

The MLWGS Jabberwock

Volume 5, Issue 9

www.gsgis.k12.va.us

Friday, February 22, 2008

Campaign Comes to "Cap City"

Danny Yates

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

Last week, voters in Virginia, D.C., and Maryland experienced a rare political phenomenon, a practically foreign event for anyone outside of Iowa or New Hampshire.

In preparation for Tuesday's "Potomac" or "Chesapeake Primary," the Republican and Democratic Presidential candidates came to Richmond.

Nowhere was the impact more visible than at MLWGS.

"I think it is important that a lot of people came to vote and a lot of MLWGS students were able to participate," said Peter Slag ('09).

All four leading candidates made appearances in the metro area, where MLWGS students were on hand to hear their messages and join in the political process.

Both the Young Democrats and Young Republicans participated in various campaign events leading up to the February 12 election.

"We [MLWGS Young Republicans] got an e-mail from the McCain campaign the night before the rally," said Melanie Green ('08).

Additionally, many seniors and some juniors cast their ballots for the first time.

"It was a first for me," said Shannon Huenekens ('08). "I waited in line for more than a half hour to vote. I was almost late to school."

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RALLY FOR OBAMA ACROSS THE STATE

At universities across the state, young Obama supporters launched their campaign by attending rallies on Saturday, February 9.

MLWGS' own Nat Kaine ('08), joined by film star Kal Penn, served as a featured speaker at three Virginia col-



Nat Kaine ('08) and actor Kal Penn answer questions from college students at the University of Richmond. Photo by Danny Yates.

leges throughout the day. Kaine and Penn arrived at the University of Richmond for a 4 pm Students for Barack Obama event.

A crowd of nearly 100 UR students, faculty and community members gathered to voice their support for Sen. Obama in the newly renovated Tyler Paynes Commons, a picturesque open commons area overlooking Westhampton Lake.

Sporting khakis and an Obama t-shirt, Kaine addressed the crowd after a brief introduction by a UR student.

"We're bringing people young and old into this campaign, and that's what perked my ears up," said Kaine.

Kaine continued by discussing reasons why he chose to support Obama.

"For all my life, we've had the same two families in the White House, something is wrong with that," said Kaine. "He's [Sen. Obama] got a lot of experience and hasn't been in DC for my whole lifetime."

Indian-American actor Kal Penn, dressed in a blazer, tie and jeans, then

discussed the power of youth movement. He cited millions of dollars tied up in Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and how these resources wield tremendous power.

"Historically we [the youth] have not voted...but historically doesn't take into account the last four years," said Penn.

The two speakers concluded by opening the floor for comments. One amusing question dealt with Obama's healthcare plan.

Many in the audience laughed as the actor who portrays a medical intern on the show "House MD" talked about several problems with our nation's real medical system.

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Voting Vices

As one of the lucky seventeen year olds who was able to vote in last week's primary, I was eager to exercise my civic virtue and influence this year's controversial election.

I arrived at the local school in anticipation of a short delay, yet I waited for over an hour before entering the back of the library where one woman was checking in voters and handing out ballots. I was extremely disenchanted with the whole process and almost left before casting my vote. My mom went to the polls an hour later, but left after five minutes when she learned that the wait would be over an hour.

With such low voter turnout in general, we should be working to encourage young as well as seasoned voters, instead of turning them away. At my local polling place, election officials had prepared the site based on previous years' turnouts, which did little to compensate for the masses of people rushing to vote in this controversial primary.

The amount of voting booths and workers, however, should be based on the highest record turnout and the expected turnout instead, so as to ensure efficiency. If people make the effort to trek to polling places, we should be fully willing and able to compensate their needs. Also, several polling places in Chesterfield County ran out of ballots before the polls closed. Election officials should ensure that there are a substantial number of ballots so voting is not further delayed.

Polling places in Virginia should also be open until at least 8 pm. While sites close at 7 pm in Virginia, other states stay open much later. There were lines an hour long at 7 pm when the polls were meant to close, and the workers made sure that those people were able to vote if they wished to. If these people are still able to vote, why not extend the hours so as to include more people that may not be able to leave work?

Our government is based on the voice, and consequently the vote of the people, so we must work to ensure that people are not discouraged by an extensive delay or inefficiency.

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The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. However, the statements expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the Jabberwock staff.

All members of the MLWGS community are invited to submit letters to the editor on any topic, although the publication of all letters is not guaranteed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and length. Please e-mail letters to: newspaper@gsgjis.k12.va.us.

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One MLWGS student who attended the UR rally was impressed.

"I became more firm in my views as to why I support Obama," said Max Schick ('09).

"It was very informative and enjoyable. It was good to know that even Hollywood cares about politics."

MLWGS YOUNG DEMOCRATS ATTEND J.J. DINNER

Later on Saturday evening, Virginian Democrats gathered at the VCU Siegel Center for the annual Jefferson Jackson Day Dinner.

A record attendance of over 6,000 people, 2,550 of whom were being served dinner, made this an important speaking event for both Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Other key speakers included Governor Tim Kaine, former governor Mark Warner and mayor of Richmond Douglas Wilder.

More than 250 people were involved in catering the event. Among them were several MLWGS students, many eager to get a glimpse of the possible future president. Other students were in attendance, seated in the upper level bleachers which had been set up for the event.

"[Catering] was pretty tiring, but it was definitely worth it," said Jackie Simon ('08). "It was fun interacting with everyone there, and I got to be on the floor and shake Obama's hand."

During her speech, Hillary Clinton pressed her plans for children's health care and stressed that she was the only candidate running with such a comprehensive plan.

She also refuted opponents who insist that she will be unable to defeat John McCain in the general election.

Barack Obama repeated his resounding call for change, noting both his disadvantaged childhood and his foresight as a Senator on issues such as the Patriot Act and the war in Iraq. During the speech, he received news of his impending victories in the Louisiana, Washington, and Nebraska primaries.

While the crowd was diverse, Obama supporters clearly had an upper hand in the situation.

"It was nice to hear the candidates

and most of us fell in love with Barack Obama," Slag.

Another MLWGS student shared his opinion.

"When Obama came on stage, the energy was palpable," said Kaine.

Even Governor Kaine could not resist joining in the chant of "Yes we can" before Obama took the stage. It was a momentous event for both candidates.

"It was a great political experience in my life," said Samantha Sisisky ('08).

After the dinner, with the departure of the two leading Democrats from the region, came the arrival of two Republican presidential candidates.

GOV. HUCKABEE SPEAKS TO SUPPORTERS IN RICHMOND

On Sunday, February 10, Gov. Mike Huckabee, an ordained Baptist minister, preached at Midlothian's Swift Creek Baptist Church. However, during this service, Gov. Huckabee refrained from discussing politics or his campaign.

At 8 am the next morning, Gov. Huckabee held a rally at the Sheraton Hotel on West Broad Street.

Looking out at a seemingly empty ballroom, where less than 100 of his supporters were gathered, Gov. Huck-

abee was first introduced by one local supporter.

"He [Gov. Huckabee] has a strong national defense plan and is a true fiscal conservative," said Michael P. Farris," chairman of the Home School Legal Defense Association who gave an opening speech and whose organization hosted the event.

Former Republican presidential candidate, Duncan Hunter, then gave a second introduction.

"I ran out of ammo in my campaign... then I found Mike," said the San Diego Congressman who spoke highly of his former opponent.

When he took the stage, Gov. Huckabee acknowledged Rep. Hunter's support.

"It is rare that you end up with a close friend in someone who you were running against," said Huckabee.

The Arkansas governor began his speech by speaking of his dismay with the circumstances surrounding the recent Washington state Republican primary.

He said McCain's victory was called before 15% of the votes were counted, saying "...you don't have elections so a party chair can decide."

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Governor Mike Huckabee campaigns in his typically witty manner at the Sheraton Hotel on West Broad Street. Photo by Danny Yates.

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Gov. Huckabee, known for his constant humor, continued his speech with several jokes.

“Politicians sometimes say it doesn’t matter who you vote for, as long as you - vote. But I say it does matter who you vote for, so if you know someone who is not going to vote for me, make sure they don’t get out.”

He then spoke of his high regard for strong family values.

“Let me tell you, my dad was the ultimate patriot. When ever he laid on the stripes, I saw stars,” said Huckabee.

Gov. Huckabee concluded his speech with a wildly popular demonstration as he explained his flat-tax proposal.

Pulling out an IRS tax form, he then ripped it up, telling the crowd, “let’s save the trees and kill the IRS.”

Before he left the stage to shake hands and mingle with the small crowd, Huckabee got a cheer from the audience when he concluded with his trademark motto, “I’m not the choice of the Wall-Street Republicans... I’m the choice of the Wal-Mart Republicans.”

When asked by the *MLWGS Jabberwock* if he would accept an invitation to run with John McCain as vice president on the Republican ticket, Huckabee responded by saying “the question is not whether I would run as his vice president, but rather if I’ll ask John McCain to be my running mate.”

MLWGS YOUNG REPUBLICANS MEET SEN. MCCAIN

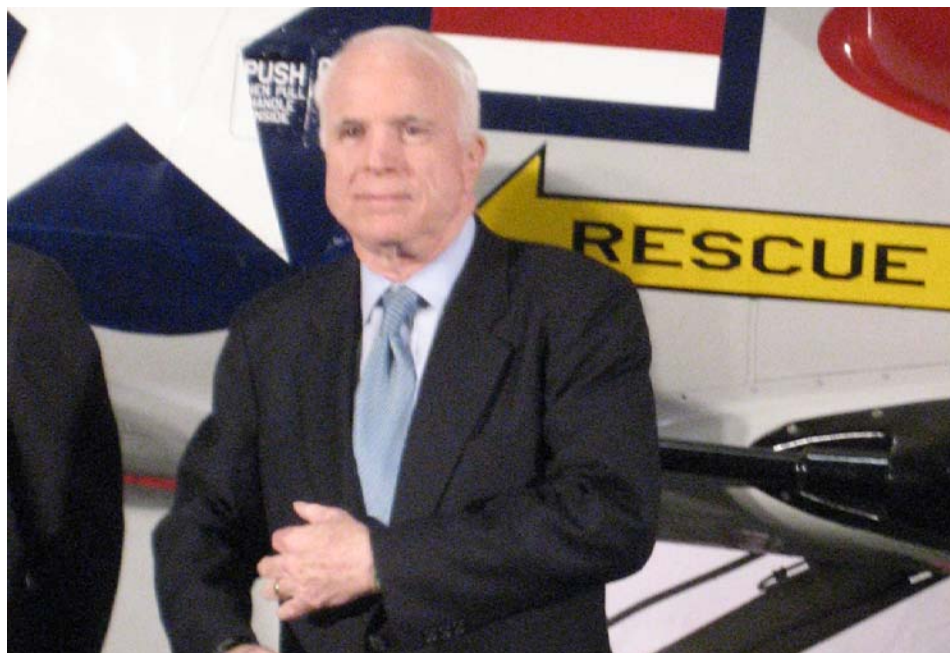
Republican front-runner, Sen. John McCain was the last candidate to arrive at the 6 pm rally in Richmond on Monday, February 11.

A crowd estimated by CNN to be more than 600, packed into the Virginia Aviation Museum, located next to the Richmond International Airport.

MLWGS’ Young Republicans club helped staff the event. Some students were strategically positioned through the crowd where they served as official sign-bearers.

“It was fun, we held signs and used the official campaign credit card to buy food for the press,” said Green.

The event stage was set up in front of a Vietnam-era Navy A-4 Skyhawk at-



Senator John McCain comes to the rescue for Republicans at the Richmond Aviation Museum. Photo courtesy of Justin Pierce.

tack jet, the same plane that John McCain flew during the war.

Before Sen. McCain’s arrival, several prominent Virginian politicians and war heroes gave speeches on his behalf. In attendance was Richmond Veteran and former Vietnam POW, Paul Galanti who spent several years with Sen. McCain in the “Hanoi Hilton.”

“I consider John McCain the most honest politician in history,” said Galanti.

Also present were Henrico Sheriff Wade, Attorney General Kilgore, Former Virginia Governors Gilmore and Allen, Former Lieutenant Governor Hager, and five-term U.S. and former Secretary of the Navy, Senator John Warner.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, we are fortunate in America today to have someone who will restore this great nation to its former dignity,” said Sen. Warner in his introduction.

With those words, an interlude of patriotic music blared from the loudspeakers and Sen. McCain appeared on stage to greet the energetic crowd.

Sen. McCain started his speech by thanking his supporters and making a joke directed at Former Governors Gilmore and Allen.

“Did you ever here the story about the two inmates at the state prison? They

were sitting in the cafeteria complaining one day and one said to the other: you know... the food used to be better when you were governor!”

The speech then switched to a more serious tone as Sen. McCain discussed plans for national defense and the Middle East.

“I will never surrender in Iraq,” said McCain. “My friends, I am running for president for one main reason and that is because I know the threat of Islamic terrorism.

“These are evil people,” said Sen. McCain after referring to news of a suicide attack where two mentally retarded Iraqi girls were used to carry and detonate bombs.

The audience remained respectfully quiet as the Senator from Arizona reiterated his pledge to fight terrorism.

“Even if I have to follow him to the gates of Hell, I’ll get Osama Bin Laden,” said Sen. McCain.

In conclusion, Sen. McCain spoke of his hopes for the Tuesday primary.

“My friends, I believe that what happens tomorrow in Virginia will be another step towards my nomination... and I thank you for that,” said McCain.

Staff Writers Garrett Howe, Anna Mohan, and Karthik Ilakkuvan contributed to this report.

"Straight Talk Express" Takes a Pit Stop

Just a month ago, the campaign of Senator John McCain seemed the source of renewed energy and boundless spirit. The cries of "Mac is back" filled the air after the New Hampshire primary and instilled in many people, including myself, the vigor that had all but left his campaign over the summer of 2007. Now that he has surprised many (including himself) by taking a large lead within the GOP contenders, the senator from Arizona has put the brakes on the "Straight Talk Express" and left me disappointed with his changes.

I must admit that while I disagree with the senator on a number of key issues, I have always admired his reputation for being a maverick and putting aside party lines to achieve real progress. In his past struggles for campaign finance reform and immigration legislation, John McCain has proved to be just what the nation needs; a moderate willing to change and compromise as opposed to taking the usual hard line conservative approach, which often alienates more people than not. His level-headedness in the face of many of his more radical colleagues, whom he has

denounced and moved away from, ought to be especially commended. Added to this are his undeniable credentials and a personal history of bravery, something few other candidates can boast of at all. No other career politicians have the same military and life experience that prepares one for the strain of our highest office. They are these qualities that so often draw me back to support McCain, even when we disagree. Only now do I find that the gutsy senator I have looked up to is slowly losing all he stands for in my eyes.

On the surface, John McCain has not changed any of his platforms or disavowed any of his personal views, but my objections lie elsewhere. Even if his stances have not changed in substance, his delivery has transformed into something completely opposite of the maverick that he was. Naturally, a presidential candidate desires the support of all Americans and seeks to appease former opponents, but McCain has gone too far. Born of the challenges of an insurgent right wing opponent, Mike Huckabee, and the crowd-pleasing messages of Barack Obama, the former innovator has

Opinion

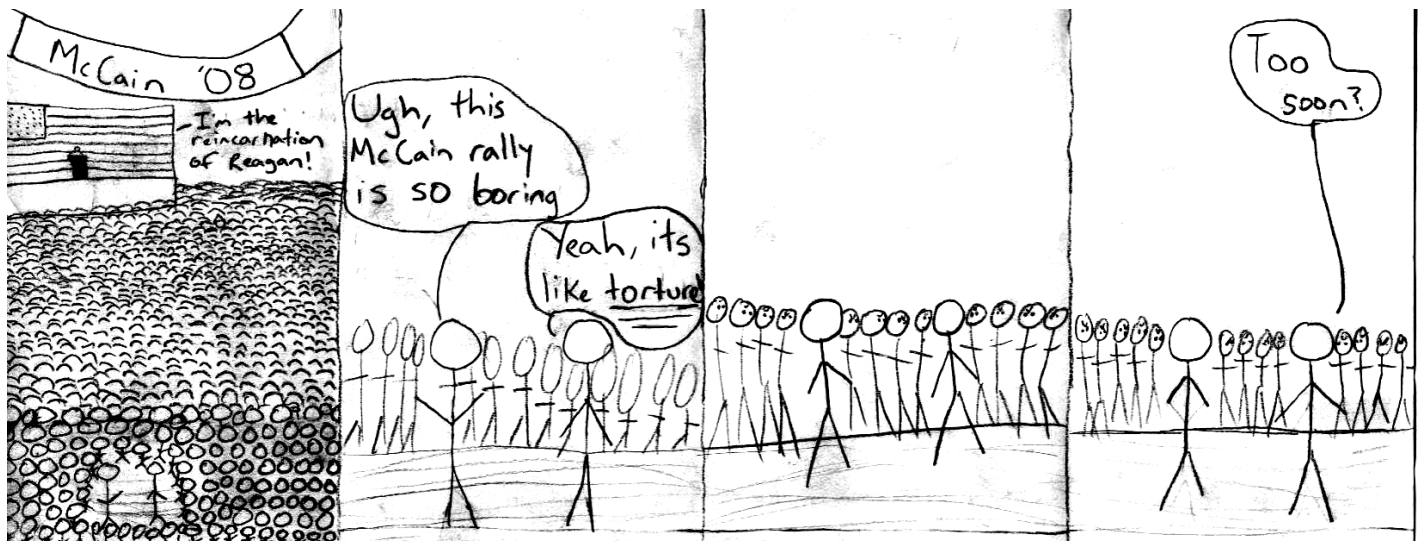
By Logan Ferrell ('11)

resorted to the time tested Republican traditions of courting the religious right (whom he has formerly denounced, and rightly so) and worshipping at the alter of Reaganism. In doing so, he has decided to play the role of a "true conservative," backing down from his bipartisan achievements and moderate stances and turning into the model of almost every other Republican candidate who has been in the race. To see him give up his standards is not only disappointing but extremely unfortunate. As yet another candidate sacrifices his views for votes, the field begins to blur together.

November is only nine months away and a great deal can happen between then and major shifts may occur. We can only hope that one of these changes brings the old "Straight Talk Express" back on track and allows the reemergence of the candidate who once inspired me.

Yorkshire Pudding

by Justin Geldzahler & Michael Berry



Board and Nichol Both at Fault

By John Vaughn
Jabberwock Staff Reporter

Gene Ray Nichol left a brief and controversial legacy behind at William and Mary. When the Board of Visitors made the biased decision to not renew Nichol's contract, he unwisely decided to resign before the school year was over.

While Nichol was not the best president of William and Mary, he strived for things that were important to him.

"...if the College is to reach its aspirations of leadership, it is essential that it becomes a more diverse, less homogeneous institution," wrote Nichol in a letter that told faculty and students of his resignation. "Our last two entering classes have been...the most diverse in the College's history. We have, in the past two and a half years, more than doubled our number of faculty members of color."

He also worried about students whose families had little money.

"I introduced an aggressive Gateway scholarship program... Under its terms, resident students from families earning \$40,000 a year or less have 100% of their needs met, without loans."

It is good for college presidents to work on the things that they feel need the most attention, but colleges begin to fall short of the mark when their basic needs are ignored. Nichol spent too much time focused on smaller problems and did not look at the broader picture.

"I have sometimes moved too swiftly, and perhaps paid insufficient attention to the processes and practices of a strong and complex university," acknowledged Nichol.

If the Board of Visitors had fired him on this basis their decision would have been understandable, but Nichol was adamant that this was not the case. He accused the Board of not renewing his contract due to his controversial decisions of moving the Wren Cross and



Nichols' resignation ends the shortest presidency of the college since the Civil War. Photo courtesy of www.shouldnicholberemoved.org

allowing a "Sex Workers" art show to take place on campus.

"It is critical to explain that this decision was not in any way based on ideology or any single public controversy," responded the Board. In their statement they said that they fired Nichol because "there were a number of problems that were keeping the College from reaching its full potential."

Because the Board's statement did not explain what the "problems" were and the fact that the decision to not renew Nichol's contract occurred after the art show took place puts their motives on shaky grounds.

The Board's situation was not helped when Nichol wrote that they had offered him "economic incentives."

"The simple fact that we have a BoV that resorts to bribes to keep themselves out of the line of fire is both sickening and representative of how ridiculous this

whole fiasco has been," wrote a Nichol supporter in response to an article posted by William and Mary's newspaper, the Flat Hat.

However, Nichol's response to the Board's decision was just as bad as the decision itself. His defiant move of resigning before the year was over smacks of martyrdom. If Nichol really had William and Mary's students and faculty in his best interest, it would have been prudent to stay the rest of the year and then notify the school of his decision. The only reason that Nichol felt that he had to resign was if he thought himself incapable of properly running the school. Although he did mention that he and his family were tired of the "vicious campaign" being run against them, he did not to say that he was no longer an effective president.

Due to Nichol's hasty and emotional choice the college campus has been in an uproar. Many students and faculty members loved Nichol resulting in canceled classes, sit-ins, and candle-light vigils for Nichol.

Some students are tired of the chaos and want to resume their normal schedule, reemphasizing the problem with Nichol's decision. Newly instated president W. Taylor Reveley agreed, commenting on how William and Mary had been in too many "culture wars" and controversies lately.

Both the BOV and Nichol need to recognize their mistakes and let life at William and Mary return to normal.



Victory At Last

Charles Condro

Jabberwock Staff Reporter

It took 19 games, 76 days and 237 points by Max Hilterbrant, but the MLWGS Boys Varsity Basketball team has finally emerged victorious. They beat Appomattox Regional Governor's School (ARGS) 56-50 on Senior Recognition Night.

The Varsity boys pulled away from an 11-11 tie at the end of the first quarter to go up 31-23 at halftime, and they never looked back.

Max Hilterbrant ('08) paced the team with 17 points and Parker Kirwan ('10) added 13 points for the Dragons, including eight in the second quarter.

Travis Eilerson ('08) had six points and played solid defense. Paul Eiker ('09) had seven points, two of which came on an 180° up-and-under lay-up that can only be described as amazing.

Wil Van Winkle ('10) sunk a three pointer as time expired in the third quarter to put the team up nine points with a score of 44-35.

In the fourth quarter, ARGS attempted a comeback as their star guard Mark Baker ('08) helped the team put up 15 points in the final frame after being stifled by the Dragon's defense all night long. Baker ended the game with 16 points, almost half of his average of 29.4 points per game.

Guard David Wagner ('10), Kirwan and Hilterbrant combined to go five of six from the free-throw line as time wound down to secure the victory.

Zach Rubin ('08) along with Hilterbrant and Eilerson were recognized in a ceremony before the game.

The team has battled all season long and been close to victory several times, only to have victory snatched from their grasp by the opposition.

In a game at Hanover on (January 10) the team ended up losing a close battle with the Hawks 53-57 after what many on the team viewed as an incorrect traveling violation was called on Max



Both ball and basket are left alone with the conclusion of the basketball season.

Photo by Charles Condro.

Hilterbrant as he drove through the lane towards a basket. This would have given the Dragon's a lead and perhaps changed the outcome in favor of MLWGS.

Versus Atlee on January 16, the Dragon Ballah's were ahead 31-23 at halftime, but ended up losing 60-72. In a game at Patrick Henry the previous night MLWGS had the lead 25-14 entering the second half but again lost by just four points at 45-49.

As the manager of the team, I have been to every one of the games this season. The season has proven to be much longer than the 22 games that show on the schedule.

The victory that the boys varsity team gained on Monday night over arch-rival ARGS stands for more than just one victory in the score column. It stands for the hard work of the players and coaches at every practice and the determination of athletes. It stands for the dedication of all the fans that make up what I must say, having been to games all across the metropolitan area is the best group of cheerers and supporters that I have seen by far.

Another positive for the year are the records that team members achieved this year. Hilterbrant achieved the second highest total ever for points in a game with 33 versus ARGS on December 1,

and his 278 points for the year were good for fifth all-time.

Kevin Pierce ('11), who was called up from JV during Winter Break, still managed to have the fifth highest total of three-point shots made in a season ever with 23. Pierce also sunk five threes in a game in the January 16 Atlee game, which is good for second all-time in a game.

Last but certainly not least this victory stands for a turning point and shows that the youngest team in the region is going to be a force to reckon with in the years to come.

The team has seven underclassmen this year who will return to the court next year with improved skills and more experience.

Three of the top four all-time scoring freshman will return next year. Pierce's 84 points, according to Kirwan, are good for first all-time and Dan Laws ('11) had 42 points. Laws is third all-time, followed closely by Kirwan who had 40 points his freshman year to add to the 177 he had this year.

The Green Dragons Varsity Basketball team suffered through a tough season this year, but from what I can see, it will be a long time before MLWGS goes through another season like this.



Sen. Barack Obama speaks to a crowd of 6,000 at the J.J. Dinner. *Photo by Kimberly Thompson ('08).*



Paige Endsley ('08) attends the Aviation Museum McCain rally. *Photo by Justin Pierce ('09).*



Nat Kaine ('08) and actor Kal Penn address a crowd of students at University of Richmond. *Photo by Danny Yates.*



Sen. Hillary Clinton speaks to a crowd of Virginia Democrats at the J.J. Dinner. *Photo by Kimberly Thompson ('08).*