

## Opinions

## Don't 'rush' in for minor victories

Jacob Conley  
Pilot Sports Editor

College basketball is full of pagantry, emotion and stands full of students.

I am proud to count myself among the students and will continue to do so until I graduate. But my pride was lessened on two separate occasions this season when students inappropriately rushed the court.

While I think this is a great tradition, there are some things that need to be considered before doing it.

First of all, the students must act themselves if the team GWU defeated is rush worthy. If the opponent is Duke or Carolina, by all means, go nuts, act

crazy, celebrate the victory because you as a student deserve to express your joy for the world to see. Think about it. What kind of message does it send to the other team, if we as students rush the court? By rushing the court we are saying that GWU garnered an unexpected win against a team that has a better talent level than we do.

Remember, GWU is defending conference champion. The North Florida game was particularly embarrassing because the Ospreys are a first-year Division I program.

Even though it was an exciting game that ended in an improbable fashion, I wish students had stayed off the court because should not be overjoyed that we beat a first-year program

by only two points. When the Bulldogs win against a team like that, fans should have a very businesslike attitude toward the victory.

Any other attitude gives the other team too much respect.

Another reason students should think carefully before rushing the court is safety.

In the excitement of a big victory, normally courteous students forget about the others in the stands. In the aftermath of the two victories in which the court was rushed this season, I was jostled, jumped over, and I was even accidentally kicked.

So, on the rare occasions when rushing the court is warranted, do it carefully and courteously.

## Do not settle while others struggle

Ciara Lilly  
Pilot staff writer

February is at its end, and I want to thank all those students who participated in any programs that catered to educating multitudes about the importance of black history.

I want to acknowledge those individuals that read my last article about the lack of attention black history gets at Gardner-Webb University and responded by putting facts about influential black figures on Channel 23.

To me that signified my voice being heard.

I urge everyone here on campus to participate in other activities that will take place to promote diversity and unity at Gardner-Webb University.

Take the time to attend the meetings of these organizations that target issues such as diversity and unity.

It is my goal to help promote diversity and unity through my column.

We have a lot of work left to do, yet I believe eventually Gardner-Webb will evolve into the unified university it seeks to be.

For those students who read this article and are too "comfortable" in their little box to entertain the idea of diversifying their social circle, I hope you realize that you are hindering the growth of the university.

It is not one person's job to promote the ideals of diversity.

The reason I emphasize so much on the issue of diversity is because without diversity, we can never establish the unity Gardner-Webb needs.

The organizations such as Black Student Union, Diversity Council or the Mosaic Club are not solely responsible for changing Gardner-Webb University. Everyone has to participate in expanding their minds to understand another person's culture.

Those organizations serve as the foundation to which the students have to build a bridge to close the gap here at Gardner-Webb.

In order for the bridge to be built efficiently each student has to practice personal accountability as well as unity with the entire student body.

The purpose of this article is to recognize the people who showed their support in any activities during this month, while also approaching those who chose to stay in their rooms and watch television.

We have taken one step forward, yet there are several steps left to take.

Just because you came to the black history program does not mean your "good deed" for the month will suffice, instead you should become active in our attempt to unify Gardner-Webb University.

Do not "settle" in your personal contentment while others are striving for a sense of belonging.

## A final Duke hoorah for grandmother

Sarah James  
Pilot Web Editor

1.6 seconds left in the game. Coach K calls a time out to get his team together. The plan was to go to J.J. Redick for the winning shot. They inbound the ball to Sean Dockery. He shot from 40 feet and makes the winning shot.

That Duke game will not only go down in Sean Dockery's mind and heart but mine and my families as well. This shot was one of my grandmother's last memories.

My grandmother has been an avid Duke fan her whole life, and I know that made her happy to see her boys win one last time. My grandmother, Wilma T. McCracken passed away this December.

My aunt made a box for each of us with the petals and leaves of the roses from her funeral and the names we used to call her. My mother and aunts called her Mama, my cousins called her Granny Mack, and my brother and I called her Mack Mack. The box now sits in my room on my bookshelf, and I can remember her by it.

I think some of my greatest memories of my grandmother have come out of getting to know her after she passed away. My grandmother was not in the greatest of health during my life and she moved to Indianapolis when I was young.

Also on the casket, were the names

that we used to call her. A funny story I remember from this time was about her casket. Mack Mack had picked out her casket before she passed away.

When my aunts and mother went to get it, they had stopped making it. The only one in the same style they had left had Carolina Blue in it. My aunts and mother immediately said no because they knew their Mama would come back from the grave if she was buried in a Carolina Blue casket.

Luckily, they were able to find a Duke Blue casket.

Some of the most cherish able times I have had and spent with my grandmother have been talking about Duke Basketball.

When I first heard of my grandmother being sick and in the hospital, I thought of the Duke tickets she gets us each year. I was wondering will I ever be able to go to another Duke game. I know that isn't what you are supposed to think about when your grandmother is dying but it is what came to my head.

I also thought a lot about my mother and her two sisters. I knew it must be hard on them to watch her pass away. My mother continues to tell me that she was not in pain her last few days.

My cousins were able to be with her during the last few days of her life. One of my cousins was supposed to go to training in Detroit for his job. Just like my cousin he was late again

and had procrastinated on packing and getting his ticket. Luckily, he had this time.

My uncle called him right as he was supposed to board the plane and told him to come home that Mack Mack might not make it through the week. He immediately left to go home to see her.

Of course, there was a Duke game on when he entered the room to see my Granny Mack. The first thing she said to him was, "you are supposed to be in Detroit". He answered back, "I came to watch the Duke Game with you."

My mother told me the story of her passing away and I would like to share it with you.

Even though this was a very hard time on my family, they had some laughs. One time when my aunts and mom were laughing, they saw my grandmother smile. My mother believes that is when her soul passed away and entered into heaven. She entered in peace and with no pain.

My mother was the only one at the hospital. Her two sisters had taken a break and gone to get some shut eye because they all had been there for over 24 hours sitting beside her bed.

My mother was holding my grandmother's hand; she began to say the Lord's Prayer. As my mother said Amen by grandmother's face began to change and she passed away.

I will always love you, Mack Mack.

## I Spy: Examining Bush's wiretapping policy

Left: Joanna Wallace has a positive outlook on a 'negative idea'

I've always viewed the war in Iraq in a positive, optimistic light: the defeat of authoritarianism, the expansion of democracy, hoping maybe something good would come of it.

Of course, that makes me a very minor liberal voice in modern Western discussions seeing as how most liberals are anti-war as much as they are anti-Bush.

This war, while bloody and long-standing, does have certain positive aspects.

Many of my fellow liberals will argue that the U.S. entered the war without a clear, direct, and immediate danger to our country but look at what we are doing over there.

The moral authority always was, and always will be, with those who fight to relieve the suffering of others.

The moral authority does not belong to the Americans, but simply to those who act.

It has nothing to do with the United States, liberal or Republicans alike.

There is a global, moral, and liberal ideal in play here, not a geopolitical one.

While I am somewhat harsh in my judgments, I only agree with war where repression is long-standing, where change from inside is stalemated, and where the actual amounts of suffering

committed by the kleptocracies are worse than the practical estimates of suffering that would ensue as a by-product of an invasion.

There is no slippery slope. I am being very guarded in my determination.

I am talking about those regimes where the illegitimacy of the government is well agreed upon, by both those outside, and inside the country, and by a large majority.

It is "invade only in the most hopeless and extensive of cases," not "invade, at the slightest hiccup."

I have begun to think that the war had its greatest positive effect in spurring foreign countries to be more active in arms limitation efforts whereas the war's most significant negative effect seems to have been on U.S. credibility.

There are always risks involved when things change.

But for the past 40 years the fear of these risks has paralyzed Western policy toward the Middle East. And what has come of this caution?

Repression, radical Islam and terror.



Wallace

Right: Rebecca Clark says wiretapping is a necessary safety precaution.

A few years ago, Iraq was just another country on the map. Now it is a name that elicits varying depths of emotion.

I met with Robert Roadcap, a soldier on leave who had been stationed in Balad, a city north-west of Baghdad. When I asked him how long he would be home, he said he would be returning the next morning after a two-week leave.

When I asked him how he felt about returning, I was surprised by his answer. "I'm ready to get back," he said. "It's hard being here, knowing that my guys are there. I want to get back to them."

Roadcap's main job is driving a Bradley Fighting Vehicle which is a type of tank, or a Bradley, as they call it. On a typical day, his first duty is checking the maintenance of the tank, looking for anything that needs repairing or any other problems with the vehicle. If there is no maintenance necessary, he said he goes through an Operations Order, which is a briefing for his next mission. After a communications check, he does patrols for about five hours, looking for any signs of trouble or conducting random house to house searches. He said they are always on the lookout for suspicious behavior. One of the reasons for the patrols Roadcap said, was just showing their presence. "We're not backing down," he said. "We're here." That

is the message they want to give.

One of the obvious questions I asked Robert was what the biggest danger he faced was. He said the Improvised Explosive Device was the main source of danger. Some of them consist of buried mortar rounds in the roads which are then triggered by a cell phone.

As expected, the soldiers miss family and friends. Roadcap said that many of them are ready to come home. But in spite of that, morale still remains high. "There's been lots of progress," he said, "and changes take time. We're going to be in Iraq for awhile." When I asked him what he thought about pulling out of Iraq, he said that if they left now there just be another war a couple of years down the road. "Changing a people or a place won't take place overnight," he said, but he was confident that "we're over there doing what we should."

Do the negatives outweigh the positives? I asked him. He looked thoughtful for a minute before replying. "No," he said, "I would say the positives are pretty much tied with the negative."

His whole outlook regarding the war? "There are certain things I agree with, and certain things I don't."



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