

Opinions

Monday graduation fraught with drawbacks

By Lauren Taylor
Pilot editor-in-chief

I've been trying really hard to justify why it's alright that my parents have to take off work to come to my graduation ceremony on a Monday.

I've been told that somehow it is saving me money, that I am helping the school and that it is for a good reason that I just don't understand. Other schools are doing it, and I guess that's supposed to help.

But then I remember that my dad works at a tobacco plant and

is paid hourly. Taking off work for him means less money. And I thought a Monday graduation was supposed to be saving me money somehow.

I also remembered that my mom works for super-rich people who can't tie their shoelaces without her. Taking a day of precious vacation time means a whole lot more lace-tying the next day.

I ask myself why a ceremony is so important that my dad must lose money and my mom work overtime. The question of why I am putting people through this

occurs to me, and suddenly that e-mail the school sent out gets lost like a bug in a windstorm.

So far, that's three whys, and I can't find the answers to any of them in the e-mail.

Then there are the people who actually can't come see me graduate because they don't have nice bosses like my money-losing parents do.

They would have to take an extra day off to drive home after whatever Monday night festivities would put them home too late for work the next day. It's not worth it.

Guess they'll have to make it up to me somehow.

I'm jealous of my boyfriend, whose graduation was on a Saturday. Afterwards, we all went up to a big lake house for the weekend and cooked out and talked.

That's just the envious part of me—the part that doesn't care how much it costs Gardner-Webb to honor my four years of hard work—coming out, and that's wrong.

It's a good thing I know how to overcome all the guilt that arises out of making everybody

adjust their lives to see me graduate, because I'm making them come anyway.

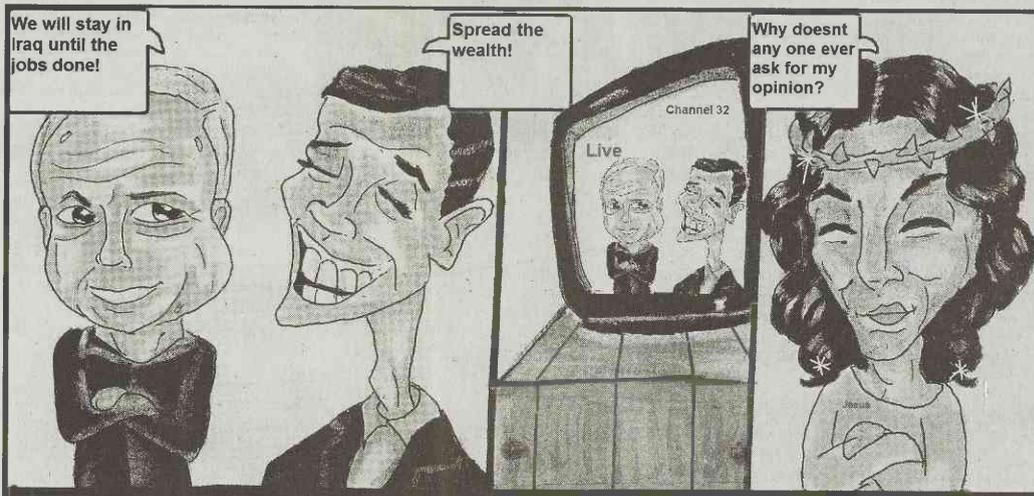
Yet I just can't get this part off my mind: "Weekend events are significantly more expensive to operate than weekday events because of the overtime involved."

That's true, I'm sure. But what about the parents who have already worked a bunch of overtime to see their kids make it to this day in the first place?

Someone has to take one for the team, and I suppose it will be—as usual—the parents.

From the Brain of Jermaine

By Jermaine Gash



Sports

Women's soccer team falls to VMI in tearjerker

By Lanny Newton
Pilot sports editor

Riding a three-game unbeaten streak, the Gardner-Webb women's soccer team traveled to Virginia Military Institute for the regular-season finale.

The Bulldogs were able to jump out to an early lead, but were unable to hang on as VMI rallied to win 3-2 in overtime.

"We played good, we played the best soccer we've played all year in the last 2-3 weeks," said Head Coach Kevin Mounce.

"We're starting to be a little better defensively, not giving up so many chances. Our offense is coming around, we're getting chances and we're starting to finish those chances."

"I think we're going in at the right time as far as our confidence is concerned. I think we're confident in the way we can play with anyone in the conference."

Gardner-Webb got on the board

first, as Stephanie Benshoof sent the ball in to Angie Harvey off a corner kick in the 17th minute.

Harvey returned it to Benshoof, who blasted it into the back of the net. It was Benshoof's second goal of the season and Harvey's third assist.

VMI was able to get a goal at the end of the first half and again at the beginning of the second.

Trailing 2-1, in the 79th minute Chelsea Hearne found an attacking Dawn Rollyson from midfield. Rollyson received the pass in the box and hammered it home to knot up the score at 2-2.

It was Rollyson's first collegiate goal and Hearne's first collegiate assist.

Amanda Berrios was able to put in her second goal of the night in the 108th minute to give VMI the victory.

With that, VMI clinched the second spot in the conference tournament.

Megan Reimer led the Bulldogs

with two shots on goal, while Benshoof, Kasey Gladhill, Dara Goldstein, Harvey, and Rollyson each had a shot on goal.

In shots, Rollyson led the Bulldogs with five, while Harvey and Reimer had four each. Gladhill and Goldstein each had two shots, and Benshoof and Megan Tremblay had one.

Jessica Tuggle had eight saves for the Bulldogs.

Gardner-Webb locked up the No. 8 seed and will face No. 1 Coastal Carolina in the first round of conference tournament play, which begins today at 4 p.m. at High Point.

Seniors Goldstein, Harvey, Kara Krueger, Kim Scercy, MacLean Wade, Sarah Wyszynski and Cristin Yasinsac will look to lead the Bulldogs to a berth in the NCAA tournament.

With a win, Gardner-Webb would play the winner of Charleston Southern vs. High Point, Friday at 7 p.m. The conference final is Sunday 2 p.m.

Bulldogs cause a tsunami

By Lanny Newton
Pilot sports editor

history in the event, at 1:48.62.

From there the Bulldogs coasted with outstanding performances by Elizabeth Ketterer who won the 1,000 free and then in the very next event won the 200 free.

On the men's side, GWU dismantled American 208-64 winning 10 events. In the 1,000 free, 100 breast and 200 butterfly the Bulldogs were able to sweep the medal positions. George Partin won the 50 free, 100 free, and 200 freestyle events.

On Saturday morning, the Lady Bulldogs were able to take victories over Howard, 64-31, and North Carolina A&T, 73-22. The main highlight was that senior Mallory Blessing won her first collegiate individual title in the 500 free.

The men were able to defeat Howard easily, 118-80. The victory moved them to 3-0 on the year, which betters last year's start for their best ever.

Saxon Simpson won his first collegiate individual event taking first in the 100 breaststroke.

The Lady Bulldogs next play host to Georgia Southern Nov. 14. Both teams are back in action at the Davidson Invitational from November 21-23. Georgia Southern was the only conference team able to defeat the Lady Bulldogs last year during the regular season.

The Gardner-Webb men's and women's teams continue to roll in the new season going 2-0 and 3-0 respectively.

Friday, Gardner-Webb traveled to Washington, D.C., to take on American University. The next morning Gardner-Webb took on Howard and North Carolina A&T. Though North Carolina A&T doesn't have a men's team, the Bulldogs beat the opposition on all fronts.

"On the girls' side we thought it would be a better meet," said Head Coach Mike Simpson. "Quite honestly we thought it would be really close because [against American] we gave up 26 points right off the bat. Even though there were some good individual races here and there, we expected them to put up more of a fight, but our girls swam really, really well."

Just a week after American's women's swim team defeated Big East member Providence College, Gardner-Webb came to town and cruised to a 165-123 victory.

The Bulldogs kicked off the meet with a victory in the 200 medley relay as Corey Hughey, Stephni Stadnik, Rachel Warkentin and Veronica Case posted the third fastest time in Gardner-Webb

Volleyball team suffers twin disappointments

By Lanny Newton
Pilot sports editor

The Gardner-Webb volleyball team played at UNC Asheville Tuesday night and fell 3-0 (21-25, 20-25, 21-25).

It was the second loss for the team within four days.

The team hosted league-leading Liberty University Saturday but was unable to pull off the upset. GWU won the first and third sets, but ultimately lost 3-2 (25-20, 12-25, 25-21, 17-25, 6-15).

GWU also recorded 102 digs in the match, the fourth-most in school history.

"We played great defense this weekend, we did a lot of nice things, we did a good job of keeping the ball in play and giving our offense an opportunity to score and try and win the match," said Head Coach Chris Phillips.

Gardner-Webb got off to a quick start, jumping out to an early 4-1 lead in the first set.

Though Liberty was able to tie it at 6-6, the Bulldogs proceeded to roll off a 9-3 run. GWU would lead to as much as

eight at 18-10, ultimately winning 25-20.

After dropping the second set, the Lady Bulldogs ran to an 11-5 advantage in the third. The Flames fought back to tie it at 17-17, from which point the two teams traded points until the 21-21 mark.

Gardner-Webb failed to capitalize on its momentum, losing the last two sets.

Steinebrunner finished with 18 kills to lead the Bulldogs, while Wilcox chipped in 12 kills.

Bethany Martin also recorded nine kills to go with three block assists, and the team's only two solo blocks. Feagin had 43 assists in the match.

Four players reached double digits in digs for the Bulldogs. Feagin and Brett Wilson led the way with 17 each, while Katie Matykowski had 16.

Evan Moffitt recorded 12 digs, and Lauren Evans posted four digs.

Gardner-Webb returns home Friday to play Coastal Carolina at 7 p.m. Saturday the team plays its final home game against Charleston Southern at 2 p.m.

The seniors will be honored before the game.

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