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2008 Collegiate Network Paper of the Year

Housing lawsuit outrages student leaders City commands Dean Volp to release information on 711 Richmond Road residents, inspection proves inconclusive

Jon San
Managing Editor

In a surprising turn of events, the city of Williamsburg is expected to conclude their litigation war against the student residents of 711 Richmond Road by dropping the widely publicized injunction filed just two weeks ago on January 22. The suit was filed against the residents for alleged violations of the controversial three-person housing ordinance. Nick Skantz ('09), a resident of the seven bedroom house and lawsuit defendant, said that he now expects the suit to be dropped after an inspection by Zoning Administrator Rodney Rhodes on Friday, January 30 proved inconclusive.

In addition to the lawsuit's primary content, which orders a \$3,000 per defendant fine, immediate ordinance compliance, permission to inspect the property, and defendant assumption of all court fees, the suit also includes two official subpoenas of Patricia Volp, Dean of Students at the College and Colby Cumber, the students' landlord. The subpoena commands Dean Volp to release "all records held in the possession of The College of William and Mary, showing the name, any local physical address of residence shown in any record for the 2008-2009 academic year whether located on or off campus" of the defendants as well as "any and all parking permit records held by the College of William and Mary for the following vehicles: [license plates listed]"



Alec McKinley

Neighborhood Watch gone wrong: The lawsuit against 711 Richmond Road residents Paul Moore ('09) (left) and Nicholas Skantz ('09) (right) and their housemates was initiated based on data collected by neighbors who would closely monitor their daily traffic.

Mr. Cumber, is commanded to release "any and all documents held in [his] possession...relating to [the defendants] including, but not limited to, leases, contracts, rent checks, correspondence, email, messages, text messages, accounting records, or any other document."

While no official decision has been issued by the city at the time of print, and Mr. Rhodes has not yet declared the house to be in compliance, Skantz is confident that they will soon be declared as such. "We are a test case and [the city's actions] represent selective enforcement," Skantz told *The Informer*. The night before

the inspection, Skantz and fellow 711 residents met with a lawyer to discuss their situation. The lawyer was provided to them pro bono by Student Legal Services, an organization funded, in part, by the William and Mary Student Assembly.

The city's initial decision to sue the student residents of 711 Richmond Road for violating the three-person housing rule comes only two months after the City Council launched preliminary negotiations with students to possibly alter the

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SA allocates \$2,000 for Sex Worker's Art Show

Nick Hoelker
Staff Writer

The Virginia Informer has learned that the Sex Worker's Art Show (SWAS) has retained the necessary funding to return to the College later this semester. Responding to a student activities fee request submitted by a number of student organizations last week, including LAMBDA, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA), Voices for Planned Parenthood (VOX), Tidewater Labor Support Committee and the Meridan Coffeehouse, SA president Valerie Hopkins and the SA Senate Finance Committee approved an additional allocation of \$1,625 for the show. Funding measures approved by the SA Executive automatically pass through the Senate Finance Committee if no opposition is made from committee members. SA senators present at this meeting of the finance committee included Matt Beato ('09), Caroline Mullis ('09), Brittany Fallon ('11), Ryan Ruzic (J.D. '11), Betty Jeanne Manning ('12) and Stef Felitto ('12).

An initial request of \$3,000 was made by these organizations to the SA Executive. The show already had \$1,000 set aside in a bank account on top a \$375 SA budget appropriation made last year. Last year's show ended up

SA FUNDS SWAS
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Business professor to plead guilty to unlawful e-mail interception; Dean Pulley vouches for students' safety

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

Stephan Grzeskowiak, a visiting professor currently teaching undergraduate courses at the College, is to plead guilty to two counts of intentionally accessing a protected computer without authorization. The plea is to be entered in the U.S. District Court in Madison, Wisconsin on February 5. Mr. Grzeskowiak, a German native, came to work at College in 2008 on the recommendation of several William and Mary faculty members.

Efforts by *The Informer* to reach Mr. Grzeskowiak by the time of printing were unsuccessful.

In May 2007, while teaching at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minnesota an unidentified woman obtained a restraining order against Mr. Grzeskowiak. Subsequently, Mr. Grzeskowiak unlawfully intercepted this woman's e-mails, using information contained in the e-mails to contact her in violation of his restraining

What we did immediately was to replace him in the Peninsula center class because we knew it would take time to investigate.

order. An indictment against Mr. Grzeskowiak was filed on August 28, 2008 in the U.S. District Court in Madison, Wisconsin. According to the employees of the U.S. District Court in Madison, seven charges were filed against him in that indictment.

On September 16, 2008 just as Mr. Grzeskowiak was entering his

marketing class at William and Mary's satellite campus in Newport News, he was arrested and incarcerated by FBI agents. Making an initial appearance before the U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Mr. Grzeskowiak was then released on a \$100,000 bond.

In reacting to this incident, Mason Business School administrators temporarily relieved Mr. Grzeskowiak of his teaching duties to conduct

an internal review. Larry Pulley, Dean of the Mason School of Business, investigated the matter with Associate Dean Jon Krapfl in conjunction the College's legal counsel and Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss. Upon hearing about Mr. Grzeskowiak's indictment and subsequent arrest, Dean Pulley stated "What we did immediately was to replace him in the Peninsula center class because we knew it would take time to investigate."

The investigation was described
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Greek GPAs consistent with school-wide averages

Bert Mueller
Assistant News Editor

Known for their rowdy parties and outlandish behavior, one might think the GPAs of members of the William and Mary Greek community to be extraordinarily low. In actuality, William and Mary's Greek community, accounting for 26 percent of the student body, presently averages a 3.18 GPA, just one-hundredth of a point lower than the average undergraduate GPA of 3.19.

It is really a return to form for Sigma Chi, which has traditionally had a strong academic standing overall.

These numbers were recently released on the Greek Life section of the W&M website. In addition to this, it is worth noting that while the median sorority size grew from 81 to 87 from the spring 2008 semester to the fall 2008 semester, the median fraternity size shrank from 49 to 45. But who lost the most members? Which Greek organizations are the brainiest?

On the fraternal side, the top three GPA averages belonged to Alpha Epsilon Pi, Beta Theta Pi and Alpha Tau Omega, with 3.33, 3.28 and 3.23 respectively. The big stories of these top three were that Alpha Tau Omega jumped from twelfth to third in the

rankings and that Beta Theta Pi had a net loss of ten members from spring 2008 to fall 2008. Beta Brother, Danny Michel ('11), is not worried: "The loss of our ten members is due to the fact that we decided to take a small fall pledge class, but we are planning on taking a larger one this spring. Beta likes recruiting through other campus organizations, so we usually have a larger spring pledge class than other fraternities."

Beta was not the only fraternity that had significant membership losses. Phi Kappa Tau had a net loss of 15 brothers, slipping from 57 members to 42. Kappa Sigma was the fraternity that posted the largest net gain, from spring to fall, with the addition of nine new members. Their membership is now the highest of all the fraternities at 66 members, nearly double the average fraternity size.

Of the fraternities that inhabit the units, Beta Theta Pi, Sigma Chi and Phi Kappa Tau were ranked as having the highest GPAs. Sigma Chi held the greatest performance increase of the "frat row" fraternities, moving from thirteenth to fifth overall. As Sigma Chi academic advisor and government professor Clay Clemens remarked, "It

is really a return to form for Sigma Chi, which has traditionally had a strong academic standing overall." The lowest three GPAs belonged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon (2.73), Pi Kappa Alpha (2.69) and Phi Beta Sigma (2.28).

Over at sorority court, Gamma Phi Beta (3.39), Kappa Delta (3.33) and Kappa Alpha Theta (3.31) took the top three performance spots. They were also the top three performing sororities in the Spring 2008 semester. The only two major shifts in semester rankings were Chi Omega, which climbed from ninth to sixth, and Delta Delta Delta, which fell from eighth to eleventh with a GPA drop from 3.28 to 3.07. Rounding out the bottom were Pi Beta Phi (3.16) and Delta Sigma Theta (2.86). Overall, the sororities were far more stable, both in their GPA rankings and in maintaining membership numbers. Chi Omega and Kappa Kappa Gamma expanded the most, earning a net gain of 10 and 11 members, respectively.

GPA Comparison

All Greek GPA - 3.18
All Undergrad GPA 3.19

Fraternity GPA

1. Alpha Epsilon Pi - 3.33
2. Beta Theta Pi - 3.27
3. Alpha Tau Omega - 3.22
4. Chi Phi - 3.21
5. Sigma Chi - 3.18
6. Delta Phi - 3.17
7. Phi Kappa Tau - 3.14
8. Kappa Alpha - 3.13
9. Delta Chi - 3.13
10. Theta Delta Chi - 3.09
11. Lambda Chi Alpha - 3.08
12. Kappa Sigma - 3.02
13. Kappa Delta Rho - 3.01
14. Alpha Phi Alpha - 2.92
15. Sigma Pi - 2.88
16. Sigma Alpha Epsilon - 2.72
17. Pi Kappa Alpha - 2.69
18. Phi Beta Sigma - 2.27

Sorority GPA

1. Gamma Phi Beta - 3.38
2. Kappa Delta - 3.33
3. Kappa Alpha Theta - 3.31
4. Kappa Kappa Gamma - 3.29
5. Delta Gamma - 3.28
6. Chi Omega - 3.21
7. Phi Mu - 3.20
8. Alpha Chi Omega - 3.19
9. Alpha Kappa Alpha - 3.18
10. Pi Beta Phi - 3.16
11. Delta Delta Delta - 3.07
12. Delta Sigma Theta - 2.86

Briefly...

Compiled by Steven Nelson, News Editor

Newest fraternity chapter chartered at the College

The College of William and Mary received its newest men's social fraternity chapter last weekend, as the members of the Alpha Tau Omega colony received their charter from their national organization. The colony, founded in 2006 after the College expressed interest in bringing new fraternities to campus, suffered a setback during its first semester when it lost over half of its members. The colony - now officially the Virginia Kappa Kappa chapter of Alpha Tau Omega - received its charter this weekend at a ceremony in the Wren Chapel.

VCU and William and Mary will combine environmental expertise

On January 26 William and Mary and Virginia Commonwealth University signed a memorandum of understanding regarding future cooperation between the environmental science programs at each university. William and Mary's Center for Conservation Biology and VCU's Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences will forge a joint venture called the "College of William & Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Conservation Biology at the VCU Rice Center." VCU currently operates a large facility on the James River located approximately midway between Richmond and Williamsburg; the joint research effort will be based at this location. Faculty based at the center will hold appointments to both the College and VCU. William and Mary Professor Bryan Watts will serve as Director of the program.

William and Mary ranked one of the top producers of Peace Corps volunteers

The Peace Corp recently released its 2009 rankings for colleges sending students to the Corps. The list reflects the number of students from different institutions, with distinctions for large, medium and large schools. Medium sized schools are defined as having between 5,000 and 15,000 students enrolled. Although William and Mary falls into the lower end of the medium size range, it ranked 5th, having 46 alums serving in the 2008 year, according to the Corps' report.

Mike Tomlin ('95) becomes youngest coach to make and win the Super Bowl

At 36 years old, alumnus Mike Tomlin ('95) became the youngest coach in history to lead a team to the NFL Super

Bowl. Mr. Tomlin currently serves as head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers and was an active member of Tribe Football when he attended the College. The Steelers faced the Arizona Cardinals in the championship game on February 1, 2009. The Steelers defeated the Cardinals.

Virginia Senator Jim Webb to speak at Charter Day

Senator Jim Webb will address students and members of the William and Mary community on February 7, 2009. Mr. Webb will receive an honorary doctorate of public service during the ceremonies celebrating the granting of the College's royal charter in 1693. Tickets to this event will be distributed to students and faculty for Charter Day ceremonies, after which any remaining additional tickets to this momentous occasion will be made available to the public by calling 877-296-7787.

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Founders

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The Virginia Informer is an independent, non-partisan, student run publication devoted to reporting the news to the William and Mary community. We exist to provide an alternative to school sponsored news sources. We do not, and never will, receive any financial support from the College of William and Mary. We will not shy away from controversy or be afraid to challenge the norm. We strive to inform and engage our readers via responsible journalism and in-depth reporting, while fostering and giving voice to opinions that are often shut out by the campus establishment.

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Bill Lawrence humors, inspires about life after college

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer

Bill Lawrence, best known as the writer for the hit TV show *Scrubs*, came to William and Mary on January 29 and spoke before an audience of over five hundred faculty and students in the Commonwealth Auditorium. During his visit, sponsored by The Virginia Informer and AMP, Lawrence reflected upon his fond memories of William and Mary, his professors, his friends, and his inspirations for his later writings. Whether or not he intended to, Lawrence also offered words of wisdom for now and future graduates of the College.

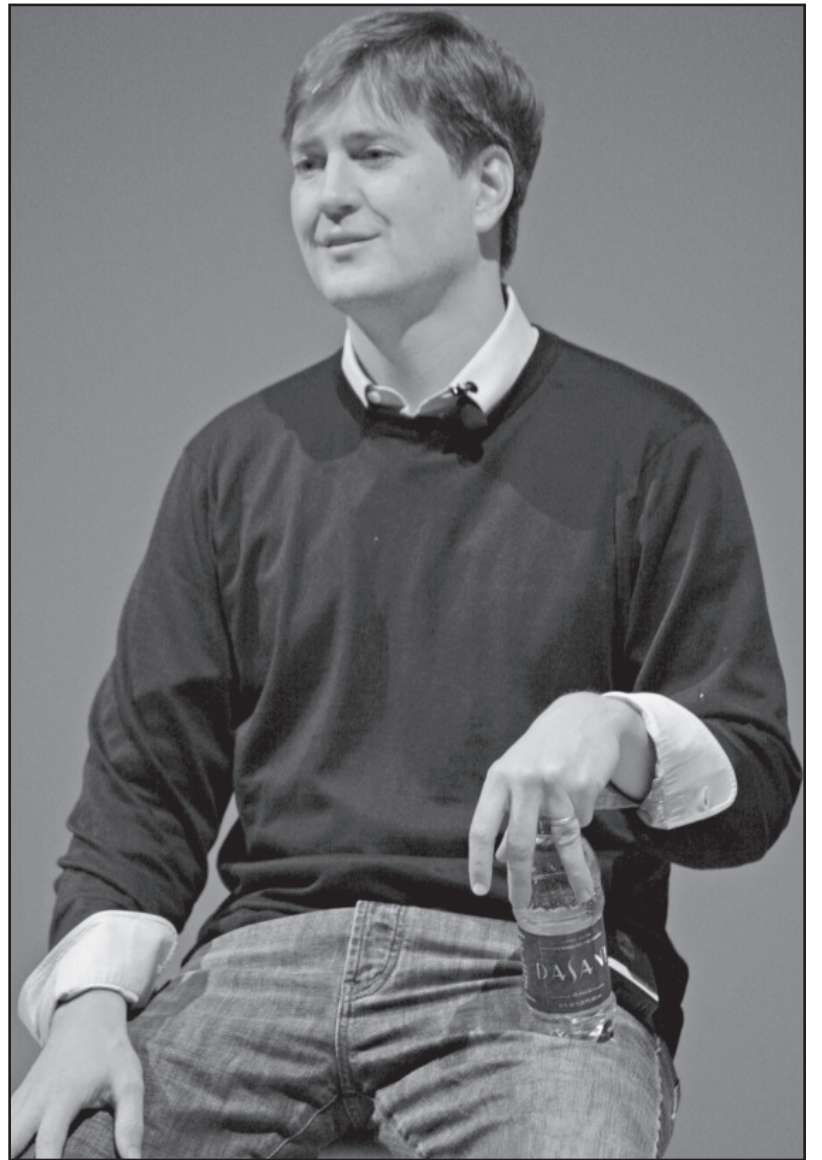
Lawrence graduated from William and Mary with a degree in English, and was a member of the Kappa Alpha (KA) fraternity. The night before he spoke in the Sadler Center, he admitted to spending time with the current crop of KAs and confessed to the pressures that age have now placed upon him, clutching a water bottle and working off a hangover. Whatever his limitations, Lawrence was well spoken and informative, funny and inspiring, as well as down-to-Earth and forward thinking. Speaking of his own rise to stardom, he admitted that a great deal of luck was involved in meeting the right people as he waited tables in Hollywood. At his most philosophical moment, Lawrence admitted that sometimes, "we do what we have to do in order to do what we want to do."

Scrubs is now in its eighth and final season, and after shooting the final episode, the cast put together a reel showcasing fond memories of the show, outtakes, and even some emotional moments, highlighted when one of the members of the lighting crew proposed to his girlfriend, now fiancé. William and Mary was treated to a showing of the reel and was let in on a number of well kept secrets, not only about *Scrubs*, but about other popular titles. The writer of *Lost* actually doesn't know what island his cast his on, Elmo's real voice is that of a 6 ft 5 inch gay black male, and the janitor of *Scrubs* was originally suppose to be only a figment of JD's imagination.

Lawrence was at his best in answering questions from the audience. He admits that many of the people in *Scrubs* were inspired by friends he had at College. The real JD is actually one of the top cardiologists in Los Angeles, Dr. Jonathon Doris, who works as the show's medical advisor, and was the president of the KA fraternity. The real Todd has not been told that he is the inspiration for the show's *The Todd*. In speaking of his fondest memories at William and Mary, Lawrence recalls arguing with the real JD about whether a polar bear or a gorilla would win in a fight, given they were the same weight class and the fight took place on neutral territory. They settled the dispute by calling a biology professor at one o'clock in the morning

— who voted on the side of the polar bear. *Clone High*, another Lawrence creation, was not cancelled due to unpopularity, but because the government of India protested the show's portrayal of Gandhi — a party animal character loosely based on the legendary pacifist. Furthermore, Lawrence shared a hatred for reality television in which people are often lambasted for their faults and inadequacies.

Lawrence made it clear that he was once just another average student at William and Mary. He majored in English and was a member of the KA social fraternity. "I wasn't entirely sure what to expect from Bill Lawrence at first, but he fit right in and was as down-to-earth as any of us. Seeing him hang out at the frat-house and at Paul's, you could definitely tell he was a KA," said Joe Allen ('09). Mr. Allen was among the KA brothers who met with Mr. Lawrence at Paul's Deli the evening before his speech." He partied, studied, and came south from Connecticut looking for warmer weather. But today, he is a hugely successful writer producing quality television. He ended his discussion wondering what future William and Mary students might produce for the world.



Kevin McCrory

A very warm welcome: Despite his hangover from a long night at Paul's with KA brothers, Mr. Lawrence ('90) gave a humorous, and at times inspiring, speech that chronicled his rise from Los Angeles waiter/painter to the creator and executive producer of the hit show *Scrubs*. The hospital sitcom is based on the experiences of fellow College alum, Dr. Jonathon Dorian.

Father of W&M Alum held by Iranians in secret prison

Julia Riesenber
Contributor

United States Senator Bill Nelson (D - FL) revealed earlier this month that he believes Robert Levinson, the former FBI agent who disappeared in Iran two years ago and the father of Daniel Levinson ('06), is being held hostage in a secret Iranian prison.

Mr. Levinson was last seen on Iran's Kish Island on March 9, 2007, where he was investigating a case of cigarette smuggling for his securities consulting firm.

Senator Nelson turned up the heat on Congress after efforts by both the U.S. State Department and the FBI failed to produce any information on Mr. Levinson's whereabouts.

Daniel Levinson and his mother traveled to Iran in December 2007 to meet with Iranian officials, who expressed their sympathies for his disappearance but could show no evidence of an investigation report.

Over the past two years, Christine Levinson has worked to make her husband's disappearance widely reported in the media and an

important topic in discussions of U.S.-Iranian relations. When NBC's Brian Williams recently interviewed President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, he questioned the president on the Levinson case. The president responded that he and other Iranian officials "have said that we are ready to help, ready to assist with that matter. There [is] certain information that only the FBI at the moment have."

Ms. Levinson said that she and her family have received absolutely no information on the status of her husband since he went missing.

Senator Nelson, who represents the city of Coral Springs, where the Levinson family lives, made his statement during Senator Hillary Clinton's secretary of state confirmation hearing. "The door has been closed at every turn," Mr. Nelson said. "We think he is being held by the government of Iran in a secret prison."

Clinton announced that Iran could improve its relations with the U.S. by disclosing information on Mr. Levinson.

the U.S. by disclosing information on Mr. Levinson.

"With respect to the Floridian who is in prison, it would be an extraordinary opportunity for the government of Iran to make such a gesture to permit contact, to release him, to make it clear that there is a new attitude in Iran," Ms. Clinton said during the hearing.

Daniel Levinson was president of Delta Chi Fraternity when he attended William and Mary. His friend and fraternity brother Jon DeLong ('09) created a Facebook group titled "My Dad Is Missing in Iran, You Can Help Find Him." He believes that students at William and Mary could provide a great deal of help in the investigation by writing to their representatives and the United Nations asking for information on Mr. Levinson. Senators Nelson and Representative Robert Wexler (D - FL) are currently advocating on Mr. Levinson's behalf.

"We think Iran knows where Bob is," Mr. DeLong says, "and there is something you can actually do and can actually encourage your legislators to do." The Facebook group has nearly 2,000 members, and receives updates regularly.

"This is someone who is from our community," says Mr. DeLong. "I've always believed that William and Mary students are the kind that look after our own, and I can't think of anything that would be more gratifying than helping to bring someone's father home."



Courtesy of the Levinson Family

Missing: Former FBI agent and William and Mary Dad, Robert Levinson (right) has gone missing in Iran. He is presumed to be imprisoned in a secret Iranian jail.

Bills in General Assembly would mandate the College expand in-state student percentage

Alexander Powell
Staff Writer

Delegate Clifford L. "Clay" Athey's, a Republican from Front Royal's, newly proposed General Assembly bill would require 70 percent of the College's student body to be Virginia residents and 80 percent of the incoming transfer students. Mr. Athey's bill is one of three introduced in this session of the General Assembly, including one by Republican Delegates Albo and Miller that would also incrementally raise the in-state population to 80 percent.

In a recent interview with *The Virginia Informer*, Mr. Athey said, "The economy is causing more and more Virginia students to seek public schools as an option for college. One of the most frequent questions I receive is 'Why can't I get my kid into a Virginia public school?'...All of the facilities on our state institutions were built with taxpayer dollars so Virginia students should be our first priority."

Many claim that forcing schools already facing a financial crunch to take on more in-state students who pay less tuition is a recipe for disaster. William and Mary President Taylor Reveley has already made mention of his opinion that William and Mary can and should lower the number of in-state students to 60 percent from

its current mandated percentage of 65 percent. Reveley and many others in the administration feel that such a move would alleviate most, if not all, budget problems facing the College.

Mr. Athey responded by stating: "we also have to ask...how efficiently our universities are being run? Some studies have shown that increases in tuitions take place independent of cuts or no cuts in state support and that other factors come more into play...I'd imagine when the cost of capital outlays and the school's operating budget are taken into account together that the state pays a lot more than 20 percent of W&M's costs." He also makes mention of raising the cost of tuition for out-of-state students, due to the fact that "they use the buildings that were funded by the state and are operated with state funds." However, analyses of in-state tuition subsidies provided by the state have revealed that Virginia has failed to supplement in-state tuition to match that paid by out-of-state students.

Mr. Athey also presents several other ideas, including the lowering of academic standards to allow more Virginians in. "Currently, flagship universities [like William and Mary] set the standard so high that nobody qualifies." For the present, the battle of the bills in the Assembly continues to rage only in committee.



Alec McKinley

It's not easy being green: Landrum basement will soon be converted into an eco-friendly living area that will house 8 men and 20 women as an experiment in sustainable living.

College makes second "Eco House" attempt

Kristen Coyner
Opinion Editor

A proposal from Students for Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) submitted last fall to create an "Eco-House" will go into effect fall 2009, marking the second attempt to create environmentally-focused housing at the College. Funding of \$500 will come from Environmental Science and Policy to set up the house in Landrum Hall basement. The house will serve as a residency for eight men and twenty women with Professor Randy Chambers, director of the Keck Environmental Lab, serving as advisor.

Last fall, the SEAC proposal was submitted to Special Interest Housing Committee, which is comprised of members of the student body, administration and faculty. Approved in this committee, the proposal then went to Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler, who issued an approval on January 23.

Remarking on her endorsement of the house, Interim Vice President Ambler stated "The creation of an Eco-House for next year was based on the compelling nature of the students' proposal, the support of faculty colleagues who have committed to working with and advising the residents, and the recommendation of the Special Interest Housing Committee who reviewed the proposal with all thoroughness and good care."

Ambler further elaborated on her decision saying "The goals of the Eco House certainly reflect the institution's

commitment to sustainability and the value we place on integrating living and learning in our residence halls. To the extent that Eco-House residents model sustainable living on our campus, their example may very well help the College save money over time."

Those students interested in living in the Eco-House next fall will have to apply to do so. Applications received will be sent to Randy Chambers who will then make the residency selections.

Previously, the College had an Eco-House from fall 2001 to spring 2003. Mr. Chambers was also the advisor to the Eco House during that period. The house ended according to Mr. Chambers because "those interested students graduated and it was hard to continue recruitment for the house. Some students just began treating it like another opportunity to live on campus."

However, Mr. Chambers hopes that things will be different with this new Eco-House version, explaining that "The culture of environmentalism is a lot stronger among students than it was back then...Students are now a lot more charged and committed to this."

To that end, money allocated toward the house will be potentially used for such projects as installing an electrical floor meter to monitor residents' energy usage or for hosting environmental seminars at the house. Another aspect of the house will be to serve as a testing ground for projects by the new Committee on Sustainability which administers funds generated from the College's green fee.



File Photo

Come one, come all: Legislation by Virginia representatives aims to reduce the academic standards of the College to allow more in-state applicants and transfers to be accepted.

Student Assembly alarmed by proposals to increase in-state ratio

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

At the January 27 meeting of the Student Assembly, Senators reacted to the alarming news out of the Virginia legislature that the percent of in-state students at the College may be increased to 75 or 80 percent in annual 1.3 percent increments. Such action would lead to decreased income and not include concurrent increases in state funding.

Mr. McClean commented that students should look for some of the sponsoring GA representative's constituents and encourage them to denounce what would surely be a disaster for the College as well as other public institutions. A bill proposed by Senator Matt Beato ('09) was introduced as new business, calling for the General Assembly not to make any such change. At the time

of press, most members of the Student Assembly Senate are co-sponsoring the bill, including all in-state members.

The SA also issued an update on the student mascot committee. Committee members explained that the deadline for idea submission by students for the school's mascot will be February 13. The committee was created by a bill written by Sen. Matt Pinsker ('09) and chaired by Senior Class President Kevin Dua ('09).

Another update regarded the progress on a recycling initiative passed last semester by Senators Brittney Fallon ('11) and Ben Brown ('11). The SA appropriated money for the purchase of recycling bins to be located around campus, after securing word from the administration that the increased costs of emptying dumpsters would be covered by the school. The ability of the school to pay for this additional

service has been eliminated due to severe budget cuts made by the state. Student environmental group SEAC now hopes to provide the necessary funding.

Mr. Brown noted that his AED act, which allocated money for the purchase of campus-wide defibrillators, had achieved its goal and that units have been fully installed around campus. Senate Chairman Walter McClean ('09) reported that late night taxi rides during last semesters' exam week provided 43 rides costing the SA \$200.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of four pieces of new business. The first proposal would put GPS in the steer clear vans and make two other important repairs. Mr. McClean explained that, "considering we paid for them it would make sense for us to fix them."

Freshman Senator Betty Jeanne

Manning introduced a bill aimed at helping students with eating disorders. She explained that 33 of the 34 girls on her hall showed tendencies toward eating disorders, and that girls from the Washington, DC area have abnormally high prevalence of such disorders.

The Senate also responded to the difficult nature of securing student activities fees for off campus functions, which place community service groups at a disadvantage. Mr. McClean and Secretary of Finance Yael Gilboa explained a proposal that would "put aside \$10,000 of SA money for service groups." To be eligible, the service project must be in the Williamsburg area, and would be limited to one per group, per semester and must be used only to pay for materials, not any type of recompense or direct charity.

Alcohol Medical Amnesty may be extended to include drugs highlights College woes

Hart Moore
Contributor

A bill is currently being crafted in the Student Assembly concerning medical amnesty for drug abuse. Sophomore senators Benjamin Brown ('11) and Will Sinnott ('11) are working toward drafting a proposal for the College's Alcohol and Substance Abuse Committee that would extend medical amnesty to students seeking medical assistance for drug use. This measure would expand the current medical amnesty policy which applies to alcohol-related situations, following a bill proposed late in 2006 and enacted in the Student Handbook in 2007.

Under the current alcohol amnesty policy, a student affirmatively seeking medical assistance for alcohol consumption may do so without threat of disciplinary action from the Dean of Students office. This policy also extends to peers who assist the student

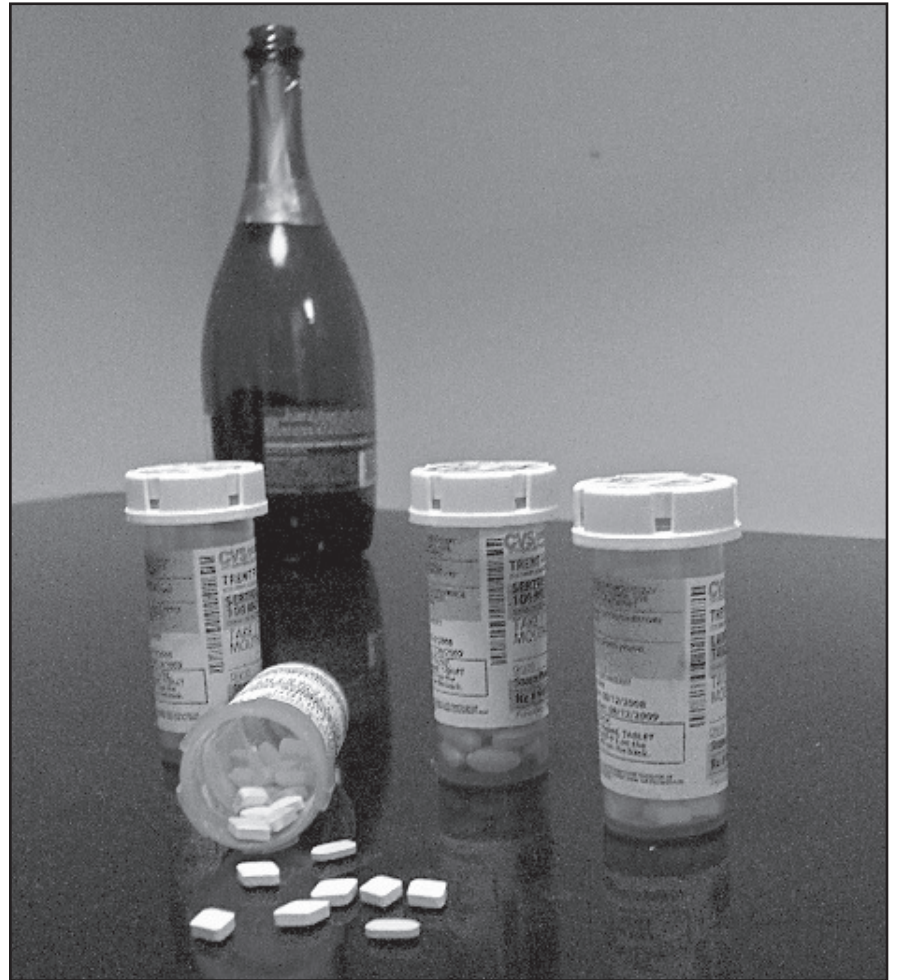
seeking medical care. This policy was enacted following a growing concern that students with alcohol poisoning might neglect medical attention for fear of disciplinary action. The proposed Drug Medical Amnesty measure, according to Benjamin Brown, "will likely have to be worded differently [than the Alcohol Amnesty Policy]" due to the more serious threat certain drugs could pose to health. However, Brown believes this proposal will most likely become policy by the year's end.

Students for a Sensible Drug Policy have done much to advocate for the passage of this measure. According to Alex Leach ('10), a member of the group, the proposal would represent a preemptive step against tragedy seen in other college communities nationwide. Recently, a student of San Diego University died of an overdose after his peers neglected to dial 911, fearing expulsion. Rachel Anderson ('10) asserts, "It is not meant

to reward people for using drugs, but to promote safety and responsibility."

Mark Constantine, head of the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Committee, was unable to comment on the issue as there has been no formal proposal by the Student Assembly regarding the measure. However, Dean Gilbert was able to comment on the positive effect the Alcohol Medical Amnesty policy has had on the community. He stated, "I cannot recall a situation in which I felt the policy was misused or abused. I am heartened by the fact that students seem to understand the policy and are willing to get assistance a potentially dangerous situation." Since its enactment in 2007, there have been 35 cases in which the Alcohol Medical Amnesty Policy was invoked.

Editors Note: Steven Nelson, the Informer's News Editor, serves on the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Committee.



Alec McKinley

Amnesty Pharmaceutical: A bill that would provide amnesty for instances of drug use where the user's health is threatened is currently being discussed by the Student Assembly.

Students attend the Annual "Road to Richmond" event

Gunnar Gregory
Contributor

On the night of January 27, students gathered in the Board of Visitors room in Blow Memorial Hall to hear President Reveley, members of his staff, and student government officials speak. These officials addressed the state of the College's finances in general as well as the Road to Richmond initiative. Under this program, groups of three students, two in-state, one out-of-state, are given lists of General Assembly members and offices to visit in Richmond to advocate for The College. President Reveley expressed pride in the College's ability to reach the ears of decision-makers in this way, as other state schools rarely reach out to even half as many legislators. William and Mary annually enlists the help of around 30 students who go to Richmond, or, as President Reveley dryly called it, "the holy city." The goal of the program is to set our school apart from other public institutions in Virginia like UVA, JMU, or VT.

The goal of this lobbying is not to gain a huge sum that will fix all of the financial problems that the campus faces, including its inability to meet the financial obligations associated with the Integrated Science Building, operating expenses for the new business school and funds to cover student financial aid. Instead, as the president explained, "There's no money, it's effectively gone. But there are little snippets around the edges and we would love to get our hands on it."

The integrated science building has already gone through its first phase: preplanning. The administration would like to procure money to pay engineers and architects to meet and draw up blue prints for the building's further

expansion. According to President Reveley, once the state legislature has bankrolled the first two phases of an institution's project, they almost always pay for the actual construction. The new facility for the Mason Business School, which looms over the intersection of Ukrops and Jamestown Road, presents less of a problem. Obviously, once a building is built and in use, its upkeep requires a custodial staff and resources for regular repair. The issue of student financial aid was stressed the most by President Reveley. He explained recent tuition hikes as largely being allocated toward this expenditure and urged students to make the most of this issue while talking to members of the Virginia Legislature and their staff.

Students going to Richmond were also encouraged to speak out in support of reclaiming funding from Virginia's Eminent Scholars Program, a pledge from the state to match any private pledges towards the funding of professorships. As the economy has worsened, the amount of funding that has been allocated to William and Mary in this area has steadily decreased and is now in danger of being lost all together.

Students were also urged to lobby against a reduction in the percentage of out-of-state-students admitted by the college. A reduction in the number of out of state students would be disastrous according to President Reveley. The current reduction being discussed in Richmond would bring the quota down from 35% to 25%. Many people believe that this would spell financial disaster for the college as out-of-state students bring in far more revenue to the college. As President Reveley explained, the College as an institution would be finished, "reduced to eating nuts and berries."

Phone lines will be discontinued in dorms, savings spent on Internet service

Steven Nelson
News Editor

Come next academic year phone service will no longer be offered in student dorm rooms. According to Director of Residence Life Deb Boykin, "phone lines will be removed over the upcoming summer."

The decision was made following the conclusive results of surveys conducted by Residence Life and Information Technology in 2006-2007, which found student rarely using dorm room telephones. Ms. Boykin further stated that "most students -- although certainly not all -- now rely on their cell phones as their primary telecommunication device and do not even want to have two telephone numbers."

According to Courtney Carpenter, the College's Chief Information Technology Officer, "Operationally, there won't be a tremendous amount of savings up front since so few students currently use the system. We will need to continue service to each residence hall to maintain the hall phones, phones in RA offices and for those students who wish to continue service."

Mr. Carpenter says that the College will not be renegotiating its contract until Fall 2009 with the campus' third party vendor which operates the dormitory phone lines. Potential savings from the elimination of landlines to most dorms remains

uncertain until the renegotiation.

In spite of this uncertainty, Mr. Carpenter says that current plans are to use money saved to expand internet capabilities on campus. "Our current commodity Internet feed is seriously oversubscribed and we're in dire need of more bandwidth, says Mr. Carpenter, "we hope to triple or quadruple the amount of bandwidth available to residence students by next fall."

The lack of student need for telephones in dorm rooms was one reason for doing away from them, but the decision was also influenced by intentions to develop a new campus telephone system. The IT department is currently engaging in a Request for Proposal (RFP) to make such a conversion. "By not having to replace all 2000 residence hall phone lines we should see a cost avoidance of several hundred thousand dollars," says Mr. Carpenter, who adds, "normally this would have been paid for with increased fees, which we would have a hard time justifying given the limited use."

According to both Ms. Boykin and Mr. Carpenter, students who wish to have a landline telephone in their dorm room for the next academic year will continue to have the option. Ms. Boykin also adds that there will be phones installed throughout campus dormitory buildings so that students who do not own a cell phone will not lose telephone access.

FEATURES

Two freshman students begin homemade cookie delivery business out of dorm kitchen

Michelle Ju
Features Editor

On our college campus, two industrious students wipe their dampened brows as they toil away in a kitchen, baking smoldering, buttery, homemade goodness. Just kidding about the slave narrative and the damp brows. However, there is good news for cookie-fans and stressed college students in dire need of a soft, luscious cookie fix, a touch of mom's baking, or simply a temporary solution to the ailments of an academically demanding college campus.

What started as a quick-cash plan turned into an innovative bake sale for freshman roommates Sarah Marion ('12) and Stephanie Mutchler ('12). The two Monroe residents curiously decided to strike up the "One Smart Cookie" business due to their unexpected popularity. The cookie orders are made online at "college-friendly" rates and directly delivered to buyers' dorms.

The bakers created the brand new bake and delivery service during the second week of this semester, while the website was launched only five days ago. "We had both gone out job searching, and everyone told us they were not hiring, so we took matters into our own hands and gave ourselves jobs," said Ms. Marion.

The cookies are the creation of experienced hands, not bored, broke college students. For four years, Ms. Mutchler worked in the cookie business as a baker for a local shop, The Cookie Lady, in her hometown of Toledo, Ohio. "I just bake a lot. It's one of my hobbies," said Ms. Mutchler.

The business, which started last Wednesday, is expected to increase sales once it receives more exposure. However, both bakers remain poised, despite the fact that they are not exactly earning an income—yet. Ms. Mutchler noted, "We actually started yesterday, so we only sold four dozen cookies."

The variety of cookies includes classic chocolate chip, M&M, Oatmeal Raisin, Snickerdoodle, Buttermilk, and Peanut Butter. When asked which cookies have been the most popular, Ms. Mutchler

replied, "Peanut butter, probably. Buttermilk too. They're softer than a sugar cookie, and they have frosting on it too. Chocolate chip and M&Ms have been pretty popular too, but for some reason, peanut butter just came out on top." The cookies are also homemade, based off of recipes from home cookbooks and reliable sources online. "We had a day where we tried them all out," added Ms. Mutchler.

Both students pay for all of the ingredients in bulk and bake in their dorm kitchen. The ingredient that costs them the most is butter. "We've been keeping track of our funds on spreadsheets—we keep it pretty organized. I'm pretty sure we'll get extra credit in our econ class," joked Ms. Marion. Both students do not plan on pursuing business majors, however, explaining, "We're sort of on the med school track."

As in the cookie business, the dough is pre-made in batches, stored in separate containers, and scooped out as needed. "Dough refrigerates really well," said Ms. Marion. The students bake the cookies right before delivery. Then, the cookies are delivered directly to the buyers' dorms within a half hour of the requested time. "We just have to let them cool," said Ms. Mutchler. The cookies are delivered in baker bags which are similar to lunch bags or brown paper bags.

All orders are conveniently made online, while buyers make their orders a day in advance. The website (<http://onesmartcookiewm.webs.com>), with its tongue-in-cheek slogan, "A Balanced Diet is a Cookie in Each Hand" and an ironic image of stacked hardbacks, contains all the information necessary to order the goods, including the products themselves, rates & services, and an order page. One Smart Cookie offers delivery from Wednesday to Sunday in varying time slots. Orders, sold in increments of six or a dozen, can be made up of a mixed-and-matched assortment.

The cookie service may just be another food vendor for some, but it proves to be innovative in several ways—through



Alec McKinley

Cookie capitalism: Freshman entrepreneurs Sarah Marion ('12) and Stephanie Mutchler ('12) are offering freshly baked cookies and delivery at a competitive price via their Monroe kitchen-based cookie business, OneSmartCookie.

privacy, convenience, and literally, catering to the taste buds of fellow students. The uniqueness of One Smart Cookie comes from the fact that sales are made privately online with a click of a mouse, while the cookies are baked and then delivered to buyers' dorms. In fact, Ms. Marion and Ms. Mutchler, though novices at selling cookies, don't plan on leaving any time soon and hope to run their business "as long as [they] can."

As young business entrepreneurs, Ms.

Marion and Ms. Mutchler have learned more about the financial realm through organizing data, than simply churning out cookies or making a few bucks. Ms. Marion explained, "I think it's helped us to be more organized with the spreadsheet situation and keep track of the finances." While both roommates work as harmonious partners in the venture, they have clashing tastes when it comes to favorite flavors. Ms. Mutchler's favorite cookies are peanut butter, while Ms. Marion prefers oatmeal raisin.

Swem Library decides to keep former government information services area vacant

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

Swem's government information services closed in September 2007 when it merged to become part of the larger conglomerate of the reference section. This decision was made in response to various changes in logistics at the library. The space became vacant last fall, and now, brainstorming is underway as to what will become of the old space.

The government information services desk has been a separate entity of the library in order to process the large quantity of requested government material. However, in recent years print materials have been increasingly made further available electronically. In fact, according to Dean Connie McCarthy, 70-80 percent of the government print materials that the library receives are now available electronically. As a result, it was deemed that a separate government information services area was no longer optimizing the library's limited resources.

The decision to merge government information services with reference has several benefits for both students and Swem alike. It has cut costs and also provided students greater access to knowledgeable librarians. Before the closing, there was only one government specialist available on restricted hours. Now, all eight of the reference librarians can assist students with government material during normal reference desk hours. As Ms. McCarthy noted, the closure provides "same or better service in a more efficient way." The library still retains all of the old government material and continues to provide the same sources as before. Print materials may still be processed, but under the umbrella of the reference section.

This change has vacated a fair amount of space on Swem's first floor. For now, Ms. McCarthy says it will be used as extra study space, which was desperately needed last fall during exams. Swem will begin to think of ideas for the space this semester and hopes to have some plans to move forward with by late spring.



Kerin McCrory

Digitize after reading: Swem library's decision to make most of the government material available online has created an empty space which is currently occupied by study tables.

New campus paper *The Beacon* closes gap between Christianity and greater world

Michelle Ju
Features Editor

On discreet locations on campus, a rare blend of students ponders the relativity of Shakespeare and

Christianity. *The Beacon*, a Christian thought journal on campus, relates Christianity to different thought-provoking subjects, from science and philosophy to art. These subjects range

from academic subjects studied in classrooms to cultural schools of thought. On the website are already a handful of articles that deal with the presence of God in a secular society, such as the secularized, cultural notions of beauty. The very first of its kind, *The Beacon* is slated for release this spring.

"Right now, there are eight of us that come consistently to the meetings. But there are other people that write for us," said Lauren Bleam ('09), the editor in chief of *The Beacon*. Also part of the board are Stephen Dause ('10), who maintains the website, and Megan O'Connor ('09), who manages the journal's creative graphics that include photographs and collages.

The journal will be composed of 32 pages—eight pages for color artwork, depending on the articles and "whether contributors submit their articles on time." There will be 500 copies printed.

The main thing is that Christianity is often thought of as a religion that can't be taken seriously. It's not just something that you do on Sundays but infiltrates other parts of life.

After layout with InDesign, "[the journal will be] sent to printers and then printed this spring."

"I want them to be intellectually viable articles—very respectable article sources. They're people's opinions and not necessarily trying to 'prove' Christianity. It's definitely pro-Christianity. If you really believe in a God that is real throughout the universe, you can show the way he manifests himself in those disciplines," Bleam said.

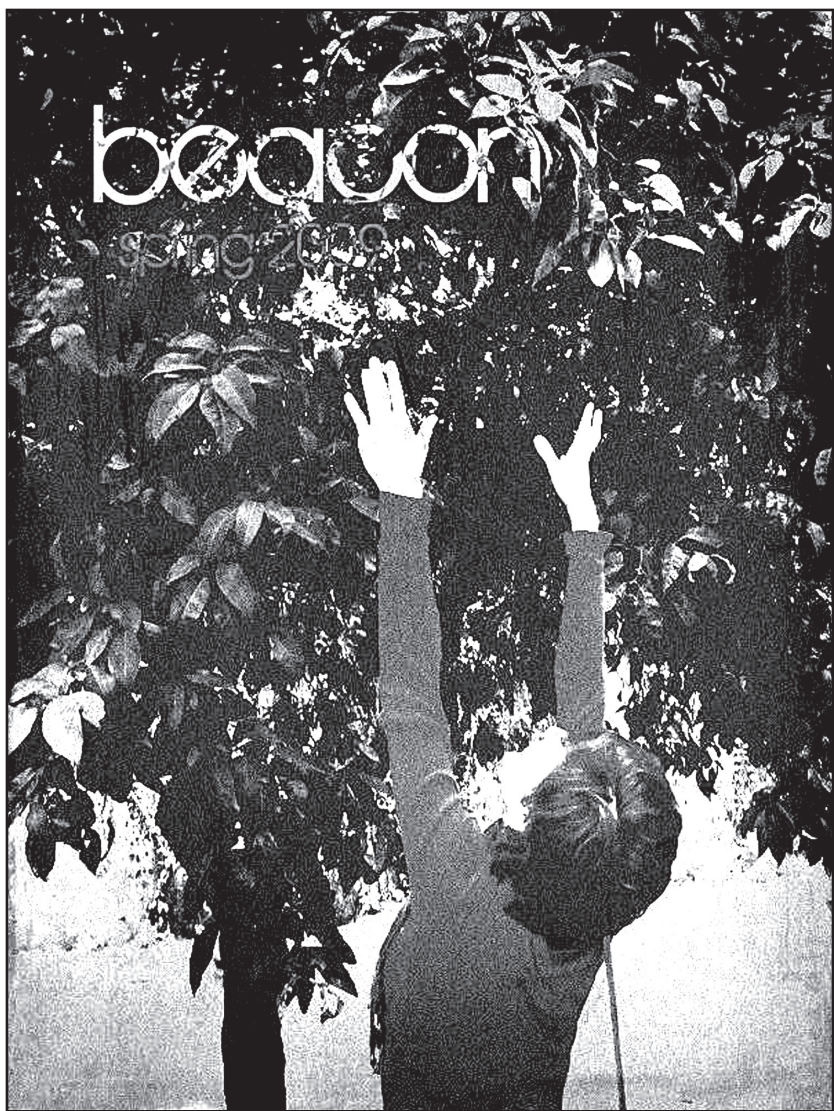
The journal plans to apply for budgeting through Pub Council only after its first issue has been printed, since the council only acknowledges funding for printed material. "Last year, we applied for student activities funding

but didn't get in, and that's our first step. This year, we're going to try to prevent our issue," explained Bleam.

"[Pub Council] doesn't fund things unless they're printed. We just figured it is better to try, because right now, we're having a bad time funding ourselves," said Bleam. Currently, the journal receives the bulk of its slim budget from donations submitted by churches, campus Christian organizations, and work and fundraiser nights that give 10% of their proceeds to the club.

The Beacon seeks to be a lighthouse among publications with its fresh, rejuvenated perspective on Christianity and its prevalence in academia. Bleam emphasizes that the thoughts voiced through the articles are objective and simply part of an ongoing dialogue of questions that pursue the truth.

"The main thing is that Christianity is often thought of as a religion that can't be taken seriously. It's not just something that you do on Sundays but infiltrates other parts of life. So, it's a literary and arts magazine in one way, but also scholarly and about social justice," said Bleam.



Michelle Ju

A shining light: *The Beacon*, a student run publication at the College, examines a number of scientific and cultural topics through the lens of Christianity.

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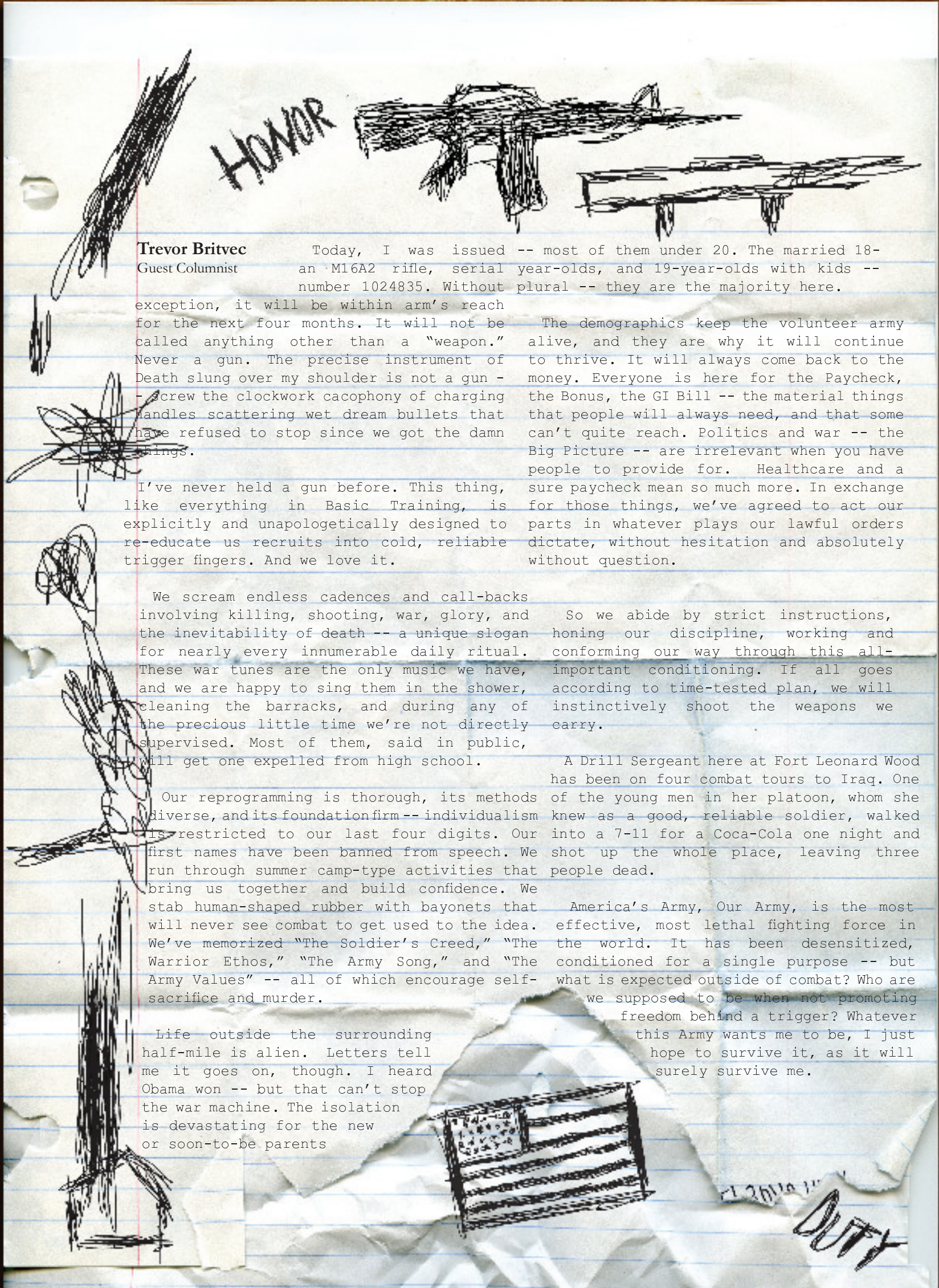
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Room Selection 2009

Former College student provides gripping account of life as a U.S. Army soldier

Trevor Britvec recently left William and Mary to join the U.S. Army. He writes from basic training at Fort Leonard Wood MO.



Trevor Britvec
Guest Columnist

Today, I was issued -- most of them under 20. The married 18-
an M16A2 rifle, serial year-olds, and 19-year-olds with kids --
number 1024835. Without plural -- they are the majority here.

exception, it will be within arm's reach
for the next four months. It will not be
called anything other than a "weapon."
Never a gun. The precise instrument of
Death slung over my shoulder is not a gun -
- screw the clockwork cacophony of charging
handles scattering wet dream bullets that
have refused to stop since we got the damn
things.

The demographics keep the volunteer army
alive, and they are why it will continue
to thrive. It will always come back to the
money. Everyone is here for the Paycheck,
the Bonus, the GI Bill -- the material things
that people will always need, and that some
can't quite reach. Politics and war -- the
Big Picture -- are irrelevant when you have
people to provide for. Healthcare and a
sure paycheck mean so much more. In exchange
for those things, we've agreed to act our
parts in whatever plays our lawful orders
dictate, without hesitation and absolutely
without question.

I've never held a gun before. This thing,
like everything in Basic Training, is
explicitly and unapologetically designed to
re-educate us recruits into cold, reliable
trigger fingers. And we love it.

So we abide by strict instructions,
honing our discipline, working and
conforming our way through this all-
important conditioning. If all goes
according to time-tested plan, we will
instinctively shoot the weapons we
carry.

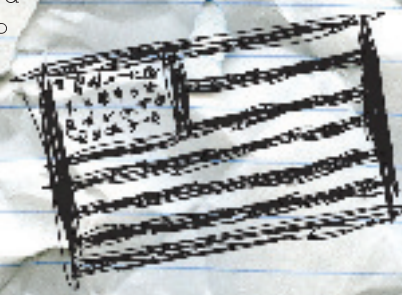
We scream endless cadences and call-backs
involving killing, shooting, war, glory, and
the inevitability of death -- a unique slogan
for nearly every innumerable daily ritual.
These war tunes are the only music we have,
and we are happy to sing them in the shower,
cleaning the barracks, and during any of
the precious little time we're not directly
supervised. Most of them, said in public,
will get one expelled from high school.

A Drill Sergeant here at Fort Leonard Wood
has been on four combat tours to Iraq. One
of the young men in her platoon, whom she
knew as a good, reliable soldier, walked
into a 7-11 for a Coca-Cola one night and
shot up the whole place, leaving three
people dead.

Our reprogramming is thorough, its methods
diverse, and its foundation firm -- individualism
is restricted to our last four digits. Our
first names have been banned from speech. We
run through summer camp-type activities that
bring us together and build confidence. We
stab human-shaped rubber with bayonets that
will never see combat to get used to the idea.
We've memorized "The Soldier's Creed," "The
Warrior Ethos," "The Army Song," and "The
Army Values" -- all of which encourage self-
sacrifice and murder.

America's Army, Our Army, is the most
effective, most lethal fighting force in
the world. It has been desensitized,
conditioned for a single purpose -- but
what is expected outside of combat? Who are
we supposed to be when not promoting
freedom behind a trigger? Whatever
this Army wants me to be, I just
hope to survive it, as it will
surely survive me.

Life outside the surrounding
half-mile is alien. Letters tell
me it goes on, though. I heard
Obama won -- but that can't stop
the war machine. The isolation
is devastating for the new
or soon-to-be parents



DUTY

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Meetings on Mondays, 7:30pm in Blair 223

Drink of the Week

Banaweizen



Jeff Dailey

Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer

Living in Das Haus, as the German House is colloquially referred to, has several advantages. One is the on-site German tutoring which keeps my GPA in tip-top shape. Another is the pure creativity of our collective noggins when it comes to drinking. The following is the result of one such pow-wow.

Ingredients

- 1 Hefeweizen beer (wheat beer)
- 4 oz Banana Nectar

Directions

Mix the two liquids in a big glass. Trust me.

Editors Note: The Virginia Informer encourages its readers to please drink responsibly, and in accordance with local, state and federal law.

Student seeks to “thrill” Senior Class President plans to break current “Thriller” dance-off Guinness record by end of spring

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

The throngs of secret Michael Jackson admirers at the College would be foolish to miss what Kevin Dua ('09) has up his sleeve. Mr. Dua is organizing a mass 'Thriller' dance to take place later this semester, during which he hopes to break a world record. Mr. Dua says that he has been a Michael Jackson fan "since I was five." Originally it was "just going to be friends" participating in the mass dance-off, but as more people got wind of the idea the event grew substantially.

University Relations heard about the plan and decided to market it in the Williamsburg area so that residents could join in the festivities. Mr. Dua also plans to contact local schools and involve college faculty. He hopes for news coverage from Williamsburg area Wavy News 10, as well as the Daily Press. Mr. Dua also told *The Informer* that there will be an admission charge of one dollar to participate in the actual event and that the money raised will be given to a local charity.



DUA

The event's Facebook group, "Wanna break the 'Thriller' record @ W&M?," presently has more than 300 members. Mr. Dua has contacted the Guinness Book of World Records office in London and is expecting detailed information back on exactly what the record is and what William and Mary students would have to do to officially break it. "We'll probably do it during spring break when the weather is good...we'll have a one-hour practice [with everyone] and then we'll send the info to London."

Mr. Dua hopes to rank this event among other big events like Convocation, Campus Golf, and the annual King and Queen. The Thriller dance is not that difficult to learn, he says, and many people could be trained quickly.

Exactly how many people that will be involved is not yet known, but whatever the number, Dua says, the large-scale event will certainly draw a good deal of attention to the Sunken Gardens later this year.

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BUSINESS PROF. TO SETTLE IN COURT: Decision to be resolved February 5

continued from page one

as involving a series of meetings between the Dean and the Associate Dean and business school faculty, the College's legal counsel and Mr. Grzeskowiak's attorney. Dean Pulley also spoke to Mr. Grzeskowiak and to individuals with whom he was associated at St. Thomas University. "We made a lot of calls both about his particular situation to people that know him well, to other places where he has taught," said Dean Pulley. Over the course of the investigation, the dean was unable to speak to the woman making the charges.

The Dean elaborated that an overwhelming burden of proof was needed for the College to retain Mr. Grzeskowiak. "I really had to be convinced that the right course of action was to keep him rather than to terminate him," he said. In concluding the investigation, which ultimately led to Mr. Grzeskowiak staying at the College, the Dean emphasized that the concern for students' safety as foremost. "We had the safety of students in mind and needed to determine whether or not there was any risk. What became clear to me given the nature of the charges and the situation was that there is absolutely no risk," he said.

Once resolving the safety issue, the Dean noted that other issues could be taken into account. "We also had to overlay the fact that we have a contract with him. We are governed by the policies of the Faculty Handbook and against a backdrop in which it was clear that there was no risk associated with the situation we made the decision to honor our contract and he would teach this semester," he said. Mr. Grzeskowiak's will expire at the end of the academic year.

Stemming from the August indictment, Mr. Grzeskowiak is to plead guilty tomorrow to two counts of intentionally accessing a protected computer without authorization. Dean Pulley expressed confidence that the court's decision would not affect Mr. Grzeskowiak's ability to stay in the classroom saying "My sense is, and there are no certainties, that we would not have put him in classes if we didn't have some confidence from this proceeding that we would have to take him out of the classroom." The dean also stated that he would have made the decision to keep Mr. Grzeskowiak at the College regardless of the outcome saying "Based upon the information we have, I am convinced that this is the right way to proceed."

Dean Pulley did not know whether or not students in Mr. Grzeskowiak's classes had been informed of the situation. *The Informer* can confirm, however, that students have not been notified of Mr. Grzeskowiak's present status. The dean stands by all the decisions made thus far saying, "People will not have the information we have as they look at this but you have to make the right decision. Once you have made the right decision you can't let perceptions of risk prevent you from moving forward."

HOUSING LAWSUIT SPARKS OUTRAGE: City of Williamsburg asks Dean Volp to release students information

continued from page one

ordinance. Williamsburg City Attorney Joseph Phillips told *The Informer* he hopes that the recent action against Mr. Skantz and his housemates will not affect negotiation proceedings. "I hope [the lawsuit] doesn't affect [the negotiations on the three-person rule] at all since it's not part of the political aspect but is part of the enforcement process, which is something we must do when we get such complaints," said Mr. Phillips.

Student Assembly President Valerie Hopkins and numerous other student leaders had a much different take on the anti-student litigation. She spoke of the "spirit of compromise"

that had colored town-gown relations of this past semester and how this lawsuit will have damaging consequences on the average student's perception of Williamsburg.

Hopkins told *The Informer*, "It's frustrating that the city takes action like this since the year had been characterized by a marked shift in student's willingness to compromise on the three-person rule. But now, I think that the average student will feel very incensed towards the city."

Michael Douglass, Founder and Director of Students for a Better Williamsburg told *The Informer* that "suing students during the negotiations between the city and the student body on

changing the rule will be taken as bad faith by the student body, whether it is or not. I know that the students I've talked with are, frankly, very upset. This isn't going to help us communicate with each other; it's just going to encourage both sides to use force."

Douglass also said, "I feel like this entire situation could have been handled better, perhaps by neighbors talking with each other instead of just going to the police."

Full documentation of the official lawsuit and subpoenas have been released to *The Informer* and made available to view online at www.vainformer.com.

SA FUNDS SEX WORKER'S ART SHOW: College administration has yet to approve controversial performance

continued from page one

costing \$2,200, but due to large student interest, organizers deemed the need to raise greater funds this year. Additionally, an admission fee of \$3 per attending student and \$5 for non-students will be charged. Last year, SWAS arrived on campus under much controversy, with former President Gene Nichol ultimately choosing to allow the show to appear on school property. Many Virginia public officials chose to decry this decision under the perception that the show violated community standards on obscenity.

College administrators have yet to discuss

their reaction to the coming appearance of SWAS. As such, no decision has been made on whether or not the show will occur on campus.

SWAS is a touring caberet and burlesque show which has come to the College annually since 2006. The show was developed by former adult entertainer Annie Oakley and often features a variety of other individuals who have been involved in adult entertainment to include strippers and prostitutes. The show tours under the auspices of shattering stereotypes about the sex industry and often features provocative performances which have been known to spur controversy.

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The Sinfonicon dazzles audiences with unique rendition of *The Secret Garden*

Rachel Smith
Arts and Culture Editor

Between January 22-25, The Sinfonicon Light Opera Company, a popular on-campus group that is focused on providing the student body and Williamsburg residents with high-quality theatrical productions, reunited to perform *The Secret Garden* for large crowds in Phi Beta Kappa Hall. Sinfonicon is composed of four student groups: the Delta Omicron music fraternity, the Nu Kappa Epsilon music sorority, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and the Theatre Student Association. Their plays also feature music performed by a live orchestra.

This year, the group chose to put on a production of *The Secret Garden*, a musical adaptation of the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett. In *The Secret Garden*, Burnett tells the story of a little girl,

Mary Lennox, who is orphaned when her parents die of cholera in India. Following their death, Mary is sent to Misselthwaite Manor in Yorkshire, England to live with her Uncle Archibald. Despite her uncle's wealth and the generous accommodations he provides Mary, his home is less than welcoming; the mansion is haunted by the spectre of his wife Lily, Mary's aunt. To escape the manor's depressing atmosphere, Mary begins to hunt for the entrance to a secret garden that has been locked for years. On her journey to find and unlock this mysterious door, Mary manages to transform the lives of those around her for the better.

The producer of the play, Marsha Norman, approached her adaptation with the book's pervasive theme of death in mind. Throughout her rendition, death is present in every scene, represented by figures in hooded cloaks that

haunt the living. "What if there are spirits all around us, who are part of the earth we walk on, the walls we live within, and the air we breathe?" Dan Plehal ('09) writes in his Director's Note.

As the curtains opened, the audience was amazed by the grandeur of the set, a collection of movable puzzle pieces which the cloaked figures shift throughout the play.

The ingenious set was enhanced by impressive performances from a thirty-four member cast. Mary Lennox, played by Abigail Stokley ('10) played the part of a spoiled girl with childlike innocence. Lily, played by Sara Black ('09) had the most impressive voice out of the entire cast – even causing the audience to gasp in amazement when she first sang in Act I. Colin, played by Rebekah Rochte ('12)



Rachel Smith

A secret success: Those who did not see the Sinfonicon Light Opera Company's performance of *The Secret Garden* missed out on superb acting and incomparable set design.

provided comic relief with his flamboyant outbursts about his impending fate as a hunchback doomed to die young.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the play was the

fact that students returned to school shortly after New Year's to prepare the elaborate two-hour production. Their efforts certainly paid off, and deserve nothing but praise.

The Top Albums of 2008

Dear Science dominates, Kanye #2

Jack Evans
Music Critic

Lots of great music came out this year, but five albums struck me the most. Before getting into the genre-defying, impressive top five of this year, there are a few albums which bear mentioning. *They are Third* by Portishead, *Tha Carter III* by Lil Wayne, *Dig, Lazarus, Dig!!!* by Nick Cave, *New Amerykah, Pt. 1 (4th World War)* by Erykah Badu and *s/t* by Vivian Girls. Although these unlisted five are inferior to my top five, they are all still worthy additions to your iTunes library. The Portishead, in particular, is great for these winter months.

1. *Dear Science* by TV on the Radio

There is not much more to say about this album that was not already discussed in my review that appeared in the October 22 issue of *The Virginia Informer*. I definitely listened to it more than anything else released in 2008.

2. *808s & Heartbreak* by Kanye West

The pacing of any break-up album is crucial. At first, *808s* is a meandering buildup of confessional lyrics and extended outros. But then "Love Lockdown" marks the start of the album's riveting middle third. "Paranoid" has a fantastic, coked-up strut and "RoboCop" is what Coldplay was trying for this year—but with funnier lyrics. All of this culminates with "See You in My Nightmares" and a bizarre guest spot from Lil Wayne, who guzzles some cough syrup and proceeds to sing the blues like a Gremlin. The last track is the best; punctuated by bursts of radio static, "Coldest Winter" cuts through the one-dimensional misogyny that plagues the rest of *808s* and shows us what was really bothering Kanye the entire time.

3. *In Ghost Colours* by Cut Copy

Everything I ever read about these guys says they sound like New Order. On tracks like "Out There on the Ice" and "Hearts on Fire," this statement is not too far off base, but what about "Feel the Love," "Midnight Runner," and "Unforgettable Season"? These are three undeniable pop anthems that can be easily enjoyed off the dance floor. In fact, my personal favorite, "Strangers in the Wind," could pass as a Stevie Nicks-penned Rumours outtake.

4. *The Mixtape About Nothing* by *Wale*

This one probably deserves an entire column of its own. The Seinfeld theme is a red herring; rapper Wale's *Mixtape About Nothing* is a brilliant deconstruction of 21st century hip-hop. On "The Perfect Plan" he tackles declining album sales, on "The Manipulation" the misogynistic tendencies of gangsta rap, and on "The Kramer" the use of the n-word. Throughout all of this, Wale displays the rare ability to analyze issues from multiple perspectives, which makes this the year's most thought-provoking release.

5. *It Is What It Is* by ABN

Maybe it's because I'm a naïve, upper-middle class white boy who fetishizes the thug-life, but I find Trae and Z-Ro's verses about guns, drugs, and strippers entirely believable. They never romanticize or gloss over ugly details like their more commercially successful peers, making these 16 tracks as bleak and nihilistic as any punk album that I've ever heard. Trae makes multiple references to his Zolof prescription and Z-Ro is haunted by a never-ending list of loved ones whose lives were cut tragically short.

Milano's provides tasty, simple Italian cuisine with fair portions

Matt Pinsker
Food Critic

My time at Milano's was marked by good food and service. The restaurant is softly lit by chandeliers and has an unusual and interesting interior design. I felt that the Italian music played from the speakers was too loud for the environment, but fortunately it was not so loud that it interfered with conversation.

Promptly after my dining partner and I were seated, a server arrived at our table to fill our glasses and asked if we were interested in any drinks. Two hot rolls were brought to our table, although we did not receive bread plates, which made things a little awkward.

The menu was simple but still offered a wide variety of Italian staples. We ordered a mozzarella and tomato appetizer (\$4.95), a meatball sub (\$7.95), and Chicken Parmesan (\$16.95). A soup and salad were also included with the purchase of

our entrée. The salad bar itself was simple and satisfying. The soup was a tomato-based vegetable concoction that was very tasty and, to my delight, not over salted. Our appetizer consisted of thick wedges of mozzarella and sliced halves of cherry tomatoes, both of which were drizzled with olive oil. My friend's meatball sub had four decent-sized meatballs on toasted bread and came with a good portion of French fries.

My Chicken Parmesan was also well-proportioned and accompanied by a reasonable serving of spaghetti. Often, this dish comes on a platter overloaded with spaghetti, so in this situation having less food was much better. The tomato sauce on top of everything was excellent, and the cheese on top was nicely melted and covered the entire chicken cutlet. We left Milano's with full bellies feeling very satisfied. I recommend Milano's for almost any occasion, especially if you are looking for a casual outing.

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The Finer Side:

Past and Present: the definition of the “Accomplished Lady” in modern society

Two hundred years ago, being an “accomplished lady” had a very definite meaning. To be called “accomplished”, a young lady was expected to have a mastery of music, dancing, and drawing. Her social graces were to be beyond reproach, her manners flawless, her penmanship perfect, and her needlepoint impeccable. She should have full command of the modern languages, and something in her general manner should set her apart from others. She should continually improve her mind by reading to truly deserve the designation of “accomplished.”

The reality is that although this unrealistic ideal was the standard by which a woman was judged, the pursuit of refinement indeed created generations of women skilled in the female arts. History reveals that while only certain classes of women were able to fully pursue the elusive goal of being called “accomplished”, all

women were influenced by this ideal. During the 18th century, women of gentility and the elite defined the rules of society which in turn influenced lower classes. The Regency and Victorian periods of the 19th century gave rise to a business and middle class that helped shape the culture and values of refined society, leading to a culture of reform that defined an era. Even in the 1940s and 1950s a version of the accomplished



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

woman was seen as the ultimate goal. But, women of all classes strove to be accomplished, thus leading to a more genteel and refined society.

Today we look back and dismiss the traditional rules of society as archaic, unnecessary, and backward. Feminine arts, like music and needlepoint, once hailed as the epitome of womanhood, are now claimed to be the very chains that enslaved women and reinforced a

patriarchal society. As unwitting products of the modern feminist movement, we have lost so much of what makes society refined that today, the sense of gentility that once pervaded the culture seems no longer to exist.

We live in an interesting age, where women have the option of running their home or following a career or doing both, where gender roles are being redefined, and where values and practices claimed as “traditional” are continually questioned. Where does the “accomplished lady” fit in today’s world? Can a modern woman be accomplished in the traditional sense of the word? Of course. A woman can run for president, but she can also know how to drink a cup of tea. Young ladies today should still continue to pursue those feminine arts of music, languages, reading, etiquette, and a general air of refinement. These things do not enslave a woman, but free her, giving her a sense of timeless beauty and culture. The societal rules that once governed prior generations’ lives still

apply, just in different forms. Polite behavior towards company should still be expected. Being able to dance a perfect waltz, however, is not needed as much. Furthermore, these sentiments are not only for women; men should still demonstrate a sense of chivalry and gentlemanly behavior. Showing a woman respect – such as opening the door for her, or pushing in her chair as she sits – is not a sign of condescension or paternalism. Both genders should know what proper dining etiquette is for today, and how to properly engage in conversation at a social event.

Two hundred years ago, limitations existed on what a woman could and could not do. Today, those restrictions are no longer present. But, while a modern woman can pursue any path she chooses, she can do so with an air of culture and refinement, proving that indeed, a woman can do anything.

Book Review:

“Econ for dummies” delights, educates

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer

Today, the name Henry Hazlitt may not be commonly known; however, he was one of the most influential Americans of the 20th century. Hazlitt wrote for periodicals such as *The Nation*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *National Review*, and *Newsweek*. Most importantly, Hazlitt wrote *Economics in One Lesson*. This book has helped transform poor analytic thinking to correct economic

analysis. If you only ever read one book on economics, then *Economics in One Lesson* should be that book. Well-written and covering a wide variety of subjects, Hazlitt breaks down an otherwise dismal and opaque subject into simple bite-sized pieces that reader can digest easily. Short chapters on a core variety of subjects allow the reader to apply the same logic to his or her own situation.

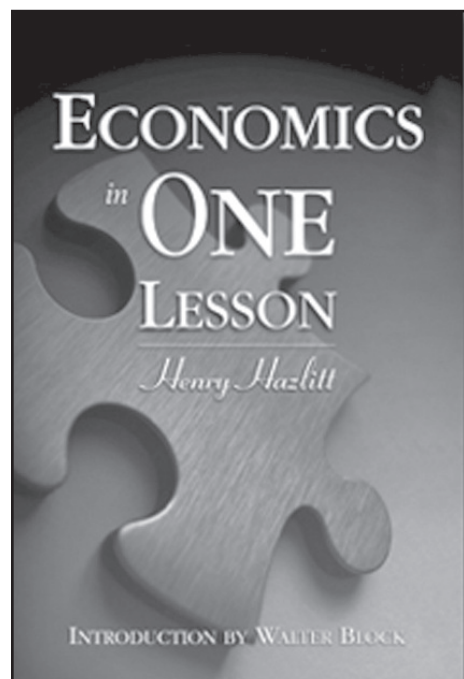
It is said that the reason to learn economics is to avoid being fooled by economists. During his lifetime Hazlitt fought many changes occurring in academia and the public policy that new economics attempted to put in place. He wrote furiously against the policies of the New Deal, often showing how they did more to prolong the Great Depression than they did to relieve it.

Hazlitt’s mid-20th century writing sounds as if it is written for the early 21st century. For example, in chapter two, Hazlitt writes about the most common fallacy made by economists and non-economists alike, the “broken window fallacy.” Chapter 14 is titled “Saving the X Industry” and applies directly to the current auto and financial industry bailouts. Judging by his campaign promises, chapter eight, “Spread the Work Schemes”, might help President Obama modify his economic policy. Finally, chapters 22, “The Mirage of Inflation”, and 23, “The Assault on Saving”, puts the Keynesian mythology, so dominant in politics today, to rest.

For a beginner’s book, *Economics in One Lesson* is indispensable. For even those with advanced degrees, this text can serve as a check upon those fallacies they may have accumulated throughout their years of study. Smart policies can lift people from poverty and provide chances never thought possible. Poor policies can lead to depression, war, and suffering. I recommend this text because of its vast real-world implications.

Economics in One Lesson

Author: Henry Hazlitt
Pages: 218
Publisher: Three Rivers Press
ISBN: 0517548232
List Price: \$13.95



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Movie Review:

Winslet, Fiennes tackle love and guilt in *The Reader*

Patrick Macaluso
Movie Critic



All's fair in love and war: *The Reader* deals with repercussions from the Holocaust as well as the romance between stars Kate Winslet and Ralph Fiennes.

When I heard Kate Winslet would be starring in *The Reader*, I was already sold. The film follows Michael Berg (played by David Kross as a teenager and Ralph Fiennes as an adult), and his relationship with Hanna Schmitz, an older woman. I liked this film for its success in weaving together a number of very complicated themes without overreaching its goal. The first theme involves the complexity of cross-generational relationships. Berg is in love with Schmitz, but is the love really mutual? Second, film explores the idea of guilt. What does your conscience do to your mind when you know you have done something wrong? Finally, the film explores humiliation.

What are you willing to conceal from the world? What are you so ashamed of that you are willing to adversely change the course of your life in order to hide your past? Guilt and shame are some of the darkest qualities of human nature, and this is sure to impact the core of every viewer. As this is a critique and not a summary, I shall speak no further - you must experience this movie for yourself.

Winslet's performance, as usual,

was nothing short of incredible. She earned every bit of her Oscar nomination, and it will be tragic if she doesn't win Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role. However, it is unfortunate that little-known actor Kross has been largely ignored for his lead performance. He plays the role of young Berg superbly, and if I were a member of the Academy, he would have received a nomination for Best Lead Actor, probably at the expense

of Frank Langella. His commitment to his role was obvious in that he learned English for this role. His performance shows that he didn't just memorize his lines; he understood them and evoked them masterfully. I hope to see more from him in the future.

Cheers to Stephen Daldry, who created what I believe to be, so far, the best film of 2009. So, it is with my highest accolades that I give *The Reader* a solid A!

Promotional Photo

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Botetourt Chamber Signers Gala Concert

Feb. 13 at 8 p.m.

\$15 per ticket

An Evening with the Presidents

Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

\$12 for adults; \$5 for children under six

Conversations With a Founding Father

Mon.-Sat. at 11:30 a.m. starting Feb. 16

Colonial Williamsburg Admission Ticket or Good Neighbor Pass Required

Improvisational Theatre

Feb. 28 at 8 p.m.

\$10.00 for adults; \$5.00 for students

February Schedule

Movies

\$7.00 – general; \$6.00 – students and seniors

Rachel Getting Married

Feb. 2- Feb. 12 (Shows at 4 and 6:45 p.m.)

Harvard Beats Yale

Feb. 7- Feb. 12 (Shows at 4:15 and 6:30 p.m.)

I.O.U.S.A.

Feb. 13- Feb. 19 (Shows at 4:15 and 6:45 p.m.)

I've Loved You For So Long

Feb. 15 at 4 p.m. and Feb. 15-Feb.20 (Shows at 4 and 6:30 p.m.)

Trouble the Water

Feb. 21-Feb. 28 (Shows at 4:15 and 6:30 p.m.)

The Secrets

Feb 21 and Feb. 22 (Shows at 6:30 and 8:45 p.m.)

The Tournées Festival: (FREE but ticket required)

Ne le dis à Personne (Tell No One)

Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.

Persepolis

Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

Le Fils d'Epicier (The Grocer's Son)

Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.

Le Grand Voyage

Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.



Sarah Deans

Staff Editorial:

City employs questionable tactics with near lawsuit against 711 Richmond

The questionable basis for Williamsburg's three-person housing law is now a familiar discussion on campus. When the state of the City is such that the three person rule was created under the guise of maintaining orderly neighborhoods, it should come as no surprise to students that there are attempts made to enforce the rule. However, the issue of whether the three-person rule is justified is a separate one from the way in which students were recently treated in the City's near lawsuit against 711 Richmond Road.

The behavior of certain Williamsburg residents and City officials does not bode well for making further inroads toward reform on this issue, as was proposed in a City Council meeting last fall and is presently being discussed by the City's Planning Commission.

Though one cannot know with certainty everything that transpired in the lead-up to the lawsuit, the use of anonymous complaints based off of spying on students' vehicles and patterns of coming and going is a cause for concern. Residents living near 711 Richmond Road presented detailed information to the City on students' vehicles, information which was gathered secretly. If residents were bothered by the number of students living in this residence one would think that they could have employed a less sinister way of expressing their grievances. The fact that the City chose to launch an investigation based of these anonymous complaints is equally worrisome.

Recently, students have heard from a number of city officials who have come to campus expressing not only the desire for a better dialogue between students and the rest of the community, but also making overtures to the fact that residents should

recognize that they live in a college town. This talk has been encouraging, but the fact that such sentiments can so easily be expressed all while the City acts to sue students with information garnered with questionable methods, leaves many confused.

There are no easy fixes to actual changes on the rule, though we hope that this incident will inflict minimal harm on the discussions which are to resume on whether to change the rule as it exists. Although it might be

“...the use of anonymous complaints based off of spying on students' vehicles and patterns of coming and going is a cause for concern. Residents living near 711 Richmond Road presented detailed information to the City on students' vehicles, information which was gathered secretly. The fact that the City chose to launch an investigation based of these anonymous complaints is equally worrisome.

ambitious to ask those residents who seek to enforce the rule as it is presently comprised to remember what it was like for them back in college, we hope that this most recent incident can, in the very least, serve as a teachable moment for all sides. It would serve as an expression

of good will if residents were to actually talk to students when they had concerns instead of spying on them.

Students, on the other hand, must keep in mind the fragile living situation they are under when living off campus as such courteous behavior to those around them would go a long way. It is unfortunate that the students would ever have to worry about being kicked out of their residences, but it does not help to provoke the beast—students should be smart about their parties and other event.

Lastly, the City's decision to subpoena Dean Volp for any and all records relating to the students of 711 Richmond Road is a blatant example of intrusive government and should be collectively condemned as such. We call upon City officials to make a concerted effort to correct the damages that they have caused to town-gown relations. An expedited negotiation process for the ordinance's reform is a highly suggested solution.

Uncertain economic times call for innovative fundraising

Although it surely brightens the morning for Virginia legislators to sit and talk higher education policy with groggy college students, the annual Road to Richmond lobbying effort lacks results and reflects

poor awareness of the realities of the state budget. Virginia has a balanced budget law, and although accounting tricks and the “rainy day” fund can permit some deficit spending, the state, unlike the federal government, cannot run significant deficits. As the economic crisis deepens, revenue will continue to fall,

necessitating further reductions in state expenditures. Thus, one might wisely ask how more state funding that will never exist will replenish the College's coffers, and why the most publicized student fundraising effort is aimed at state legislators who cannot increase the contribution.

The state budget situation is dire, and cutbacks have already been made. This situation will not improve in the short-term. Economic stagnation is expected to continue through 2009, and with it will come decreased tax revenues. These decreased revenues will require decreased expenditures under Virginia law which, at best, will result in continued funding at the present (decreased) levels. No number of chipper OAs-turned-lobbyists will correct these realities. If the Student Assembly intends last week's Road to Richmond to

be its principal effort to raise money for the College, we all will be rewarded with more cuts and diminished services.

Now is the time for innovation.

Although a lobbying effort by school officials and student leaders is still necessary to prevent harebrained schemes such as the 80/20 in-state/out-of-state ratio proposed by Del. Timothy D. Hugo (R) from ever seeing the floor of the Assembly, fundraising efforts in the student body's name must not neglect private sources of money. Private



Mike Watson
Assistant Opinion Editor

fundraising, although it rises and falls with the economy, is not bound by law to any single economic factor like state funding is. The SA and Student Chamber of Commerce should work with the Alumni Association and other alumni groups to network throughout the academic year. Such a plan would not only serve as a way for the school to solicit funds but also as a means to involve alumni in College affairs while showing the school in a positive light. Much of what alumni have heard in the past few years from campus has been negative; a concerted effort by students to engage alumni could see alumni re-engage the College, bringing needed funds. Whatever one thinks of alumni, a few extra million could be useful as the state budget continues to shrink.

College's image, finances damaged due to unfair credit for ROTC cadets

ROTC – or the Reserve Officers' Training Corps - cadets receive only eight Military Science credits in return for four years of hard work at William and Mary. The case for more credits has already been made on multiple occasions and the overwhelming consensus among students and the community is that the few credits cadets receive is not proportionate to the academic intensity and time commitment of ROTC. While we all agree that the current situation is grossly unfair, many are unaware that the College as a whole is suffering because of the lack of fair credit for ROTC.

Like it or not, the controversies that occurred during Gene Nichol's presidency have given many legislators a negative

impression of the College. When I was in Richmond to testify before the General Assembly several weeks ago, lawmakers spoke of the high caliber of William and Mary students; however, they also expressed concern about the direction in which the school is going. Many Virginia lawmakers believe we are becoming a "radical east coast version of Berkley," as one assembly member put it. Regardless of how we may have felt about former President Nichol and whether or not we agree with these legislators' sentiments, our personal feelings are largely irrelevant. The fact remains



Matt Pinsker
Staff Writer

that our image has been tarnished in the eyes of the people who control a large portion of our budget. When lawmakers feel that an institution is not operating as it should, it is easier for them to justify reducing its funding in difficult financial times. This has led to the rise of many of the financial problems that we at the College face today, including a lack of funds for basic operations, increases in tuition, and underpaid professors. The lack of fair credit for ROTC is yet another issue that has damaged the public's perception of higher education at William and Mary, and during

this time of dramatic budget cuts such a poor reputation has undoubtedly had a negative impact on our school's future.

We need to get the General Assembly back on our side, and fortunately the ROTC credits situation can be easily rectified without any controversy. Students, the military, the Williamsburg community, and most importantly the General Assembly would all like to see fair credit for ROTC; only a few faculty members are preventing it from happening. A simple vote at a Faculty Assembly meeting could make this embarrassing and damaging issue completely disappear. I remind the College that normally, academic credits are an "in house" issue which would never be addressed by

the General Assembly, and the fact that the state legislature felt compelled to get involved in our internal affairs indicates just how strongly the delegates feel about this issue.

If we do not make these changes willingly, then they may be forced on us by an outside power. The vote for full credit was unanimous among the people who control our budget and had over 40 co-patrons. The Assembly has given us the opportunity to improve our image and demonstrate to them that William and Mary is responsibly serving the public, as a public school is intended to do. Out of fairness to the cadets and for the sake of our image as well as our finances, I strongly urge the College to provide full academic credit to Military Science.

Harmful General Assembly measure goes overlooked in the campus discussion

Over the winter break, I was taken aback to read reports that Delegate Clifford Athey, Jr. (R-Front Royal) had proposed two bills for the General Assembly session which reasonable minds could argue are neither in the short or long-term interest of the College. One of these pieces of legislation, House Bill no.



Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

2325, would have required all of the Commonwealth's institutions of higher education, beginning with the incoming freshman class of 2010 [who will graduate in 2014], enroll at least 70 percent in-state students. Last week, on January 27, with a voice vote in the House's Higher Education Subcommittee the bill was recommended to be combined with HB 2475, a bill by Del. Tim Hugo (R-Centerville) that would require the Commonwealth's universities, except for VMI, Norfolk State University, and Virginia State University to enroll in-state students at a rate of 75 percent.

These proposals are separate from the proposal by Delegate Dave Albo (R-Springfield), which has received a great deal of attention at the College. His bill, HB 1696, would unreasonably require all state institutions to annually increase their percentage of in-state students by 1.3 percent until the number of enrolled Virginians reached 80 percent. For a body which for some time has been steadily declining its support for higher education, these proposals by Delegate Athey, Hugo and Albo are quite audacious, not to mention untenable, in the present financial situation.

The out-of-state student body heavily subsidizes the College's operating budget, so much so that President Reveley noted in an interview with *The Informer* last year that the budget situation would be much improved by accepting a greater amount of out of state students: "Well, I certainly think that our financial situation would be eased if we had five percent more out of state students. And it certainly would not lessen the quality of the students. But that's an intensely political issue...it would not be at all well-received politically in Richmond."

The issue of funding, however, is one which these delegates seem spectacularly naïve about. Delegate Hugo has stated that financial losses to the College could be lessened with increases in tuition or the size of the student body, both of which are untenable options for two reasons: the present economic situation and the small size of the College. In speaking to *The Informer*, Delegate Athey expressed a more reasonable understanding saying "The question of how would you make up the money lost in tuition from out of state students is valid...We might be able to raise the money offset by accepting more in-state students by apply a similar grant program that we use with private schools to state schools." However, to not have fully worked through the financial affects of their proposals is worrisome.

It is probably true that qualified in-state students could be found to attend the College in higher percentages, but implementation is another story. How will you make up losses in tuition? College spokesperson Brian Whitson stated that "The expectation would be that the state would provide general funds to offset any loss in tuition revenue as enrollment shifted from out-of-state to in-state."

Overlooked in the campus discussion, however, is that Delegate Athey has proposed another piece of legislation in the General Assembly, which would actually dumb down the student body. Delegate Athey's bill, HB 2324, would require state universities beginning fall of 2010 to accept at least 80 percent of transfer students from in-state.

This bill is not only unnecessary because the College already enrolls transfer students from Virginia in the mid-to-upper seventies but it advocates for the lowering of standards. "Currently, flagship universities set the standard so high that nobody qualifies...I suspect that 2.7-3.0 GPA would be a good benchmark for matriculation, as at this level s student has shown a modicum

of success," stated Delegate Athey to *The Informer*. Presently, the College encourages transfer applicants to maintain a 3.7 GPA in order to be competitive for admission.

High standards are there for a reason, particularly at a school like William and Mary. It is one thing to assert that if Virginia's schools were required to accept 80 percent in-state students that high standards could be maintained; it is quite another argument to assert that the quality of a university's student body would

not be adversely affected by lowering admissions standards.

To be sure, sharp budget cuts from the Commonwealth have compounded the difficulties the College faces in the present financial situation. However, there are other things happening in this current General Assembly session which are not monetary in nature that could adversely affect the College. Members of the College community would be wise to also pay attention to these proposals.

Thank you from all of us at *The Virginia Informer*

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HUMOR COLUMN

TOP SECRET

SPECIAL: Virginia Informer Counter-Intelligence Bureau discovers secret Williamsburg espionage cell

In what may mark the first instance of a group of senior citizens banding together for purposes other than a rousing game of Bingo, the *Informer* has uncovered an operating spy ring based in Williamsburg, VA.

Seniors for the Defense of Colonial Values (SDCV) operates as a clandestine group of Williamsburg residents, usually of a progressed age, that are united in their anti-student mission. Their sole objective is to preserve the tenets of the three-person rule and to stamp out the contagion of off-campus student life. While SDCV agents deal mostly in classic espionage (monitoring, tracking targets and "persuading" local policy reform), *Informer* counter-intelligence operatives believe that a highly dangerous paramilitary extension of the group, dubbed the Wheelchair Assassins, exists. Intelligence estimates put the total number of Wheelchair Assassins members at [REDACTED]

The existence of SDCV was confirmed due to the recent flurry of activity caused by the City of Williamsburg's decision to sue the students that live at 711 Richmond Road based on evidence gathered by an "anonymous source." The evidence - complex monitoring of vehicular traffic within a 100m radius of the house that involved high-resolution photographs of residents' cars, [REDACTED] and careful documentation of license plate numbers - could only be compiled by a highly organized and motivated organization. This was no ordinary noise complaint.

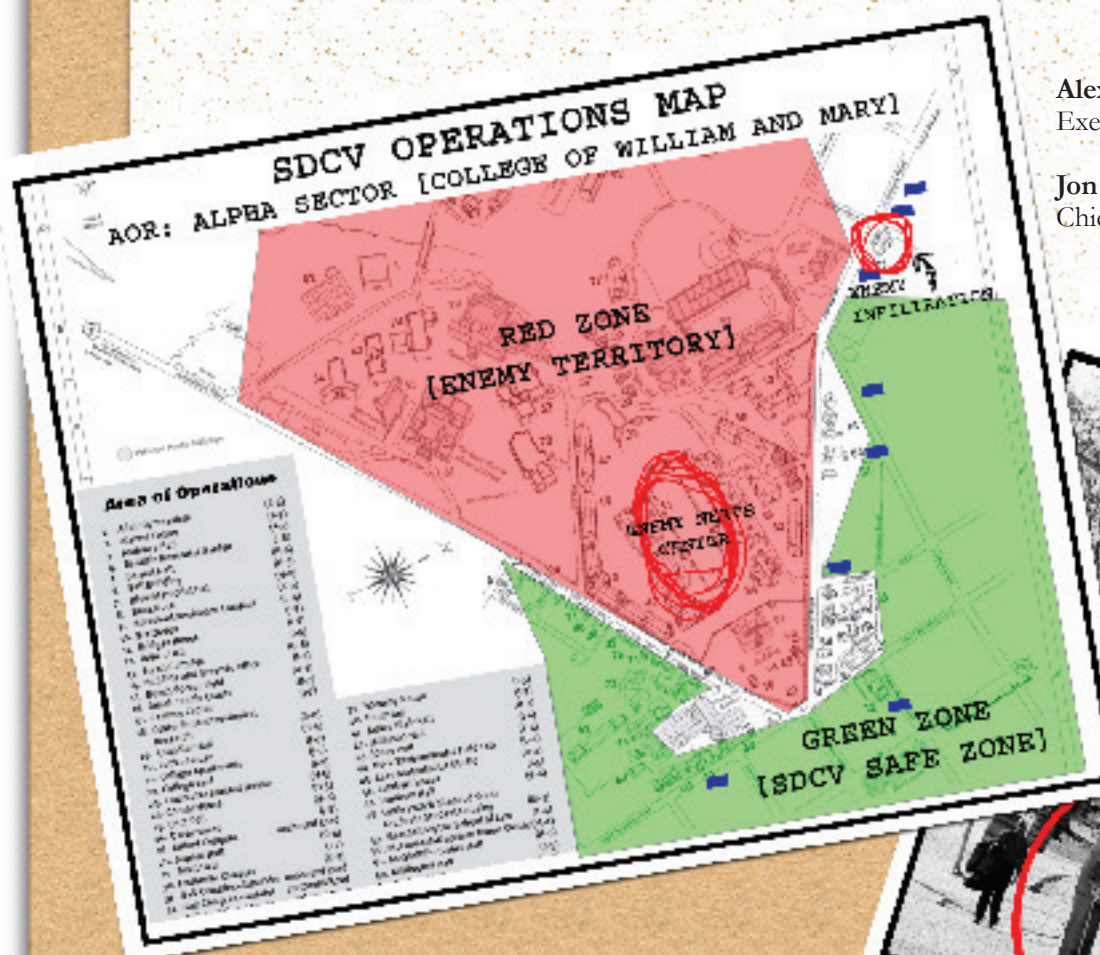
A SDCV turncoat recently briefed several *Informer* analysts on the motivation behind their actions. "SDCV agents are prone to irrational bouts of anger when confronted with elements of change. Whether faced with a different brand of oatmeal for breakfast or a group of students moving in next door, SDCV agents can become [REDACTED] extremely grouchy, and volatile if the status quo is threatened," the ex-SDCV agent said.

While *Informer* operatives are desperately trying to find a method to eliminate this dangerous spy cell, initial reports believe that an early bed-time and a prune-based diet may allay their disgruntled attitude and, in turn, cause the SDCV to fold.

Until then, it is advised that College students stay away from parts of Williamsburg loyal to the SDCV and be wary when sharing sensitive information with aged professors, several of whom have been known to harbor pro-SDCV sentiments. There is significant circumstantial evidence that points to [REDACTED], Professor of Economics at the College, as an SDCV sympathizer. For the benefit of students everywhere, *Informer* cartographers have decoded the map below (captured from an SDCV safe house) which highlights areas the SDCV considers "danger zones."

Despite their crafty methods, SDCV agents do have at least one weakness according to research by *Informer* analysts. A primitive knowledge of technology is first and foremost among their deficiencies: for many SDCV agents, the Web remains solely associated with arachnids.

The *Virginia Informer's* Counter-Intelligence Bureau is currently collaborating with the CIA and FBI to determine if, and how, the SDCV can be dismantled. Allowing the SDCV to continue their reign of terror would ensure that true democracy can never be achieved in Williamsburg. Failure is not an option.



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