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2008 Collegiate Network Paper of the Year

Fraternities surrender on-campus housing

Alex Mayer
Executive Editor

Fraternity row is in the throes of a dramatic transformation. As a result of financial hardship and a recent change in Residence Life policy that will reduce the number of "buy out" rooms, fraternities are struggling to fill their units and pay off long-standing debts. Fraternities' rosters for housing in the units next year are due March 4, after which it will be conclusively determined how many fraternities will remain in campus housing.

In what appears to be a direct reaction to the new buy-out policy, Kappa Alpha (KA) has decided to share their unit next year with Delta Chi. "From my understanding, KA was having trouble filling their house for next year and approached Delta Chi, who doesn't have a unit," said CFA Judicial Chair Ben Brown ('11). Mr. Brown explained that the two fraternities will live on separate floors of Unit G.

According to Council for Fraternity Affairs (CFA) Chairman David Cooper ('10), other fraternities

have made decisions not to continue living in the units next year. In decisions apparently unrelated to the new buy out policy, Pi Kappa Alpha and Phi Kappa Tau have decided to give up their special interest housing "effective immediately."

Mr. Cooper emphasized that this was not due to school punishment or the changes to the buy out policy. The impact has already been noticed, with the letters outside of the former Pi Kappa Alpha unit recently coming down. According to Mr. Cooper, "since they had to be released from their contract this semester they are ineligible for special interest housing next year, but may apply again after that."

The fraternities opting to discontinue special interest housing will not be removed from their current living arrangements this semester. "They're still allowed to continue living in the unit,"

FRATS FORCED OUT
continued on page ten



Andrew Schmadel

Exclusive Girl Talk interview - page 5

Professor unable to teach despite efforts by students, offer to work for free

Steven Nelson
News Editor

It has come to the attention of *The Virginia Informer* that an adjunct professor with specialized knowledge of advanced financial derivatives has not been rehired for the Spring 2009 semester, despite offering to work for free. Adjunct professors are paid per course taught, and typically do not have as heavy a course load as other professors.

Concerned students of Professor Sean Tarter contacted *The Informer* after finding closed doors around every corner. Members of the professor's Fall 2008 class unanimously supported a petition delivered to President Reveley, the Economics Department, and *The Flat Hat*. Members of the course strongly expressed their interest in further pursuing their Fall course's content with a follow-up course in the Spring.

Former students of the professor have gained substantial benefits from the material taught in the class. One student was accepted to a prestigious graduate program at Columbia University; the professor was then sent a letter by Columbia officials asking him to send more students with exposure to the course's content.

Professor Tarter often hosted extended office hours and in one notable case taught a supplemental lecture, in response to students' requests, from 9 PM on a Friday night until 1 AM the next morning. According to Stephan Jensen ('09), "nearly the entire class showed up... I don't know any professor who would spend hours with students talking, that's pretty extraordinary."

Reviews of Professor Tarter available on ratemy-professor.com frequently invoke the word "brilliant" as a primary descriptor. One entry from a student of Econ 400 says, "this class was the most challenging, most rewarding, and most memorable experience[s]

of my college career... you will not find an instructor who is more knowledgeable, helpful, or genuine at William and Mary." Most entries describe the courses taught by Professor Tarter as extremely difficult, but are nonetheless extremely favorable.

Students enrolled in the Fall 2008 course studied financial derivatives and were each responsible for maintaining a mock \$100,000 trading platform throughout the semester. Many desired to continue the course's content into the Spring 2009 semester. Professor Tarter was contacted by *The Informer* and shared, "the students wanted the class, and I wanted to do it." Attempting to establish the course, Mr. Tarter decided that "I didn't care if I was paid," saying that sharing his knowledge is his primary mission in his life.

Efforts to establish a course for the current semester were met with support by various faculty members, including Economics Department Chair Will Hausman. According to Mr. Tarter, "Will Hausman, David Lutzer, and even Eric Jensen tried to help, but for reasons we really don't understand, we were unable to proceed." The course was ultimately unable to be offered this semester, much to his students' disappointment.

The petition that students then took upon themselves to draft read, "Adjunct Professor Tarter's dedication to teaching is evident to anyone who has encountered him in an educational setting" and details the particularly astonishing feats the professor when through for his students. Students Julian Vignaud ('09) and Mr. Jensen decided to circulate the petition to express "in very clear terms that not having this professor teach the course was madness."

Jeremy Powers ('09) formerly took two courses with Professor Tarter and was also a supporter of

PROFESSOR UNABLE TO TEACH
continued on page ten

Fraternities Returning to the Units for 2009-2010

(as of 3/1/09)

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*Kappa Alpha will be sharing a unit with Delta Chi

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CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| News..... | 2 |
| Features..... | 5 |
| Arts & Culture..... | 11 |
| Opinion..... | 14 |

Wren area to be excavated
Page 6



“Abortion Breaks Tiny Hearts” continues despite mixed reception from campus community

Rachel Smith
Arts and Culture Editor

Over the few past months William and Mary students have begun to notice fliers posted in dining halls, academic buildings and residence halls. These fliers are part of Students for Life’s Abortion Breaks Tiny Hearts Campaign, which began last September and will end in May. Students for Life is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian organization that actively promotes the protection of life from conception to birth. The organization seeks to educate the campus community on the importance of the preservation of life.

Carrie Faur (’11) started the campaign. A t-shirt she saw at a pro-life conference almost three years ago planted the seed for what has become a very large undertaking. The plain white t-shirt featured a bright pink line, symbolizing a heart monitor, which ran through a still developing fetus. From this, an idea was born.

Abortion Breaks Tiny Hearts will last nine months, the length of an average pregnancy, detailing the development of a baby in-utero.

Dedicated campaigners have posted fliers around campus on a weekly basis to stay on schedule with the development of the ABTH baby. “I have gone through more staples this year than I will in the rest of my life,” Ms. Faur stated.

Ms. Faur was very selective of the sources she used for the fliers. Using only

sources from dot edu websites, medical, and scientific journals, she informs the student body with undistorted facts.

“Week Sixteen,” the title of one flyer, describes the changes that are occurring in a mother’s womb at four months. “Mom may start to feel her baby moving for the first time,” the flier reads. “She might also learn her baby’s sex. Taste buds are developing and [the baby] can sense light.” These fliers intend to show that babies are developing and changing even before they are born and that this development represents life. “These fliers are not anti-choice, they are pro-informed choice,” explains Ms. Faur. “All choices should be informed, especially ones as serious as abortion.”

“Week Sixteen” is one of many fliers. SFL began with Day One, “Life Begins.” Subsequent fliers featured titles such as “Implantation,” “Heartbeat,” and “El-bows!” Along with a snippet of information detailing development, every flyer has a picture of a baby in that stage of development. In each flyer the fetus is addressed as he or she to remind readers that fetuses, though unborn, are still humans. “The campaign is really intended to remind everyone that we’re talking about human lives,” says Sarah Evans (’10), SFL’s Vice President. “A fetus can become such an abstract concept.”

The campaign has also received negative responses from some students on campus. “Though some flyers have been torn down and ripped apart, it is evidence



Stephanie Long

Campaign for life: Students for Life hosted representatives from the national organization Students for Life of America during Life Issues Awareness week.

that the student body has seen them and are reacting,” Ms. Faur comments. “The most the members of SFL can do is to keep working and hope that someone will be touched by their message.” In one incident Ms. Faur saw a flier in Jefferson that was deliberately slashed multiple times—but vandalism does not discourage SFL members. “Abortion Breaks Tiny Hearts will definitely keep going,” Ms. Faur stated. “We know that people are seeing our

posters and reacting to them. We want to get people thinking and talking. Whether or not they like our message, there has clearly been some thought about it.”

As participants in such an expansive campaign, SFL members feel they are contributing to something outside themselves. “I’m working on something greater than myself and greater than the college,” states Beth Zagrobelny (’09), SFL president. “It gives me hope.”

Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, Assistant Opinion Editor

WM Alum Seeks Congressional Nomination

Jan Donatelli (’82) sought the Democratic nomination to contest the election for the Congressional seat for the 5th District in Illinois, which was vacated by Rahm Emanuel when he took the position of White House Chief of Staff. She faced 11 other candidates in the primary, which was held March 3, for the special election April 7. Since graduating from the College, Donatelli has served in the U.S. Navy as pilot, flown commercial aircraft, and worked as a consultant. She desires to reduce corruption in Illinois politics, and was supported by similar demographic groups to those that propelled then-Senator Barack Obama to the Democratic Presidential nomination. Results of the primary were not available at press time.

Black History Trivia Contest Held

In commemoration of Black History Month, the Black Faculty and Staff Forum held the 10th Annual Black History Trivia Contest at the Sadler Center on February 19. The event, billed as “an excellent opportunity for diversity,” served to teach attendees about accomplished African-American scientists, inventors, and civil rights workers. There were forty people in attendance to watch the gold team defeat the green team in an educational setting with a relaxed atmosphere. Both teams consisted of College administrators, and the green team included one graduate student.

Freshmen Discover New Virus in Crim Dell

A previously unknown strain of bacteriophage was discovered by freshmen conducting biological research as part of a seminar course. The students collected soil samples and tested them for the presence of bacteriophages, which are viruses that infect bacteria. The

research, guided by Professors Margaret Saha, Mark Forsyth, and Kurt Williamson, was sponsored by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and aided by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Technicians at Los Alamos identified one of ten phage samples as “novel,” which means that preliminary tests indicate it is previously unidentified. The phage, named Crim D, is currently undergoing genome mapping by the students, whose seminar lasts through this semester.

President Reveley Announces Mascot Committee

In a message to students and the community, College President Taylor Reveley announced the creation of a Mascot Committee. The Committee is comprised of faculty, alumni, administrators, and two student representatives. The Student Assembly has also created its own Mascot Committee, it is uncertain the level of cooperation the two will achieve. The official school committee is accepting suggestions for a new mascot via www.wm.edu/mascot.

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

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Increase in tuition uncertain as federal stimulus money is distributed

Hart Moore
Staff Writer

The fate of student tuition remains uncertain following the passage of President Obama's \$787 billion stimulus package. Though monetary assistance is expected to flow to colleges, there is no indication of how this will affect tuition or financial aid.

Following Governor Kaine's announcement early last week that state revenues had again fallen short of projections, the expectation of a tuition increase has been feared as a certainty. According to the College's Vice President of Finance Sam Jones, however, the increase is largely contingent on how the federal stimulus package matriculates down to William and Mary.

"We will have a better handle on possible tuition charges for next year once the impact of the federal stimulus package is defined in more detail," said Mr. Jones. He remains hopeful,

The Commonwealth of Virginia, which currently supplies William and Mary with 15 percent of its operating budget, has systematically cut funding since 2002. Budget cuts have ranged from 5 to 15 percent, and total a reduction of \$12 million a year by 2007.

asserting that "[the] package has the potential to provide the state with some funds to offset reduced state revenues."

The Commonwealth of Virginia, which currently supplies William and Mary with 15 percent of its operating budget, has systematically cut funding since 2002. Budget cuts have ranged from 5 to 15 percent, and total a reduction of \$12 million a year by 2007.

The State Legislature has proposed numerous bills, which, on top of budget cuts, would force the College to absorb an enormous loss of revenue

from out-of-state student tuition. Delegates Attey and Albo, as well as others, have proposed bills mandating fewer out-of-state students at the College, the result of which would be a precipitous decline in college funding and an immense rise in the cost of in-state tuition. College President Taylor Revely previously stated that these measures, if ever enacted, would reduce the College to dysfunction, causing the school to be "reduced to

eating nuts and berries." The College remains hopeful that the General Assembly will act generously as the federal stimulus money begins to trickle down. Mr. Jones said, "it is still way too early to tell ... much depends on the final actions of the General Assembly."

This year alone, the William and Mary community has been forced to undergo a budget reduction of \$4.88 million, and the current in-state semester tuition, \$6,090, has seen an increase of \$541 since 2007. Accompanied with room and board, the budget cuts have instigated an increase of 8.7 percent for student bills from just a year ago.

College offers apartments in Washington over spring break

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

William and Mary faculty and students looking to stay in Washington DC over spring break now have the option of staying at the Buchanan residences in the capital. These apartments, located in Arlington, are rented out to students studying in the William and Mary in Washington program during the fall and spring semesters. However, during the week of spring break, other William and Mary students and faculty can stay in these apartments for \$75 a night for a minimum of seven nights, which is a competitive rate with surrounding area hotels.

During the fall and spring semesters, several William and Mary students participate in the William and Mary in Washington program in which they do an internship and take two courses from a professor that accompanies the students to DC. This semester there are several empty rooms that are normally rented to these students. Program director Roxane Hickey says that she has gotten email requests in the past from students but mostly faculty looking to stay in these apartments for a few weeks at a time, normally for research. Because of this interest and the open rooms, Ms. Hickey advertised the option for students to stay at the Buchanan over spring break.

Ms. Hickey says that the demand has actually tapered off, and that few have taken them up on their offer. Those coming are mainly faculty looking to do research, and some have family and want to visit and tour the area. Ms. Hickey says there is still room for interested students and faculty.

While the spring break option has not generated a huge response, the option to stay at the Buchanan over the summer has received a lot of interest. Students and faculty can apply online to rent apartments for the summer. They do not have to be studying in a William and Mary program; they just have to be enrolled at William and Mary. Rates and applications are available on their website. Ms. Hickey also said that if students and faculty need to stay in Washington DC for a short period of time and need housing, there is a chance that they could rent these apartments, as sometimes, like this semester, there are available rooms.

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SA proposes \$2 decrease in student activity fee

Ian Kirkpatrick
Assistant News Editor

In a busy meeting last week, the SA discussed many items of new business. Senator Brittany Fallon ('11) in-

troduced some enchanting legislation; the Dormitory History Act could make students first experiences at the college more memorable. In a tradition taken from Harvard, where current residents

are given a list of previous occupants of their rooms (such as E. E. Cummings, Edgar Allen Poe, Henry Kissinger etc.), students here would get the same privilege. Ms. Fallon ex-

plained that the College is always trying to do a lot for its image, and that this will make students "feel really connected" to the school.

Other legislation introduced by Ms. Fallon would provide umbrellas to tour guides in the event of rain, earning the gratitude of prospective students for dry tours, as well as prevent the abuse of recycling bins. Another bill would provide freshman with a DVD or CD with a message from the president, as well as the alma mater and perhaps the fight song.

Senator Steven Nelson ('10) introduced a bill which would effectively be a vote of no confidence in the Honor Council's leadership, saying that "within half an hour" of the botched election starting on Monday February 23, "I received between thirty and forty complaints about problems with voting... when in a democracy something goes this wrong, the people involved need to resign."

Senator Matt Pinsker ('09) showed his private findings in the 711 Richmond Road and Ruth Griffioen stalking case. The controversy surrounding 711 originated when the students had reason to believe that the evidence used against them had been collected illegally. One of the residents reportedly found her in the house without permission.

Mr. Pinsker found that Ms. Griffioen made at least

one of the noise complaints, which the local police found unsubstantiated. Ms. Griffioen has allegedly berated student renters in the past, one such lecture lasted 45 minutes. Mr. Pinsker concluded that the evidence is too weak to result in a criminal conviction, just that Ms. Griffioen might be a worse neighbor than the supposed troublesome students.

At the Senate meeting it was announced that Delegate Albo's bill to increase the instate student ratio was voted down in the house, but also that it will probably be brought up next year. Vice President Kristin Slawter ('09) stated that the SA intends to do all it can to counter the effort in the near future. Senator Matt Beato ('09) announced that the SA has scheduled more SA info meetings than ever before for the Student Assembly elections. The meetings are mandatory if you wish to run for office.

In the Senate meeting on the February 17, Senator Betty Jeanne Manning ('12) introduced the Printer Reallocation Act she has found several campus printers that printed fewer than fifteen pages in a 3 month period. Senators also discussed the possibility of an on campus bar "where you can chill with professors."

Editor's Note: Steven Nelson currently serves as the News Editor and Matt Pinsker serves as a Staff Writer for The Virginia Informer.



Alec McKinley

It's business time: Senior Class President Kevin Dua ('09) speaks to the SA at a meeting where it was discussed that incoming students should be given a pamphlet with a brief history of their dorm.

Dave Foster woos voters on campus in anticipation of AG race

Eric Ames
Staff Writer

Arlington County School Board member Dave Foster visited the College on February 25 to talk to the College Republicans about the upcoming race for Virginia Attorney General. Mr. Foster is currently seeking the Republican nomination.

Mr. Foster discussed his deep roots in Virginia, going back to his ancestor Patrick Napier, who came to Virginia in the mid-17th century following the defeat of the Scottish army by Oliver Cromwell. Foster attended the University of Virginia, where he met his wife, Martha, who also graduated from UVA in one of the first classes to admit women. He practiced law at the firm of Fulbright and Jaworski for twenty eight years.

Mr. Foster first ran for office in 1994 when he stood for election to the school board in heavily Democratic Arlington County after the state re-instituted elected school boards. "I lost by an enormous margin; they just poured out to vote against the Republican ticket that year," said Foster. He decided to run again in 1999 against the wife of a Democratic state delegate.

"To everybody's shock, including some of my supporters probably, we had eked it out

by seven points per precinct," said Foster, who ran again in 2003 and won with over sixty-two percent of the vote. As chairman of the school board he fought against racial quotas in the Arlington County school system and reduced the size of the board's bonds.



FOSTER

Mr. Foster's two victories mark the only time a Republican has won election in Arlington County since 1983. He emphasized his ability to win in Democratic territory as the main strength of his candidacy. "I know how to appeal to independents and moderate Democrats as well as my Republican base."

Mr. Foster cited his experience working for a large law firm as a primary qualification for serving as Attorney General. "I've got the broadest based background by virtue of being at a large law firm," said Foster. "I've done everything from anti-trust work to labor to educational issues." He described the Virginia Attorney General's Office as essentially being a large law firm.

Mr. Foster's name will be placed in nomination at the Virginia Republican convention in May, where he will run against former U.S. Attorney John Brownlee ('94) and State Senator Ken Cuccinelli. The general election for Attorney General will be held on November 3.

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COME TO A MEETING:

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Girl Talk tells all: an exclusive interview with the master of mash-up

Jon San
Managing Editor

Girl Talk aka Gregg Gillis sat down with *The Virginia Informer* before his performance in the Chesapeake Room on February 27. The sample-based music pioneer and copyright law poster boy discussed numerous topics at length including his past as a biomedical engineer, why he hates Britney Spears' "Circus," and his run in with Big Boi of Outkast." Check out the full-length unedited interview online at www.vainformer.com and learn how many laptops Mr. Gillis breaks per year and his desire to experience a Williamsburg "rager".

The Virginia Informer: You frequently wear a shirt that reads, "I'm not a DJ." What does that mean to you?

Gregg Gillis: Yeah you know I'm not offended by the word DJ, if people want to put me in that category I'm definitely not against it. But the people that influenced me, and the reason I got into this kind of music – people like John Oswald and Kid 606, all people that do sample-based music and a lot of hip-hop producers as well – they aren't DJs. So when I started I used the same kind of programs and software as they did, and back then nobody referred to me as a DJ. I spent six years of that era playing with band and rap groups and it always was taken as live music. No one ever invited me to play in a club or play as a DJ.

The Informer: Among your mash-ups, do you have a couple pairings that are most memorable to yourself? For me it was Biggie's "Juicy" and Elton John's "Tiny Dancer" mix from *Night Ripper*.

Gillis: I think it's almost fan based. But yeah definitely, the Biggie-Elton bit blew up. But on that album I just kind of finished the album and that was that. I didn't really think about it...I mean [laughs] I thought about it a lot. But it wasn't like when I put it out I thought "this is the segment that people are going to love." Because, I put together the album as a whole and I had no idea how people were going to respond. And that moment got a lot of press and at the shows, it got the biggest response. And I was very proud of that moment and I love that segment a lot.

The Informer: On the other hand, are there any pairings that you originally think would sound really great but then when you hear it, it doesn't sound very good?

Gillis: Yeah, I'm trying to think... [pause]. Yeah right before I left, I was working with that Britney Spears song "Circus" and just most things I played

with it I really hated. I went through literally 50 songs and it all sounded like trash. But that happens a whole lot and there are a lot of times when I like something and I play it live and it falls through.

The Informer: I know that you use hundreds and hundreds of samples in your albums but when you listen to the radio, do you instinctively pair songs with one another?

Gillis: It's actually not that intuitive, it's kind of like sometimes I'll be listening to a hip-hop song and think, "Oh that verse, I really like that verse."

The Informer: Will you write it down then?

Gillis: Absolutely. Things jump out at me and I think, "that I could potentially use." So I could be listening to a classic rock radio station and there will be a guitar solo and maybe like an intro drum part that tie together well in my mind. But what I'm going to use it with I have no idea. It's very much trial-and-error.

The Informer: That reminds me of the remix you did of Grizzly Bear's "The Knife." Do you think you will do anything like that in the near future? A more conventional kind of remix?

Gillis: I don't know. I mean, in that case it was Grizzly Bear coming to me and soliciting me. And I get solicited to do a decent amount of remix work, I just don't like doing it necessarily even if I really like the song. I mean, I'm proud of "The Knife" remix and I still play out elements of it live sometimes. But when people ask you to do remixes, it's almost like a job in a certain way. Because a lot of the times, it's the labels coming to you. And when you make something, they are like "Oh well we were expecting something a bit more clubby" or "we were expecting something a bit more traditional." It's like, these people may not know shit about what you're doing, but they're still telling you how to do it. So when I make my tunes, it's strictly for me. When I decide it's cool, it's cool and nobody else is going to tell me anything otherwise.

The Informer: So you orient everything towards the live performance?

Gillis: Yeah, the live show influences the albums and the albums influence the live show. Last year I played about 150 shows and it will be a similar number this year. So I want to keep it fresh and keep moving forward.

The Informer: And you never get tired of the constant touring?

Gillis: Well the way I tour, I'll do a few extended runs throughout the year. And then for the rest of the year, I do shows Thursday, Friday, Saturday. And, you know, how many people work a 150 days out of the year? And even if I had two



Olyria Sawyer

Give me a beat: During the sound check, Girl Talk made sure that the Sadler Center Chesapeake room sounds system could handle his high-volume set.

months off, I'd be sitting around watching absurd amounts of TV.

The Informer: I know you've written some original keyboard parts for some songs like in "Peak Out" but do you ever have any aspirations to make original musical compositions?

Gillis: I mean for me, the ultimate goal is to make original music out of samples. When I do *Feed the Animals*, I want people to treat that as an album. For me, doing sample-based music isn't any more or less creative than using original instrumentation. I think all music is based on influence. Samples are my medium of choice. It's similar to asking a drummer, "Do you plan on picking up the bass at some point?" And maybe bass may be cool but I kind of enjoy what I do now.

The Informer: Traditionally, there's been a great divide between listeners and musicians. But recently Rivers Cuomo of Weezer engaged his fans by having them create a song for him. Your work is similar in that you take samples and piece them together. Do you think that's the future of music – listeners producing their own music?

Gillis: Not necessarily the future, but definitely the present. I think we're losing the physicality of music: people aren't buying CDs as much, people aren't buying vinyls as much. But at the same time, with the whole internet age, you can read on the computer, listen to music, watch movies. What you gain is interactivity, it's very hands-on. For me, I think it's an ongoing dialogue between artists and consumers and the consumers become the artists and the artists become the consumers. Any popular song that comes out will get remixed by tons of people, and you can see that on YouTube. You can see the Chipmunk version where it's sped up and you can hear the reggae remix or the electro-pop cover of it. And anytime there is a celebrity doing something stupid caught on camera, someone is going to make a song out of it.

The Informer: Like the Bill O'Reilly remixes?

Gillis: Yeah, and there's so many people getting famous based on responses to previous stuff. People get famous for doing a remix of a celebrity interview. That's very 2009 to me where everyone is participating – even if you're just listening to music, you're creating in a certain way.

The Informer: Do you think that the computer is the instrument of the 21st century?

Gillis: Again, I think it's the instrument for 2009. I think that the techno-

logical rate of change is exponential. The change that we will see in music from 2000 to 2010 will be like 1000 times. So I think that computers and laptops will seem really old school in a couple years. It'll probably get to the point where we have shit implanted in us and we can play music in our mind or something [laughs].

The Informer: Your pre-Girl Talk job was as a biomedical engineer. Was it difficult switching gears?

Gillis: Not really. For me, it's not been a change really. You know, I was putting out albums when I was studying biomedical engineering and I was doing sample-based stuff when I was in high school. So to me, Girl Talk has never stopped and the job just kind of existed for a bit. And then the job stopped and this project has gone nuts. Looking back from this to the early shows is insane to me, it's completely absurd. And now I feel like I don't even have a job. I can honestly say that I'd absolutely be doing this for fun if I wasn't being paid. And I was for six years.

The Informer: You're on the aptly named label Illegal Art. Have you ever received feedback, good or bad, from artists that you sample?

Gillis: Yeah, nothing negative. I've spoken with a couple people but the only time that someone went out of their way to say something was when I played Atlanta in 2007 at a smaller club, maybe 300 people and the show sold out and it was really hot, sweaty, dirty. And Big Boi from Outkast came out, and rolled into the venue and the place was packed. I guess he was looking for a place to go.

The Informer: And did he just kind of say, "Nice work Gregg" or what?

Gillis: [laughs] Yeah, it wasn't necessarily that...I mean he was just chilling with his friends and he said he had seen me before. But he was cool with it; he was down with the show.

The Informer: So you think you're in safe waters copyright-wise for now?

Gillis: I can't say a hundred percent, it's kind of a grey area. But I believe in what I'm doing and I don't think I'm doing anything wrong. I think it qualifies as fair use under United States copyright law. But every day that goes by after you release an album you can feel more comfortable about the situation and nothing has happened yet.

The Informer: Lastly, what record would you want to be buried with?

Gillis: Oh man, so many. I mean I would love to...but I would have to say *Nevermind* [by Nirvana].



Andrew Schumadel

That's my DJ: His laptop covered in sweat-proof saran wrap, Girl Talk played an uninterrupted hour and a half long set that concluded with Journey's "Faithfully".

Tribe Croquet pitches its way to national success

Bert Mueller
Assistant News Editor

If you happen to walk by the Williamsburg Inn on a Wednesday or Friday afternoon in the coming weeks, you might catch a glimpse of the William and Mary Croquet Team practicing on the well-groomed sports lawn. The team practices there for over an hour, twice per week. According to team president Brett Ballou ('10), "Practices are pretty laid back. We usually work on drills and play matches." The team does not do weightlifting or engage in physically demanding workouts.

Croquet is a sport "geared toward people who enjoy sports that combine the physical aspects with an intellectual focus," said Mr. Ballou. Teammate Mike Nedelcovych ('09) compared the game to billiards. Another teammate felt the game was most closely related to checkers due to the need for planning ahead. The two types of croquet played are golf croquet and 6-Wicket croquet, a version of the game that the team will be competing in for the first time this year. "6-Wicket is a more complicated. That's why I like it", said teammate Peter Hatfield ('07).

Although the team is small and main-

tains a low profile on campus they have been quite successful and brought home a number of trophies for the Tribe. In Philadelphia last year, the team placed first and beat out croquet powerhouses like Navy and Georgetown. W&M students Christopher Monahan ('09) and Mr. Hatfield placed as the second pair in the nation competition and teammate JC Hay ('10) placed third. "This year we hope to do even better," add Mr. Monahan.

When the team is not out practicing on the Williamsburg Inn sports lawn in an all-white dress code referred to as WOWfits, the team likes to get together after practices and hang out. "It's a lot of fun to do Friday practices and then head over to the Williamsburg Potter Wine and Cheese and relax," explained Mr. Nedelcovych. A cohesive factor in linking this team together is the beloved coach, George Barnes. His history is "fascinating," said Mr. Ballou. Coach Barnes played quarterback for legendary footballer Bear Bryant when he attended the University of Maryland. This fact has impressed a number of the sports-savvy teammates: Mr. Hatfield added that "he is a really impressive guy. He is the heart and soul of the team."



Alec McKinley

Wren building excavation reveals the College's past

From trash to treasure: The muddy area on the north side of the Wren building will soon be paved over to cover the unsightly plot of land. However, before the paving commences, archeologists will complete an excavation and hope to uncover a number of colonial relics. During the 17th and 18th century, that area was a trash dump site for the Wren building and therefore may possess a number of hidden treasures.

Campus prayer room continues to search for permanent location

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer

Attempts to put in place a prayer room at the College of William and Mary seem to be put on indefinite hold. The College's administration, the Student Assembly, and the

various student faith groups, especially the Muslim Student Association (MSA), agree that the primary concern remains finding a room on campus that fits the needs of the students. A prayer space has existed on campus in the past, but because of funding issues, and the need for more room, the space has been moved around and currently does not exist.

Last fall, the SA Department of Diversity Initiatives sponsored a campus-wide discussion on the establishment of prayer room. Attended by various members of religious organizations and administrators, this event was held to promote a dialogue on the resources and support needed in securing the room's placement. Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Fanchon Glover, who has a special relationship with the SA Depart-

The College's administration, the Student Assembly, and the various student faith groups, especially the Muslim Student Association (MSA), agree that the primary concern remains finding a room on campus that fits the needs of the students.

able, as more space was needed than originally afforded.

For a short period of time, a room was used in the Jamestown North dorm rooms, but this room also proved incompatible, as it occupied a study lounge for many of the Jamestown residents,

and was not quiet enough. Tajdar says that the current conversation on the prayer room has been fairly limited, "however this is mostly due to lack of space on campus, more than anything." Tajdar feels that there is a great deal of support between the various groups on campus.

"Student Assembly Diversity Initiatives will be re-creating an interfaith council that existed a few years ago, this semester, to further address the needs of the interfaith community, and the prayer/meditation space will definitely be on the agenda. As of now, our hopes are that a space will open up in the former business school when the move has been completed," said Tajdar.

Fanchon Glover remains optimistic on the room's establishment as well, saying "we are definitely still working on finding a space...It is our hope that we will be able to make some forward progress this semester, but there have been no definitive decisions at this point. I remain optimistic."

As of now, our hopes are that a space will open up in the former business school when the move has been completed



Alec McKinley

Keeping the faith: An on-campus prayer room was located in Old Dominion before safety concerns caused it to become unusable. Various faith groups are looking to find another room for use in the near future.

WANTED: Students who want to make an IMPACT on campus

-Writing -Editing -Photography -Web design -Podcasting -Advertising

Meetings on Mondays, 7:30pm in Blair 223

Undeterred by limited funds, green initiatives expand on College campus

Brittany Lane

Assistant Features Editor

In spite of the recent launch of the new Committee on Sustainability, students, faculty and staff at the College have already proven their dedication to making sustainability an overarching goal on campus.

In his convocation speech last fall, President Reveley discussed sustainability as a major focus for the new academic year. With the approval of the Board, he appointed this committee of one hundred members, including faculty, staff, and nearly thirty students. The committee splits into three sub-committees and then ten working groups, which also contain a mix of students, faculty and staff. Facilities management contributes significantly to the staff, as they physically imple-

ment much of the proposed initiatives.

Phil Zapfel ('09), one of two undergraduate representatives on the Committee, praised the strides made thus far and the significant degree of cooperation between the students and administration. As students showed that they were determined in their efforts to improve sustainability, they were taken more seriously. Vice President of Finance Samuel Jones advised the students by helping them define what they could realistically accomplish.

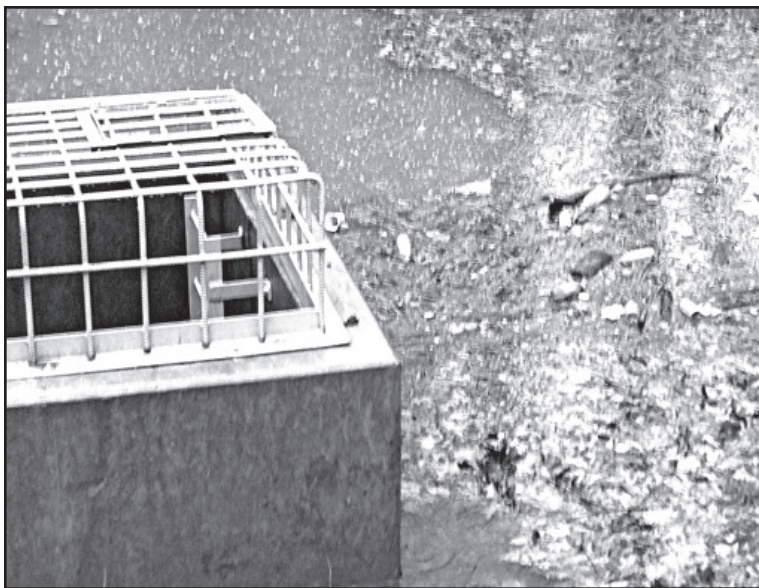
With the new "green fees" included in student tuition, approximately \$200,000 is annually allocated for green initiatives on campus. A little over half of that is spent on projects. A small portion is set aside for student research grants, as most of the proposals stem from student ideas, and the rest is put into a green endowment that is invested in environmentally concerned companies. The latter is a development tool, as the Committee hopes that in the future, companies such as these or alumni will match the money students give to increase the balance for the initiatives. Any money not spent rolls over to the next year.

Last spring, the College offered a one-credit seminar entitled "Campus Sustainability," in which students worked together to propose sustainable projects. Several students, including Mr. Zapfel, compiled these proposals into a Campus Sustainability Roadmap. Mr. Zapfel notes the huge influx of student support since then, stating that the process has been "very student-centric, which is nice to see."

Projects sent to the Committee are directed to the best-fit working group,

which evaluates it and determines if it is worth undertaking. They then send it to the steering committee, which includes all sub-committee chairs and students who cast their votes. Some projects that have passed in the first round of policy proposals and voting include installing energy meters in the Randolph complex, a solar cell project in the physics department, and a storm water management project in the Biology department. Mr. Zapfel personally works extensively on figuring out ways to make students realize the impact of what they are doing in their dorms and other areas on campus, including actions as basic as flipping a light switch on and off. He says that the next round of selecting and implementing policy proposals will occur soon.

In the midst of strong support and collaboration, Mr. Zapfel declares that the only concern of the Committee is money, as they cannot afford to implement everything they want to right away. However, financial limits do not seem to quell student resolution. "I never would have imagined, two years ago, that we would be at the place we are now," Mr. Zapfel stated proudly, "We have made great strides, and it has been a great coming together of all interested parties."



Alec McKinley

Got drainage?: New drainage systems are one of the methods that will be used to make William and Mary a more sustainable campus.

Keys to the classic game of beer pong

Hart Moore

Staff Writer

There is perhaps no more varied of a drinking game than beer pong. On campus, it runs the gamut from a full contact sport to a leisurely gentlemen's game. Throughout our great nation, it denotes both a drinking game with ping-pong paddles, as well as the more common game we at William and Mary are fond of (also known as 'Beirut'). In the latter of these two games, many subtle nuances contribute to victory, though none can guarantee it.

1. Pregame Preparation.

Like any other sport, beer pong necessitates a pre-match warm-up that will place your body and mind in the right place. Unlike other sports, this requires drinking beer. A proper pre-match buzz will add fluidity to your shot and remove any jerk from your throw. I recommend anywhere from one beer to four, depending on your tolerance. Listening to loud southern rock is also encouraged.

2. The Shot.

The mechanics of a great shot are as important to a pong player as they are to the basketball player. Like a free throw shot, restrict your arm movement to your forearm and wrist, as a simple stroke will lend itself better to muscle memory. Secondly, never aim for a group of cups, but for a single cup in the middle of the group. By aiming small, you drastically improve your chances of hitting a cup. Lastly, be sure to place 'arc' on your shot. The higher the ball is, the more its trajectory lies perpendicular to the circular plane of the cup, thus increasing your chances of hitting the cup. Any idiot can hit the rim of the cup, and without arc, this will happen often. Don't hit the ceiling though, or ridicule will follow.

3. The Re-Rack

In a traditional ten-cup match, one re-rack is allotted per team, and how the team utilizes this regulation is often a result of the score. A six-cup triangle should only be implemented when the opposition has three cups remaining, and is surely a desperate measure.

The next appropriate juncture to re-rack is when four cups remain. This rack, often termed the 'diamond' for its shape, should be avoided at all costs. While the first two cups are readily hittable, the chances of having a quality two-cup formation are fleeting.

Your first chance to make a dignified re-rack is when three cups remain, and you have two choices. The power eye (three cups lined vertically in a row) is notorious for its illegitimacy in the re-rack world. Only utilize this if you are the clear underdog, as it is considerably easier to hit cups from. Otherwise, be prepared to face your shame. The triangle is by far the most common rack. For many learned champions, this is their bread and butter.

If you feel like humiliating your struggling competition, re-rack when only two cups remain, using the 'eye' formation (two cups vertically lined). And if you find your competition particularly attractive, don't rack at all, forcing them to run naked around the circumference of your building.

4. Etiquette.

Though not contributing to your success, beer pong etiquette will go a long way in making you cooler. Firstly, always congratulate your opponent on a well-played game, unless you made them run around naked. In this scenario, laugh at them. Further, always place your ball in the water cup after the opposition's shot. This way you can come up with a novel pre-shot ritual for getting excess water off your ball. This will intimidate your opponent. And lastly, if you've been running the table for the past four hours, it's not because you're sweet, it's because you have nothing better to do. Exit the table immediately and enjoy a William and Mary party.

With these few concepts in mind, you will undoubtedly improve, both on the table and on the social ladder.

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

Margaritas Caballeros



Jeff Dailey

Jeff Dailey

Staff Writer

Ingredients

- 1 can Frozen Limeade
- 1 can Frozen Lemonade
- 1 750mL bottle of Tequila
- 1 small bottle of Triple Sec
- 2 T Honey
- 1 T cinnamon
- 1 orange

Directions

Prepare sweet and sour mix by emptying the lemon and limeades into a medium pot and put on the stove. Add 2 cans of water and heat until simmering. Add the honey, cinnamon, and 3 shots of triple sec. Stir until dissolved. Chill until cool.

In large serving vessel, nearly empty the bottle of tequila (-2 shots) and add the chilled mix, to taste.

Prepare glasses by glossing the rim with a freshly sliced orange and dust with cinnamon. Pour Margaritas into glasses and float a small amount of tequila on top. Enjoy.

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

The College's Congressional alum

Interviews with Michele Bachman

William and Mary boasts a long tradition of graduating many of this nation's future government leaders. In today's 111th Congress, there are four W&M alumni serving in the House of Representatives. Two are Democrats, two are Republicans; two are men, two are women. These Congressional alums are some of the most prominent members serving in our nation's legislative branch. In this issue *The Virginia Informer*, we bring you exclusive interviews with three of these representatives: Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Alan Mollohan (D-WV), and Dina Titus (D-NV). Our next issue will feature our fourth and final interview with House Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA).

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN)

Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

The Virginia Informer: You attended William and Mary for only one year with the LLM program, but how would you describe your time here?

Congresswoman Bachmann: That year at William and Mary had a tremendous impact on my life, both on a professional and personal level. My husband and I and our two children lived in Virginia Beach so I commuted on a regular basis. Part of an everyday activity for me was to walk the streets of Williamsburg. I would take an hour and walk through historic Colonial Williamsburg and just drink it in. It was my exercise time, it was my thinking time, and that's how I was really able to pull it all together, because as a wife and mother I had a big commute and the program was extremely challenging.

I probably felt the most proud of that accomplishment at that point in my life - being able to successfully graduate from the LLM program. It was very challenging. I was thrilled with the background I received while at William and Mary.

I walked the streets every day and memorized the houses, memorized the lawns, watched the seasons pass. My husband and I just returned for the Grand Illumination Christmas lighting



BACHMANN

last year. Just to be able to be there and stand there again was great. We took our children when they were little, and those little babies are now in medical school, so it's been a long time.

I think that being steeped in what so many of the nation's founders have benefitted from at William and Mary also benefitted me. I would not compare myself in a league with our nation's founders, but I would say that I am part of the continuing chain of holding on to freedom. It is now my charge as an elected representative of the people to maintain that freedom those founders grounded. I do that with the oath that I pledge to our Constitution, but also just with my actions while I am in Congress. I am so grateful that I was able to receive an education in the cradle of liberty, which was the intellectual basis for the colony and for the underpinnings of the nation. To think that George Wythe being a professor of law at William and Mary made me feel fortunate to be one of the recipients

Rep. Michele Bachmann

Degree: LL.M.
Class: 1988
Party: Republican
District: 6th District of Minnesota
Cities: Minneapolis suburbs, St. Cloud

of the legacy that he laid down.

The Informer: You were born and raised in Minnesota and now represent the Sixth Congressional District in that state. How did you come to attend William and Mary's Marshall Wythe School of Law?

Bachmann: It was fortuitous, because we were living in Virginia Beach. My husband was going to graduate school at Regent University and he said to me, 'You know, they have this wonderful tax program up and William and Mary,' and that 'This is your opportunity to do this. The school has a great reputation and has one of the oldest, most-respected tax programs in the nations, and I really think you should do it.' I needed his encouragement to do it, because I had a seven-month-old as well as a five-year-old and he was full-time himself in graduate school. He was also working full-time. We could not have been busier in life, and I didn't know if I would be

able to be full-time in the LLM program. With me in graduate school full-time, him in graduate school full-time, his working and raising our children, and us being absolutely dead broke made for the most challenging year of our lives as far as time management went, but it was well worth it. I am glad that I listened to my husband, because it was a great decision to go to William and Mary.

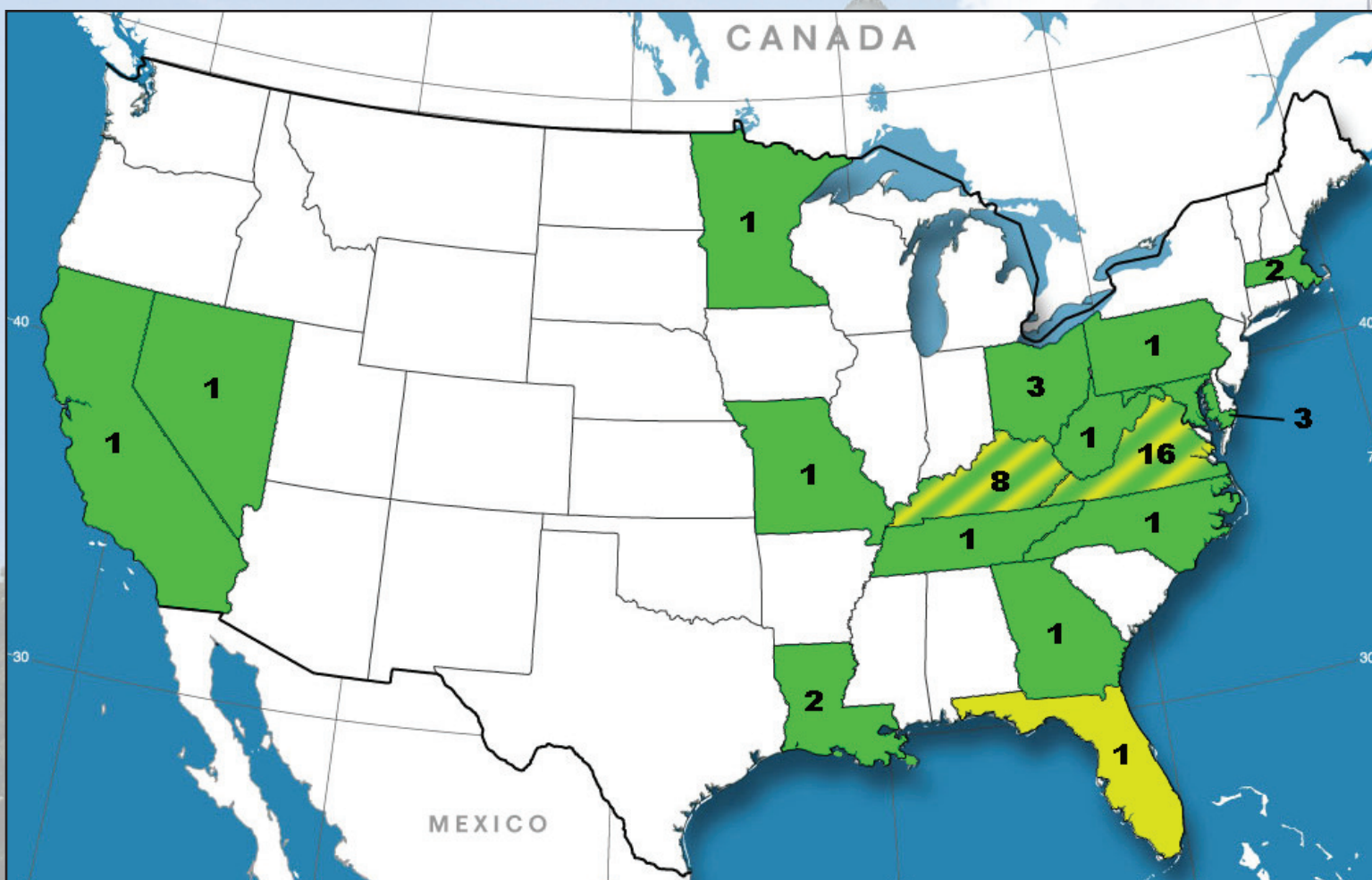
The Informer: Congressman Eric Cantor (R-VA, JD '88) was a student in the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the same time you were, graduating with a J.D. in 1988 the same year you did with a LL.M. Did you know him while attending William and Mary?

Bachmann: For the most part, JD students were mixed in with LL.M students in our classes. I did not know Eric at the time, but we have talked about William and Mary together, and we both have just very positive, warm feelings toward William and Mary.

The Informer: Would you be interested in coming back to visit The College, and has anyone from the school ever contacted you about doing so?

Bachmann: I would love to. I have not been contacted but I would consider it a high honor.

Geographic distribution of The College's Congressional alums



KEY

U.S. House of Representatives alums: Green

U.S. Senate alums: Gold

Congressional Alumni Breakdown

U.S. House of Representatives: 41

U.S. Senate: 4

Speakers of the House: 3

Graduating from The College in 1807, John Tyler served in the U.S. House and Senate before serving as the 10th President of the United States.

ms discuss their time as students n, Alan Mollohan, and Dina Titus Congressman Alan Mollohan (D-WV)

Steven Nelson
News Editor

The Virginia Informer: Where did you grow up, and how did you decide to attend William and Mary?

Congressman Mollohan: I attended Greenbrier Military School in Lewisburg, West Virginia, so from junior high through high school I lived in southeast West Virginia. I was first introduced to William and Mary when our family was visiting Williamsburg. My mother was doing some genealogy work in the area, and I just liked the school.

The Informer: What activities were you involved in while at William and Mary? Were you active in student politics?

Mollohan: I was in a Pika fraternity brother and in the Queen's Guard. I was not active in student politics.

The Informer: Do you have a favorite memory from your time in Williamsburg?

Mollohan: I really liked Williamsburg and William and Mary. I liked



MOLLOHAN

the town, the school, and the classes. My friends and I used to go down to the Outer Banks on occasion as well.

The Informer: Did you have a favorite Deli?

Mollohan: I would have to call someone to find out what it was... I can't remember; there is one there off the corner of DoG Street.

The Informer: How did you get from William and Mary to being a representative in Congress?

Mollohan: Well, after William and Mary, I went to law school, practiced law for 15-16 years, and then decided to run for Congress.

The Informer: Have you been able to return to William and Mary often?

Mollohan: I was there a few weekends ago. We have been back every year for the Democratic Caucus re-

Rep. Alan Mollohan

Degree: B.A. in Government
Class: 1966
Party: Democratic
District: 1st District of West Virginia
Cities: Parkersburg, Morgantown

college, who also went to high school with me, we're good friends. He lives in the Washington area. I used to keep in contact with Defense Secretary Bob Gates ('65), though it has been a while since I've seen him; definitely not since he returned to government. I think I last talked with him while he was in service 15 years ago. I also keep in touch with, Republican Congressman Steve Chabot ('75), a great guy who was defeated in Ohio.

Note: Congressman Steve Chabot represented Ohio's first district from 1995-Jan. 2009

The Informer: If Senator Byrd (D-WV) or Rockefeller (D-WV) leaves the Senate, are you considering running for either of those seats?

Mollohan: No, I'm not considering it. I've been in the House several years and am the chairman of one of the best budget subcommittees. I have seniority, and running for the Senate is something that I've never aspired to. I would be giving up seniority, giving up a lot of position to run for the Senate.

treat. We usually have a bite to eat and spend some time walking around campus. I have not, though, been back for Homecoming for a long time.

The Informer: Did you have one professor at college who particularly influenced you later in life?

Mollohan: I was a government major, but the class I found particularly interesting was Dr. Nathan Altshuler's anthropology class. I wish I had taken more courses with him a little before it was too late. He was a great guy.

The Informer: Have you kept in touch with friends from college? Are you close with any other alumni in government?

Mollohan: My roommate from

Congresswoman Dina Titus (D-NV)

Laura Visochek
Staff Writer

The Virginia Informer: How did your William and Mary education prepare you for a lifetime of service?

Congresswoman Titus: Well, [my William and Mary education] fostered my interest in the field of politics and after I went on to graduate school and to teach politics, it seemed so natural that I would get into it. But also, just the inspirational side of being in the cradle of American democracy, it's hard to not be inspired. Even now, when I walk outside and see the Capital Building in any light of day, that kind of tugs at my heart. I think that feeling goes back to those days when I was a student at William and Mary.

The Informer: Did you have a favorite professor at the College?

Titus: George Grayson was a professor of mine who I really liked in the political science department and I understand he went on to politics himself in the state legislature for a while. I think he's still there in Williamsburg.

The Informer: What were some of your favorite classes?

Titus: I enjoyed many American government classes; I don't know that one was a favorite. But they seemed appropriate to take



TITUS

in the seat of American democracy and amongst the historic buildings, where so much happened in the past. I guess that is what inspired me.

The Informer: Were you involved in a lot of clubs while you were at the College?

Titus: That was a period of time in history when there wasn't a lot of club joining and I wasn't a member of a sorority. There was certainly a lot of political activity, but it was mostly trips to Washington and things like that.

The Informer: I understand that you were really involved in dance. Did you do that here?

Titus: I didn't. I should have. I was dancing all my life and I guess once I got off to college I kind of hung up my tap shoes.

I'm part of a group of congressmen that formed a caucus and we refer to ourselves as "Green-dog Democrats."

The Informer: What kinds of things can current William and Mary students who want to become involved in politics do to serve our country today?

Titus: I think there's a big role for volunteerism. There are so many things you can do as a volunteer today, whether it's cleaning up a highway, reading to a class, or joining an organization that promotes green energy. The second

Rep. Dina Titus

Degree: B.A. in Government
Class: 1970
Party: Democratic
District: 3rd District of Nevada
Cities: Las Vegas suburbs, Henderson

And that'll be a priority. And my second priority, because I am an educator, is working on education: making college accessible and affordable as well as investing in higher education, research and development. So those would be my two priorities.

The Informer: Do women's rights fall within your priorities?

Titus: Well, I was endorsed by Emily's List, Planned Parenthood, and the Women's Lobby, National Women's Caucus. I ran a very pro-choice campaign in addition to being a member of the women's caucus. I will always be out front on those issues.

The Informer: I know that one of your main interests is atomic energy. Will that fall under renewable energy or will that be another focus?

thing that I strongly encourage is internships. You can obtain an internship through a political office, working on a campaign, in Washington, or even your state capital. I think those are a great way to make an entrance or learn the ropes that give you a leg up to getting into politics yourself.

The Informer: In addition to the stimulus package, are there any other kinds of legislation that you're really focused on passing in your time in Congress?

Titus: Well yes, as a matter of fact. I have worked a lot in Nevada on renewable energy because we're the sunniest state in the country. I will be real involved in that issue here, and I'm part

I think [internships] are a great way to make an entrance or learn the ropes that give you a leg up to getting into politics yourself.

of a group of congressmen that formed a caucus and we refer to ourselves as "Green-dog Democrats." Because, you know, you have the "Yellow-dog Democrats," "Blue-dogs;" we're the "Green."

is where they're proposing to store the country's nuclear waste. And so that fits right under there, under the whole notion of energy independence, new technology, renewable energy.

Titus: With all this talk about nuclear energy now, I will be very much involved in that. We certainly don't want Yucca Mountain in Nevada, which

PROFESSOR UNABLE TO TEACH: Adjunct econ professor's students see decision as "madness", submit signed petition to Econ Dept, Reveley

continued from page one

the petition effort. "The amount of material that Sean was able to not only cover but make understandable is simply amazing," says Mr. Powers, "his expectations were high, but he taught with artful simplicity and made himself completely available to answer questions after every class, even holding four hour review sessions on Friday nights."

Professor Tarter not only is an extremely engaging and talented professor, who shares mutual respect and admiration for his students, he is also suffering from a severe neurological disorder. His medical condition has caused him to go through great pains to teach. According to Mr. Tarter, it is worth it, "I am consistently blessed with the best students imaginable, both as academics and as people," says Mr. Tarter, who describes a guiding mission in life to impart the knowledge he has acquired to students, no matter the personal cost.

Dean of Arts and Sciences Carl Strikwerda was contacted to determine the ef-

fects of budget cuts on the employment of adjunct professors. According to Mr. Strikwerda, "no one was let go or had a contract canceled because of the budget. We were very careful only to hire the adjuncts we truly needed this semester to meet student enrollment needs, but the number of adjuncts this spring is not significantly different from past semesters."

Mr. Strikwerda also said that "generally, we do not have adjuncts teaching for free." He notes that there are a few exceptions and believes that there have been instances where "due to special circumstances, we have allowed someone to teach and they have refused payment or we have allowed them to teach for free," but that, "I can't recall any instances of this right now."

Mr. Tarter notes that even if the course had been established this semester, his doctors would have strongly opposed his plans to teach. His medical condition is currently quite severe, but Mr. Tarter plans to work as hard as possible to be well enough to return next semester. Although the student-initiated effort to create a class this semester failed, Mr. Tarter says, "I

have only experienced gracious support and encouragement from the school and have absolutely no complaints."

Professor Sean Tarter hopes to return to teaching in the Fall 2009 semester.

Many of the students contacted for this story will have graduated by that time, losing the opportunity to continue studying under a professor they consider to be a true asset to William and Mary.

FRATS FORCED OUT: Pika and Phi Tau leaving frat row, others' future uncertain, some will split units

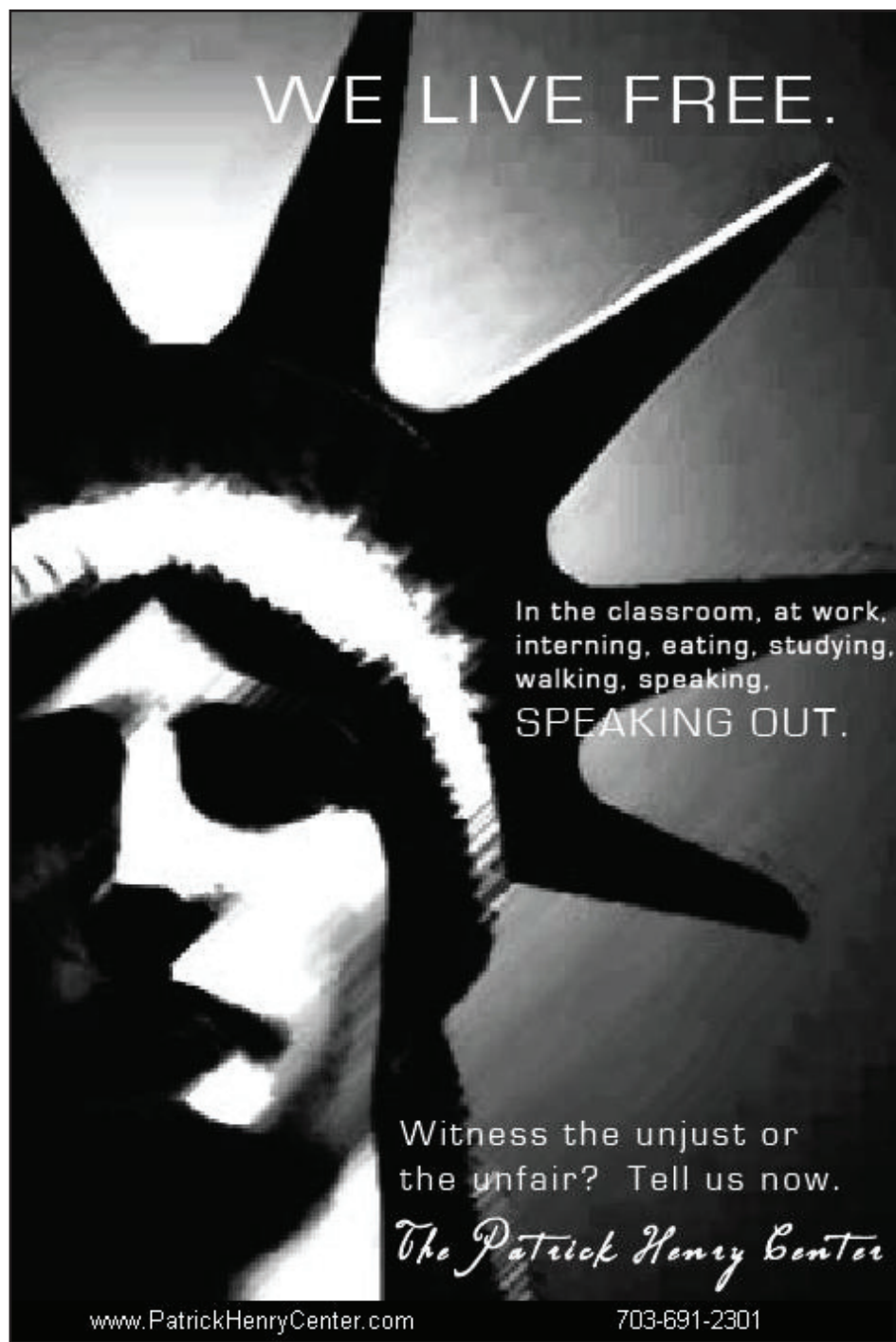
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noted Mr. Brown, "however it will no longer be considered special interest housing." Pi Kappa Alpha's decision, according to Mr. Brown, was motivated by impending charges of several thousand dollars resulting from room vacancies.

Mr. Brown hopes that there will be a compromise regarding the new Residence Life policy regarding buy-outs. "As the new policy currently stands, I don't see fraternities being able to operate at an acceptable level if they're

to be forced into making unnecessarily difficult decisions about housing from year to year," said Mr. Brown.

The CFA has created a Housing Task Force to look into a method for better addressing fraternity housing issues. It remains to be seen how many fraternities will be located in the units next year following the submission of rosters. According to Mr. Cooper, this year was marked by the highest number of students joining fraternities in at least the past five years, heightening the importance of resolving the fraternity housing dilemma.



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Girl Talk dazzles sold-out crowd with an incomparable, sweaty performance

Julia Riesenberg
Staff Writer

William and Mary students turned out in the hundreds for the highly anticipated Girl Talk concert held in the Sadler Center Tidewater room this past Saturday. Enormously popular among college students, Girl Talk (birth name Gregg Gillis) is a musician who specializes in mashup remixes, in which he uses a dozen samples from various songs to create a new song.

"He's supposed to be the ultimate concert experience," said Christian Johnson ('12), a University of Virginia student who visited for the event. "And it definitely was."

The event was coordinated by Alma Mater Productions (AMP), the group formerly known as UCAB.

As concertgoers trickled in during the hours leading up to Girl Talk's appearance, recorded music played in the Tidewater room to pump up the crowd. By the time the musician came onstage at around 11:00 PM, the energy and excitement in the room was palpable. Scores of students stormed the stage, and the luckiest remained there for the rest of the concert, though most were unable to make it past Girl Talk's wall of security guards. One pint-sized student lamented that when she'd finally succeeded to make it onstage after several attempts, she was immediately met by a security guard who picked her up and placed her firmly

back on the ground.

The area closest to the musician was essentially a mosh-pit. Students who wished to avoid the thicker crowd stayed closer to the walls; individuals dancing solo could also be seen in the room's corners.

Most students chose to dress flamboyantly, as is customary at Girl Talk concerts. A female concertgoer explained that she spent two hours in Richmond's American Apparel store earlier that day piecing together her trendster outfit. She felt that her silver waist-high spandex was her most valuable purchase.

The artist and his crew, famous for partying with students after concerts at college campuses, proved true to their reputation, and could be found hanging out with students at the Delis and various off campus houses well into the early hours of the morning.

Greg Gillis began experimenting with creating new songs from the remnants of old ones while studying biomedical engineering at Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University, where he focused on tissue engineering. He worked for some time after school as an engineer, but in April 2007 decided to focus solely on making music.

The artist has been met by critics who claim his form of music is essentially plagiarism, though Mr. Gillis cites the fair use clause of U.S. copyright law, which allows limited use of copyrighted material without permission from the rights holders,



Andrew Schmadel

Set it off: 900 students danced, jumped and sang along to the calculated beats of Girl Talk who wove together songs as varied as AC/DC's "Thunderstruck," Biggie's "Juicy," and Sinéad O'Connor's "Nothing Compares 2 U".

as the legal explanation for his sampling practices.

Most of the songs he played Saturday night were from his most recent album, *Feed The Animals*, which was released in 2008. Towards the end of the concert, however, he played some of his newer tracks.

"It was like an adrenaline rush," one

student said on the way out. "Wow I'm so dehydrated."

"This is pretty much the coolest thing to happen to William and Mary in a really long time," said Natty Montoya ('11). "It attracted such a diverse bunch of students—everyone was just partying together. This sort of thing should happen all the time."

Heartless Bastards release a competent throwback album "The Mountain"

Jack Evans
Music Critic

The fantastically named Heartless Bastards play the kind of FM radio classic rock that pretty much everyone in America likes at least a little bit. They've got a blissed-out stomp that recalls Neil Young and Crazy Horse's minor classic *Zuma*, and lyrically, they stick to universal truisms and everyday concerns. But, to call their third album, *The Mountain*, glorified sonic wallpaper would be unfair.

For one thing, singer Erika Wennerstrom's vocals are striking. Her delivery is eccentric enough to be freak-folk but gritty enough to front a bar band. Even on the spaced out, slow motion title track her voice remains planted smack in the middle of the track reverberant. On "Could Be So Happy" her voice has a wistful lilt and a faux-antiqueness that is somewhat charming. "Early in the Morning" is more my thing. It's a barnburner of a track, where Wennerstrom howls for two and a half minutes about not wanting to "change her mind."

The second half of the album is a bit more varied. "Had to Go" sort of sounds like the soundtrack for HBO's *Deadwood*. It's just okay. "Sway," which is practically a soul song, is much better. Wennerstrom moans, mutters and cracks (all the things I wish singers would do more often) and the rhythm section has a nice swing in its step.

The Heartless Bastards are on some tiny indie label called Fat Possum,



Courtesy Photo

probably tour constantly, and, in my opinion, deserve to be a lot more commercially successful. Then again, modern FM rock and roll is basically dead anyway. Even though there are probably a lot of people in America who want to hear bands like the Heartless Bastards, for some reason the record companies think we would rather be listening to Hoobastank or Nickelback. I don't get it anymore than you do.

While I don't see much chance of the Heartless Bastards cracking the Billboard charts, I do feel like they have the potential to make a great album. *The Mountain* just isn't it. But it's decent enough, which is okay with me. After all, back in the day, the major labels were more than willing to let a band release three or four albums and fully develop their sound, but these days, only labels with names like Fat Possum can afford to do things like that.

Nooks and Crannies: Hidden Matoaka Art Studio offers breathtaking views

Bryan Callaway
Staff Writer

Nestled into the hillside overlooking Lake Matoaka, is a building as inconspicuous as it is strangely beautiful. It is the Lake Matoaka Art Studio. In fact, with exception to students in the Art department and frequenters of the Matoaka running trails, the studio is unheard of to most. However, as a strangely beautiful and oft-overlooked building sited on the most beautiful place on campus, the Matoaka Art Studio is only too-deserving of a closer look.

It is the architecture of the studio that is its unquestionable defining feature, and is incidentally the result of the building's subtlety. Designed in 1991 by Paul Finch & Associates as a replacement to an earlier, more modest studio, the current Matoaka Art Studio is situated some 50 feet over the sloping hillside, giving it one of the most striking views of the lake. Still more astonishing is the building's situation among a quasi-natural opening in the hillside. To achieve this, the building is designed with two sharp 45-degree rear corners, giving it the shape of a trapezoid. Indeed, a trapezoidal-shaped building on a campus dominated by Williamsburg architecture is certainly "unusual" to say the least; however, the sightline it af-

fords the studios inside is one-of-a kind.

Despite the interior's less-than stellar aesthetics, it is home to a number of faculty offices and studios for faculty and students alike. With over 20 foot glass walls, the studios, however, are a sight to see. One of the best parts of these studios according to Art and Art History Chair Brian Kreydatus are the terraces off of them, which take full advantage of the studio's fantastic sightline of the lake. Most interestingly, are the two studios which flank either end of the studio, serve as the instructional studios for courses in Color, Life, and Advanced Life Drawing. However, this studio is not the only overlooked one on campus; a sister studio specializing in ceramics is housed at the Old Power Plant behind the Admissions office, and is of equal intrigue.

While trying to find the Lake Matoaka Art Studio is something of a task in itself, especially with its incredibly unimposing entrance, it is a hidden gem at the College. Although there is much to be said for the traditional Tidewater and Williamsburg architecture that can be seen around campus day-to-day (new campus being an exception), the art studio at Matoaka offers a necessary relief, and a breath of fresh air. After all, art begins with inspiration.

The Finer Side: The (lost) art of the fan



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

It's a tool of useful communication. It's small, fits in your hand, and can communicate exactly what you're thinking without you even having to speak. I'm not talking about a BlackBerry, but rather the art of the fan.

Fans are a dying tool of communication in today's high tech world. They were, however, once a very popular accessory, one that women considered to be of great importance to their success in society. Fans are usually associated with Southern society, especially in high society. Movies like *Gone with the Wind* dramatized the role of fans, and those of us at William and Mary are well acquainted with seeing them in the shops down Duke of Gloucester street.

While fans are primarily a thing of the past, it is still appropriate to use one at special occasions. Outdoor spring or summer events, mother's day brunches, garden parties, graduations, or any sort of classy outdoor events are appropriate occasions for a young lady to embrace the timeless art of a fan. A wide selection of fans exist to choose from: there is the traditional wood-cut fan, the modern painted fan, and the classic material fan. All are appropriate; the choice is really which one you prefer, or which matches your outfit.

So in addition to the ever-useful function that a fan fulfills as a cooling device, it also has a language all its own. One handles a fan very deliberately, for it can be a tool of useful communication. Here are some of the many sayings and meanings a fan can convey:

Fanning yourself close to the face: "I'm feeling flirtatious"

Fanning yourself slowly: "Don't waste your time, I'm not interested"

Resting the fan on your lips: "I don't trust you"

Fanning yourself with your left hand: "Don't flirt with that woman"

Running your fingers over the rib of the fan: "I want to talk to you"

Pulling the fan over your left shoulder: "I never want to speak to you again; go away"

Turning your head to the left, and holding the fan over your eyes: "I'm feeling terribly shy today"

Carrying the fan closed and hanging from your left hand: "I'm engaged"

Carrying the fan closed and hanging from your right hand: "I want to be engaged"

Quickly and impetuously opening and closing the fan: "I'm jealous"

Dropping the fan: "I belong to you" or "I'm interested in you"

Mainly the art and language of the fan is a dead art. It's fun and amusing to know, but no longer a part of society. You can still use a fan as a fun and pretty accessory, and it will bring a sense of refinement and class to any event you may go to!

Twilight's characters, plot leave much to be desired

Rachel Smith
Arts and Culture Editor

Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series is probably the most popular "tween" series since Harry Potter, but it is definitely not as good. Riding upon a wave of popularity driven by word of mouth, television interviews, Facebook and a recent film adaptation of the first book, the *Twilight* series has tainted the bookshelves of homes and bookstores across America and the world. I am ashamed to say that at one time, I too contributed to the spread of this fad. I first came in contact with *Twilight* when my sister read it over the summer. Although I hate vampire stories and teen novels, I apprehensively started the series in hopes of relaxing my brain a bit before school started in September.

Twilight is about a teenage girl named Bella Swan who moves to Forks, Washington, one of the rainiest cities in the United States, to live with her father, Charlie. When Bella arrives she must adjust to living with Charlie, whom she barely knows, meet new friends, and adapt to the weather—(it never rained much in Phoenix, her hometown). The monotony of life in Forks comes to an end when Bella encounters Edward Cullen. Bella's world turns upside down when Edward, who has always ostracized himself from his peers, suddenly takes interest in her. Naturally, Meyer devises three problems with this arrangement. First, Edward is a vampire. Second, Edward is barely able to ignore an unusually strong craving for Bella's blood. Third, Bella is "unconditionally and irrevocably love with him." What follows is a twist and turn of events that Bella never imagined could occur in the secluded town of Forks.

The *Twilight* series is only decent the first time through. Because the characters and the plot are new, the reader can overlook Meyer's pathetic writing skills and poor character development, and become engrossed in a tale full of tension and lust. Even so, conversation between characters is flat and void of emotion. Another annoyance that cannot be ignored is Meyer's inability to use a thesaurus. She uses cold, hard, stone and marble a hundred times over to describe Edward's uniquely vampiric body. At times I was so irked by her lack of creativity that I slammed my book on my chair in frustration. When I read novels my mind creates a mental picture to coincide with the plot. While

Twilight

Author: Stephenie Meyer
Pages: 544
Publisher: Brown Young Readers
ISBN: 0316015849
List Price: \$10.99

reading this novel, my thoughts were fuzzy and gap-filled, due to Meyer's lack of description. The quality of Meyer's characters also leaves much to be desired. Bella is the classic damsel in distress: she has poor self-esteem and is very shy, very plain and a magnet for disaster. Edward, the stereotypical gorgeous hero, just happens to fall for a girl who is below him in both social status and appearance. After reading *Twilight* I couldn't help but reflect on the good-ole-days when I read childhood classics such as *Walk Two Moons*, *The Giver*, and *Number the Stars*. These are not only well-written works, but novels that share messages that have stood the test of time and are enjoyed by both youth and adults. In comparison to these, *Twilight* just does not make the grade.



The Jefferson is a destination for southern fare

Matt Pinsker
Food Critic

The Jefferson, a small restaurant on Richmond Road, is open only for dinner. It has an old-fashioned carriage in the front and an elegant interior,

complete with candlelit tables. I was politely greeted by the owner and taken to my table. My server was dressed in Southern Colonial garb, just like the re-enactors in Colonial Williamsburg. The menu consisted of Southern favorites, like fried chicken and

ham (\$16.95), as well as an extensive variety of Italian and seafood entrées. The entrées came with soup or salad and a choice of two sides. Choices included potatoes, rice pilaf, green beans, and applesauce.

I ordered the fried chicken and peanut soup. Peanut soup is uncommon, but it had a very pleasant flavor and creamy texture. While enjoying my soup, I chatted with the owner and he told me about The Jefferson; it has been in his family for four generations, since his grandparents opened it in 1956. I did not have to wait long for my order of fried chicken to be served. It was an enormous portion, piping hot, an entire half bird (leg, wing, thigh, and breast). The chicken was tasty and moist, and although fried, it was not the least bit greasy. I can declare

that The Jefferson served me the best fried chicken I have ever had in my life.

Although it was an elegant environment, to my delight the server and owner encouraged eating the entree with my hands like a proper Southerner. The side of applesauce was unusually chunky and had a wonderful flavor. My other side dish was a baked potato, which was very well-cooked. For dessert I had Southern Pecan Pie (\$4.95) for the first time in my life. It was tasty, warm, and had a consistent texture throughout.

The Jefferson has good food, excellent service, and a great environment. Although the prices are higher than what many students are willing to pay, they are very reasonable (\$15-22) considering the quality of the food, the warm environment, and the enormous portion sizes. The portions were of such size that for the first time since becoming a food critic, I was unable to finish everything on my plate and had enough to take home for a second meal. My time at The Jefferson was a great experience, and I highly recommend it to anyone looking for good food and service in an elegant environment.



Alec McKinley

Jeffersonian cuisine: The Jefferson offers quality southern foods such as fried chicken and pecan pie at a competitive price. The service, often times courtesy of the Jefferson's owner, is exceptional as well.

Slumdog Millionaire emboldens heart, makes for wonderful movie

Patrick Macaluso
Movie Critic

Dev Patel, who many know as Anwar Kharral from the television series *Skins*, is one of 2008's most popular actors. Although I do not care for his character in *Skins*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, this year's Best Picture winner, has changed my opinion of Patel himself. *Slumdog Millionaire* makes for a truly wonderful movie experience.

Slumdog Millionaire focuses on Jamal Malik, a 17-year-old Muslim who is just one question away from winning the Hindi version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. The police suspect him of cheating because he is from the slums of Mumbai, which is reason enough for the authorities to doubt his ability to answer the difficult questions correctly. The police are wrong; Malik is not cheating. He didn't learn the answers through education, but through various life experiences, which are shown via flashbacks throughout the movie. These life events feature different quintessential themes: the harsh life of a poor boy from the Third World, oppression, abuse, and, most of all, romance. The strongest theme that this film embodied is the power of the human heart to triumph over material wealth.

Slumdog shows that the humblest of hearts are the ones that appreciate the most important aspects of life. The key to enjoying this film is empathizing with Jamal Malik. He has something to teach everyone. Malik shows us how to find enjoyment in a life without material goods such as cars, houses and money. Our loved ones, not our possessions, should enrich our lives.

As for Dev Patel, I am very impressed with his acting in this film. The quality of his performance has allowed me to replace his shabby *Skins* character with his wonderful portrayal of Malik. Patel was recently nominated for Best Lead Actor by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and for Best Supporting Actor by the Screen Actors Guild. I am glad he has received well-deserved recognition for his brilliant performance. Although the Academy did not nominate him, I hope to see more good work from him in the future.

After viewing *Slumdog Millionaire*, I left the theatre satisfied. This film was one of many good movies of the year. 2008 was an incredible year for the film industry. And, although I cannot quite give it the top grade that the Academy did, it was a great film and I recommend it. *Slumdog* deserves well-rounded B+.

Sergeant Cheerleader succeeds, despite flaws

Nick Fitzgerald
Editor in Chief of VIO

On Wednesday, February 25, the student film *Sergeant Cheerleader* was screened for members of the press and other invited guests in the SC Commonwealth. William & Mary President Taylor Reveley, who has a cameo in the film, was also present.

The movie, directed by Thomas Baumgardner ('09), is feature-length, clocking in at just under one hour and forty minutes. Its pseudo-biographical script was originally written by Matt Pinsker ('09), who himself was both in ROTC and on the cheerleading squad at various times during his college career. The script in its current form, heavily edited by Mr. Baumgardner, chronicles the story of a macho ROTC cadet who takes an interest in cheerleading through a comedy-of-errors storyline, and who ultimately finds love in the cheerleading captain. Mr. Baumgardner describes this as the classic "fish out of water" story. As expected, the movie features the key themes of self-discovery and breaking down of stereotypes, complete with the goofy male friends, flirty female friends, and the best friend whom the male lead must again win over.

The film features leads Chris Manitius ('09) as Will and Francesca Chilcote ('11) as Mary, the ROTC cadet and cheerleading captain, respectively. The actors are clearly amateurs, but do not fail to impress given their limited training. Mr. Manitius fares decently as he navigates his character through the storyline, but it is Russel Smith ('10) who ultimately owns his character. Mr. Smith very naturally portrays Lance—the judgmental, closeminded, homophobic best friend who has a humorous pen-

chant for inflicting physical pain on others—whose approval Will must ultimately obtain, but, having done so, allows for Lance to grow simultaneously into a better, more tolerant individual. Ms. Chilcote handles her role with relative deft, but appears less comfortable in her cheerleading outfit than Mr. Manitius does in his. Andy Henderson ('10), who plays the undeniably creepy and comically frightening dorm neighbor Quentin, also provides a nice balance to the ensemble cast by acting as the darkly humorous anchor between major scenes. The screenplay itself is relatively predictable and less than realistic—however, for a student film, *Sergeant Cheerleader* can certainly stand on its own. The laborious process of shooting, video editing, soundtrack composition, and sound maintenance—not to mention the equally difficult process of providing artistic direction—fell squarely on the shoulders of Mr. Baumgardner and Assistant Director Annie Lewis ('09). It should be noted that the directing duo invested themselves heavily into the creation of this film, and, if nothing else, their efforts deserve to be commended regardless of how *Sergeant Cheerleader* is accepted critically. While the acting is not stellar and the writing is not particularly realistic, this film represents, more broadly, the hard work and honest effort of students who devoted their energies into the creation of a very decent final product. Additionally, the cheerleading competition scene filmed towards the end of the movie—in which both Mr. Reveley and Williamsburg Mayor Jeanne Zeidler make their very amusing cameos—is certainly one of the best overall. Generally, *Sergeant Cheerleader* will amuse and prove to be an excellent effort from Baumgardner, Lewis, and company.



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March 2-5, 8 screening room

Ashes of Time Redux (R)

Fri., March 6—Wed., March 11
Shows at 4:30 and 6:45 p.m.
March 6-7, 10 screening room

March Schedule

Live Performances

The College of William and Mary School of
Education presents James A. Banks: Human
Rights, Diversity, and Citizenship Education in
Global Times

Thurs., March 5 at 7 p.m.

The lecture is free but tickets are required

Conversations with a Founding Father: Thom-
as Jefferson, Patrick Henry, or George Wash-
ington

Mon.-Sat. at 11:30 AM

Colonial Williamsburg admission ticket or Good
Neighbor Pass required.

Dean Shostak's Crystal Concert

Wed. Mar. 18 and Sat. Mar. 21

Shows begin at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
\$7 each - Students \$5

Three Jolly Coachmen in Concert

Fri., March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

All seats \$15



Referendum Failure Underscores Need for Honor Council Reform

Political campaigns are awful things. People are insulted, money is spent that might be better spent elsewhere, passions are inflamed, and at least one party to the campaign sees its deeply-held beliefs rejected and cast in the fire. These facts then demand a satisfactory answer as to why free peoples subject themselves to this perennial self-flagellation. The Honor Council as currently established is a perfect demonstration.



Mike Watson
Assistant Opinion Editor

It seems most noble to have our honorable councilors elected solely on the grounds of their sterling reputations, un-besmirched by the vulgarity of standing for positions on such childish things as issues. Heaven forbid that prospective councilors answer foolish questions, be they from mere newspapermen or our representative Assembly, on such matters as Honor Code reform or their view of the delicate balance between justice and mercy. But are these really foolish questions on childish issues? No, they are critical matters, opinions about which a truly representative democratic process would elicit from candidates.

As the system now stands, prospective Honor Council candidates are asked a truly childish question on the meaning of honor, and from this and only this hundreds of voters must decide the worthy twenty-four. Is it thus surprising that even amidst the most controversial action ever taken by students on this campus, most of the membership of the body responsible were re-elected? Is it thus surprising that the Honor

Council, after the failure of the first referendum in November, did nothing to address the concerns? Even the opaque bureaucracy at Brussels, in response to the Republic of Ireland's defeat of a referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon, which would "reorganize" the European Union, had the decency to address the voters' concerns before resubmitting the referendum to the Irish people. That Thomas Jefferson's alma mater could establish a body less responsive than the European Union and dare call it democratically constituted is appalling.

So we are left with the imperfection of campaigning. By this, and only this, can the Honor Council be made more responsive to the needs of the student body. It is easy for the Council to blame students for not attending meetings, often at odd hours that yield petty conflicts in student schedules such as classes, club meetings, or jobs. They should not. Instead, they should acknowledge that the only way the Council will become more responsive to student needs is by allowing those people who have the time, passion, or duty to demand answers to do so before the council is seated. They must allow candidates to take stands on the crucial questions of reform. If the council does not, the necessary work of Honor Code clarification will continue to fail, as the students see their rights held at the discretion of elected officials they could not vet. The solution to the "problem" of democracy, at least in this case, is to provide for free elections in the future.

[The Honor Council] must allow candidates to take stands on the crucial questions of reform.

Staff Editorial:

Growing student advocacy crucial going forward

This semester has not been short of high-profile events both on and off campus. These events, while significantly different, have one thing in common: all demonstrate a growing sense of student advocacy at the College. Through an unnecessary housing lawsuit, a landmark altering revision in Residence Life policy, and an unacceptable Honor Code referendum, students have shown a strong capacity to assert their voice and rights, for which they deserve great commendation.

To the issue of the student residents living in 711 Richmond Road, the entire campus body has provided concern and support. From the student residents themselves to student volunteers with Student Legal Services, we have been heartened to see students fight back against overzealous attempts by the City to enforce Williamsburg's brothel law, the three-person rule. Although the College community does enjoy deriding some of the more silly actions by the Student Assembly, on this issue we also applaud SA members for monitoring the situation and trying to move constructively forward.

Undoubtly, work still needs to be done on this issue, and we hope that students pay attention and contribute to the dialogue taking place to arrive at a working solution on this rule. One way would be for students to attend the public comment portion of the City's newly-formed Focus Group on Rental Properties Near the College. Meetings are being held weekly on Thursday's at 7pm in the Stryker Building until the end of April. Comment can also be submitted online through the group's website and are read at each week's meeting. We encourage students to not only

stay aware of the 711 Richmond Road situation, but to involve themselves in the process of reversing the three-person rule as it stands. Comments can be sent to the Focus Group at focusgroup@williamsburgva.gov.

Another issue where students have constructively asserted their voice is on the Residence Life policy change which ends special interest houses option to "buy-out" unused rooms at half the rental rate. This policy change has the risk of effectively kicking several fraternities off campus, altering the College's landmark of frat row. Members of the community have vocally stood up in opposition and the general student body are questioning the need for such drastic changes.

Lastly, and the issue for which we are the most proud, students resoundingly defeated an Honor Council ballot referendum which would have taken away many of their rights. Students paid attention, organized and effectively got the word out to their peers as to why the referendum was an attack on their right to vote on future referendums and to an equitable hearing. On February 25, the Honor Council referendum was defeated by largest number of students ever to vote on one side of a position, a clear sign of students' desire to preserve their rights and step away from apathy.

As we head into spring break, we are encouraged to see this productive activity by students thus far into the semester. We ask students to keep it up. If students continue to engage themselves in the campus and the City, the rest of the semester should promise even more deserved changes and accountability.

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

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A University of Cowards

Several weeks ago, the College held an annual Black History Contest Challenge in the Sadler Center under the sponsorship of the Black Faculty and Staff Forum. The account of the event on the College's website exclaims that "William & Mary students, faculty and staff members battled it out last week to see which team would claim victory..."

Though much can be said to the contrary, there is a damaging aspect to these types of events on campus. The Black History Trivia Contest is in its tenth year at the College and

joins a number of events held each year to allegedly make the campus more diverse and tolerant. Though some top United States Justice Department officials might believe that our country is "essentially a nation of cowards" with respect to

discussion of race issues, these events and the other proposed "solutions" by many university administrators promise to result in more misguided attempts at constructing a false sense of tolerance and diversity.

What is cowardly is engaging in more of the same discussion and

activities which at their core do not enhance tolerance or fight racial insensitivity. Prescriptions for arriving at the vague outcome of "diversity" assumes that the opposite would result without a plethora of administrative structures and organizations aimed at creating a "welcoming" atmosphere at the school. Such structures do not actually help the College attain a true sense of welcoming or diversity. Rather, more often than not, these programs attempt to replace genuine interaction which would take place in the real world.

At the College, we have the Office of Multicultural

Affairs, which employs administrators "to aid in the development of a more pluralistic and inviting environment for all" and create "awareness" and "appreciation." Programs run through this office include a multicultural lecture series, a multicultural leadership retreat, and a S.P.A.N. Peer Mentorship program designed to "encourage students of color to form closer relationships." That the College has a

thriving diversity bureaucracy is not in question.

However, the existence of this bureaucracy is actually insulting to most students, who know how to appreciate

diverse interactions with their peers by the time they get to college. We might feel better about ourselves for having the Multicultural Affairs Office, but that does not necessarily translate into a bettering of student race relations.

Furthermore, if we were really brave on discussions of race, we could envision the tables being turned. The administrators and the students at the February 19 trivia event would not have accepted the premise of an event featuring questions exclusively on white history, nor should they.

It is easy to say that we need to do more to improve diversity, and that is why we hear it so often. Such an assertion either reveals an assumption of ignorance on behalf of students or the hope to continue a failed discussion. While members of the administration are paid to promote a falsely-premised agenda, money continues to be devoted to establishing programs and "dialogues" under the assumption that students need help -- even separation -- to exist on the campus space together.

Beyond the issue of fairness, diversity bureaucrats consume precious resources and money monitoring students' interactions, assuming American universities to be too intolerant for minority students to navigate by

themselves. More than that, higher education condones, and even promotes, special behavior that would and should be decied as absurd to

even think about in other context, as in the example of a white trivia contest.

The existence of special diversity programs speaks to a frightening assessment of who we think we are. There seems to be an assumption from the powers that be in higher education that the system and all of the people involved in it, especially the students, are inherently or at least latently racist. Judgments, if they are to be made at all, should be done on an individual basis. Students should not look to one another as belonging to a certain group; rather, we should look to one another on an individual basis and base our interactions on the inherent dignity derived from that criteria alone.

Independent thought is far more courageous than having someone else tell you how to feel. Those who would act in a racially insensitive or intolerant manner should not expect to be tolerated on campus or in the real world. Accepting these demeaning diversity programs as the key to solving the problem is what would truly be cowardly.



Kristin Coyner
Opinion Editor

Those who would act in a racially insensitive or intolerant manner should not expect to be tolerated on campus or in the real world.

Sacred Ground?

The importance of a sacred space on the William and Mary campus for religious use cannot be understated. This issue was brought to the forefront by former President Gene Nichol in his decision to remove the cross from the Wren chapel, "in order to help Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and other religious minorities feel more meaningfully included as members of our broad community."

This effort clearly did not solve the problems we face and the Student Assembly Department of Diversity Initiatives was remarkably silent during the entire debate. However, last semester the SA Department of Diversity Initiatives hosted an interfaith forum regarding the creation of an interfaith prayer room on campus. I was in attendance and felt it was a positive venue for discussion and a great opportunity to share how different faith traditions felt about a campus prayer room.

The disappointing reality was that it appeared while everyone agreed that a prayer room would be an asset to the College, few had a realistic vision of that would entail. Several

questions were addressed including: What is the use of the prayer room? During what hours should it be available? Who has access to it? Who should maintain and direct it? All of these are important questions but none of which were fully answered. Most importantly, finding a location for the prayer room is a near impossibility. I applaud the initiative to begin this interfaith dialogue but urge that it must continue. As of the weeks we have been back on campus this semester, no such

effort as been made.

I find that securing a place where people feel comfortable to both privately and communally

worship is a task the College should be engaged in. The concerns I have are over the practicality of such a space and the leadership involved in bringing it into existence. I would be amiss to not acknowledge the Wren Chapel as being both

the traditional and current monument to worship and prayer on campus. This room once was open 24 hours a day for private meditation and communal worship. Sadly, this privilege was abused and upon the discovery of empty beer cans and used condoms several years ago. It was decided that the building should be locked after 5pm.

I worry that a new space would suffer a similar misuse. Jewish and Christian groups have used the Wren Chapel for decades and the invitation has always been extended to all faiths. However, it must also be acknowledged that given obvious historic use and

architectural design as a Christian chapel, non-Christian groups may feel uncomfortable worshipping there.

The other day, I was doing laundry in the Tazewell basement. This requires me to walk past a social lounge in the building. It so happened that on this Friday evening there was a Muslim

group using the space for their weekly service. Later that night I again walked through and encountered a party and step dancers gathered in the same space earlier used for prayer and worship. This juxtaposition makes apparent the need for sacred space. What we as the college community must ask ourselves is what we really want in such a space and whether an interfaith room is feasible, not only in finding a physical location but in handling inevitable conflict. I do not think such a task is impossible but will require the hard work of strong leadership and much more dialogue than at present. I believe that, in this journey to create an interfaith prayer room, we have an opportunity to grow and be enriched, to come to a better understanding of our own faiths, lack of faith, and the faith of others at the College.



Chris Ours
Staff Writer

I believe that, in this journey to create an interfaith prayer room, we have an opportunity to grow and be enriched...

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Humor Column: SA Bill Quiz Game!

Jon San and Alex Mayer
Managing Editor and Executive Editor

With more than \$200,000 in their consolidated reserve, the Student Assembly has a small fortune to fund their various projects. But while many of these efforts are questionable in their intent, some are just plain laughable. *The Virginia Informer* has compiled a list of five actual proposed SA bills and combined these with five fictional, but plausible, SA bills of our own.

It is your task, dear reader, to distinguish fact from fiction. The first three correct entries will receive a five dollar (\$5.00) Wawa gift card. It goes without saying that SA members are ineligible. Cut out and deliver entries to CSU 7056 – include name and CSU.

| SA BILL | TRUE | FALSE |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Enviro-Breakfast Act – \$400 to provide a Welcome Breakfast to the attendees of the Youth Energy Summit. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The Greener Grass Act – Allocates \$1000 for the purchase of fertilizer for the improvement of the Sunken Garden's grass. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The Dormitory History Act – Establishes a new program which will research interesting facts and history about each dormitory in a small packet for each resident, allocating up to \$450 for the printing of said packets. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The Prevent Wet Tours Act – Allocates \$X for funding of # umbrellas, which will bear the Student Assembly logo: "Brought to You by Your Student Assembly." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The Better Chairs Act – Whereas spinal injuries are prevalent among students, the SA allocates \$2315 towards the purchasing of ergonomic chairs for Swem Library to provide an enhanced and more comfortable learning environment. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The Tribe Mascot Committee on Diversity and Tolerance Act – The SA moves to form a committee that would discuss a fitting mascot for the College devoid of any latent racism. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The Campus Wetlands Reclamation Act – Whereas the sweet smell of indigenous Virginian wildflowers is always preferable to the sulfurous stench of a grimy mud pit, the SA allocates \$651 to SEAC for the purchase of paludal Virginian wildflowers. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The Ping Pong Provision for Purposeful Playing – \$300 to purchase a ping pong ball vending machine to be placed by the pinball machines in UC basement and \$150 for the purchasing of 576 ping pong balls. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. The Sweet Smelling Urinal Cake Act – Whereas, the smell of urinals is unpleasant and off-putting, the SA allocates \$200 for the purchase of Krystal-brand urinal deodorizer blocks. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. The Sadler Center Terrace Space Heater Act – Realizing that the SC terrace is not used during the winter season, the SA allocates \$3000 for the purchase of heavy-duty, commercial-sized space heaters to provide warmth for students desiring to meet on the terrace. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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liquid
56 Green one
58 "Hold it!"
59 Meat entrée
62 Not a pro

