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An independent publication at the College of William and Mary.

2008 Collegiate Network Paper of the Year



Alec McKinley

Fraternity, special interest housing buyout options curtailed

CFA believes most chapters will not to be seriously affected

Michael Watson
Assistant Opinion Editor

Citing budget constraints and difficulty accommodating students wishing to live on-campus, Residence Life has ended the policy that permitted special interest houses to “buy-out” a certain number of unused rooms at half the rental rate. According to David Cooper, president of the Council for Fraternity Affairs, the total loss of Residence Life revenue from the policy exceeded \$100,000.

Residence Life officials were concerned about the existence of 52 fraternity housing vacancies while seven students remained on the wait list for on-campus housing. Residence Life

Director Deb Boykin asserted that “some [fraternity] chapters seemed to be focusing on filling 33 spaces rather than the required 36” because of the buyout policy. Boykin noted that independent students on the wait list for on-campus housing do not wish to live in fraternity housing, and that at the beginning of the 2008 fall semester the Governor’s Inn served as

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Fraternity brother speaks out against policy change
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temporary housing while 27 vacancies existed in fraternity housing.

Council for Fraternity Affairs President Cooper confirmed that the number of brothers who must live in the house remains at 29 in the fall and 26 in the spring. The change affects the number of persons who must live in the house - the ability of independents to live in fraternity housing is not changed. Cooper noted that some on-campus fraternity chapters will have to change their policies regarding occupancy by brothers to keep their houses. Cooper and CFA were displeased that the buyout option was not grandfathered out but acknowledged the necessity of Residence Life’s decision. CFA recognized the assistance given to chapter presidents by Residence Life officials during the transition to the new policy, and noted that most chapters will not be seriously affected.

Residence Life officials were concerned about the existence of 52 fraternity housing vacancies while seven students remained on the wait list for on-campus housing.

Nude Century Project exhibit to visit W&M
Interview with Founder
see page 8

Courtesy Photo

Reveley talks with SWAS organizers

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

President Taylor Reveley is now engaged in negotiations with Sex Workers’ Art Show (SWAS) organizers to work out details regarding the show’s appearance. When asked if there was a

SWAS, ADMINISTRATION DISCUSSIONS
continued on page ten



Alec McKinley

The face of controversy: The Sex Workers Art Show will return to campus in March despite President Reveley’s perception of it being an unnecessary source of distraction from other, more pertinent issues facing the College.

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General Assembly turns down measures to limit out-of-state students at the College

Nick Hoelker
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, February 10, all General Assembly bills that would have impacted the ratio of in-state to out-of-state students enrolled in Virginia's institutions of higher education failed.

House bill no. 1696, which was sponsored by Delegate Dave Albo (R-Springfield), would have mandated that Virginia institutions of higher education increase in-state student enrollment by 1.3 percent until the number of admitted student reached 80 percent. This bill was left in the House Appropriations Committee through a unanimous vote on Feb. 10. All twenty-four committee members voted to leave the bill in committee, which in effect caused it to fail.

Two bills sponsored by Del. Clay Athey (R-Front Royal) that would have affected College enrollment practices also failed in the Appropriations Committee on Feb. 10. One such bill, HB 2325, would have required public universities to implement policies raising the student body to 70 percent in-state starting fall 2010. This bill would have been implemented under the penalty of withholding funds from state universities. Del. Athey's other bill, HB 2324, would have required under monetary penalty that Virginia institutions enroll 80 percent of transfer students from in-state starting fall 2010.

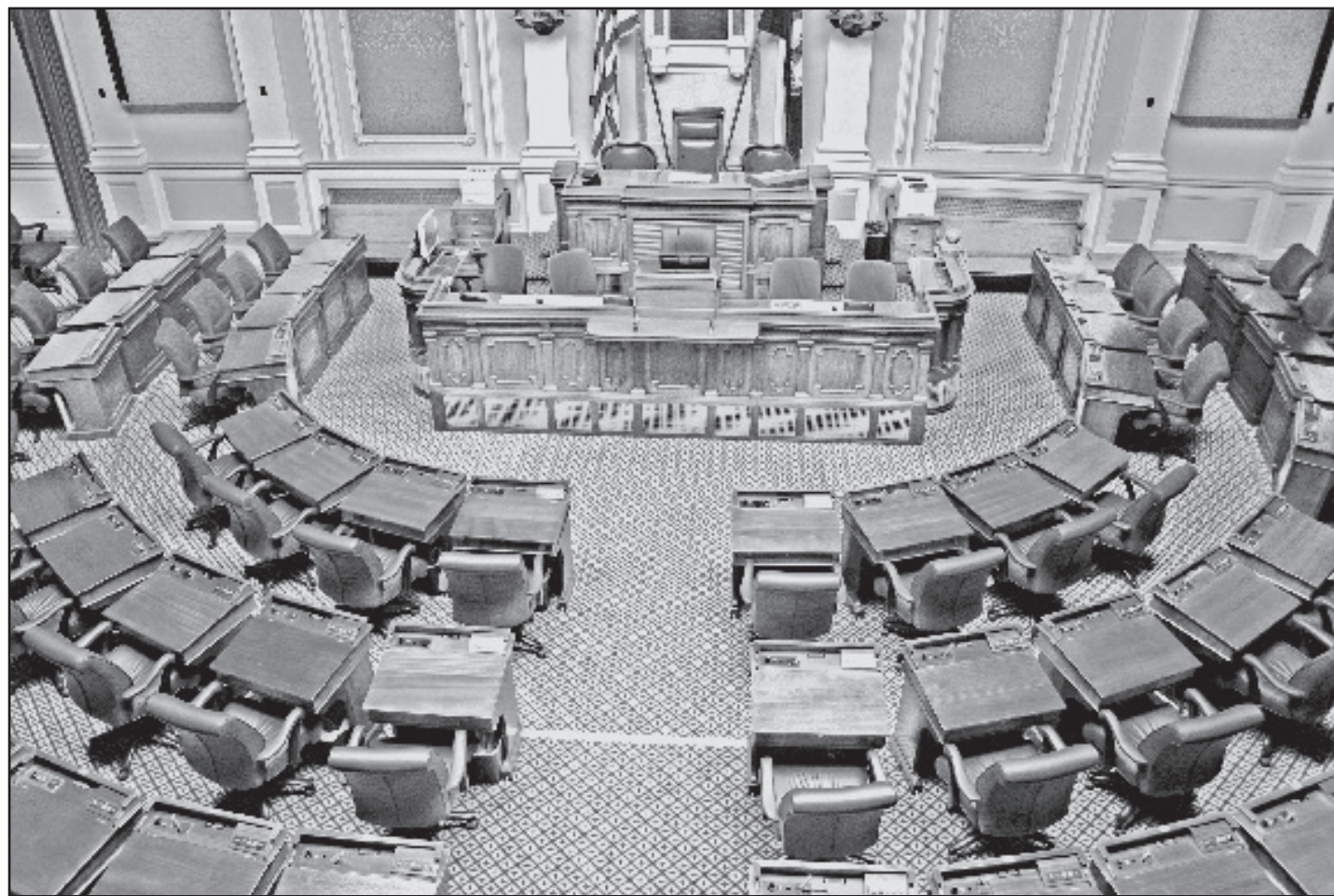
HB 2475, a bill sponsored by Delegate Tim Hugo (R-Centerville) failed in the House Appropriations Committee. HB 2475 would have required Virginia schools, with the exception of Virginia Military Institute, Norfolk State University, and

Virginia State University, to enroll in-state students at a 75 percent rate.

The last bill proposed in this year's General Assembly session that would have required changes to the College's enrollment policies, HB 1608, also failed. This bill was sponsored by Del. David Poisson

(D-Sterling) and would have required the automatic acceptance of Virginians who graduated in the top ten percent of their class and were discharged honorably from the U.S. military. This bill was left in the House Education Committee with a vote of 21 to 1. Interestingly, Del. Clay Athey, who

sponsored two proposals for increasing in-state student enrollment, voted for this bill's failure. Delegates Brenda Pogge (R-James City) and Phil Hamilton (R-Newport News) who represent the surrounding counties of the College, both voted for this bill to be left in the Education Committee.



File Photo

Seats of power: Several members of Virginia's General Assembly proposed bills that would curtail the number of out-of-state students at the College despite their important financial contributions.

Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson
Assistant Opinion Editor

WM receives over 12,000 applications for first time

For the first time in its history, the College of William and Mary has received over 12,000 applications for undergraduate admission. The number denotes a 3.4 percent increase in applications from last year, and the fourth consecutive year with an increase. Admissions Dean Henry Broaddus credited the increase to improved outreach and a growing recognition of William and Mary as a school that can offer a

top-class education at a comparatively low price. The Class of 2013 applicant pool is also William and Mary's most racially diverse in history, with a 7 percent increase in applications from minority students over last year. Of the 12,000 applications, approximately 3,000 offers of admission are expected to be given to fill the 1,368 spots.

Coach appears on ESPN2

William and Mary football head coach Jimmie Laycock appeared on ESPN2's "First Take" prior to Super Bowl XLIII to discuss the career exploits of former player Mike Tomlin ('95). Tomlin, the head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, played at William and Mary from the 1990-1994 football seasons as a wide receiver. Laycock commended Tomlin for his achievements as an NFL coach and

his continued involvement in William and Mary affairs. Tomlin and the Steelers went on to win Super Bowl XLIII earlier this month.

Alumni appointed to state posts

Virginia McLaughlin ('71) was appointed by Governor Timothy Kaine to serve on the Commonwealth's Board of Education. McLaughlin currently serves as the dean of William and Mary's School of Education. The Board oversees public schooling in Virginia, approves instructional material, and sets the Standards of Learning metrics. Attorney General Robert McDonnell has also appointed Bill Mims ('79) to serve as Attorney General. McDonnell resigned his position to run for the office of Governor of Virginia. Prior to the appointment, Mims served as McDonnell's chief deputy in the Attorney General's office.

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Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

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Group appointed to evaluate housing policy

Julia Riesenber
Staff Writer

Mayor of Williamsburg Jeanne Zeidler has selected eleven individuals with interests in student-town housing relations to participate in a focus group, soon due to begin public meetings.

High on the list of the group's agenda is a discussion of proposals to end the controversy over the three-person housing rule.

David Witkowsky ('11) and Nick Fitzgerald ('09) are currently the two student representatives serving on the focus group. Mayor Zeidler appointed Mr. Witkowsky and Mr. Fitzgerald on the recommendation of Student

Assembly President Valerie Hopkins ('09).

Also involved in the group are permanent residents of the Williamsburg community, including landlords, council members, and members of the city planning commission.

"I wanted to make sure that we had a diverse group," Mayor Zeidler said. "I wanted to be sure that everyone in the

group has their voices heard." She hopes to add a third student to the focus group, though says that she has "not yet identified that person."

Tension between Williamsburg residents and student renters has been particularly high this year, culminating in the recent litigation filed by the City against the residents of 711 Richmond Road, on the grounds that the students have violated the three-person rule. This suit followed discussions earlier in the year between students and Williamsburg officials concerning the three-person rule, and also a Williamsburg Planning Commission's decision to delay further discussions about proposed changes to the law until after the creation of the focus group.

Ms. Zeidler stated that she cannot "predict what this group is going to do," and that she is "not going to dictate their outcomes... what I hope the group will do is have a very lively discussion, including how many unrelated adults may live together, but also other issues concerning neighbor to neighbor relations. I hope this

will educate all sides, and come to some recommendations...on what each of these groups might do to make this situation better."

The students involved with the focus group report having realistic but positive expectations for what facilitated discussion of Williamsburg housing regulations might accomplish.

"I don't think that the focus group's goal is to abolish the three-person rule," Ms. Hopkins said. "I can't imagine they would recommend the abolition of that rule, however I would hope that they will consider fair alternatives to it."

Mr. Witkowsky, who has worked closely with city officials over the past year, is also eager to begin discussion. "I hope to make some progress on an issue that has been stagnant and dissatisfactory [SIC] for too long," he said. "I realistically believe that we should be able to make some sort of change that improves the atmosphere surrounding the occupancy issues in Williamsburg."

He also states that he intends to make

his voice heard within the group. "I'd like to believe that maybe some people who would disagree with me would at least give fair respect to what I have to say...I tend to be very good about listening and seeing things from opposing viewpoints."

Mr. Witkowsky added that he looks "forward to hearing residents' concerns."

An open-minded attitude will be crucial for all members of the focus group to adopt during their discussions, and Ms. Hopkins echoes Mayor Zeidler's positive expectation that all parties will be able to see the situation from different sides. "Hopefully,

their report in May will lead to a greater understanding of why so many residents are nervous about repealing the three-person rule, and why so many students are against it," Ms. Hopkins said. "I think that they will find that the root of the problem is not the number of students per house, but the respect the students have for their neighbors and their property."

Editor's Note: Nick Fitzgerald currently serves as the Editor in Chief of *The Virginia Informer Online*



File Photo
FITZGERALD



File Photo
ZEIDLER

Honor code referendum gets second chance

Hart Moore
Staff Writer

An amendment to the College's honor code will once again be tested in a student body vote on Feb. 23. This referendum, which would restructure the code and modify the amendment process, represents the same compilation of changes that failed by 39 votes this fall due to fierce, last-minute opposition.

According to Matt Dinan ('09), Chair of the Undergraduate Honor Council, the amendment would make the honor code more coherent for the average student. The movement towards revision, which began over two years ago, was sparked by the Law school's attempt at revamping their blue book exam procedure.

Among many organizational alterations, the order of the code (now akin to a giant laundry list of rights and responsibilities) would be restructured in the chronological order of a hearing. The definitions of 'lying,' 'cheating,' and 'stealing' would be shortened to no more than two sentences apiece, which Dinan describes as "clear, succinct, and keeping with the meaning." Specific examples have been reassigned as qualifiers to the definitions. Lastly, the amendment seeks to make a number of grammatical changes, including correcting a few typos and dropping strictly legal language, such as "reckless," which has little or no meaning to students.

Much more controversial is the proposed change to the amendment process itself. For a current amendment to take place, the measure must be approved by the President of the College, the student body, and the Governor of Virginia. This amendment would allow future changes of sections 5.1 - 5.6 to circumvent the approval of the student body and the Governor. According to Dinan, these sections are "the meat and bones of the actual legal process" and concern the procedural duties of an honor trial.

Dinan sees this change in amendment procedure as facilitating small technical changes that may arise from the growing size of the College. Some problems cited were a transition from paper to a more digital format, as well as

the appointment of a "chair of chairs" whose function is to call the Honor Council together, a task that is at present, surprisingly inefficient.

Among other potential problems that may benefit from this easier amendment process include the number of members required on the Sufficient Evidence Panel (the Grand Jury of the proceedings), as well as time restraints on evidence and hearings. Dinan emphasizes that the basic nuts and bolts of these sections, which are set forth in the "Duties of Accused Students," cannot be changed. Opposition to the initial amendment began to stir early on the night of Nov. 5, when two members of the Student Assembly, Senator Steven Nelson ('10) and Class Treasurer Cliff Dunn ('09), fearing that voters were not aware of the change to the amendment process, mobilized students to vote down the measure. Dinan attributes the negative backlash to the fact that some "didn't really know what the changes were... and they wanted to err on the side of caution. And because they didn't know, they wanted to vote no, and I think they encouraged others to do the same."

Robinson Woodward ('10), an Undersecretary for the SA's Student Rights Department, believes that the reorganization would work to expand student rights. However, as for the change in the amendment process, Woodward states, "I don't expect the Council would abuse this power... However, the Council should clarify the extent of this proposed by-law... The second part needs thorough public scrutiny."

A mere 500 voters participated in the referendum last fall. Dinan asserts that a larger voter turnout "would have an impact in terms of the yes/no ratio. I'm fairly confident that it will [pass]." Unlike this fall, the Honor Council hopes to heavily flier campus, with monetary support from the SA, as well as send out emails the day of the election reminding students to vote. The referendum will be paired with Honor Council elections on SIN, for which the voter turnout usually exceeds 1,000.

Editor's Note: Steven Nelson currently serves as the News Editor of *The Virginia Informer*.

Ruckus unexpectedly goes out of business

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

Ruckus shut down its website on February 6, discontinuing its service of providing free media downloads to students. An official statement from Ruckus is unavailable, but it is assumed that the company has gone out of business. Ruckus's demise follows a string of recent website closures, including the once infamous Juicy Campus.

Ruckus allowed college students to download free media files such as music and TV shows. According to Courtney Carpenter, Chief Information Officer, IT simply installed the Ruckus server on campus and gave it a William and Mary address, allowing students to use the service. Walter McClean ('09), SA Senate Chair, was the driving force behind obtaining a Ruckus server for campus. McClean said that William and Mary "never paid for anything or had any contractual obligation to support or advertise Ruckus." All students had to do was register with the site and then begin downloading a free collection of music. However, students now trying to visit the site will be greeted with, "Unfortunately the Ruckus service will no longer be provided. Thanks." No further explanation or means of contacting Ruckus are given.

Mr. Carpenter said that IT has not been able to get in touch with Ruckus, while Mr. McClean also has not heard back from the contacts he has with the company to explain its sudden end. However, Mr. McClean has his own theory. He explained that Ruckus was able to be a



viable company, allowing free music downloads by agreeing to put Digital Rights Management (DRM) on music files, making them nontransferable, in exchange for 30-day renewable contracts with music artists.

"People had to listen on Ruckus and see the ads thus, generating money," said Mr. McClean. Though there is still the possibility of getting caught for illegal downloading, Mr. McClean said that recently, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has decided to use other tactics to crack down on illegal sharing rather than going after individual downloaders. "It is not a coincidence that at the same time the risk of illegal download is decreased, Ruckus would see a smaller number of users," Mr. McClean said, leading him to believe that this caused Ruckus to go out of business. But he has not been able to confirm his theory.

Ruckus's end may leave students wondering what will happen to their downloaded tunes. According to Mr. McClean, the music files should work for the 30-day renewal period on the file, after which they will no longer play.

College seeks to further improve our 'Green Grades'

Committee seeks to improve sustainability through use of student fees

Meredith Wachs
Staff Writer

Just as students are constantly trying to pull their grades up in the classroom, William and Mary's Committee on Sustainability is busy pulling up their "green grades." The College earned a 'C' from the Sustainable Endowment Institute in 2008, up from a 'D-' the year before. Now, Lynda Butler, interim dean of the Law School, and Dennis Taylor, professor at VIMS, as co-chairs of the Committee on Sustainability, are hoping for greater improvement as the committee faces the challenge of integrating sustainability into the fabric of the College.

Reporting the College's sustainability grades have suffered in the past because the data was not well organized or readily available. Dean Butler hopes that more organized, consistent data now being collected will help the College's overall sustainability grades. "We want to make it more systematic in terms of the information reported on those surveys because things get missed," said Butler. Professor Taylor also points out that "From survey to survey, they emphasize different things, so one of the things we've been undertaking is to get the data in one place so we can have consistent responses."

These concerns have led to the formation of a new sustainability website, which will launch soon and will be linked to the William and Mary website. The site will contain campus data, progress updates, committee meeting agendas and minutes, and information for how students can become involved, including committee meeting locations and times. The committee even hopes to have an online mechanism for alumni to contribute money to green initiatives.



Kevin McCrory

Green is good: The College's green grade has improved over the past year and the Committee on Sustainability is working in part to create an Eco-House in Landrum basement.

In addition to goals of greater transparency, the committee has been following up on projects started last semester with funding from students' annual \$30 green fees. The committee has put the money into such projects as storm water runoff studies, installing lights motion sensors in Swem, and funding a student-faculty project to build solar panels. The committee also recently invested \$40,000 in student fees to create an endowment for sustainability.

The steering committee and each of the subcommittees - Science and Technical Advisory, Finance and Operations, and Programs and Education - have faculty, students, and staff participating. Both Butler and Taylor encourage anyone with an idea to submit a proposal. Students can volunteer to serve on the committees once a year to get a wide variety of input. Though the Committee on Sustainability

works closely with environmental groups like SEAC, both stressed that any student's ideas are welcome. "We want to have an open process for getting proposals," she says.

In addition, Butler and Taylor say integrating sustainability into educational opportunities is an important move; for example, SEAC and the College co-sponsored educational programs on sustainability during freshman orientation last fall. Professor Taylor also oversees the Sharpe Community Scholars biodiesel program, which is updating its reactor and hoping to increase its capacity and get EPA standardized fuel certification. The Sharpe Scholars will hopefully soon be partnering with the Williamsburg Montessori School to provide biodiesel for its bus, and someday, Taylor hopes the program will be expanded to fuel campus vans using

Dining Services' waste oil.

In addition, the Committee on Sustainability has supported Residence Life's new Eco-House, planned for Landrum basement, on the condition that no existing specialty housing is displaced. Taylor says, "One of the things we hope to come out of it is that it will provide us with a place where, working with those students, we can conduct certain lifestyle tests and see what the results of it are."

Butler and Taylor both have high hopes for the campus's amazing possibilities, but Butler says that a lot of the committee's current work is "establishing a process for funding proposals and student summer research grants" and "using the green fees right away to get measurable benefits from the projects we're proposing."

Taylor explains, "One of the things we want to show is strong improvement in terms of the external grades the College receives. The work of the subcommittees has really exceeded a lot of expectations." He points out that subcommittees have been gathering data such as an updated carbon budget, which will allow carbon goals to be set for the future. This data collection is very important because "if you don't know what's going on around campus, you can't be transparent about it."

Dean Butler also praises the hard work of the subcommittees and the positive reactions from the College community, saying, "We have some passionate people who aren't members of the steering committee who are really taking the lead and running with things. It's just amazing what they've already accomplished. I'm very impressed."

Student Assembly introduces bill to investigate 711 Richmond Road informant

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

At the February 3 meeting of the Student Assembly Senate, senators continued to voice their concern about the bill in the House of Delegates that would increase the percentage of in-state students. Senator Matt Beato ('09) said approximately \$7.5 million in tuition money would be lost if Delegate Albo's proposal were enacted.

Senator Steven Nelson ('10) explained that he had actually planned on writing a bill that would recommend an increase in out-of-state students before the House of Delegates bill was introduced. Mr. Nelson blasted the General Assembly bill as an inadvertent attempt to "water down the quality of William and Mary [to] make it more like JMU." Senator Sarah Rojas ('10) shared that the acceptance rate for in-state applicants is currently around 42 percent, compared to 28 percent for out-of-state applicants.

Senate Chairman Walter McClean ('09), a Virginian, said that the SA Senate is disproportionately filled with out-of-state students, and that he and the other members from Virginia should write directly to their delegates to help kill the bill.

Senator Matt Pinsker also introduced the Professional Investigator Act, which was declared as new business and sent to committee. The act would allow SA money to pay for a private investigator that could possibly be used to investigate an alleged informant who led to the 711 Richmond Road lawsuit against students. Mr. Pinsker continued, "regardless of what people say, this isn't sketchy."

Valerie Hopkins gave her State of Your Student Assembly Address, noting the failure of student and city negotiations over the three person rule, but also commenting on changes in administrative policy.

In other SA news, Senator Ben Battaglia ('12) resigned his seat after he was accepted into the Gentlemen of the College a cappella group; he was replaced by Jill Olszewski ('12).

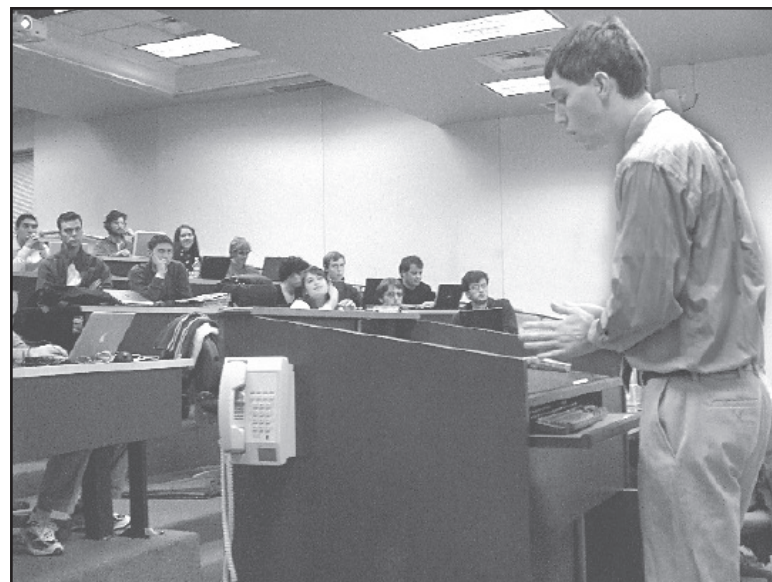
Mr. Beato said too few people run for office in the SA, and that this is why it was described as an "exclusive club" by Sam Sadler last year. Mr. Beato said that the elections commission meetings (at which attendance is required) are not publicized at all, and thus students just do not know about them and cannot run for office. Regarding his position as Elections Committee Chairman, he quipped "the one thing I like more than gossip is rules and procedure."

Mr. Beato continued that SIN may not be used in subsequent elections because it is not secure enough. The SA will have a committee research project to see what is used at other universities.

Senator Ross Gillingham ('10) spoke about his work with Residence Life regarding a new disciplinary policy. Currently, students have a right to refuse their RA entry into their room, but often the RA will simply call the police. Mr. Gillingham insisted the SA should

distribute literature, stating: "these are your rights: use them at your own risk."

At the February 10th meeting, SA Vice President Kristin Slawter reported that she had spoken with chief of campus police Don Challis about the police doing oil checks and inspecting cars before students drive home for breaks to insure their safety.



Kevin McCrory

Defending out-of-staters: Senator Walter McClean ('09) and other members of the SA condemned the General Assembly's propositions to reduce the number of out-of-state students at the College.

Councilwoman Knudson wants housing law changed

Steven Nelson
News Editor

On February 11, Williamsburg City Councilwoman Judy Knudson spoke to students in the Sadler Center. The discussion with Ms. Knudson was sponsored by Students for a Better Williamsburg (SBW). Ms. Knudson has previously been viewed by many student leaders as unfavorable toward student interests, particularly for her support of the three person housing law in the past. However, during her visit Councilwoman Knudson expressed significant support for many student positions.

Ms. Knudson began her remarks with mention of recent city discussions regarding a potential water contract with Newport News, an issue which has left her torn as an environmentalist. She quickly moved on to share that she likes living near campus, that she "did not like living in the suburbs, it was very superficial" and in fact that she selected her current house based on the desire to live in a mixed residential-rental neighborhood. Following her brief comments, she asked students for questions.

Not surprisingly, most questions were related to the three person law. Ms. Knudson said that even in her neighborhood, there were individuals also recording license tags and it was determined William and Mary faculty were actually blocking driveways with their cars.

Ms. Knudson recounted many facts about the history of the three person law. Student Horacio Carreño-García ('10) asked if she felt the law was unconstitutional. In response, Ms. Knudson told of an occasion years ago when the City was approached by a father who wished to buy a house for his daughter and five friends to live in near campus. The father, a lawyer from Washington, D.C., was incensed when he was told this was not permitted, pledging to go to Richmond and

have the law "taken off the books." This, however, never happened.

Efforts to increase the residential density of certain areas of the City may be a solution, said Ms. Knudson. However, she noted that there is "a group in the city that is violently opposed to increasing density anywhere in this city, one of them ran for City Council." It is likely that the reference was regarding advocacy group Stop 22 and former City Council candidate Terrance Wehle.

Also addressed by the Councilwoman were some of the specifics of the 711 Richmond Road lawsuit against student renters. She does not believe that the resident who actively served as a surveillant of the property, and ultimately as an informant against the students, broke any laws. Ms. Knudson said that even in her neighborhood, there were individuals also recording license tags and it was determined William and Mary faculty were actually blocking driveways with their cars.

Ms. Knudson said she had recently talked with the Chief of Williamsburg Police and that there had been four noise complaints made against the residents of



Alec McKinley

A big misunderstanding: Councilwoman Knudson assured students at her meeting with Students for a Better Williamsburg that Williamsburg is not hostile towards students.

711 Richmond Road in the last year. In a previous interview with *The Informer*, 711 resident Nick Skantz ('09) claimed that on at least one occasion a particular neighbor called the police due to no more than the lights being left on in the house at night. Regardless, Ms. Knudson said that the City does not actively seek to discover violators of the three person law, but that once a complaint is filed, the law has to be enforced. She also said that

this is not the case. Also, she said, there are "other people who move to a college town to get all of the perks - they think football games are fun, they like walking around the beautiful campus," enjoying everything "except for all of those pesky students." Ms. Knudson stressed the need for moving beyond the misunderstanding, ending her remarks humorously and welcoming students over to her house for "tea and cookies."

"there are so many students breaking the rule, perhaps that is a good reason to change the law."

Characterizing herself as a "60's person who protested the Vietnam War" she encouraged students that "the solution is not to break the law," but to work to change it. Law student Charles Crimmins ('10) followed up on her comments, insisting that students are trying to change the three person law, and encouraging her to use her powerful position to advocate for its change.

Concluding the conversation, Ms. Knudson told students that "one of the biggest problems is the absolute misunderstanding." She said that she has been approached by students who do not feel welcome in the community, and that

State Senator Cuccinelli says W&M likely safe from reduction of out-of-state students

Eric Ames
Staff Writer

Virginia State Senator Ken Cuccinelli visited the College on February 12 to speak to the College Republicans about Virginia politics and the statewide elections coming up this November. Senator Cuccinelli, who represents Fairfax County, is currently running for the Republican nomination for Virginia Attorney General.

Senator Cuccinelli initially discussed some recent events in the General Assembly, including the narrow passage of a bill allowing Choose Life license plates, and his intention to introduce a bill defunding Planned Parenthood. Cuccinelli, a Roman Catholic, is well known for his support of the pro-life movement.

The senator also discussed his conservative views, criticizing his own party for not living up to its principles. "[The first bailout] was a Republican-led effort in September. We had Republican congressmen follow our Republican president right off the cliff," said Cuccinelli. "If that's what the Republican Party is going to lead to, why vote for Republicans?" The senator also criticized the Democratic majority in the state senate for opposing measures to write the protection of private property into the

state constitution. "If you're not willing to protect private property, one of the three most fundamental elements of democracy, then you're really not in line with where the Founding Fathers were," said the senator. Senator Cuccinelli also indicated that he favored gun ownership rights and the death penalty, and supports the triggerman rule, which limits the death penalty to individuals who have physically committed a murder.



Alec McKinley

CUCCEINELLI

Senator Cuccinelli also commented on the proposal introduced in the House of Delegates to limit the number of out-of-state students admitted to the College. According to Cuccinelli, the College, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech are accorded special long-term contracts with the Commonwealth that would likely protect the College from any such regulation. "There's a strong disinclination to mess with that system," said Cuccinelli. However, the Senator gave no clear indication as to whether or not he would support such a measure if it ever reached the Virginia senate.

State Senator Ken Cuccinelli's name will be submitted for nomination at the Republican State Convention in May, where his principal opponent will be William and Mary Law School Graduate John Brownlee. The general election will be held on November 3.

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Dining hall's longer lines, overcrowding frustrate students

Julia Riesenberg
Staff Writer

If you're one of the 4,500 students on a meal plan, chances are you've been hungry at noon on a weekday and swiped into the Real Food on Campus (RFOC) cafeteria in the Sadler Center. Even more likely, you've arrived at the SC only to discover that seemingly everyone else had the exact same idea.

"Eating here around this time is seriously a nightmare," said Roo Harrigan ('11). "I don't even have a meal plan this semester, because I don't have a sabbatical built into my schedule to deal with this."

For many students, the Sadler Center is the most convenient place to lunch in between classes. Unfortunately, it is also the location on campus with the least available space.

Mr. Philip DiBenedetto, Director of Dining Services, explained that congestion during peak meal hours is a recurring problem but one that often dies down after the first few weeks of the semester. "It's not gone unnoticed," said Mr. DiBenedetto, "however, it's just what we can do to make it work best."

Mr. DiBenedetto says that for the past four years, Dining Services has made adjustments to the layout of the RFOC cafeteria each summer while the College is out of session. They employ food design renovation services to architect the most optimal setup. They also monitor the flow of students and make adjustments accordingly. "At the beginning of each semester, we look at where people go," he explained. "It fluctuates." As for the cafeteria at the SC, "we're looking to add a staff person at lunch."

More convenient would be for the Caf to be located at the center of campus. The Caf has six kitchen stations to the RFOC's one. It also seats 600 people, while the SC seats 400. "And when it comes to square footage," DiBenedetto explained, "[the Caf] has got to be at least three or four times the size" of the SC cafeteria.

Still, the increase in the number of students on the College's meal plan – 250 more students since 2006 – indicates an overall satisfaction with the system. "I like to think we're doing a good job," says Mr. DiBenedetto.



Kevin McCrory

This isn't Disney World: Long lines at the Sadler Center dining hall are due to more students choosing to use the William and Mary meal plan.

"There are more people on the meal plan now than ever before, so they must realize they get a good value for their money."

While the Flex feature of the College's meal plan allows for food options outside of the campus cafeterias, this does not always lessen the brunt of the inconvenience the line wait imposes. "The lines at the SC have gotten so absurd [that] they're forcing me to use all my Flex at Quizno's," said Owen Affe ('11). "And that's something I don't want to do." Phoebe Boutwell ('11) adds that even if one does brave the entrance line, the wait at the serve-only food sections severely limits options. "I often must eat cold salads and make my

own sandwiches, because I just don't have enough time to wait in the lines for the hot food," Boutwell said.

The voices of the hungry masses are not going unheard, however. Mr. DiBenedetto said that the College has asked him "to come up with a pie in the sky, something we can do to blow it up and redo it." Improvements will not be undertaken any time in the near future, though in the meantime, students may be heartened by the abundance of alternative dining solutions available on campus.

Meal plan veteran Kelley Shea ('10) has managed to get by industriously. Her secret? "When the lines are bad," she noted, "I brown bag it."

Beledi Club is more than just about hips

Meredith Wachs
Staff Writer

For many students, Sunday afternoon is usually reserved for naps and last-minute homework. But for members of

Beledi, William and Mary's belly dancing club, however, Sunday is a day for dance. The club has four classes on Sunday afternoons: beginner, intermediate, tribal, and advanced. Members of Beledi's advanced and tribal classes have gone

through two intermediate classes, one for working with veils and the other for learning to dance with zills, or finger cymbals.

Tribal belly dance is a style with slower, more exaggerated movements and muted costumes, while the advanced class is a more traditional, cabaret-style belly dance. Janna Beaufait, a professional belly dance instructor, guides members through eight weeks of class. At the end of the semester, the intermediate, tribal, and advanced groups, along with others from Beaufait's studio, participate in the Hafla performance, complete with costumes and props.

Caitlin Jones ('09), president of Beledi, describes belly dancing as "something different." Ms. Jones has been belly dancing since the beginning of her sophomore year. A guest instructor introduced her to the dance form in high school, and she became interested in learning more when she heard about Beledi. According to Ms. Jones, though members pay \$50 a semester, it is reasonable price for the level of instruction they receive. She estimates the club has grown to nearly 30 dancers, urging anyone curious to come experience it next semester. "It's

a lot of fun. People should give it a try," said Ms. Jones.

Sarah Brooks ('09) has been a Beledi member since her freshman year. Though she loves all aspects of belly dance, she said, "picking my costume is almost as much fun as the dancing!" Ms. Brooks often buys her costumes online, and can be quite ornate, depending on the style of the show. "Cabaret-style costumes are usually bright, with plenty of sequins, fringe, and even tassels," she explained. Ms. Brooks added, "Belly dance is about learning control; the challenge of belly dance is to move your lower body without moving your upper body. Belly dance can be a great form of low-impact exercise, especially for chronic injuries, as it is not demanding on joints."

Lexi Lysenko ('09), though not dancing this semester, began belly dancing the second semester of her freshman year. Ms. Lysenko said, "Belly dance is a good form of exercise, and I love doing veil work because it's so beautiful. I have made great friends in Beledi over the years, and performing in Hafla is a lot of fun." Beledi Club extends a warm invitation to the Spring Hafla, free for all students, on Saturday, April 25 at 5 pm in the Commonwealth Auditorium.



Alec McKinley

Shake it like a polaroid picture: Beledi, the belly dancing club of William and Mary, combines exercise with dance techniques that most students are unfamiliar with.

Founder of local business, Peace Frogs, believes economy needs less regulation, more entrepreneurship

Bert Mueller
Assistant News Editor

You've probably seen it emblazoned on clothing, the ubiquitous frog flashing a peace sign. Catesby Jones started Peace Frogs in his UVA dorm room in 1985. The frog is a Native American symbol for peace and, as Mr. Jones commented, "it just seemed like a good idea" to put it on clothing.

The company has evolved over time: it first sold flag shorts called "Iron Curtains" and transitioned to frog gear soon thereafter. Despite the evolution of the company, Mr. Jones says the mission hasn't changed. "Everyone is trying to be green and sustainable now; we've been that since the beginning. Our mission of positive clothing, being green and of international awareness is something we've always had."

The company supports a number of environmental and social causes including the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, which "catalogs amphibian diversity" and "declining amphibian populations", and Organization for Tropical Studies. A popular fundraiser hosted by the company is a 2-mile swim for needy children. And make no mistake: Mr. Jones swims the entire route.

The Virginia Informer: I remember seeing people wearing Peace Frogs clothing in both middle school and high school, although I can't say I ever owned any. Anyways, the company has grown greatly since its inception but you're still headquartered in Gloucester, just a stone's throw from Williamsburg. What's the hardest thing about running a company in Virginia?

Jones: Virginia is better than most [states]. I've tried to run businesses in California and the differences between California and Virginia are night and day. There're so many regulations in California. Just having an employee is awful. One thing I've found is that the more you have to comply with regulations, the less you want to actually hire an employee. This is something a lot of people don't realize. A lot of people think, "Well, it makes sense to do this and that to help people," but they really end up hurting the people they're trying to help. That's a



Courtesy Photo

To tie-die for: Peace Frogs, created by UVA alum Catesby Jones and based in Gloucester, is planning on going international with the assistance of three WM undergrads: Josh Frazier ('10), and Daniel Orrison ('09), and Jacob Chang ('09).

tough part of it. There are many different ways states can do things better. I'm a big proponent of reducing taxes and I think that's a big part of it. The more regulated, the worse it is.

VAI: You seem to hold some pretty strong views on economic policy. Relating those views to politics, I actually first became aware of the fact Peace Frogs is located here during your 2007 bid for Jo Anne Davis's (VA-1) vacant seat. Your campaign was unsuccessful but do you have any interest in running for public office again?

Jones: I think that we need more entrepreneurs running for office. Because, for instance, what will really get us out of this economic situation is entrepreneurship. It's about starting new business, it's about moving beyond big companies that are global and move jobs wherever they want to. We need to start businesses here. Understanding that and understanding what makes businesses thrive is what we need in Washington and Richmond. Many entrepreneurs including myself, we're not professional politicians. We're not into politics like we need and have

to be. The country would be better off if a more diverse group of people ran for office rather than just lawyers.

VAI: He wasn't an entrepreneur, but Edison said that success is 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration. What has your success in running Peace Frogs been made up of?

Jones: I always say ideas are cheap but putting it into practice, that's the tough part, that's where the perspiration comes in. It may sound strange, but I love it when it's difficult. When times are tough like they are now or you're starting up something and you're uncertain, it's the hardest time but it's also the most fun. You have to be creative and it sharpens your mind. You always have to think, 'How are you going to get out of this situation,' and every day roadblocks are popping in front of you need have to get beyond that and make your goals and dreams happen.

VAI: Making those goals and dreams happen can seem a bit daunting, especially for a college kid. You were just a junior in college when you started Peace Frogs. What

would be your advice to college students who hold an entrepreneurial streak?

Jones: Start [a business] right now. Right now, you're young, you don't have a family yet and you can just get out there and learn how to do it. Even if you fail, you will learn so you can't lose. I think it's so important for people to do it because if you do it once, you can do it again. It will help you with anything you do in life. So my advice to people is if you get out of college and there's no job waiting for you, make your own job. That's what you can do. Don't sit around waiting for someone else to create a job for you.

VAI: Speaking of job creation, or rather job losses, has Peace Frogs been hit hard by the recession?

Jones: In August 2007 I started to see some blips and I got a little nervous but it didn't really affect us until a couple large customers suffered bankruptcies. That's where we started seeing a lot of the problems that are facing other people directly.

VAI: Frankly, I think I'd be frightened if I heard large customers of mine were going bankrupt. How do you react to these problems, these tough economic times?

Jones: It's exciting. You just have to get out there and be on the offensive. You have to do new things and think outside the box. You can't just sit back, mope and save fat. Even tough as the times are, I enjoy this more than anything. You know, I always tell people, in the life of a small businessman, every day is a knife fight.

VAI: What's next for Peace Frogs?

Jones: This is really the year of the peace frog. People want peace frogs because we're what people want right now: sustainability, positive clothing, that's what people want. We want to go beyond our T-Shirt line so we are licensing the logo out to different companies. One of our biggest sellers right now are Peace Frogs hospital scrubs.

VAI: That's funny; the creator of the TV show 'Scrubs' is a William and Mary Alumnus and recently spoke at our College. Perhaps you could work out a product placement deal. Any parting words?

Jones: I'd just say, let's try to get people to go out and start businesses right now!

Local entrepreneur discusses recessions of 1970s, 90s, and present

Laura Visochek
Contributor

In 1942, the Germans stormed the small, mountainous Greek town of Karpenisium and burned it to the ground. Angelo Mageras, a resident of that town, was just 10 years old.

"Our house burned down and I had to go to work," Mageras said. He began selling cigarettes, first on the street, then at church. Soon, his venture turned into a booming business with numerous cigarette sellers imitating his idea. "I was the first kid [to] come out of the streets doing that," said Mageras. He then branched out his sales operation to include things like candy and was able to build a house for himself and his mother to live in. Mageras continued his schooling during much of this time but was unable to finish it; selling cigarettes or running a shish-kebab stand came first.

Despite his success, Mageras left Greece in the early 1950s when he was 19 for the United States where he had an uncle in Newport News. Upon his arrival in Virginia, Mageras took on whatever odd jobs he could find, mostly in the food service industry. "I was [a] good server; everybody loved me."

Pretty soon, Mageras moved up the ranks and had learned to cook. He continued to work hard, but soon found himself again wanting his own business. "I saved \$500 and I told my boss, 'I'm going to buy a business,'" Mageras said. Within a month, Mageras purchased his first business in Williamsburg.

"As a matter of fact, I soon ended up having 1200 people working for me," said Mageras. That first little business Mageras bought for \$500 was immediately turned into a successful restaurant. In 1960, Mageras began enterprising, bringing in friends and family and established a corporate venture that included construction companies, restaurant operations and hotels.

Despite the rocky economic times of the 1970s, Mageras was extremely successful through this time period. "I love free enterprise," he said. Still, the height of success Mageras reached could not last. Most of his operations crashed with the rest of the American economy in the late 1980s. Mageras said, "In 1988-89, all the savings and loans [led to] failure, just like what is happening now." His company had only two hotels and very few other properties left. He even lost the company's office building.

The 1990s were a time of new growth for Mageras. As the dot-com bubble grew, Mageras was able to reclaim some of his restaurant properties, including one at 1425 Richmond Road that had been a successful lobster house in the 70s and 80s. The property was closed after 1989, turned into a buffet in the 90s, but closed again when the dot-com bubble burst.

These days, Mageras and his family own several restaurants in Williamsburg including the Black Angus Steakhouse, Casa Maya, the Belgian Waffle, and Scala Pizzeria at 1425 Richmond Road. "We also have an arcade in the back" of the pizzeria, announced Mageras.

"I think we're going to do well," Mageras said, talking



Lauren Visochek

From rags to riches: Williamsburg entrepreneur Angelo Mageras has spent his life starting, expanding and selling numerous businesses.

about his latest foray into business. But to ride out this recession, Mageras gives Americans the same advice he gives his family, which is to "get back to the basics: work hard, save money, and don't overspend."

Century Project founder Frank Cordelle discusses upcoming nude exhibit

Jon San
Managing Editor

On March 16 the Century Project, a photographic art display featuring nude women from birth to nearly 100 years old, will be coming to William and Mary's Muscarelle Museum and staying through March 20. The drive to get the Century Project on campus was championed by the Student Assembly's Department of Diversity Initiatives. On January 28 the Student Assembly Executive and Senate Finance Committee approved \$1,750 in mandatory student fees for their display, an amount slightly less than the highly controversial Sex Workers Art Show.

Frank Cordelle, the exhibit's photographer, had nearly completed his high-powered four year PhD program in biochemistry at Brandeis University when he decided to trade his lab coat for a camera. Since that day, Mr. Cordelle has photographed for *Newsweek* and *Life* and spent several years trekking across the country searching for girls and women willing to pose for his photo collection. Many have been through various trials and tribulations not limited to breast cancer, rape, and anorexia. Mr. Cordelle, currently showing the exhibit at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton, Canada, took some time out of his schedule to talk with *The Virginia Informer* about the Century Project.

The Virginia Informer: What caused you to change from biochemistry, and the road to academia, to the life of a photographer?

Frank Cordelle: Well, I've been interested in photography since I was a kid. My best friend's dad worked for Kodak and they had a dark room in their house so it was a convenient hobby. But during the 1960s, photography was considered a hobby not a profession which is why I ended up at Brandeis as a PhD candidate. However, I had been helping a friend by photographing physically handicapped athletes and during that time someone remarked that [my photographs] showed the handicapped to be real people. And I think that often people don't acknowledge that. But anyways, that was the point where I realized that I could make something out of my photography skills.

VAI: How did your early photography work with the physically disabled inspire the idea for *The Century Project*?

Cordelle: The fact that my photographs humanized the disabled for many people was a theme that I thought could apply to women, in certain circumstances, as well. For a lot of men, they don't look at women as equals or even humans but just as something to [expletive deleted] and move on. So, I think that [the Century Project] will hopefully change this mindset.

VAI: I read on the Century Project

website that your exhibit has even been shown in churches around the country. Has there ever been a backlash against it? What do you have to say to people that disapprove of the nude depiction of adolescent girls or rape victims?

Cordelle: There's actually been less backlash than I thought. I think most people that would be upset by the exhibit simply don't come in. People understand what it is about and they stay out – it's fairly self-editing. But I've only received one anonymous written complaint at Edmonton and none at all last year of the seven colleges I visited. And I think people are only upset because our society equates nudity with sex and sex with being "bad."

VAI: Photographer Jock Sturgess was sued by the state of Alabama for his photographs of nude adolescents. In your case, has the government, state or federal, ever intervened on charges of child pornography or anything similar?

Cordelle: The US Supreme Court says that as long as the photographs are not overtly sexual it is legal. And I think everyone agrees that my photographs are specifically asexual. Sturgess' case was also dismissed from court but that basically was a warning to American publishers that publishing that kind of work would be costly. But if I was to leave out nude photographs of adolescent girls, the Century Project wouldn't make any sense because if

The Century Project

Mission statement: The Century Project also aims more generally to stimulate thought and discussion about subjects that are often taboo in our culture, or otherwise too personal, too painful.

Diversity of models: Included among the models photographed for The Century Project are rape victims, sufferers of anorexia, breast cancer survivors and Mr. Cordelle's mother.

Price: \$0 to model; \$39.95 to buy *Bodies and Souls: The Century Project*

Exhibit duration: March 16 – 20

eyes after going through the exhibit. It's a very emotional experience.

VAI: Let's talk about the models. I saw that one was actually your own mother a couple years before her passing. Was this project a very a personal experience for you? Do you keep in touch with any of the models still?

Cordelle: Many of the models were very emotional during the photo session and some were in tears. Some are emotional because they've been traumatized in the past, others, for example two Muslim women I've photographed, are hesitant to go through due to the backlash from their families. As for keeping in touch, I've definitely made some lifelong friends

I'm going to portray a whole lifespan it doesn't start at age 18.

VAI: So you've never faced opposition from the law about the Century Project, even in dense metropolitan areas?

Cordelle: Over the years, I've actually had over 50 police officers at my exhibits. And I could tell that some of them were upset by the material just by their body language but they didn't do anything because they realized I wasn't breaking any laws. But in two instances, in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, two officers, one was a Muslim, were wiping tears from their

over the past years but others are just there for the session and that's it. One example is of the first picture of the exhibit – a newborn crowning during birth. That baby girl is now 16 years old and every couple years her mom would send me Christmas cards. And after my visit to William and Mary I'm actually going to drive to Pennsylvania to meet up with her and see if she would like to be photographed 16 years after her first.

VAI: How do you find potential models to photograph? I imagine it's not the easiest task in the world.

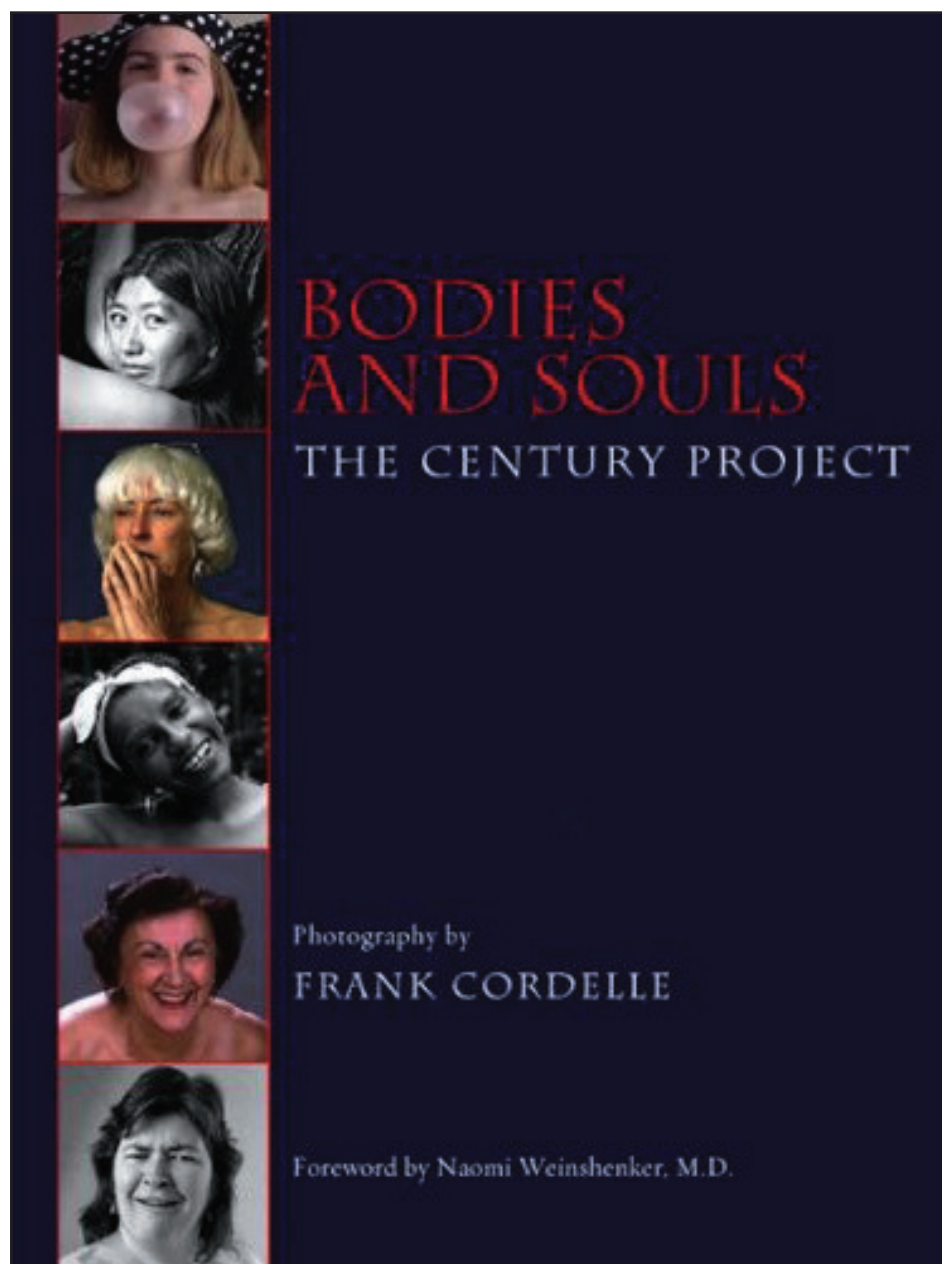
Cordelle: Years ago, before the project really started, I would just photograph old girlfriends since it was the most convenient and comfortable way to do so. But as I started exhibiting across the county, many people who saw the photographs and who were moved by them would ask if they could be photographed themselves. It's impossible to identify people that have been sexually abused or who have survived breast cancer when you're walking down the street; you can only find them when they approach you and tell you their story.

VAI: Are the models compensated at all for their work and time?

Cordelle: None of the models are paid for their work. Partially because of legal reasons but mostly because the models are the ones that *want* to do this. All they receive is one copy of the photograph.

VAI: Has the book been selling well? Do your numerous exhibitions help with promoting the project?

Cordelle: The book did very well at the beginning mostly because it was reviewed in Oprah's magazine. But it's hard to get publicity at small colleges such as William and Mary because its removed from the big cities and in big cities its difficult because of the controversial material. Even when I wanted to publish the project it was very hard since no American publisher wanted anything to do with my photos, so I eventually had a Canadian publisher do it.



The morning after: hangover help 101

According to recently departed former president Bush, the economy is currently experiencing a hangover caused by the drunken revelry of Wall Street in the early years of the 21st century. And while the entire Congress is laboring over a stimulus “cure” for this nasty condition, most students at the College are more concerned about how to get rid of that pounding headache after a late night of Aristocrat-fueled debauchery. The following is a list of tried and true methods that will make you feel like a million bucks no matter how many beers you shot-gunned the night before.



Jon San
Managing Editor

Omelettes, hash browns, tacos or any other typical artery cloggers are perfect hangover fighters.

3. **Saturday morning cartoons** – There’s something strangely therapeutic about lying in bed feeling like death and watching cartoons. Maybe it’s the whole childhood-throwback feeling – a time when hangovers were nonexistent – or maybe it’s just the passive nature of watching cartoons. In any case, watching Tom from *Tom and Jerry* get hit in the face with a frying pan will always remind you that someone has a worse headache than you.

1. **H2O** – Dehydration is probably the most serious consequence of an evening of hard drinking but can be easily cured by refueling your body’s fluids. Before going to sleep, and no matter my state of mind, my brain is hard-wired to automatically do three actions: take my shoes off, take my contacts out, and chug a Green Leaf mug of water. I guarantee that you will feel much better in the morning if you take this advice.



Alex Mayer

2. **Greasy food** – Let me begin by saying that the omelettes made at the Caf should be patented as a hangover cure. For some reason, not only do they taste especially delicious after a rough night, but they also eradicate any symptoms of a hangover. Greasy food lines the intestines with grease which slows the alcohol absorption into the bloodstream – the true cause of a hangover.

4. **Drugs** – That’s right, ingesting chemicals is sometimes the best way to lift your toxic body out of a hangover. Aspirin and Excedrin usually do the trick, but taking a couple vitamin B pills won’t hurt either.

5. **Keep Drinking** – The best way to never experience a hangover is to never stop drinking. While your wallet and liver would certainly take a hit, keeping the glass full is a sure-fire way of feeling great when/if you wake up. I certainly don’t advice this method but many friends protest to me that some “hair of the dog that bit you” works wonders for the most wicked of hangovers.

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

Drink of the Week

Manic Monday Martinis



Jeff Dailey

Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer

Ingredients

- Splash of Vermouth
- 3 shots Gin
- 1 shot frozen apple juice concentrate

Directions

This Martini is to be prepared in the “sketchy dorm style.” Count out the number of glasses and multiply recipe. Add liquids to Nalgene Bottle. Shake. Serve. Enjoy.

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SWAS TO VISIT COLLEGE: Reveley and organizers discuss presentation

continued from page one

prerequisite to the return of SWAS based on a debate to be hosted before or during the show, Reveley told *The Informer*, "Yes, I expect this to happen."

Reveley and the organizers are not willing to discuss details, but Reveley has indicated that, "We will be working on this in the weeks to come." An anonymous source in the leadership of the Lambda Alliance, one of the organizers, told *The Informer*, "We're working on stuff on our end. We're not ready to share much [publicly] yet."

The president hinted that certain prerequisites have yet to be fulfilled in the lead up to the show's appearance this year on campus in the February 2 announcement on the return of SWAS. Reveley stated, "Repeated performances by a controversial group like SWAS, year after year, without a robust opportunity for the free play of ideas does not serve the Jeffersonian ideal...The sponsors of SWAS and its performers must do much better on the Jeffersonian front than they have to date...In addition to performing, they [the SWAS organizers] need to provide means for a serious discussion about pertinent issues, conducted with the intellectual rigor and civility characteristic of William & Mary."

Reveley has not been able to give any details regarding updates in the talks, only telling *The Informer*, "Haven't had a chance yet to work on arrangements for a meaningful dialogue about the issues raised by SWAS. Am confident this can be done."

Some angst was expressed by the show's organizers with President Reveley's decision to make a public announcement on the reappearance of SWAS before Charter Day held on February 7. Through numerous sources, *The Informer* has learned that higher-level administrators attempted to pressure the show's organizers and student government members to not make public comments on SWAS until after Charter Day. This action was done, according to these sources, with the purposeful intention of hiding the event's visit from the press.

It appears, however, that President Reveley's preemptive statement on the show, which contained some critical comments, has not had any influence on discussions between organizers and the administration. Asked if this premature announcement has affected the negotiation process, Lambda leadership simply stated "No, we're still doing what we said we were going to."

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Muscarelle's Dutch Italiante exhibit sheds light on Dutch art history

Meredith Wachs
Staff Writer

Although the room featuring the Muscarelle Museum of Art's exhibit *The Dutch Italianates: Seventeenth-Century Masterpieces from Dulwich Picture Gallery* is dimly lit, the works shown there are anything but dark.

The works in *The Dutch Italianates* showcase, which opened November 16, feature landscapes in which the sky is the focal point, allowing artists to examine the different qualities of light. Dutch Italianates marveled at the landscape and light qualities of Rome, and so painted Roman backgrounds with Dutch people practicing their vocations – hunting, farming, and blacksmithing – in the foreground. This often resulted in “idealized, sun-drenched views of the Roman *campagna* (countryside) rendered with meticulous Dutch naturalism,” according to the exhibit's introductory notes. Over time, because of a surge of patriotism, the Dutch Italianates' ideals evolved into a prevailing preference for Dutch landscapes.

This collection of works, which includes such artists as Philips Wouwermans, Adam Pynacker, Nicolaes Berchem, and Aelbert Cuyp, is on loan from the Dulwich Picture Gallery, lauded by the Muscarelle as “the best small museum in all of Europe.” The collection displays many different approaches to the Italianate style. Nicolaes Berchem's works have an indistinct, hazy quality to the landscape, but an amazing amount of detail to the figures; the cows' hides are so realistic that the rest of the painting seems to be in an unrealistic fog.

Unfortunately, the attention paid to the atmosphere and landscape is sometimes spoiled by the lack of precision in the foreground's figures. Abraham van Calraet's “White Horse in a Riding School” shows a tiny woman, assumedly for a sense of distance, who is

decidedly unconvincing. Another of his paintings, *Two Horses*, includes considerable flaws in the horses' proportions which detract from his work's better aspects.

A good balance between hazy landscape and exact figures is found in the work of Adam Pynacker. His *Bridge in an Italian Landscape* shows a great deal of detail in the foreground, including the bridge, plants, and trees, while the background maintains the hazy quality, but applies it to figures in the distance as well, making the perspective and atmosphere much more realistic, and by extension, suturing the gap between the Dutch figures and Roman landscape.

Similarly, Pynacker's *Landscape with Sportsmen and Game* shows a master's skill in its extraordinarily detailed birch trees and hunting dogs while still

maintaining a beautiful Roman haze in the distance. One special aspect of this painting is its cornflower-blue vegetation; while absolutely stunning today, the color is inaccurate. The paint Pynacker used in 1665 was chemically unstable, and so the green leaves have changed to a brilliant blue with time.

The exhibit's focus, though narrow, covers an often overlooked part of art history and allows the viewer an excellent opportunity to examine the aspects of a genre that, according to the exhibit's notes, “profoundly influenced the eighteenth-century French and English aesthetic, and even carried over to nineteenth-century America.” *The Dutch Italianates* is on display in the Muscarelle Museum of Art until March 22 and is free to all members of the College community.



Rachel Smith

The sky's the limit: The paintings of the Dutch Italianates feature how light affects different landscapes and uses the sky as a focal point. The paintings depict Dutch workers engaged in a variety of bucolic activities including farming, logging and hunting.

Dry humor a success with comedian Michael Ian Black

Bryan Callaway
Staff Writer

On February 7, Michael Ian Black, famed commentator for VH1's “I love the...” and member of the *Stella* comedy troupe, performed to an amused and nearly sold-out crowd at Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall. Mr. Black's act addressed a number of hilarities of everyday life, otherwise known as *observational comedy*. In general, his performance was pretty entertaining. That said, in relation to the opening act by performer Bam-Bam, I would go so far as to say that Black was hilarious. I promised myself I would not even mention Bam-Bam's performance in this review, except to say that anyone

who mentions their sex life and their grandmother in the same act should be charged with violating the Geneva Conventions. To do that to an entire audience is downright cruel, but I digress.



Courtesy Photo

IAN BLACK

Black's act intertwined improvisational comedy, tailored to events at the College, and several preplanned routines. Of his improvisation routine, Black's critique of the *The Flat Hat* and the Sex Worker's Art Show, also known as “prostitutes who paint”, were particularly notable. While it goes without saying that such improvised routines require serious talent, even for a subject as easy as W&M, Black was quite adept at integrating these bits with scripted sketches. Using the Sex Worker's

Art Show as a segway into his times in Amsterdam's Red Light District—“the Wal-Mart for whores”—Black highlighted his mastery of both dry and crass comedy.

In something of a 180 degree turn, Black's next act went on to highlight the ups and downs of fatherhood, referring to it as “the source of all my marital problems.” Despite this, Black was quick to suggest that it was made up for by activities such as Halloween—or “the booze cruise for parents.” Although this segment of his performance was a bit drier than the earlier acts, it was nevertheless amusing. Judging by the reaction from the audience, I am sure I was not alone in this critique.

Following Black's routine, which ended with him reciting a series of letters to one of his “lovers”, which was more bizarre than

comical, Black fielded questions from the audience. The first of these was a request for a book signing, which Black gladly accepted, personalizing it with “Dear Norris, I want you inside me. Love, Michael Ian Black.” In addition to these personalized signings, Black answered additional questions regarding his former TV show *Stella*, and the best part of filming *Wet Hot American Summer*, which Black revealed was “banging the makeup girl.”

It is undoubtedly hard to get a lot of mileage out of standup comedy with dry humor; however, Michael Ian Black's performance did just that. Although it did have its dull moments, Black's routine, with its improvisations and mastery of observational comedy (his mockery of PBK's fire procedures) was quite comical.

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The Finer Side:

A brief history of tartan

When you think of Scotland, what image comes to mind? Is it the rugged, highland mountains? Haggis and scotch whiskey? Hollywood images of Braveheart? Or, is it that iconic textile, tartan? As I am currently in Edinburgh, Scotland, I have found myself inundated with tartan and its history. With over 8 percent of the American population claiming some degree of Scottish descent, and our College's own ties to Scotland, tartan and Scottish culture are important not just in Britain, but in the United States as well.



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

Tartan and plaid are not the same things. Tartan is a pattern that uses horizontal and vertical stripes of different colors most commonly woven into wool and then made into garments or blankets. Originally, a plaid (or plaide) was a large piece of tartan cloth that a warrior would use as a blanket at night, and would then use to wrap himself in during the day. Today we use these words interchangeably.

The origins of tartan are not definitely known. It is believed that it first came to Scotland sometime in the fifth or sixth century, but the first records of the material date back to the 1500s. The year 1746 was a particularly important milestone for tartan. After the Act of Union of 1707, which united Scotland and England into the United Kingdom, there were a series of Jacobite rebellions during the 1740s. In 1746, Highland Jacobites, under Bonnie Prince Charlie, marched south and were subsequently defeated by the Duke of Cumberland's government forces. After their defeat almost anything having to do

with Highland culture was banned, as it was seen as a sign of rebellion and treason. This included the wearing of tartan by anyone other than Highland soldiers in the Royal forces.

However, in the early 1800s - thanks to Sir Walter Scott's efforts - tartan experienced a revival. With the Jacobite rebellions safely in the past, Highland culture was no longer threatening. Sir Walter Scott painted a romantic portrait of Scottish Highland culture in his novels, popularizing the use of tartan. In 1822, King George IV was the first royal to visit Scotland in over 100 years, and his visit was turned into a grand tartan affair, thanks mainly to Scott. Not only did almost everyone in Scotland turn out in their tartan, but even King George IV arrived in a kilt! The popularity of tartan was reborn. Later in the 19th century, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert grew to love Scotland, the Highlands, and tartan so much that they actively worked to further the fabric's popularity.

Today, tartan is a permanent fixture in Scotland. Over the past 50 years, tartan has developed into a multi-million dollar industry. There are tartans assigned to Scottish families (although it is unclear as to what date that practice began). Anyone can easily find out their "family tartan" through a simple search on the internet, provided you know your Scottish family surname. Tartan is a textile with a long history and culture, and is proudly worn by Scots all over the world. So whether you're Scottish with a family tartan, or you simply like the pattern, wear your tartan with pride!

Working on a Dream is a definite misstep

Jack Evans
Music Critic

In 2007, Bruce Springsteen released a solid album, *Magic*. It deserved every bit of the commercial success and critical praise it received. I wish I could say the same for Springsteen's latest offering, *Working on a Dream*. Lyrically, it is his most complacent album yet, which I guess makes sense. This man is, undoubtedly, in a pretty good place right now. Bush is gone. He's in the midst of a late-career comeback. It's enough to make anyone fling himself crotch-first into a television camera. Still, no amount of enthusiasm can make up for bad songwriting.

On opener "Outlaw Pete," Springsteen tries his hand at mixing the epic grandeur of his early work with the kind of old-timey folk he explored on 2006's *Seeger Sessions*. The results are strikingly mediocre. Plus the melody sounds awfully familiar. I swear I've heard it somewhere. If someone knows what it is, please tell me. I'm serious.

The title track is decent enough. More singers should channel Roy Orbison and Springsteen's vocals sound great on all these songs (except for "Good Eye," which recalls *Blooz Hammer*). "This Life" tries for Pet Sound's-era Beach Boys and winds up a schmaltzy mess with too many strings. "What Love Can Do" wouldn't be out of place on a Counting Crows album and from me, that is not a compliment. And as someone who falls in love with checkout girls on a regular basis, "Queen of the Supermarket" personally offends me. "Aisles and aisles of dreams await you"? Really?

The album's best tracks are "The Last Carnival" and the iTunes bonus cut "The Wrestler." The former is an elegy for the late E Street Band organist Danny Federici and a sequel of sorts to "Wild Bill Circus Story" from the underrated *The Wild, the Innocent, and the E Street Shuffle*. The latter is just a beautifully straightforward piece of folk music written for the incredible Mickey Rourke movie of the same name. I kind of wish he would make another album's worth of songs just like it—or at least another *Magic*. Oh well. Maybe next year.

With great food, fantastic prices and a friendly staff, Paradise Diner is out-of-this-world

Matt Pinsker
Food Critic

Paradise Diner is a retro throwback to the 50's, featuring some posters of Audrey Hepburn and Elvis on the mostly bare walls. It opened very recently next the Tropical Smoothie off Monticello, near Ukrops. It looked interesting, so I decided to give it a try.

I was greeted by the host and owner, who were also my server and cook. He and the rest of the small staff were all very friendly and personable. I looked over the menu, which was short and simple with all of the American staples: french fries (\$3.00), hotdogs (\$5.50), hamburgers (\$7.25), grilled cheese (\$4.50), and milkshakes (\$2.50).

I started with the least traditional item on the menu, the chicken cheddar sandwich (\$5.50). I did

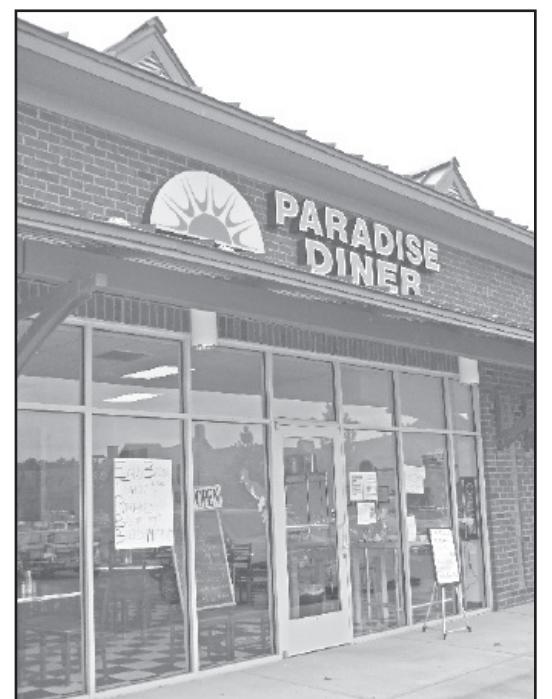
not have to wait long before a hot grilled sandwich with cheddar running down the sides came out, along with my side, which was included with the order. I chose the fruit compote (\$1.50). Although mixing thin slices of apple, cheddar, sweet-berry bread, and thick slices of chicken sounds unusual, it was a great and very tasty combination. The fruit bowl was freshly sliced and also tasty.

Having immensely enjoyed the chicken-cheddar, I decided to try the hamburger (\$7.25). The hamburger which came fresh off the grill was very thick, and had been hand formed. It was very juicy, but not greasy. It was good, but a little bland and a few seasonings short of perfection. The portion was massive; it had to be bigger than the 8 ounces promised on the menu.

Going into dessert I tried the

milkshake (\$2.50), brownie (\$2.50), and apple pie (\$2.50). The milkshake was less than average. It tasted okay, but too watery; I like my milkshakes nice and thick. The homemade chocolate brownie served with ice cream was out-of-this-world amazing. It was hot, smooth, and rich, and had even been drizzled in chocolate and caramel. When served with ice cream, it was spectacular. The apple pie was also good, with a good crust and thick apples, and was also served with ice cream.

Paradise Diner has an unassuming appearance, but the staff is friendly and the food is absolutely fantastic. I had a great experience. The portions are large and the prices are low. I highly recommend Paradise Diner for the casual outing.



Alec McKinley

Paradise won: The Paradise Diner offers a 1950's era retro feel and melt-in-your-mouth brownies.

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The 2008 Academy Awards will recognize a year of especially outstanding movies

Patrick Macaluso
Movie Critic

2008 has been one of the best years in film that I can remember. I am very excited to see the results of this year's Academy Awards ceremony. With more categories and nominations for fantastic performances by actors such as Heath Ledger and Kate Winslet, this year's ceremony is definitely one to watch.

BEST ACTOR

Who will win: Mickey Rourke
Who should win: Mickey Rourke OR Sean Penn

Both Penn and Rourke gave incredible performances this year, and I believe both are equally deserving. However, Rourke's comeback story definitely gives him the advantage. I am sure he will walk home with the gold for his role in *The Wrestler*.

BEST ACTRESS

Who will win: Kate Winslet
Who should win: Kate Winslet

Kate Winslet's performance in *The Reader* was brilliant. However, given the context of the film, Winslet's role was that of supporting actress. With two outstanding performances in critically acclaimed movies under her belt, I believe that it is Kate's year to shine. She gave two phenomenal performances and should be rewarded with two Oscars, one for her supporting role in *The Reader* and one for her lead role in *Revolutionary Road*. Unfortunately she was only nominated for the former I feel sorry that Angelina Jolie and Anne Hathaway are going to lose to a supporting player, but, sorry ladies, it's Kate's turn.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Who will win: Heath Ledger
Who should win: Heath Ledger

His first scene of *The Dark Knight* solidifies Ledger's nomination in this category. His final scene, in which he gleefully dangles over the edge of a building, confirms his win. Despite



Promotional Photo

A final answer: *Slumdog Millionaire* is nominated for Best Picture and several other awards at this year's Academy Awards.

notions that Ledger's award is only a result of his passing, his likely victory will not be due to his sudden death but rather his ingenious performance.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Who will win: Penelope Cruz
Who should win: Amy Adams

If Kate Winslet were in this category, there is no doubt that she would win. However, the Academy decided her character in *The Reader* was a leading role. Because she is not included, the Oscar could go to any of the nominees. I predict Penelope Cruz will win for her role in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* but Viola Davis in *Doubt* or Taraji Henson in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* could also take home the Oscar.

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

Who will win: Dustin Lance Black for *Milk*
Who should win: Mike Leigh for *'Happy-go-Lucky'*

This will be a consolation prize for *Milk*, which will likely lose in the Best Picture, Director, and Actor categories. I usually pick comedies in the Original Screenplay category, but *Milk* is such a strong and unique film that I have to give it the gold.

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

Who will win: Simon Beufoy, *Slumdog Millionaire*
Who should win: Simon Beufoy, *Slumdog Millionaire*

Slumdog Millionaire is Hollywood's darling this year, and I see no reason as to why the Academy won't award it in this category. It is well deserved. Although *Slumdog* was not my favorite film this year, the writing was extraordinarily and intelligently done.

BEST DIRECTOR

Who will win: Danny Boyle
Who should win: Gus Van Sant

This will be the biggest award for *Slumdog Millionaire*, a film whose success has surprised critics and moviegoers alike. Danny Boyle's main competitor is David Fincher, director of *Benjamin Button*. If I were a member of the Academy I would nominate Gus Van Sant for *Milk*, but this year's winner is sure to be *Slumdog Millionaire*.

BEST PICTURE

Who will win: *The Reader*
Who should win: *The Reader*

This is my boldest prediction: *Slumdog Millionaire* won at the Golden Globes, SAGs, and BAFTAs, but I think the Academy will decide to honor *The Reader* for a host of reasons. First, *Slumdog* has received negative backlash in India from citizens who resent their portrayal in the film as 'slumdogs'. The Academy tends to avoid honoring movies if disputes are likely to cause controversy. Second, Anthony Minghella and Sydney Pollack, two producers nominated in this category, are both previous Best Director winners and Academy darlings. Since the Academy will almost certainly give Heath Ledger an Oscar, it is likely that they will pay a final tribute to Pollack and Minghella, both of whom died this past year. These reasons aside, I believe that *The Reader* is the best film this year; it deserves the highest of accolades.

The Academy Awards will take place Sunday, February 22 and will air on ABC at 8pm.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

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Founding Father

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a.m.

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Mon.-Sat. at 11:30 a.m. beginning Feb. 16
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February Schedule

Movies

Movie Tickets: \$7.00,
\$6.00 seniors, students, and children

I.O.U.S.A. (PG)

Wed., Feb. 18—Thurs., Feb. 19
Shows at 4:15 and 6:45 p.m.
Feb. 18 screening room (35 seats)

I've Loved You For So Long (PG-13)

Wed., Feb. 18—Fri., Feb. 20
Shows at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 18, 20 screening room (35 seats)

Trouble the Water (Not rated)

Sat., Feb. 21—Sat., Feb. 28
Shows at 4:15 and 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 21-22, 27-28 screening room (35 seats)

Jewish Film Festival, The Secrets (Not Rated)

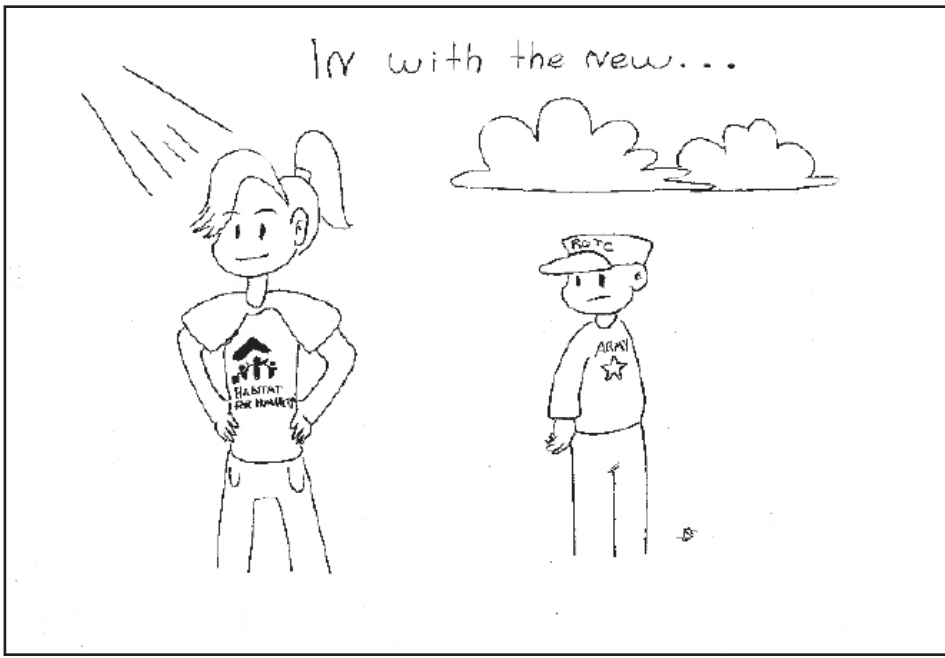
Sat., Feb. 21—Sun., Feb. 22
Shows at 6:30 and 8:45 p.m.

The Tournées Festival, Grand Voyage (Not Rated)

Feb. 20 at 7:00 p.m.

The Tournées Festival, The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (PG-13)

Feb. 27 at 7:00 p.m.



Sarah Deans

Privatization is the best option for the College

We are facing difficult times here at the College of William and Mary. Our school is a great institution, but if we don't actively protest recently proposed bills in Richmond, our College will soon be damaged beyond repair. The General Assembly of Virginia seems set on slowly but surely destroying this place I have come to call home.

First, the Commonwealth's Governors have, since 2002, been forced to cut the College's budget by 5-15%. The latest round cut close to \$10 million from out budget.

The series of funding cuts from 2002-2009 have compounded, resulting in the GA only contributing roughly 15% of the College's actual operating budget. This doesn't include money needed to maintain, as well as build, new facilities. Is it fair to say that William and Mary is a publicly funded institution? Not really—publicly supported, maybe. Is it fair to say that the amount of power Richmond exerts over the College should be proportional to the level of public funding the College receives? Most definitely. But, of course, Governor Kaine's current actions mirror a long-standing narrative regarding Richmond's disregard towards the College and higher education.

Recently, a series of bills dedicated to decreasing the College's stature were introduced in the GA. Decreases in the out-of-state student population by nearly 50% would have either exacerbated the College's financial situation through diminishing tuition revenue or resulted in a substantial tuition hike for in-state students. Were either of these options fair to the nation's Alma Mater? To decrease the geographic diversity of the College, as well as inhibit the mutually beneficial relationship between top students and a top public institution, would have stood as Richmond's most successful effort to

kill the College.

Because we who live and work in Virginia pay taxes that trickle into the coffers of the College, is it fair for us to take the brunt of the tuition increases caused by irresponsible actions from Richmond? No. So long as William and Mary is a public institution, it should be accessible to the Virginia residents who earn admission.



Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer

If the College is indeed in as dire a position as I have argued, then it is most certain that steps need to be taken to preserve the College and ensure the benefits for which we, as students, have invested. But there are very few solutions to the College's problem. The most prominent of these is privatization. This idea has been floated on and off since the 1980s, but it never gained any traction because the State was upholding its pledge from the 60's to return William and Mary to its former glory.

In the early 1960's, when William and Mary had reached its lowest point in a hundred years, with overcrowded classrooms, poor dormitory conditions, fleeing faculty, no doctoral programs and few Masters programs, President Paschall went to Richmond for funding to save the College. The result of his plan doubled the number of academic buildings, increased funding across the board, and launched William and Mary into official university status.

Unless we can secure a similar pledge from Governor Kaine and the GA, I'm afraid that privatization might be the College's only recourse. Yes, privatization would increase the tuition for Virginians until our endowment gained a secure footing. Yes, privatization will be very difficult to achieve from the state's iron fist of control. Yes, privatization is something all of us should begin talking about more in the months ahead.

Staff Editorial:

Community studies minor further embarrasses the College

The recent revelation that the College is considering the introduction of a "community studies minor" at William and Mary raises several troubling questions about the state of liberal arts higher education at William and Mary.

While Provost Geoff Feiss announced that a minor in community service, under the direction of the newly combined Office of Community Engagement and Scholarship is "under serious discussion" and has "enthusiastic faculty support," we question the wisdom of legitimizing so-called "service learning" at one of the nation's top-tier universities.

Proponents of the minor argue that it would "provide opportunities for students and faculty to pursue collaborative research across disciplines and borders, working with communities across the Commonwealth and the globe." Such ambiguous, ill-defined language is emblematic of the potential benefits students would ostensibly reap from making service to "communities" an "academic" specialization. Students who choose to minor in community studies would theoretically feel "enriched" and "gratified" by working with those "less fortunate."

But therein lies the problem – the emphasis of this field is how it makes people feel. Students who choose to "study" in this area will reap emotional rewards by serving less fortunate members of the community, just as those members will enjoy the emotional benefits of their assistance. But the purpose of a liberal education is not to reward emotionality. Allowing what should be a rigorous and challenging

academic environment to devolve into a place where generous credits are given for activity that neither requires nor offers any tangible intellectual or academic growth would be a travesty for the College.

It is also impossible to ignore a certain striking and disappointing contrast between the "enthusiastic faculty support" for a community service minor and the lack of enthusiasm for granting sufficient credit to ROTC students for their coursework. Despite the Virginia legislature's unanimous call for public universities to "provide the maximum recognition of ROTC courses for credits towards graduation," the issue of increasing the number of credits given to ROTC students for their coursework has not even been discussed by the Board of Visitors. It is unconscionable for the College to consider giving credit for "community studies" while still neglecting to offer a minor in military science for ROTC cadets. Such hypocrisy would not only reflect poorly on the priorities of this institution, but the College should hardly be in the business of arbitrating what does and does not constitute "service to the community."

Parents are paying the ever-increasing tuition fees to send their children to William and Mary for a top-level education that will allow them to be competitive in the workplace – not so their kids can waste credit hours "learning" how to volunteer. We agree that charitable service to one's community is commendable and should be rewarded – just not with academic credit.

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

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Looking to increased federal support is not the right answer

President Obama's new \$787 stimulus plan just passed last week. Beyond funding a plethora of new programs, \$150 million for "honeybee insurance" and various other deficit spending ventures, education has been slotted for a substantial slice. College students are wondering how this package will specifically affect higher education. The stimulus package has some \$54 billion allocated to help offset state budget cuts or to prevent them. Of this \$54 billion, \$39 billion must go toward K-12 grade and higher education.

I've heard some students ask "What does this mean for William and Mary's portion?" However, this question is premised on what will inevitably be more of the same. If the government acts to attain some short-term gain, the long-term more often than not simply



Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

redounds to more wasteful government spending. The present economic situation determines our ability to gain employment, and as such the long-term effects should not be so conveniently glossed over. Beyond doubts that things will be even be positively affected by the stimulus, the federal government has not been shown to be trustworthy in efficiently allocating money.

It is a misleading assertion to claim that federal government support has been viciously cut over the past several years though. Any way you slice it according to information compiled by the State Higher Education Executive Officers, money spent per student by the government, when adjusted for inflation, has been upward trending over the past 25 years. As things presently stand, the United States

spends more money than many nations on their internal higher education.

In spite of increasing federal support, general revenue support from student tuition has only been increasing. Over the long-run, tuitions at institutions of higher education have been increasing at a rate beyond that needed to make up for losses in funding. Just at the College level, as we all are acutely aware, tuition only trends upward in the good and the bad times.

Thus, the greatest security that an institution of higher education can have is to foster individual student, alumni and community investment. College is a privilege brought about when students work hard and invest in their futures. This fact is affirmed by support from alumni and by other private sources.

Furthermore, there are things that could be done at universities to ask less of their students financially without further compromising the national

economic situation by clamoring for exorbitant amounts of government spending. I am often surprised by how little students realize how much you are paying for things at the College. For instance, each year students pay \$1,153 each year in athletic fees, which is about five times the amount that students pay at Virginia Tech.

I have no doubt that in spite of the stimulus spending, that tuition will go up at the College this year—and that this increase may amount to as much as 10% for the next academic year. Will adding additional federal dollars pumped into higher education actually help to translate for a more stable economic picture, though? Probably not. Immediately, it may help some students and their families with tuition and other fees, but to ask taxpayers to foot an additional lay of spending for something that they have already so heavily subsidized is pretty astounding.

Res Life decision hurts Greek community, College

Several weeks ago, Residence Life amended special interest housing regulations by effectively raising the number of members an organization must house in order to retain rights to their residence hall. Special interest housing regulations allow any recognized group or organization to apply for reservation of College residency facilities. Although less than half of the student body possesses a direct tie to such housing, this may be the death knell for Greek Life, its most conspicuous member.

With this measure, Residence Life is making a concerted effort towards alleviating the housing crunch so many of my friends experienced last year. A 'bump' in the night, and suddenly they had nowhere to live on campus; singles were forced into doubles, and doubles into triples. All the while, in the far northern corner of campus, well-off fraternity members sought to buy-out unoccupied singles, all in the name of keeping their fraternity on campus. On the surface, Residence Life's decision appears as a promising verdict. Delve a little deeper, though, and the amendment loses its luster.

With these changes, the College will experience a net gain of three single rooms for three bumped students. On the other side of the scale, is a net loss of an entire fraternity. I call the fraternity 'lost' because without a house, their ability to effectively rush will decline, their identity will fade away, and eventually, so will they. Whether the administration recognizes it or not, separating fraternities from their houses is equivalent to eradicating them from campus. I will concede that many students would like nothing better than to see an end to the shenanigans of fraternity row. However, at a financially distraught university, this makes little sense. Traditionally, the per capita donations of Greeks have surpassed that of other students, both at William



Hart Moore
Staff Writer

and Mary and at virtually every other school with a meaningful Greek community. To potentially lose valuable donations would be financially imprudent at an institution whose budget is thinning, and whose distinguished history tethers it to public status.

Moreover, a decline in Greek life does not bode well for the College's application rates. Many students, including myself, looked for a school with a thriving Greek community, and without this niche, some of the best and brightest students in Virginia and from around the country may be dissuaded from applying here. William and Mary is one of the great intellectual institutions in the nation. However, it is my firm conviction that as a liberal arts school, the release many students get through Greek life is paramount to our institution's balance.

Systematically forcing fraternities out of fraternity row is the wrong way to respond to the housing crisis, and to me, an alternative solution is much more attractive: instead of making room for the perpetually growing freshman classes, why not halt its growth? Beyond saving the money that would go towards more housing, freezing the student body's growth would facilitate a large increase in admissions competition. We pride ourselves as a small, tightly knit community, and I believe the benefits of a fixed student body far outweigh the repercussions of class expansion on our insufficient housing. Those dining hall lines might even get a little shorter.

In a day and age where John Belushi and his "Animal House" companions have begun to fade from popular taste, we should not be so quick to sabotage our fraternities for three insignificant singles. With the founding of Phi Beta Kappa in 1776, we gave America its first fraternity. How unbecoming of us to tear it down.

Editor's Note: Hart Moore is a brother of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

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