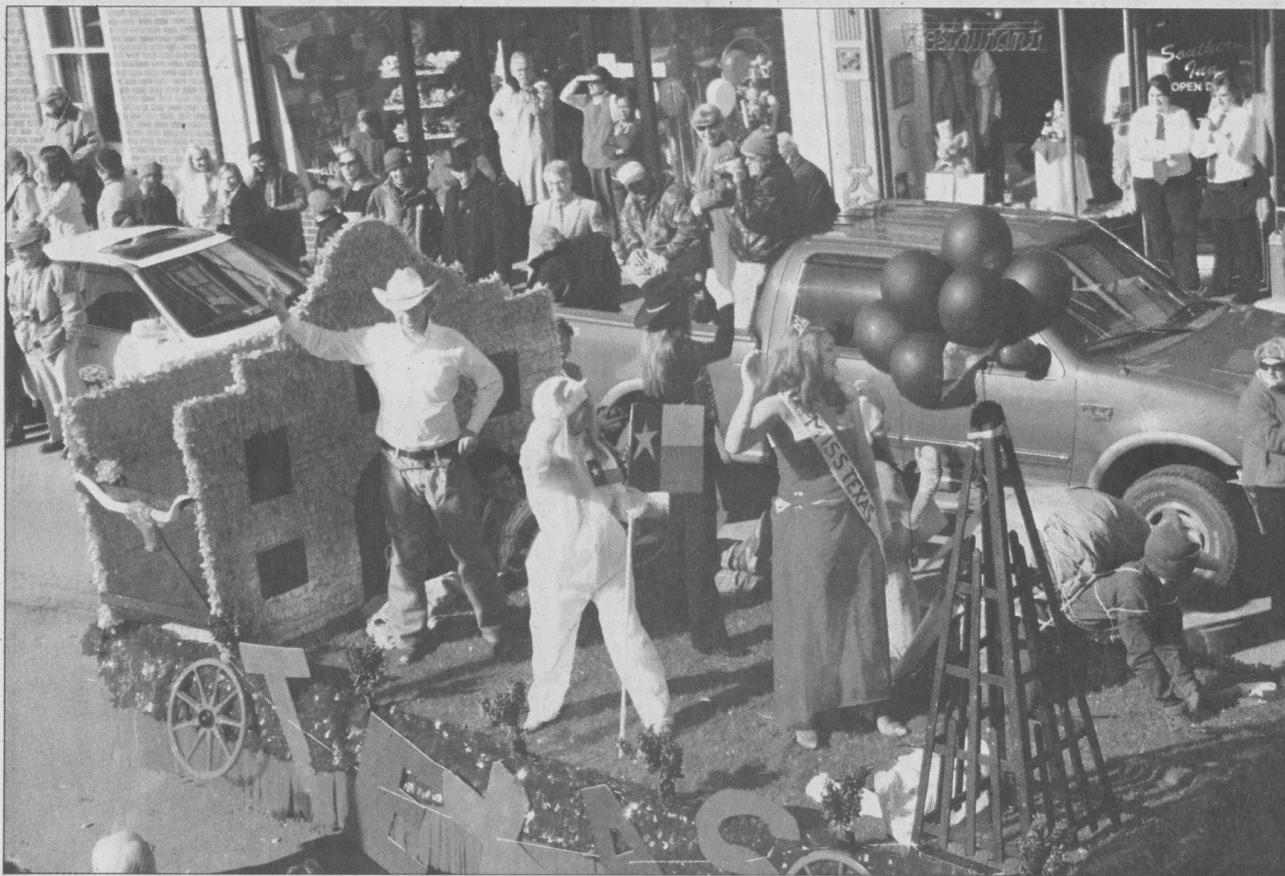
Supporters of Obama show their enthusiasm during the roll call Saturday (top). Michigan chair, Neil Sheaffer, expresses frustration that his state's delegates were not allowed to vote (bottom left). Rev. Jesse Jackson with media chair Eugina Huang before his speech Friday night (bottom right).



# news

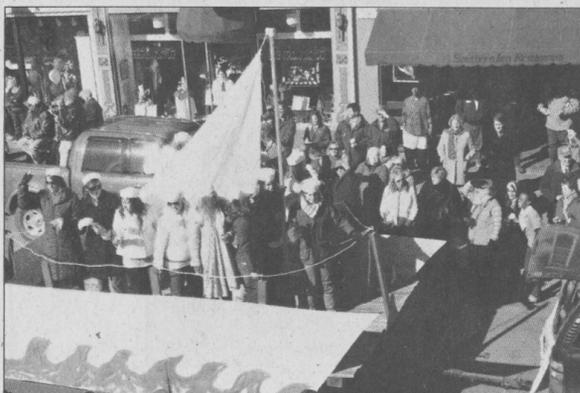


## Town enjoys frigid, festive parade



Left: The Texas delegation took first place in Friday morning's Mock Convention parade with the theme, "Everything's Bigger in Texas." Middle row, (L-R): Arkansas's razorback float took second place, while the Mississippi delegation rode down Main Street in a giant catfish and the Florida delegation did their best to pretend that temperatures were balmer than the 24 degree weather when the parade began. Bottom (l-r): These freshmen may not have known they'd be working as donkey handlers, but no Democratic parade would be complete without a set of donkeys up front. Though most donkeys were happy to walk along, one flatly refused to leave the parade's staging area, even when he was offered treats by his student handler. Meanwhile, the U.S. Virgin Islands got a nod from the parade organizers for their theme: virgins. Not to be outdone, the Wyoming delegation was sure to make sure everyone knew about their state's "big tetons."

PHOTOS BY LENORA NUNNLEY / Staff photographer





# news

## Greek leaders develop vision council

Alcohol abuse, risky behavior on Tear Night spark ideas to improve student health

By Jacob Geiger  
MANAGING EDITOR

Two weeks after Greek rush week resulted in disciplinary sanctions against multiple fraternities, and a full health center on Tear Night, Greek leaders are launching a new plan to address problems in the fraternity system.

Incoming Inter-fraternity Council President and current Junior Justice Alex Duckworth said work began on the document the Monday and Tuesday after Tear Night.

"We want this to be something students think is a good idea," Duckworth said.

According to Director of Campus Activities Jason Rodocker, the document will act as a constantly evolving barometer of Washington and Lee's Greek system.

The current version describes a Greek system struggling with alcohol abuse, harassment of Traveller drivers, hazing problems, women seeking the morning after pill after unprotected sex and sexual assault rates that continue to exceed the national collegiate average.

"Basically, Tear Night was the catalyst" for the document, Rodocker said.

Both Rodocker and Duckworth said problems with the fraternity rush began before the Tear Night parties resulted in students being admitted to the health center and Stonewall Jackson Hospital for

drunkenness.

"It was kind of shocking to see some things we seemed to be making progress on go backwards," Rodocker said.

According to philosophy professor Melina Bell, who serves on the Student Affairs Committee, these types of incidents give faculty a negative view of the Greek system.

"Students can learn real leadership and address problems in the community [through the Greek system]," Bell said.

"Faculty members who were Greek see it as a social organization but also as other things like a chance to learn leadership and service."

Bell said the faculty doesn't mind the fact that students drink. What does concern them, she said, is how prevalent alcohol appears to be at W&L.

"There is concern for student health, and it draws energy away from learning," Bell said. "People are more tired; alcohol impairs memory and takes time away from studying and events that could broaden horizons."

### A weekend of problems

For the IFC, problems began the Thursday night of rush week, a night more commonly known as bid night. IFC officers regularly noticed that members at both Pi Kappa Phi and Kappa Alpha were serving alcohol to freshmen, a direct violation of rules that prohibit

alcohol from being served during formal rush.

The IFC handed the two fraternities social probation for two weeks, a \$5 per member fine and conduct probation, which means that if the fraternities violate rush rules next year, they'll face a disciplinary strike from the IFC.

Current IFC President Chris Wornom said the problems at the two houses were confined to just a few members and weren't house-wide.

Things only got worse Friday, a supposed no-contact night that was designed to give freshmen time to think about which house they want to join.

But IFC discovered that most fraternities had set up parties Friday night where freshmen could go to an empty house and help themselves to copious amounts of beer and liquor.

No upperclassmen were present at most houses, so no-contact rules were not technically violated. But according to Rodocker and Duckworth, the events clearly abused the spirit of the no-contact rules.

Since so many houses were caught, the council decided to forgo disciplinary measures and instead focus on writing new rules that will prevent the recurrence of these parties next year.

"Rules like this come about because people exploit loopholes in the principles" of rush week, Rodocker said.

But problems in the Greek system aren't just confined to fraternities.

As the first draft of the Greek vision said, "Sorority women show up at fraternity parties having already gotten drunk beyond the point of good decision making."

Jackie DiBiasie, the incoming Panhellenic president, said the sororities would be working hard to address the issues in the document.

"We recognize it is an equal problem on the guys and girls sides," DiBiasie said.

### A full health center

Dr. Jane Horton, director of student health, said this year's Tear Night was the busiest in about 10 years.

"We were busier here than all fall," Horton said. "People were celebrating in high-risk ways."

And though every bed and couch in the health center was full with a mix of students suffering from regular illnesses or from alcohol problems, Horton said the staff managed to handle the crunch of students without having to call in extra staff.

According to Duckworth, the IFC president, some students were sent to the hospital with blood alcohol levels that approached or exceeded .30 percent. The legal driving limit for 21-year-olds in Virginia is .08 percent.

Horton also said that use of

emergency contraceptives, or Plan B, by female students was more prevalent after Tear Night.

"We always see a Plan B blip on big weekends like Orientation, Homecoming and Christmas Weekend," Horton said. "The number of prescriptions we gave out [after Tear Night] was in line with those levels."

Horton said she sees a direct correlation between high-risk alcohol use and the number of Plan B doses requested by students. W&L still administers Plan B as a prescription, but students can receive the dose from a nurse and do not have to see one of the center's two doctors.

DiBiasie said the sororities would continue to educate their members about the link between drinking and unprotected sex.

She said sorority women also continue to be distressed by the high level of sexual assaults.

"Alcohol is linked to that, so hopefully after alcohol use goes down, assaults will go down too."

Bell said the faculty members often wonder why W&L students seem to spend so little time interacting with members of the opposite sex.

### Closing the gap

Duckworth, Wornom and other student leaders said they're struggling to close the gap between student leaders and the members

of different Greek chapters.

"This school needs and is ready for change, but drastic change won't work," Duckworth said.

He said that constant evolution will help fraternities move forward.

"The fraternity I joined freshman year and the one I'm in now are not the same chapter, in a good way," Duckworth said.

To get more chapter members involved, a Greek vision council is being formed to continually review and discuss the document.

Wornom said that fraternity members don't necessarily have to help develop the vision, but he said members realize that change is coming to the system.

"They do need to understand why it's important," Wornom said. "If we achieve that a lot of things will fall into place."

Bell said she also sees the separation between student leaders and chapter members.

"I see a big disconnect between what leaders do and want to do and student expectations."

Bell said that the faculty wants to see the Greek system improve and has been impressed with the response of student leaders in the Greek system.

"They have the right attitude and potential to make changes," Bell said.

"The most pressing concern is how much students drink and how often."

## Words of wisdom

continued from page 1

democracy" originally conceived by the founders—a democracy with the franchise limited to a landowning class.

He praised the Democratic field's diversity and willingness to vigorously debate the best direction course for the nation while condemning the "mutichrome debatelessness" of the Republican candidates.

Touching briefly on policy recommendations, Jackson drew applause from the predominantly college-age crowd for his call to increase Pell grants in order to ease the financial burdens on students.

"Too few in college, too many in jail," he said.

Jackson also called for investment in infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and schools, and called for strong action to "put American back to work" and to address what he called the "sub-prime crisis" in the housing market.

He closed by admonishing a government that he believes leaves "poor people exposed" and "fights terror with terror."

"I dream of the day when we will honor the promise of fairness ... of equality," he said. "It's time

for a change."

In a press conference after his address, Jackson elaborated on his policy vision. He called for a new national vision along the lines of the New Deal to address the ailing economy at home and a policy of engagement with Iran and Syria abroad.

"We need a foreign policy not foreign to our values," he said.

When asked about the legacy young people should receive, Jackson expressed his hope that he could pass down to his grandchild "a sense that she matters, a sense of religion, a sustaining force."

He also touched briefly on his own upbringing, stressing in particular the importance of hard work and temperance; he explained that he does not drink to this day because he saw as a young man too many hard-working friends "get drunk and lose all self-respect on the weekends."

While Jackson did not wish to sway student opinion one way or another, he was not shy about declaring his own allegiance: "I'm voting for Barack," he said.

### 'Most serious election of my lifetime'

Earlier Friday, delegates heard remarks from former congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro. Ferraro, the first woman nominated

to the vice-presidency by a major political party, strongly endorsed Senator Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

In addition to Clinton's record and policy stances, Ferraro was a particular fan of another one of her qualifications: "I really like the fact that she's a woman," she said.

Declaring that the nation is ready for a woman chief executive, Ferraro went on to say that, had Walter "Fritz" Mondale won the 1984 election, she would have been elected in 1992 and "the whole issue would've been decided."

She remarked on how much has changed in recent times—declaring that, for the first time in United States history, "being white and male is a disadvantage" in a presidential campaign.

Ferraro spoke hopefully about the role of youth in the political process, declaring that young people possess a "baloney-meter" that can detect the authenticity of the candidates.

She expanded upon this theme in a press conference following her speech, praising the student body for its political awareness; she suggested the voter turnout of W&L students in the coming election would almost certainly be ahead of the nation as a whole.

She also discussed upon the state of the campaign leading up to what she called in her speech "the most important election of my lifetime." She declared that women "are never allowed to cry in politics" while disputing the claim that Sen. Clinton's eleventh-hour show of emotion helped her achieve victory in a close New Hampshire primary.

Regardless of who wins the primary, she expressed confidence that Democrats will "come together at the convention."

She also expressed her appreciation for fellow speaker and former colleague Charlie Wilson: "He's better looking than Tom Hanks," she said of the former Congressman.

### 'What the hell?'

Former senator Max Cleland delivered a rousing speech to the convention that was part polemic and part comedy.

He opened by quoting Benjamin Franklin's famous line that he had given the people "a republic ... if [they could] keep it" and praised the student body's participation as a fine example of such "keeping."

However, he qualified his statement by remarking that, if Franklin were to walk into the gym that day, he would probably exclaim "What the hell?"

Cleland's routine included multiple jokes about his own Methodist church and the Republican Party: "Air conditioning spoiled the South," he said. "It brought Republicans down."

A Vietnam veteran who lost both legs and an arm when a grenade accidentally went off, even Cleland's wounds were part of his material. "I didn't really get wounded in Vietnam—I went hunting with Dick Cheney," he said to loud laughter and applause.

The remainder of his speech dealt with far more serious issues.

"We are in as grave a situation since World War II," he declared, launching into a lengthy discourse against war in general and the Iraq war in particular.

"War has become a part of the institutional fabric of our country, and that's not the way it's supposed to be," he said, adding that it is "immoral" to keep American troops in Iraq. The president and secretary of defense, he said afterward, are "continuing this descent into hell [by sending] these kids back and back and back" to fight a war that will leave them emotionally scarred.

He also warned of impending economic doom, proclaiming that "the economic strategy of this administration is bankrupt."

In his speech and in comments afterward, he predicted a coming "deflationary depression" that will hit in January 2009, to be caused in part by the failure of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to sufficiently guarantee bank deposits amidst a crisis of consumer confidence.

"The top end of the financial service industry is going to collapse," he said.

In order to combat said depression, he recommended the next president use his first 100 days in office to enact New Deal-style measures, including a moratorium on foreclosures and rising interest rates.

His advice to the student body: stay involved. "Run for delegate," he encouraged them, while boldly proclaiming: "Tomorrow, you'll be choosing the President of the United States."

Cleland's praise for W&L continued backstage, where he spoke freely with students. Said Michigan State Chair Neil Sheaffer: "[Cleland] seemed truly moved by the fact that nearly the whole campus was at the convention ... He just couldn't stop shaking his head and saying how sold he was on this school and his students—he said, 'don't be surprised if I show up on your doorstep tomorrow.'"

## Three panhellenic sororities vie for single spot at W&L

Sorority women will vote for sixth chapter to join campus next fall, changes in recruitment will benefit newcomer

By Jacob Geiger  
MANAGING EDITOR

After years of work, Washington and Lee University is just weeks away from finalizing plans to bring a sixth Panhellenic sorority to campus.

After Panhellenic Council reviewed applications from 11 sororities, three—Phi Mu, Alpha Delta Pi and Delta Delta Delta—were selected as finalists.

Each of the five existing sororities will rank the candidates from 1-3, and the sorority with the highest score will become W&L's newest chapter.

"With fraternities, you have 14 options, whereas girls only have five," said Lauren Ottaway, who

led Panhellenic's extension— or sorority recruitment—efforts.

The new chapter will colonize on campus next winter during formal recruitment. Though the chapter will not have a house next year, the university has agreed to build a sixth sorority house that will open no later than fall 2011. The house will be located next to the Kappa Kappa Gamma house.

A 2005 attempt to add a new sorority collapsed because the school and national sorority could not reach an agreement over how—and when—a new house would be built.

Ottaway said she and other sorority women looked closely at the candidates to make sure they

understood W&L's culture.

"You can definitely tell who had been to campus and looked things up," she said.

Senior Jess Cobb, who just finished a term as president of Pi Beta Phi, said Panhellenic also looked for a sorority that would complement the current houses.

"We looked for different types of programming, different philanthropy," Cobb said.

Dana Smith, the assistant director of student activities and Greek life, said the main purpose of adding a new chapter was to reduce the size of sororities.

"Students come to W&L for a small, close-knit community," Smith said, "and they want that in

student life as well as in the classroom."

The current chapters started the year with between 73-100 members and then added 35-40 new members during rush.

Once the new sorority reaches full capacity, each chapter would hopefully have an average size of 70 and then add 20-25 new members each winter.

To help the new sorority reach capacity, it will be able to offer 70 bids next winter while other sororities will only be able to extend about 25. That number will not officially be set until next fall.

Recruitment efforts will be led by national officers from the sorority and women from chapters

at nearby schools. Smith said this practice is common when new sororities colonize at a school. Members of W&L's Kappa Alpha Theta chapter helped a new chapter at James Madison University get off the ground in the fall.

The three finalists will be on campus this week for presentations that will be open to the public. Alpha Delta Pi will be here on Jan. 31, followed by Delta Delta Delta on Feb. 5 and Phi Mu on Feb. 7. All presentations will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Elrod Commons' theater, with smaller discussions scheduled to take place after each presentation in a room upstairs.

To vote, women must attend

all three presentations.

And though the new chapter won't have a house for girls to live in, Ottaway said there will be other selling points for the new sorority.

"A major selling point is to be a founding member and see a sorority come into fruition," Ottaway said. "It also lets sophomores and juniors come in and take strong leadership roles right away."

Jackie DiBiasie, the incoming Panhellenic president, agreed with Ottaway.

"You have no house, but you have the opportunity to create a new sorority," DiBiasie said. "It's a chance to set precedent."

# opinions

## staffeditorial Hillary for president?

*We may have chosen Clinton, but youth not guaranteed to vote come November*

At 8:00 Friday night, Mock Convention finally made sense.

It was truly moving to look out across a packed house of students in ties, dresses and those funny little hats as former Sen. Max Cleland and Rev. Jesse Jackson captivated the crowd.

Years of planning, recruiting speakers, signing up delegates and a bitterly cold parade finally paid off.

Many of us probably didn't agree with parts of Jackson's speech. After all, he focused on race in a year when the candidate he supports — Barack Obama — is talking about moving beyond race and looking into the 21st century for a new, bi-racial coalition.

In a way, Jackson's speech was a perfect example of the divide that separates Obama and our generation from people like the Clintons and Jackson.

Regardless of each delegate's politics, it was exciting to see a campus.

We may have enjoyed hearing people like Gov. Tim Kaine and Sen. Jim Webb, but this convention really belonged to Del. Attorney Gen. Beau Biden, Texas Rep. Patrick Rose and former Rep. Harold Ford, Jr. Those three men are the next generation of leaders, and it was clear from the reception they received that students are excited about the future these men represent.

Mock Convention probably describes our school and

culture better than any other event.

The hard work across the board was obvious. Incredible floats (did you see the Arkansas and Georgia delegations?) mixed with — we hope — incredible political savvy.

And because we're W&L, we took time out to laugh at ourselves and make sure the Texans on campus remembered that they're just another state, not their own nation. And, in case you forgot, Colorado is the highest state in the nation.

It may be weeks before we know who wins the Democratic nod, but this much is clear: despite the overwhelming signal that more students support Obama than Clinton, each delegation voted with its head in-

stead of its heart.

Though Clinton won yesterday's vote, our convention should serve as a warning to her. Young voters — both on this campus and across the nation — are a huge wild card for the primaries and the general election.

If Obama can emerge with the nomination, these voters might be the block that guarantees a victory against his Republican opponent (assuming, of course, that the GOP is eventually able to pick a candidate).

Will these young voters turn out for Clinton in November? Or will they stay home and decide that their parents and grandparents are too dumb to pay attention to the youth?

When asked, most of the speakers seemed confident that W&L students will vote in November regardless of who the parties nominate. They're taking the student vote for granted, convinced that this important election will have high turnout regardless of the candidates.

This idea is foolish and naïve. Students won't vote in November unless they think one of the candidates will listen to the younger generation and move beyond the pointless bickering that has left so many young Americans fed up with politics.

We may have picked Clinton, but unless she changes her tune, she shouldn't expect many of our votes in November.

## Mock Con continues time-honored traditions

*Strong, promising Democratic leaders who speak on relevant issues a privilege to listen to*

By Jess Steinmetz  
COLUMNIST

Unlike many seniors, I only had the small role as a delegate in Mock Convention. While I did not take advantage of the opportunity to become further involved, I still believe it was a more rewarding experience than it would have been if I were a freshman.

Since I moved to Lexington, the classes I have taken and my experiences have made this weekend even more meaningful. Without Professor Beckley's poverty class, the speakers who focused on poverty would have not had such a profound impact. Similarly, without Professor's Mitchell's class on election media coverage, I would have barely known Harold Ford's name.

Knowing the details of his political history allowed me to further appreciate his inspiring words.

I had little connection with Virginia freshman year and still found it difficult to even imag-

ine that I lived in the South of all places. Now I actually say I live in Virginia without thinking twice, which made hearing Virginia Governor Kaine, Virginia Senator Webb, and Richmond Mayor Wilder even more consequential.

As a senior, my perspective on voting is far different than it was as a college freshman. I will soon be graduating and leaving "college life" behind me. As a freshman, my focus was on the next four years of my life, which is certainly not the case now.

When voting for president, it is crucial to look at more than just the next four years. Political issues now have an impact on my life as a working individual rather than a student. I believe most freshmen are looking at politics as a student where seniors are starting to view it differently.

Thankfully, graduation is approaching and we will soon be entering the workforce. Thus, we will soon have a vested interest in the dreaded

topic of taxes. Since all candidates address the issue of taxes, this is a far more relevant issue for graduating seniors than for freshmen. While I have been paying taxes since I first moved here, it becomes more crucial of an issue since my meager paycheck will be soon rising.

For the masses of students who left Friday night after Jesse Jackson's speech, you not only made Washington and Lee students appear rude but you also missed a unique opportunity. Texas State Representative Rose, former Senator Moseley Braun and Richmond Mayor Wilder all gave inspiring speeches that deserved the undivided attention of the student body.

My favorite part of Moseley's speech was her anecdote about her reason for running for president. For those who missed it, her 10-year-old niece was highly disturbed when she looked in her history book and only saw the pictures of boys as president.

Moseley's response,

"Sweetie, girls can be president, too," was what she then saw as a white lie. It later inspired her to not let that lie stand, and she ran for president. When I met and shook hands with Carol Mosley Brown, I was struck by the fact that she is an amazing woman who has made significant differences for women in politics.

Although I would hate to think this is the year that breaks our record, I cannot help but wish we predicted wrong and that Barack Obama will be our next president. As Governor Kaine suggests, Barack Obama, "is about bringing people together and about unifying this nation." After all, can you really picture a Clinton bringing Republicans and Democrats together?

Although I sincerely believe it is far past time that a woman was elected president, I am not confident Senator Clinton is the best choice. I believe she has the capability to win the Democratic primary, but I fear her election will margin-

alize disgruntled Republicans and keep the White House in Republican hands. Even if she is successful in becoming the first female president, her last name will result in partisanship for the next four years.

This weekend W&L students were privileged to have the opportunity to listen to esteemed guest speakers who all have made significant contributions to our political system. Mock Convention has previously chosen speakers with promising futures in politics. This year we continued this tradition by listening to Harold Ford Jr. and Patrick Rose. I firmly believe we will see these two individuals become strong leaders in the Democratic Party in years to come.

I sincerely hope that Mock Convention inspired students to become more involved in our political process. It energized my enthusiasm for politics. Personally, I feel honored to have listened to the speeches of these highly regarded politicians.

## Letter to the editor Abortion a crime

*Most diverse Americans oppose legal abortions*

Dear Editor,  
This is a response to Prof. Melina Bell's letter to the editor in the Dec. 3 issue.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "It seems to me as clear as daylight that abortion would be a crime."

I agree with Prof. Bell's premise that sectarian views should not be enforced by the state. Given that premise, her argument for keeping abortion legal rests on the claim that the pro-life position is a "sectarian" view; therefore, it does not reflect the fundamental beliefs of all people in our culture.

This claim fails for two reasons. The pro-life position is not sectarian because it is held by so many people from so many different backgrounds.

A recent Time magazine poll showed 55 percent of Americans oppose legal abortions, except possibly in rare cases of danger to the mother's life or rape/incest.

And it's not just Christian conservatives who oppose abortion. Do a search on the web for pro-life organizations, and you can find many Jews, Muslims, atheists and agnostics, liberals, feminists, gays and lesbians and others who oppose abortion.

The second reason why the claim fails—this also explains the first—is that the pro-life position is derived from very basic scientific and moral principles. Religious doctrines are not necessary.

Take the fact that a fetus is a human being with its very own identity—I don't see Prof. Bell seriously disputing this. Then add the fact that the fetus has done nothing wrong, certainly nothing warranting death.

Given the basic moral principle that all innocent human beings have a basic, inalienable right to life, it follows that the state ought to uphold the fetus's right to live.

Is being anti-slavery sectarian?  
Is being anti-segregation sectarian?

Once upon a time one might have said yes. So I'm not surprised the pro-life position is being called sectarian today.

I find it interesting that Prof. Bell compares slavery with abortion because slavery is a case in which a clearly immoral practice was kept alive because of cultural problems too ingrained to eliminate using pure logic.

The same is true with abortion today.

We can talk about "offering each other reasons from within our shared value system" all day long, but the real reason abortion continues is that our society has many structural problems that need to be addressed. The pro-life movement has taken practical steps to address these problems.

Pro-lifers run organizations that provide free healthcare to pregnant women, post-abortive counseling, adoption assistance, and even sexual education programs. All of these organizations rely on the support of people who are willing to act on their pro-life convictions, not merely attack abortion with heated rhetoric.

Their services help to provide a model for a society that is both compassionate and responsible.

This is the long and difficult solution to the problems our culture faces with unwanted pregnancies. But it is the only real solution.

Abortion is given as a much quicker and easier solution, but such shallow virtues can never justify killing innocent human beings.

Abortion continues to be part of our culture not because we really feel it is justified, but rather because we feel it is impossible to lose abortion.

In this way, it really is no different from slavery—completely wrong, yet completely ingrained in our culture.

As a country we ought to be clamoring for a state that recognizes this and is willing to effect a change.

Jameson Graber  
'08 President, Students for Life

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## I hope Mock Con's wrong

*We can't stand Hillary, crowd shouted "O-bam-a"*

By Cody Beauchamp  
COLUMNIST

I thought you were supposed to cheer after you nominate your presidential candidate. I guess not.

Let's all give the Mock Con leadership credit; they did their job to the letter.

While the floor was chanting "O-bam-a! O-bam-a!", Waller and co. declared—without a hint of indecision—that Hillary Clinton would win the White House.

Their prediction was the product of countless hours of research by them, the state chairs and scores of other students.

They probably gave us the right answer. Hillary will probably win the Democratic nomination.

Damn.

The thing that struck me about the scene is this—we could not have engineered a better picture of the problem with our generation voting.

Obama is an exciting candidate.

The youngest voters have adopted him as the next JFK, the next great inspirational American leader. He excites young voters in a way that no other candidate can.

At Mock Con we were supposed to play house.

We were supposed to pretend we were the delegates who are headed to the DNC in Colorado later this year.

These delegates—our Mock Con research teams tell us—like Hillary. They

look at her credentials and policies, her networks and campaign team and they see someone who can win.

For a brief while, though, a majority of Washington and Lee students forgot to play house. They forgot to pretend to like Hillary.

A perfect example—Alice Shih announcing that the great state of Texas allots delegates to Hillary Clinton while the entire delegation is on its feet waving Obama signs.

Umm...well, see if you can grab a Hillary sign, I guess.

Texas wasn't alone.

I'm sure W&L's public relations people breathed a silent prayer of thanks when they found out it was Bill Clinton on the phone instead of his wife.

I'm not sure it would have been good press for the senator to overhear the Obama chants after we supposedly nominated her.

Bill we love, if for no other reason than the man would probably be the first on the Pole 3 dance floor (see Zollman's, 1992).

If you think about it, the symbolism is dead on.

Why do you think the youngest American voters don't vote?

I'm not a political scientist. I don't quote de Touqueville. But if I had to guess, I'd say that young voters are tired of tired candidates.

Hillary has been around for a while. I still disagree with Congresswoman Ferraro about her "experience," but that's another matter. Experienced or not, she's an old hand.

Obama is young. He excites people, and, more importantly, he excites young people.

But if every exciting candidate for our generation loses their nomination bids, do you really expect young voters to show up in force?

Absolutely not.

Maybe Mock Con should have thrown their aspirations of accuracy out the window.

Will it be accurate as a predictive exercise that we nominated Hillary?

Probably, and for that I applaud those among us who worked so hard to that end.

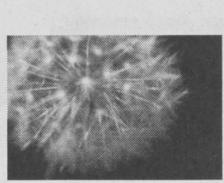
But was nominating a candidate I don't think many in the student body can stand the best use of our school's bully pulpit?

With national media attention focused on little old Lexington, W&L's students officially predicted Hillary would win. Officially.

But the Obama chants showed who we wanted to win. I hate to ruin Wes Little's day, but I hope we got it wrong.

If the chants, posters and deflated students showed anything, it's that a lot of them are secretly hoping the same thing.

Sorry, Wes.



# arts & life

## Mock Convention parties a highlight of the weekend

*Social aspects of the weekend demonstrate excitement of the convention and bring the student body closer together*

By Celeste Cruz-Carandang  
STAFF WRITER

Work hard, play hard—the mantra of all W&L students. From the most diligent state chairs to the mysteriously absent delegates, all have felt the stress of Mock Convention. Thus, it goes without saying that the celebrations of this year's caucus were perhaps just as memorable as the event itself.

In the past few days, states have been throwing inter-delegation mixers. The entire Western Region hosted a party at Pole One on the Monday before Mock Convention. Wednesday evening, several of the smaller delegations, including Delaware, Ohio, West Virginia, Kansas, Indiana, Utah and Guam, put aside their time differences and celebrated under one flag at Old House. That same night, Pole Three was home to delegations such as Virginia, Alabama, South Carolina and the Democrats Abroad.

Interestingly enough, the settings of such mixers portended the normal Washington and Lee revelry. Each locale was familiar, as was the enjoyable pandemonium that ensued. Yet, those in attendance made each event different from the run-of-the-mill gatherings. California State Chair, Kathryn Allen, commented, "The atmosphere was very similar to other W&L parties—the setting was familiar, the drinks and games were

*"The only distinguishing factor was the sort of atypical groups of students who were hanging out together..."*

Kathryn Allen, California State Chair

familiar, the dancing was familiar. The only distinguishing factor was the sort of atypical groups of students who were hanging out together, which made it a good opportunity to meet some new people and step out of the social bubble in which a lot of us get stuck...Mock Con. parties just allow us to meet some new people, which is always fun."

Despite the sense of community that the parties encouraged, the stress concerning the actual affair took its toll on the students. For three weeks, those involved in Mock Convention have lived and breathed research, contacts, predictions and float construction. It is no surprise, then, that a few hours of carefree merriment should be awarded to them. "There was a lot more heavy drinking," observed Valeree Tang, who attended a few of Saturday night's Mock Convention parties. "I guess a bunch of people were just blowing off some steam. They all worked so hard to pull together the parade and the speakers and their predictions, that they just needed some outlet when all their work was over."

Unfortunately, some students crossed the line when it came to alcohol and their own limits. Security guards reported a student passed out in front of Graham-Lees, who had to go to the infirmary. They warned students to consider their decisions carefully and to take care of their friends. A number of students made visits to the health center, although the parties ended much earlier than most weekends.

Although there was bad news to report with the good, Mock Convention was an enormous success. Washington and Lee did not only gain an enormous amount of prestige and notability, but was able to bring its students together. Although ninety percent of the student body was under more than fifty flags, we were brought together under one cause, under one event. So, whether we were right or wrong about Hillary, I would say that we did Mock Convention right.

## Cloverfield a good thrill

*Monster film a fun and exciting new twist on genre*

By Grace Andrews  
STAFF WRITER

"What is that?" "Something terrible." "What is that?" "Something else, also terrible." These two quotes from the new J.J. Abrams film "Cloverfield" semi-embodiment the reactions that this film elicits. The movie begins with official government style messages that inform the viewer that the tape is from what was once Central Park. Soon after that unfolds the story of Rob, his brother Jason, Jason's girlfriend Lily, his best-friend Hud and Hud's mysterious crush Marlana. Prior to the surprise party beginning, Hud gets charged with manning the camera and capturing "farewell" messages for Rob, as he celebrates a job promotion to Japan. During the party they hear a thunderous noise from the streets and run out to see what appears to be asteroids falling, as a strange mist fills the city. What ensues from there must be seen to be believed, as a skyscraper-sized creature destroys New York, Manhattan in particular.

However, instead of escaping when they have a chance, the crew runs back into the city to rescue a distressed Beth, who is Rob's best friend and love interest. Our home-boy, Rob, gets hit with a bout of knight-in-shining armor syndrome and feels obliged to save the lovely brunette, especially since his last words to Beth were anything but well wishes.

Marlena, the voice of reason, expresses her reluctance to walk into danger, especially since Beth says something about being stuck and bleeding, which means she could be dead by the time they get to her. Does anyone listen to her? OF COURSE NOT, because that would have actually made sense! As this rag-tag gang make their way into the heart of the city

that the movie unfolds from the vantage point of the cameraman, so think *Blair Witch Project*, but better quality. This limits the audience in the sense that we can't see everything, but the strong sense of uncertainty adds to the suspense and makes us feel like we're running through the streets of New York, right along with the crew.

and the impossibility of them actually removing their shoes because of the debris. Nonetheless, there is one scene where Lily removes her three-inch stilettos in order to properly climb stairs, while huffing and puffing like a runaway train. Now, if that's not realistic, I don't know what is.

Prior to writing this review, I read some other reviews online, and the biggest complaint seems to be the abruptness of the ending. However, I must contend that *Cloverfield* is as realistic as a monster movie can be. The occurrences within the film are sudden, knee-jerking and terrifyingly confusing at times, because if a giant monster were to storm the streets today, almost everyone I know would react as the characters in this movie did. Now, take my statements for what they are—opinion. If you wish to experience a film like never before, watch the movie. Is it worth eight dollars? Maybe not, especially because of the abruptness with which the movie ends. It seemed to leave many in the theater wanting more than what the film could give. So, if you don't like realism in film, I recommend you wait until it comes out on DVD, pitch in with a bunch of friends, and rent a night full of fun! That way, you'll only have to pay about a dollar or so for the latest twist on the monster genre. So overall, I give this movie 7.75 out of 10 stars.

*Cloverfield is as realistic as a monster movie can be. The occurrences within the film are sudden, knee-jerk and terrifyingly confusing at times.*

to rescue Beth, the U.S. military works to evacuate the city, while also attempting to annihilate the monster.

Hud, the loveable idiot, seems to be the movie's comic relief, mastering the art of ridiculous lines at the most inopportune time, while still maintaining his job as cameraman. The audience could not help but laugh during the more intense scenes because of Hud's incredible talent for saying the wrong thing. He was definitely my favorite character.

What I liked most about the film is that you never really get a clear view of the monster, further adding to the terror of the film. It's also important to remember

Now, if you are one of those people who requires a plot that tells the entire story from beginning to end, then *Cloverfield* is not for you. I repeat, it's not for you. This film starts suddenly in the middle of a story, of which we are never given the full details. However, I argue that this "Insta-movie," add actors, monsters and film, has a little more meat than some people give it credit for. For instance, when Lily and Marlana are running through the streets in high heels and looking slightly disheveled, but still beautiful, I thought about how phony that was, but my movie buddy, Aisha Davis, explained to me the perks of movie magic, a.k.a. make-up

## Parade down Main Street a great success

*Mock Con's parade was a thrill for participants and spectators alike*

By Kimber Wiggs  
STAFF WRITER

The centennial Mock Convention began Friday morning, as men, women and children of Lexington and beyond lined Main Street to watch the long-awaited Mock Con. parade. Though not quite as long as I expected, the parade was a once in a collegiate lifetime experience, one that laterisers were unfortunate to miss.

Wandering around Brewbaker Field before the trailers began to disembark, I saw the results of all the hard work that went into this parade. Some delegations truly made their states proud with sculptures, costuming and carefully applied coats of paint. Hawaii built a volcano; Washington, the Space Needle; and Georgia, a giant bottle of everyone's favorite Classic soda. Other states led me to wonder if they had assembled their floats that very morning. Even so, the mood was upbeat, and it warmed my heart in

the freezing air.

In addition to the delegation floats, three student bands played on flat beds during the parade. Amid the roar of generators and the fumes of gasoline, these musicians played their hearts out and

play an instrument.

I had the privilege of walking beside West Virginia's float for the event. Though not a native West Virginian, I was nevertheless inspired by the outpouring of WV pride from my fellow

thanked them profusely as their out-stretched hands received gifts of chocolate goodness.

Without a doubt, the best part of the parade was watching the on-lookers. Though shivering in the 30-degree morning, the attendees were happy to be present and returned our greetings with waves and smiles. I felt a surge of excitement every time someone recognized the New River Gorge Bridge or the Mountaineer that were part of our float. I imagine other float-riders felt the same pride when they, too, were finally recognized for their hard work.

In the end, the big prize went to the Texas delegation. The announcement was met with some disappointment by states who seemed to think they deserved the win. But to Texas' credit, that Alamo replica was pretty cool. And even if only one float could be the best in the land, that doesn't make the process any less special or the clowns any less creepy.

spilled their musical guts all over Main Street. One band member described his experience as "the most dangerous gig I've ever played." Not surprising, considering how easily one can fall off a moving float, even when he or she is not also trying to sing and

delegates. Thanks to a CD with the same track copied 22 times, "Country Roads" was constantly playing and I was faithfully singing along. To add to the joy of the occasion, members of the delegation passed out candy to parade-goers. Shiny-eyed children

*I felt a surge of excitement every time someone recognized the New River Gorge Bridge or the Mountaineer that were part of our float. I imagine other float riders felt the same pride when they, too, were finally recognized for their hard work.*

## Despite long sessions, students enjoy A-list speakers

*Jesse Jackson and Charlie Wilson draw the biggest hype, but Cleland's surprising performance wins him some new fans*

By Allison Chopin and John Henderson  
STAFF WRITERS

The long-awaited weekend of Washington and Lee's centennial Mock Convention brought diverse student responses to the festivities and results.

A parade of floats built by the delegations kicked off the convention on Friday morning. The parade participants as well as the onlookers enjoyed themselves as the floats rolled down Main Street, though many complained about the cold weather.

"Being on the float was a lot of fun," said freshman Victoria Taylor, delegate for the territory of Guam. "There were only five people on our delegation, and three of us got to ride on the float. We were in between Florida and

Hawaii so we blended in because we all had a tropical theme."

"It's a tie between Mississippi and Maine," freshman and New York delegate Anne Parlato said, speaking of her favorite floats. "Maine had sword-fighting lobsters, but I liked Mississippi with the camo and guns."

Delaware Attorney General Joseph R. "Beau" Biden commanded the room with a direct, clear delivery, giving the session's second address. "He certainly had a presence," said sophomore Neville Foggarty.

Geraldine A. Ferraro, Former New York U.S. Representative and Vice Presidential candidate, spoke later that afternoon, to the joy of many New York residents and delegates.

"I love her. She's fabulous," sophomore Jessie Wang of New

York said. "I've worked with a lot of politicians in New York, and she's someone I've always admired. She's a role model."

Senior Katelyn Finley of the Puerto Rico delegation, however, felt there was a "generational disconnect" between Ferraro, who spoke of equality for women, and the audience of college students. "Her generation has had to fight for their equality while my generation doesn't have to fight so much," Finley said.

Arguably, the two most anticipated speakers were Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and former U.S. Texas Representative Charles Wilson. As the subject of the recent movie "Charlie Wilson's War" starring Tom Hanks, Wilson's celebrity status clearly made him a popular speaker. But Hanks himself could not do jus-

tice to the ready humor, reassuring demeanor, and sheer charm that won audience members over on Friday afternoon.

Wilson delivered the last address of the first session, sharing stories of his call to politics and experience in the Cold War. "I thought it was really interesting," said junior Tara Hildenbrand, native and delegate of Texas, in response. "I never knew who he was before. It was an inspiring story."

Other students were disappointed that Wilson did not "comment on our convention and the youth involvement," as freshman Hannah Muther, delegate of Illinois, said.

Former U.S. Senator Max Cleland, who lost both legs and one arm in the Vietnam War, gave a stirring speech during the sec-

ond session on Saturday punctuated with Methodist jokes. The audience found this segment of the convention highly entertaining. "Best speech ever! That was brilliant!" said junior Michael Gretchen, chair of the Louisiana delegation.

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson's speech on Saturday night met with applause but also with mixed reactions from the student delegates. "I might think he's crazy, but I found it entertaining," said freshman Greg Franke, delegate and native of Maryland.

With a sense of raw power, Jackson invoked audience members to take action against inequality. As senior Nicole Morello put it, "he was really able to move the emotions of the crowd."

Senior Dan Harris said of Jackson's speech, "it was really

the highlight of the convention."

The convention served as a learning opportunity for many. Freshman Nay Lin, an international student from Burma, attended the Mock Convention to learn more about the American political system. He said it is much more difficult to be politically active in Burma where democracy is limited. In America, Lin said, "you can do anything if you put effort into it."

Midwest regional chair Shane Wilson spoke of the purpose of Mock Convention and its success in involving youth. "If nothing else, this is going to spark an interest, spark a passion," Wilson said. "This brings the most important issues of our time to the students to combat the widespread apathy in our generation."



# sports

## Giants not second best

The Neil(s) break down the Super Bowl between the Patriots and Giants

By **Neill Thupari and Neil Sheaffer**  
COLUMNISTS

First off, are these the two best teams in the NFL?

NS: Nope. The Patriots are by far the best team in the NFL and probably the best team ever, so they are a no-brainer at the number one spot. Do I even need to try and provide an explanation for that? I hope not. Are the Giants the second best team in the NFL? No, I don't think so. Now, I think that most people are going to throw everything I'm about to write out the window because the Giants really have been playing well recently, but I've got to stick to my opinions and the season as a whole. I think the Chargers are the second best team in the league. The Chargers gave the Patriots a legitimate run for their money, and I really believe that a healthy LT would have gotten them touchdowns in the red zone. I could also make an argument for the Colts as the best team other than the Patriots, but a very beat-up Chargers team took out a reasonably beat-up Colts team in Indianapolis, so I have to give the edge to the Chargers. So basically it comes down to this: The AFC is the best conference, and is home to the top three teams in the league, the Patriots, Chargers and Colts. As far as the NFC goes, I still think that the Packers and Cowboys are the better teams.

NT: It's tough for me to say this because the Giants have been playing so spectacularly in these past few weeks, but I don't think there's any doubt that these aren't the two best teams in the NFL. First, there are the New England Patriots. A record breaking 18-0 during the regular season and playoffs so far while shattering numerous records, both individual and team, along the way. No one can argue with their being the absolute best team in the league, and if you're Chris Collinsworth, they're the best team ever to grace a football field. However, looking at the overall body of work, strength of schedule and, more importantly, strength of conference, I think that both the San Diego Chargers and Indianapolis Colts are better teams than this year's Giants. Don't get me wrong; I am not taking

anything away from New York's great victories over Dallas and Green Bay, two teams that beat them handily earlier this season, but if you examine the overall body of work of the Giants juxtaposed to that of the Chargers and Colts, it's hard for me to say they are better. One could even argue, as Neil has done, that even the Cowboys and Packers are better than the Giants, and I wouldn't be totally opposed to that idea either, but I'm going to give them the benefit of the doubt because of their playoff wins. Nonetheless, they are the hottest team in the NFL, and momentum is absolutely vital to winning in this league, so you can't count them out just yet.

and I realized that there are an innumerable amount of veterans, any of whom are capable of providing a game-changing performance for this New England squad. So, the fact of the matter is, there are literally dozens upon dozens of reasons that the Patriots will win the Super Bowl. In fact, you could have an entire column dedicated to completely viable reasons the Patriots will win the Super Bowl and it may be three or four times longer than this piece Neil and I are writing. With that being said, I'm going to say that because of New England's third ranked rushing defense being able to stop the Giants running back combination of Ahmad Bradshaw and Brandon Jacobs, thereby putting the entire weight

NS: Not happening. Didn't they already lose to the Patriots?

NT: Okay, unlike my compatriot here, I'm actually going to have a stab at this one. Since losing on opening weekend in Dallas, the New York Giants have won 10 consecutive games on the road, including at Dallas and at Lambeau Field in subzero temperatures. This makes them the hands-down most dangerous team to play anywhere at anytime. Fourth year Quarterback Eli Manning is blossoming into a big-game superstar, much like he was at Ole Miss. In the playoffs he has shown a maturity reminiscent of his older brother Peyton, and he has demonstrated an uncanny ability to manage the game properly when the ball is in his hands. Behind the rushing tandem of Ahmad Bradshaw, who did not play in their week 17 matchup, and Brandon Jacobs, Manning has been able to find his comfort zone in the offense and continue to play at a higher level than Giants fans have been praying for. However, New York is most certainly not a one-dimensional team. Their defense is anchored by arguably the best defensive line in the league led by DE's Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora. This terrorizing two-some will be putting pressure on Brady all game, forcing him to step outside of the box and make tight passes to beat them. Along those same lines, gritty Defensive backs Aaron Ross and Sam Madison have, as of late, been stymieing opposing wide receivers to no end. As long as they continue their physical, fearless coverage on the Patriots' Moss, Welker, Gaffney, and whoever else New England may throw out there, the Giants have a very real chance at forcing turnovers, and leaving Glendale, AZ with the Lombardi Trophy.

We hope that this sheds some light on this year's Super Bowl for you, and as always special thanks to Neil Sheaffer for helping us out. Don't forget to join us again next week as we wrap up the NFL Season and take a look back at the moments that made this year such a memorable one in NFL history.

Since losing on opening weekend in Dallas, the New York Giants have won 10 consecutive games on the road, including at Dallas and at Lambeau Field in subzero temperatures. This makes them the hands-down most dangerous team to play anywhere at anytime.

Tell us why the Patriots will win this Sunday in Glendale, AZ...

NT: Hm, where to begin? I could start with their incredible perfect record or their NFL MVP winning Quarterback in Tom Brady or the fact that they have already beaten the New York Giants barely a month before the Super Bowl. I could even talk about their NFL Coach of the Year, Bill Belichick, the dominance of their unheralded offensive line, and the inability for any team in the league to cover and stop each and every single one of their weapons on offense, from Wes Welker to Randy Moss to Laurence "Lo'Mo" Maroney to Mike Vrabel and the list goes on. Combine each of the aforementioned things with the fact that New England's defense is led by a number of seasoned veterans such as Junior Seau, Tedy Bruschi, Richard Seymour, Adalius Thomas, Asante Samuel and, oh my goodness, while looking up names to list in this section Neil

of the game on Quarterback Eli Manning's shoulders and having him self-destruct with a few careless interceptions, the New England Patriots will win Super Bowl XLII.

NS: The Patriots are the best team and won't lose. Instead I'll write about Tom Brady. THE BOOT: Does nobody in the whole media world realize that Tom Brady is not hurt at all? The Patriots are toying with the media and everyone else that fell for it. He doesn't show up during the first fifteen minutes of practice, and they say that he's not practicing? Reporters can only watch the first fifteen minutes. Antonio Pierce says that he's not hurt, so they aren't fooling the Giants. Why is such a big deal made out of this? I'm tired of it.

NT: Real great analysis there, Neil. Ground-breaking stuff.

Tell us why the Giants will win this Sunday in Glendale, AZ...

## Lewis says it's Eli's turn in Super Bowl

By **Adam Lewis**  
COLUMNISTS

"But mom, why does Peyton get to go? I never get to do anything!"

"Now son, he's a lot older than you. More mature. You're simply not ready."

"But...but...I am ready! Look! I'm dressed in blue too, with plenty of padding! Plus, I'm almost as tall as Peyton. I promise I'll keep up."

"A 'no' is a 'no,' end of discussion."

"But...but..."

"But nothing. You'll have your chance to go soon enough."

And just like that, young Peyton Manning went off to his first amusement park, leaving little brother Eli behind. And while Eli slumped away in jealousy and resentment towards his older brother, he knew deep down that one day, he too would get a chance to go to the theme park. He just had to wait until he was ready.

Fifteen or so years later, nothing changed. At this time last year, Olivia Manning still had to remind her youngest son that he was "simply not ready." Peyton was an older, more mature and more complete quarterback. He was ready to ride to the top of football's largest roller coaster—the Super Bowl.

Now, one year after Peyton's remarkable ride, it's Eli's turn. No one can say he's not good enough. No one can say he's not

experienced enough. No one can say he's not ready.

Having faced arguably the most scrutiny in the last five years of any New York athlete not named Alex Rodriguez, Eli Manning has made his way from Peyton's under-achieving younger brother to the quarterback leading the NFC Champions into Super Bowl XLII. And though he may look as old as he is in the above conversation, he sure as hell isn't playing like it.

First, he marched through Tampa Bay and Jeff Garcia, who

of Manning's mistake-free football, a strong running game and a solid defense led the Giants past Brett Favre and the Packers. And, despite the below-zero weather, Manning looked even more comfortable than Favre. Who knows, maybe he was wearing Favre's Wrangler jeans.

I know what you're thinking. Eli is the Trent Dilfer of this year's playoffs—sneaking into the roller coaster that is the Super Bowl by merely limiting his mistakes and praying for dear life that he doesn't slip through his

terbacks to throw for 23 or more touchdowns in each of the past three years. His company? Carson Palmer, Peyton Manning, Tom Brady, and Drew Brees. Not too shabby, huh?

I could continue, but if you're not on the Eli bandwagon yet, then no statistic will serve to correct the very little sports knowledge that you have. Plus, let's face it, actions speak louder than words, and the action of getting to the Super Bowl says enough.

Speaking of words versus actions, let's reexamine the comments of former teammate turned journalistic traitor Tiki Barber back in August. Tiki bashed Eli for his on- and off-field leadership, stating, "Sometimes it was almost comical the way he would say things." To me, the only thing that is comical about Eli's most recent on-field actions is the fact that he did them without Tiki (and Jeremy Shockey, for that matter).

As the Super Bowl approaches, it is only a matter of time before we see how ready Eli Manning actually is. And while some may say that a poor performance on the part of Eli would halt the roller coaster mid-track, I say that Eli can put his hands in the air and wave jokingly to Peyton as he experiences the rush of football's greatest ride, because win or lose, Eli is most definitely ready.

Having faced arguably the most scrutiny in the last five years of any New York athlete not named Alex Rodriguez, Eli Manning has made his way from Peyton's under-achieving younger brother to the quarterback leading the NFC Champions into Super Bowl XLII.

had beaten the Giants twice before in the playoffs.

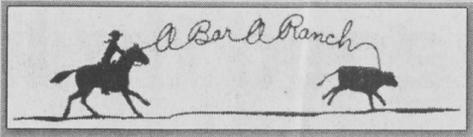
Next, he went into Dallas to take on Tony Romo, Jessica Simpson and the highly favored Cowboys. And with a 132.4 passer rating, Manning powered the Giants to victory, while simultaneously preparing some popcorn for T.O.

Then, on the frozen tundra of Lambeau Field, the combination

seat belt and fall off because he was never ready in the first place. Well, the answer is no, and here's why.

Eli is one of four quarterbacks to lead his team to the playoffs in each of the past three seasons. His company? Peyton Manning, Tom Brady, and Matt Hasselbeck. I hear those guys are pretty good. Not convinced?

Okay, Eli is one of five quar-



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The Outing Club will be having a meeting January 30th at 7:00pm. During the meeting, the slide show from last June's Tanzania trip will be shown.

The slide show will feature pictures from summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tarangire National Park, Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater National Park, and Lake Manyara.

Please come to the OC Meeting on Wednesday, January 30th at 7 pm in the OC Meeting room (114 Elrod Commons)



# sports



## Four more in a row

Generals on second four game streak, win eight of nine

By Hank Nathan  
STAFF WRITER

The Washington & Lee Men's Basketball team won all three of its games this past week en route to the second four-game winning streak of the season.

The Generals traveled to Emory & Henry College on Wednesday, a place where the team had not won a game in 10 years. However, this year's team is different and seems to have the propensity to pull out the close games.

Coach Adam Hutchinson attributed the ability to win the close ones to growing as a team.

"The maturity of our seniors and juniors is the foremost thing in my mind [that enables the team to come through in the close games]," said Coach Hutchinson. "Those guys have played a lot of close games over the course of their careers, so pretty much any situation that arises, we have been in before."

The game against Emory & Henry mirrored the progression of the team over the past few years.

In the first half, the two teams played even at the Wasps' fast paced run-and-shoot style with five ties and four lead changes. The score was 52-54 at half, fa-

voring E&H.

The Generals, right on cue, opened up the second half on an 8-0 run and never looked back. The team was only up by six points with slightly less than 19 minutes to play, but that didn't matter. W&L controlled the game the rest of the way, content to beat the Wasps at their own rapid up-and-down game.

W&L broke Emory & Henry's press with ease, resulting in layup after layup. The final score was 116-105. Sophomore Zac White had three dunks in the effort, a rarity in Division III basketball, as he compiled a career-high 26 points.

Senior captain Greg Bienneman also notched his career-high with 36 points. Fellow captain Femi Kusimo added in 22 of his own.

Junior captain Isaiah Goodman reiterated Coach Hutchinson's sentiments about how far the team has come. "We played much more confident and relaxed this year than we have in years past," said Goodman. "We have learned a lot from those close games, and we are finally putting it all together. When we get in those tough situations, we realize that we have all been through it together."

The Generals then traveled

to Lynchburg College. W&L continued its strong shooting performance from the previous game, hitting 60 percent of its shots in the first half. The team went into the locker room with a 15 point advantage, 37-22.

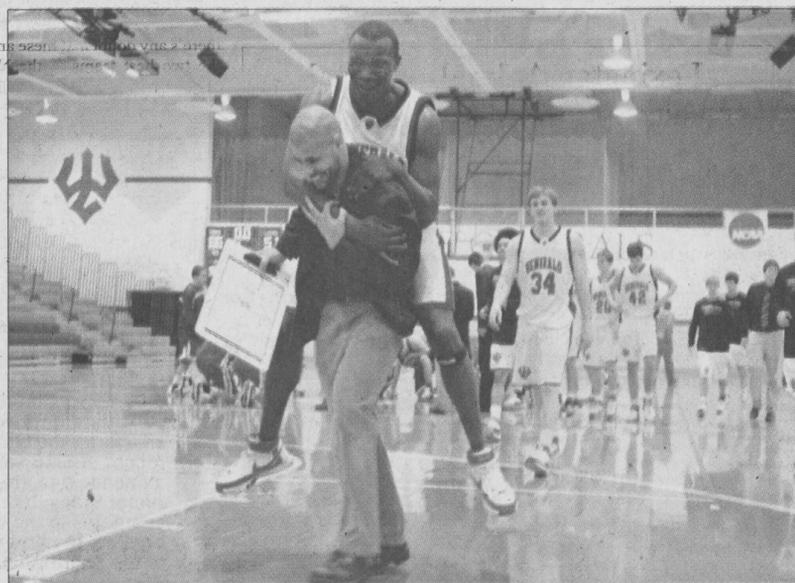
The Hornets came out firing from behind the-arc in the second half, hitting five three-pointers in the first six minutes of the half.

A relentless Lynchburg team went on a 23-9 run to cut the score to three with less than 11 minutes to play, but that was as close as they would get.

Bienneman, as he has done all year long, put out the fire with a 17-foot jump shot as the shot clock expired. On the next possession, Bienneman knocked down a layup off of a pass from junior Chris McHugh while being fouled.

Bienneman did the exact same thing moments later, this time the pass came from Kusimo. The two and-one's ignited the Generals the rest of the way. The conversion on the free throw put the team back up by more than 10. In fact, W&L hit all 13 of their foul shots in the game in uncharacteristic fashion.

The Generals continued to increase their lead from then on and finished the game with the same 15 point margin that they



MICHAEL KEENAN / Sports Editor

Top: The Generals bench celebrates junior Chris McHugh's layup that extended the lead to nine with under four minutes to play. Above: Senior Femi Kushimo takes a celebratory ride on Coach Adam Hutchinson's back after the Generals defeated Bridgewater, 66-51.

had at the end of the first half, winning 77-62.

On Sunday, the Generals downed the Hampden-Sydney Tigers 66-51. The Generals jumped out to an early lead in a low scoring contest.

They held a 32-17 advantage at halftime and maintained a double-digit advantage throughout most of the second half. A late charge allowed the Tigers to close to within five points with five minutes remaining, but two

quick baskets for the Generals put the game out of reach.

A three point play by Bienneman pushed the lead into double digits and the Generals were able to run out the clock for their fourth win in a row.

Washington & Lee is now 10-5 overall and 6-2 in conference. The Generals had an identical 10-5 record last year before losing nine of their last 10 games down the stretch. Goodman says the team will have to stay sharp

in order to reverse the bad fortune of last year.

"The team is doing well [this year]; we started the year 10-5 last year, but did not finish well," said Goodman. "We have to stay more disciplined and focused than ever before to accomplish what we want to do."

## Women drop ODAC games against R-M and Bridgewater

Women rally late against Bridgewater but come up short as Timberlake's free throw wins the game for the Eagles

By Russ Weems  
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team continued their ODAC schedule this week with games against Randolph-Macon and Bridgewater. They came into the week 3-6 in the conference.

W&L started the week Tuesday against 20th ranked Randolph Macon. The Yellow Jackets came into the game one of the top teams in the ODAC with only one loss. The Generals kept it close in the first half, which featured 8 lead changes and 3 ties. Near the end of the

first half, the Yellow Jackets went on a run and closed with a seven point advantage, 30-23. After the half, W&L came out energized and went on a 9-4 run led by the play of Amanda Kane. This cut the lead to a mere two points (34-32). However this was a back a forth game. Randolph Macon outscored the Generals 12-3 in the next 7 minutes and led by a score of 46-35 with 6:46 remaining. W&L got as close a seven on two occasions, but could not get any closer. Randolph Macon went 8-9 from the line in the final 1:30 to seal the deal, leaving the final score

68-57. W&L played good defense, holding the Yellow Jackets to a mere 38.1 percent, but they were killed by 24 turnovers. W&L had some players step up with strong games. Senior forward Kristen Krouchick led W&L with a big performance, providing 18 points and seven rebounds. Amanda Kane had 13 of her 14 points in the second half. Junior guard Bethany Ridenhour also was in double figures with 10 points.

The Generals returned to action Saturday at the Eagles of Bridgewater. The beginning of the game was closely contested

with nine lead changes and two ties. Bridgewater started to pull away near the end of the first half. The Eagles built a 7 point lead with 3:20 to play in the first half. W&L battled back to close the half, scoring the final five points of the half in the last 7 seconds. Bridgewater came out strong after the half and jumped out to an eight point lead. The Hornets maintained this advantage for much of the half and led by nine twice within the final six minutes of the contest. The Generals were not going to go down easy and went on a 6-0 run, close the gap to 3 with

1:27 remaining. Bridgewater stopped the bleeding with a field goal with 42 second left to extend the lead to five. W&L countered with threes on back-to-back possessions to tie the game up. However, on the last possession Bridgewater's Jessica Timberlake was fouled with 2.7 seconds left. The pressure may have gotten to her as she missed the first, but she coolly hit the second. W&L couldn't produce any last second heroics and the final score stood 50-49, a narrow defeat for the Generals. Although the Generals couldn't complete their comeback, they

were led by some strong individual performances. Senior forward Amanda Kane led the team on one of her best nights, registered her first ever double-double. She had 14 points and 12 boards, both game-highs and a rebounding career-high. Freshman center Felice Herman contributed 12 points and 6 rebounds, and senior guard Kristen Krouchick had 8 points to go along with 9 boards.

The Generals' next game will be Tuesday at home against Guilford at 7:00 p.m.

# sports



## ondeck

|                           | MON | TUES                      | WED                  | THURS | FRI                           | SAT                           | SUN |
|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----|
| <b>Men's Basketball</b>   |     |                           | vs. EMU<br>7:00 p.m. |       |                               | at Roanoke<br>7:00 p.m.       |     |
| <b>Women's Basketball</b> |     | vs. Guilford<br>7:00 p.m. |                      |       |                               |                               |     |
| <b>Men's Swimming</b>     |     |                           |                      |       | at Virginia Tech<br>7:00 p.m. |                               |     |
| <b>Women's Swimming</b>   |     |                           |                      |       |                               | at Bridgewater<br>all day     |     |
| <b>Wrestling</b>          |     |                           |                      |       |                               | at Johns Hopkins<br>7:30 p.m. |     |
| <b>Track</b>              |     |                           |                      |       |                               | at VMI relays<br>8:30 a.m.    |     |

## in the numbers

### 5:07.36

Junior Elizabeth Webb's mile time at the Liberty Track Open. The time set a school and ODAC record.

### 36

Greg Bienemann's point total from Wednesday night's 115-106 win over Emory and Henry.

### 3,096

Junior Stacy Doornbos's pentathlon score at the Liberty On Track Open. Doornbos set the school record and placed third overall.

### 100

Free throw percentage by the Washington and Lee men's basketball team during its 77-62 victory over Lynchburg Saturday night. The Generals were 13-13 from the charity stripe. This is the second time they have been perfect from the line in a game, the other coming against Bridgewater on Feb. 19, 2000, when they hit all 19 of their free throws.

## soapbox

"These last two ODAC meets are our two last opportunities to put up good times before heading into ODACs. We have two more opportunities to define who we are as a dominant force in the ODAC even before setting foot on Radford's campus for the championship meet."

**Sophomore Sarah Simpson on the women's swim team goals for its final two meets.**

"Of course, I've created a monster. So I know I need to always win every tournament. Winning every other week, you know, lose a set and people say I'm playing bad. So that's my own mistake, I guess."

**Roger Federer, on his streak of 10 consecutive Grand Slam finals coming to an end after losing to Novak Djokovic in the semifinals of the Australian Open.**

"If there was ever a week for it, this might be it."

**Joe Durant on whether a mercy rule might be in order at the Bulck Open, where Tiger Woods has an eight shot lead going into the final round.**

## Webb shatters mile mark

### Doornbos sets school pentathlon record with 3,096



By Kevin Corn  
STAFF WRITER

The men and women of the indoor track team spent their weekend competing with several Division I and III teams at the Liberty "On Track" Open instead of inside the Warner Center for the Mock Convention. However, they did not waste their time because among the accomplishments of the team were two first place finishes and an ODAC record.

The women were led by junior Elizabeth Webb who placed first in the mile and whose time of 5:07.36 set a school and conference record. Fellow junior Stacy Doornbos also set a school record when she finished third in the pentathlon with 3,096 total points. Along with teammate Maggie Sutherland, she was the first women in W&L's history to complete the pentathlon.

"It was exciting to finish that well in the pentathlon this weekend. Maggie and I both did the Hephthathlon during the outdoor season but this was the first time to compete indoors in an event like this," commented Doornbos. "It was a lot of fun. It was also great to see that the work I have been putting into the events that are new for me is paying off because I was able to see improvements which was motivating."

The women also saw great performances and finishes from two freshmen. Summer Lollie finished first among D-III competitors with her time of 27.59 in the 200 meter run. Lollie also took second after leaping 9.87 meters in the triple jump. Her teammate, Katherine Fenwick, captured a first place ribbon by finishing the 800 meter race in 2:32.54.

For the men, juniors Vance Berry and Michael Welsh led the team with a first and second place finish respectively in the 5000 meters race. Berry crossed the finish line in a time of 15:45, while Welsh finished in a time of 15:51.34.

"This was my first indoor 5k, and it really went better than I could have hoped," said Berry. "Welsh and I had planned beforehand to take the first mile conservatively, running together as the rest of the pack started at a faster pace. This strategy paid off in the end, as we were both able to pick our way through the field and move towards the front. It feels great to have two of us running sub-16 [minute] 5ks this early in the going. It's not inconceivable that three of us may be under Nathan Johnson's school record mark of 15:35.9 by season's end. This is a strong group."

Sophomore Billy Billington took second in the 35 pound weight throw with a distance of forty-nine feet and nine inches. Billington missed first by only a couple of inches, but still came away with a great throw.

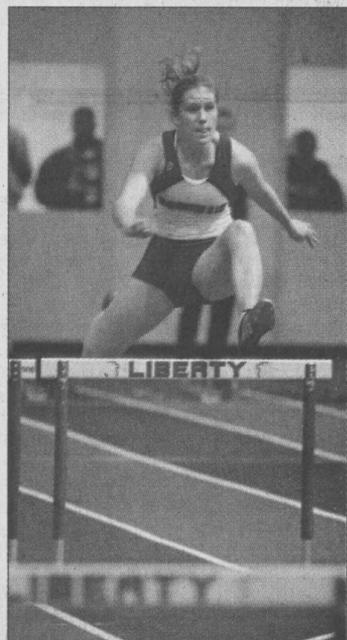
"It was good to throw a personal best in the weight, but it was frustrating to miss first place by only a couple of inches," stated a competitive Billington.

Meanwhile, senior Michael Keenan set a school record in the heptathlon by finishing with 2,675 points. Keenan became the first W&L man to compete in the heptathlon.

The teams are now less than a month away from ODACs and showing their readiness for the meet with their already competitive and strong finishes.

"Everyone's times are improving week by week which is great as we move towards ODACs" added Doornbos. "I think we have a lot to look forward to and will have very exciting ODAC meet for sure."

The men's and women's teams will return to action this Saturday when they compete at the VMI Relays.



(above) Junior Elizabeth Webb competes in the mile at the Liberty "On Track" Open. Her time of 5:07.36 was the top collegiate time and shattered the old ODAC record of 5:16.26 set a decade ago. (right) Junior Stacy Doornbos competes in the 60m hurdles, the first event of the pentathlon.

MICHAEL KEENAN / Sports Editor

## Swimming drops duels to JHU

### Women smoke defending ODAC champion Randolph-Macon 141-60

By Michael Keenan  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Washington and Lee men's and women's swim teams hosted Johns Hopkins on Saturday in the men's final home meet of the season. Both teams swam well but came up short, with the women falling 151-105 and the men losing 153-109.

The meet was originally scheduled to include more events over two days, but Johns Hopkins requested the meet be shortened.

"The two-day format favored us more than Hopkins, although it would still have been a tough meet regardless of the format," said senior Tim McGlaston.

Both teams had several strong swimmers. The men were led by senior Alex Sweet, who won the 50 free and 100 free in addition to taking second in the 200 free and anchoring the victorious 200 free relay with McGlaston, junior Brett Tattman, and sophomore Brandon Barnhis. Junior Paul Crook also chipped in a victory in the 500 free, second place in the 200 individual medley, and third in the 200 free.

"The sprint events were definitely critical - Several of D-III's fastest sprinters from both W&L and JHU went head to head with each other, and the heats posted times that were comparable to those from a D-I dual meet," said McGlaston.

On the women's side, junior Lindsey Strachan led the way with a commanding victory in the 200 backstroke, leading the entire race, and a second place finish in the 100 backstroke. Senior Amy Roberson took second in the 100 butterfly and third in the 100 backstroke. Strachan and Roberson teamed with junior Susan Mahoney and sophomore Sarah Simpson to take second place in the 200 medley relay.

"Johns Hopkins is a tough team, but we competed with them," said Simpson. "There were races in every event. We swam much better against them this year than last year."

"I have been amazed at how solidly our team has swam since the training trip," said senior Amy Roberson. "We worked our butts off twice a day down in Florida, and we are very worn down, but we still get up and compete to win

every time we get in the pool. Johns Hopkins is an amazing team, and we are not yet at the level where we can beat them. But we definitely will be someday soon. We keep improving against them every year, and we had some very good races against them today."

The loss drops the women to 8-6, but they remain unbeaten in ODAC competition thanks to last Friday's overwhelming defeat of defending ODAC champion Randolph-Macon 141-60. The women won ten of the eleven events contested and had three swimmers with two individual wins a piece.

Junior Susan Mahoney won the 200 IM and 200 breaststroke. Simpson touched first in the 50 free and 100 free. Freshman Tess Hayden dominated the distance events, winning the 1000 free and 500 free. Smith and Strachan also won individual events, taking the 200 free and 200 backstroke.

"Randolph Macon was missing a couple of their big name swimmers, who are studying abroad over their January term," said Simpson. "That being said, we are a better team this year. We have swam faster

in-season and trained at a level that allows us to compete above Randolph Macon. While they are our conference rivals, we are looking to get much more out of this season than simply beating them at ODACs."

The women will return to action this weekend at a quad meet against ODAC opponents Emory and Henry, Randolph, and host Bridgewater.

"The remaining ODAC meets will be a good chance for us to practice our racing strategies before the big meet," said Roberson. "We see every meet as an opportunity to get up and race, no matter what level the other teams are."

"These last two ODAC meets are our two last opportunities to put up good times before heading into ODACs," said Simpson. "We have two more opportunities to define who we are as a dominant force in the ODAC even before setting foot on Radford's campus for the championship meet."

The men return to action this Friday night when they travel to Virginia Tech.