Panther’s Scamper to the Top
by Jonathan Sartell

Saturday, Oct. 1 at 9 a.m., the third annual Panther Scamper 5K race was held on the beautiful Ferrum College campus. The event, organized by Coordinator of Intramural Programming and Wellness Chris Rill, had over 140 participants that came out to support the Saint James Food Bank this year.

The starter’s gun went off at 9 a.m. This year, a 1-mile walk was also held in conjunction with the 3.1-mile race. The 5K started with a 1.4-mile loop around the main campus, and then went to a sharp left up the set of stairs by the tennis courts and through the woods for roughly nine tenths of a mile. The next leg of the course brought runners around Chapman Pond and by Adams Lake to the finish line at the center of the cam-

pus in front of Franklin Hall.

The top runner of the third annual race was Ferrum College’s own, Ben Pittsley. Pittsley set a new course record with the stellar time of 18:14. The top female runner was Amanda Farmer, also a Ferrum student. Farmer finished the 5K with a time of 28:48. The top three male and female finishers in each age group received an award as did the overall male and female race winners.

All Ferrum students were able to enter the race by donating three non-perishable food items and presenting their student ID. Non-student registration was available online for $15. Race day registration began at 8 a.m. in front of Franklin Hall for $20. All proceeds from the race went to Saint James Food Bank just off route 40 here in Ferrum, VA.

Star “bucks” by Cannon Morris

On a rainy day at Ferrum College the one thing Keion had to look forward to was the free Starbucks coffee in the bookstore. Nowadays he no longer has this pick me up, at least not for free. Yes, there is still Starbucks coffee on campus. But it now comes at a Starbucks price. Then in comes the issue of waiting for your coffee to be made. He has only ten minutes between his classes, and there could be almost a twenty minute wait. Starbucks has left his pockets empty and made him late for class.

Lately there has been a buzz surrounding the new Starbucks on campus. Many questions are floating around from many of the students as to why one of the privileges on campus was replaced with an expense. “I refuse to spend money at Starbucks,” one student told me. “I’m boycotting,” said another. I have been hearing a whole lot of negatives things coming from many students since the first few days of classes. One student told me “I waited for 15 minutes, and paid almost 6 dollars. I was disappointed in the service, and my coffee wasn’t even that great.”

With her input I started thinking about how to make the situation better instead of just being mad about it. Since there was some positive feedback, and some student’s like the Starbucks, maybe there was a way to meet in the middle.

When I sat down with Victoria, a junior at Ferrum College, we talked for about twenty minutes discussing ways to get the free coffee back. “The cheapest cup of coffee we have now is almost two dollars. What if a student doesn’t have two dollars?” One of the things we talked about the most was putting the old coffee set up from the bookstore in the library or in Franklin Hall. This way a student could still get their daily coffee without breaking the bank, and if a student did want something a little different they still have the Starbucks options in the bookstore. We also discussed a possibility of replacing the “not so good” coffee in the Academic Resource Center with the set up that used to be in the bookstore. This way if a student didn’t have the money for a cup of coffee form Starbucks they didn’t have to go without.

No matter how many students express their concerns about the Starbucks to one another, nothing will be done unless these concerns are brought to the attention of people who can do something about it. Write a letter to Dr. Braaten expressing your concerns. Let someone in the Ferrum College community that can do something about it know, so they can actually do something about it. If enough students work together to try and address this issue then something will have to be done about it. Ferrum College is our community, and if we want coffee without breaking the bank or being late for class then we should have it.
A Sandbox for Informed Citizenry

Karl Roeper, Academic Advisor to the Iron Blade

Video game designers refer to the introductory levels of these additively interactive media as a sandbox. It is a relatively controlled environment where the neophyte player may acquire and begin to practice the skills which will enable their success as they proceed through the game’s increasingly demanding levels of play. This metaphor may be applied to the function of a campus newspaper.

College students enter their undergraduate studies with a vast array of skills and interests, some being more concerned and informed about issues of true social significance. Clarification seems to be in order at this point. Social significance has nothing to do with who is about to be voted off any television program, nor does it have anything to do with the second season of some “reality” show which has nothing to do with who is about to be voted off a television program, nor does it have anything to do with the latest season of some “reality” show with who is about to be voted off

The concept of democracy is founded on its citizens making informed decisions. A pillar of journalism is the news outlet’s obligation to provide useful information to the population that it serves. It has been ineffective in the past practiced by folks like Ben Franklin, Thomas Paine, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. The students who write for The Iron Blade can only hope to be granted an opportunity to practice their trade with such grand and notable impact.

This is not to imply that providing clear and accurate information regarding, for example, the latest administrative initiatives at Ferrum College is unimportant. It most certainly is. The campus community should understand the expectations behind these policies; it keeps them informed and teaches students about the complexities of institutional goals and organizational decision-making. Reading about such topics prepares students to become active participants in the communities that they will inhabit once they have completed their studies at Ferrum. So, in one sense, the sandbox metaphor loosely applies to how students can use the campus newspaper to prepare for their future.

In a more direct sense, the sandbox metaphor applies to the editors and staff of the Iron Blade, those persons who choose and assign topics, write the stories, and design the pages. These fledgling journalists come aboard, many with no previous journalism experience, intrinsically driven to become good reporters. This newspaper is where they will develop and hone the skills that can help them land internships and become employed after graduation. This is also where they begin to benefit from the support of their community.

We ask a few minutes of your time to read the pages we produce. We ask that you provide feedback by participating in readership surveys, and we’ll try to make this chronicle meet your needs and interests. We ask that you give us an opportunity to speak to the right topics of our world. So, that when given the opportunity, we are ready with the skills and courage to act, as did Edwin R. Murrow and CBS News to expose Senator Joseph McCarthy, rather than being like the lemmings who followed Don Rumsfeld and the Bush administration.

There is much to be said for the students who choose to work on the Iron Blade. For example, imagine that one of those students will be the first to be granted an opportunity to practice their trade with such grand and notable impact.

Finally, it’s important to learn how to take every opportunity to make yourself stand out, and you’ll have better chances of getting into an interview.

Secondly, Adam advises that much of the path to success involves enjoying the ride, and that happiness isn’t an end result, it’s a journey. It’s important to try to make the best of every situation, no matter what. Things are obviously going to happen, and it’s foolish to believe otherwise. It’s especially important to try to make the best of every situation, no matter what. Things are obviously going to happen, and it’s foolish to believe otherwise.

Finally, it’s important to learn to take everything in stride.

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Sports

Panther Profile: LaQuinta Garrett

by Monica Samayoa
Sports Editor

“To prove people wrong by winning games we’re not supposed to win. Show them that we’re not the underdogs. That the games we win are from the hard work that we put in every time we practice and play.”

These are the goals the Women’s Soccer Team at Ferrum College has set for the upcoming season. Senior LaQuinta Garrett has put in time, dedication and work into participating in this sport at Ferrum College. The senior forward has been playing this sport since she was in the 3rd grade, after her mother signed her up. She fell in love with the sport once she first started playing.

Garrett has played a number of different positions throughout her soccer career. Those positions include goalie, defense and forward. Garrett stated that her favorite thing about playing is the girls on the team. “They’re not just my friends but there my family, and that’s what our team is about, family. And also, when I’m having a bad day, once I hit the field my mind clears and I forget about what happen to me that day, or what grade I got on my test. I just feel great doing something I love.”

While at Ferrum College Garrett has received a number of honors. Those honors include: 2007 DC Classic All-Tournament Team, the 2007 USA South All-Conference 1st Team, the 2007 All-Region 3rd Team, and the 2007 All-State 2nd Team.

In 2008 she was named to the USA South All-Conference 1st Team and the 2008 All-State 1st Team. Garrett scored a 4-goal hat-trick against Peace College in 2010, and was named to the 2010 USA South All-Conference 2nd Team and the 2010 All-State 2nd Team. She has received consecutive awards as the USA South Player of the Week for both September 12 and September 19, 2011.

The Criminal Justice major hopes to continue her love of playing soccer after she graduates from Ferrum because she’s not ready to give up the sport just yet. “I will continue to play soccer. I will try-out for some higher level teams and see what happens,” Garrett stated.

With Garrett participating in her last season at Ferrum College she has set goals for herself for this upcoming season. “My goals for soccer is to always work hard and never give up and just be the best I can be.”

The Women’s Soccer Team returns to Penn-Roediger Field on October 14 at 7pm to play against the Pacers of Peace College.

Student Calendar

Oct 18

9:30a.m. Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, Wall Above Panther’s Den
3:30pm Learning Community Meeting Skeens Seminar Room
4pm Bowling and Wallyball Sign Ups Franklin Hall Atrium
4pm Gen ED Discussion Meeting Founders Room, Stanley Library
5pm Mountain Bike Ride Campus Trails
5:30pm Sophomore Dinners Virginia Room
6pm Freshman Skills workshops Library AV Room
7pm Alpha Phi Omega Pledge Meetings Garber 106
7pm Journey to Planet Earth Garber 106
8pm L2Ork (Laptop Orchestra) Blue Ridge Mountain Room

Oct 19

9:30am Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, Wall Above Panther’s Den
4pm Bowling and Wallyball sign ups Franklin Hall Atrium
4pm Gen ED Discussion Meeting Founders Room, Stanley Library
5pm Gen ED Discussion Meeting Founders Room, Stanley Library
6pm Freshman Skills Workshop Library AV Room
7pm Greek Forum Panther’s Den, Franklin Hall
7:30pm Ferrum Greek Council Dyer Conference Room
8pm L2Ork (Laptop Orchestra) Blue Ridge Mountain Room
9am Improv Show Panther’s Den

Oct 21

9am Intervention Training with Bill Maher Panther’s Den, Franklin Hall
9:30am Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, Wall Above Panther’s Den
4pm Gen ED Discussion Meeting Founders Room, Stanley Library
4pm Bowling Night Bowling Alley Rocky Mount
7pm Volleyball Game Swartz Gym
8pm L2Ork (Laptop Orchestra) Blue Ridge Mountain Room

Oct 22

8am Alumni Board of Directors Meeting Panther’s Den, Franklin Hall
9:30am Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, Wall Above Panther’s Den
10am Men’s Soccer Game Soccer Field

Oct 20

9:30am Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, wall Above Panther’s Den
4pm Bowling and Wallyball Sign Ups Franklin Hall Atrium
4pm Gen ED Discussion Meeting Founders Room, Stanley Library
6pm Freshman Skills Workshop Library AV Room
7pm Greek Forum Panther’s Den, Franklin Hall
7:30pm Ferrum Greek Council Dyer Conference Room
8pm L2Ork (Laptop Orchestra) Blue Ridge Mountain Room
9am Improv Show Panther’s Den

Oct 23

9:30am Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, Wall Above Panther’s Den
1pm Ferrum Improv Club Practice Flex Theater
4pm Gen ED Discussion Meeting Founders Room, Stanley Library
7:30pm Ferrum Greek Council Founder’s Room

Oct 24

9:30am Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, Wall Above Panther’s Den
3pm Faculty Prof. Dev. Activity Meeting Virginia Room
4pm Gen ED Discussion Meeting Founders Room, Stanley Library
4pm Rotaract Club Meeting LA 201
5pm Bouldering Session Boulder Wall
6pm Senate Meetings Grousebeek 201
7:30pm English Club Meeting Grousebeek 201
8pm Relay for Life Meeting Virginia Room
9pm Ferrum Improv Club Practice Flex Theater

Oct 25

9:30am Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, Wall Above Panther’s Den
12pm Learning Community Meeting Magnolia Room
4pm Gen ED Discussion Meeting Founders Room, Stanley Library
4pm Trail Run Campus Trails
7pm Alpha Phi Omega Pledge Meetings Garber 106
7pm Journey to Planet Earth Garber 106
7pm Pretty in Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Social Panther’s Den

Oct 26

9am Fall Food Show Blue Ridge Mountain Room
9:30am Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, Wall Above Panther’s Den
11am Academic Majors Fair, Panther’s Den
12pm Gateways to Success Meeting, Magnolia Room
4pm Gen ED Meeting, Founders Room, Stanley Library
6pm RHA Meeting, East Bassett 27
9pm BINGO Panther’s Den

Oct 27

8am Learning Community Meeting, Skeens Seminar Room
9:30am Rotaract Relay for Life Fundraiser #1 Student Leadership Office, Wall Above Panther’s Den
4pm Gen Ed Meeting, Founders Room, Stanley Library
4pm Pumpkin Carving Competition, Franklin Quad
7pm Volleyball Game, Swartz Gym

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Music Review

Cole World: The Sideline Story Review
by Ryan Price

J Cole has made his way into the hip-hop world with praise and accolades with his poetic lyrics guiding him along the journey. Previous mix tapes like “The Come Up,” “The Warm Up” and “Friday Night Lights” have been acclaimed among critics who praise Cole’s lyrical delivery and his ability to craft stories. But much anticipation has been building for Cole’s debut as many delays have pushed back the album’s release, making fans crave the debut even more. Now with September 27 being the established date for Jermaine Cole’s album, does this debut have what it takes to certify him as newfound legend in the hip-hop world?

“Cole World” starts off with the soulful intro then continues its slow tempo with “A Dollar and a Dream” in which Cole lays his lyrical ammunition to the test showing that his uncontrollable thought pattern leaves him worried. This same emotion is shown on songs like “Lost Ones,” “Nobody’s Perfect” and the remarkable “Breakdown” where Cole speaks on his mother’s addiction to drugs. Not everything on “Cole World” is dark; the self-produced “Mr. Nice Watch” featuring Jay-Z shows that Jermaine can hold his own with a legend. Its heavily heart pounding drums and dub-step influence brew the background as they trade speedy wordplay about the marvellous life that they have created. Mix-tape favorites like “Lights Please,” “Who Dat” and the Drake-assisted, slow club favorite “In the Mourning” provide a sour taste for the debut. Why was past music recycled and placed on the album? Though some past material might throw the listener off, Cole picks right back up with “God’s Gift” showing his amazing craftsmanship for production. He continues his incredible lyricism on “Rise and Shine” with lines like “Like we always do with this time/Cole blowing your mind/Hey Dummy, this ain’t no accident/All this was designed.”

Cole World: The Sideline Story will not live up to the high expectations that so many have placed on the debut. But with such amazing lyrics and brilliant production, that Cole created mostly himself, the album breathes resurrection into the hip-hop world. For the new generation Cole can become a legend all his own, crafting a lane that can only be created in his world.

Ferrum College’s Own “American Idol”
by Harley Patterson

Every Tuesday from September 13 to September 27 students packed into the Panther’s Den to watch Panther Idol, Ferrum College’s version of the popular singing competition. The competition started with fourteen contestants and slowly dwindled down by week. Week two had seven contestans which became four by week three. The final four consisted of Michael Beaman, Jordan Dear, Maryann Rogers, and Ashlea Terry, all very talented students who wanted to share their talents with their peers.

The night of the final four began with a duet of Michael Beaman and Jordan Dear singing “Lucky” by Jason Mraz. The two were in sync in their song and really sold it to the crowd. After the two finished their song and left the stage, Beaman had just a minute before taking it again to sing his solo song, “Michael” for the crowd. Maryann Rogers followed Michael’s performance, singing “True Colors”. Rogers was followed by Dear coming back on stage to sing “Paparazzi” as her solo song. Ashlea Terry finished the show singing “For You I Will”.

Back up in front of the stage. The judges were unable to pick just one single winner, announcing instead that Jordan Dear and Ashlea Terry would be co-winners and split the prize between the two of them. The students congratulated each other before being congratulated by their friends and peers. All four contestants seemed to agree that Panther Idol was a fun and exciting experience. Beaman said it was awesome and his competitions were all “good folk.” He was excited to be part of the final four and had been really looking forward to his fun duet with Jordan. Dear was nervous, but still felt like the competition was great. “It’s the closest I’ll get to the final four in American Idol,” Dear noted, continuing to say that she couldn’t wait to do it with her friends and that “everyone’s a winner in my book.”

Rogers said she really enjoyed working with the other contestants and hadn’t actually planned on participating until right before the first round was set to begin. Terry said that she really enjoyed the competition and that it felt good to win. She also said that she could not wait for Coffee House. All four contestants had a great time participating and the crowd enjoyed being able to watch their peers. All the students who participated in the rounds enjoyed sharing their talents and seeing how the people around them responded. Hopefully we will see another Panther Idol in the next few years, maybe even with a bigger turn out that this year’s.

Branden Wilson to Play Halloween “Spooktacular”
by Megan Hodges

On October 29, 2011, dubstep disc jockey Branden Wilson will play the annual Halloween “Spooktacular” dance along with DJ guests Trypticon and He Kontrolls. The event will be held in the Fitness Center from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Costumes will be welcomed and a dress code will be announced prior to the dance. The event is being sponsored by the African American Student Association (AASA) and Gamma Chi Gamma (GCG).

Wilson, originally from Palmer, Alaska and now living in Lynchburg, VA is no stranger to Ferrum College. He played at the Sigma Alpha Kappa (SAK) fraternity house this year on April 17th and September 9th. SAK president Will Moore is excited to see Wilson play on campus at the end of October. “It’s a great chance for (Wilson) to get exposure to the student body,” said Moore.

Justin Muse, assistant director of Student Leadership and Engagement thinks that students will welcome the DJ’s to campus and that many will come to the event. Dubstep is a style of electronic dance music. When asked how he feels about the dubstep genre, Muse said, “I am fairly familiar with the genre. It is used in popular music today, such as Rihanna. When the bass drops, you get the throbber sound.” He wants to bring Wilson and guests to campus because he thinks the music will “open up (students’) eyes and minds…it’s something different.”

Although this will be Wilson’s first time playing a set on campus, he has already been well acquainted with the Ferrum crowd and is expecting a positive turnout and crowd response. All DJ’s have already begun preparing for the dance. According to Wilson, “We can’t wait to play and we’ve all prepared really special sets just for that show and I will be premiering new songs as well there.” To preview some of Wilson’s dubstep tracks, go to http://soundcloud.com/brandenwilson.