

Volume 4  
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Established 2005

# THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

An independent publication at the College of William and Mary.

2008 Collegiate Network Paper of the Year

www.VAInformer.com



Alec McKinley

**Student Assembly face-off:** The two presidential tickets explain their positions on numerous issues at Sunday night's debate in Lodge One.

## FINAL COUNTDOWN

### Large student turnout expected in tomorrow's SA presidential race

Survey Questions	Rojas/Ruzic	Carreño/Douglass
<b>Student Issues</b>		
Do you agree with Residence Life's decision to end the fraternity buyout policy in the units?	No	No
How many students should be allowed to live in a five bedroom home in Williamsburg?	5	6
Is the current honor council election process fair and efficient?	No	No
Were you in favor of the most recent honor council referendum?	No	No
Has the College Police been too harsh on students in recent years?	Yes	Yes
<b>Administration:</b>		
Has the College been effective in fundraising in recent years?	No	No
Do you approve of the performance thus far of President Reveley?	Yes	Yes
Should alumni play a greater role in the College's affairs?	No	Yes
Would you prefer the College raise tuition over cutting expenses?	No	Yes
Do you believe the College should consider privatization if state cuts continue?	No	Yes
Do you believe the College should increase, decrease, or leave unchanged the current in-state/out-of-state student ratio?	Increase out of state	Unchanged
<b>Student Fees:</b>		
Should the student activities fee be increased or decreased from current levels?	Decreased	Remain the same
Is the athletic fee too high, low, or appropriate at current levels?	Too high	Too high
Should the law school's student fees be separated from the entire university?	No	Yes
Do you support student funding for the Sex Worker's Art Show?	Yes	Yes
<b>Student Assembly:</b>		
Do you believe the Senate improves or hinders the SA's overall performance?	Improves	Hinders
Does the Student Assembly take its role too seriously?	No	Yes
Is the current Student Assembly effective?	No	No

## Harvard University course studies Wren Cross controversy

Eric Ames  
Assistant Opinion Editor

The Wren Cross controversy that gripped the campus starting in the fall of 2006 is now a case study in a Harvard course. Students at the Harvard Divinity School were offered the course "Religion in Multicultural America: Case Studies in Religious Pluralism." The course is taught by Professor Diana L. Eck, a distinguished scholar of comparative religion and Indian studies.

In the second week of the course students examine the Wren Cross controversy as a case study. In a description of the week's work, students are asked to consider whether President Nichol's decision to remove the cross was the right one. Also, students are encouraged to think about any legal or theological issues presented by the case and background information such as "what do we need to know about the College of William and Mary? Is it special or different from other colleges?"

The conclusion of the case study was structured for students to determine whether or not the Committee on Religion in a Public University made the correct recommendations to the College. Among these recommendations was to have the Wren Cross displayed permanently in a glass case instead of on the altar.

## Violence leads to cancellation of Mexico service trips

Rachel Smith  
Features Editor

Violence in Mexico has led to the cancellation of Project Mexico Spring Break and Project Mexico May, two William and Mary service trips committed to building homes in Reynosa. In 2008 the trips were aware of danger along

the border; however, violence was isolated and the teams were able to travel to the area. Continued violence led the 2009 team leaders to continue to monitor events across the border as they planned this year's trips.

**CANCELLED TRIPS**  
continued on page five



Courtesy of Dave Johnson

**An alternative spring break:** Violence in Mexico put these volunteers in a hole they couldn't dig themselves out of.

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VIMS Professor contributes to Google Earth's deadzones  
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# First Coast Guard auxiliary chapter in the nation founded at the College

**Brendan Linard**  
Contributor

When freshman Nick Zarembo arrived on campus last fall, he was looking to join a program that would allow him to serve people while gaining valuable experience for the future. He also wanted the chance to work with people his own age. One program seemed to put all these things together and provided great leadership opportunities without being too large of a commitment. Nick joined the College's detachment of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the volunteer branch of the Coast Guard. It performs all the same services as the Coast Guard, such as search and rescue, marine safety, and environmental protection, except for military action or law enforcement.

The program, which is the first of its type in the U.S., was started in the spring of 2008 by Andrew Welch, '07. It began as the idea of having Coast Guard Auxiliarists in Williamsburg, and for a variety of reasons, the program took root. As a recent graduate, Welch returned to his alma mater, where there was interest among the student body; for example, senior Emily Johnson, whose mother is a Coast Guard Auxiliarist, will be the first graduate from the program.

The most important reason for choosing William and Mary as the site of the first program was, as Welch says, its "stellar reputation and historical legacy of public service." The Coast Guard Auxiliary first and foremost

serves the country. Welch said, "The Coast Guard's core missions are in saving lives and property and keeping the public safe; the first-ever university program for the nation's maritime humanitarian service and William and Mary were a very natural fit."

The program performs a multitude of services to the community. It first provides the involved students with experience for the world beyond college, whether with the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, or any other field. The Detachment also gives students the opportunity to do a lot of operational work, where students can do missions out on the water. Welch also mentioned opportunities for students to work in marine safety and environmental protection, public policy, organizational development, and foreign service. Coast Guard Auxiliary interpreters were on the first boat to reach Georgia with aid during the recent crisis there.

The program

has grown since its inception, and now numbers between eight and ten members. Welch hopes for the program to eventually reach fifteen to twenty members. One major draw for students is that membership requires no binding commitment to service in the Coast Guard. Students are able to balance participation in the detachment with schoolwork and other activities. "The Auxiliary is a volunteer organization, so

you just do as much as you can, and if you're too busy one day, it's not a big deal," said Zarembo.

"Getting involved is as simple as getting in touch," Welch said. The website for the organization is <http://wm.5srdivision6.us>, and it also has a Facebook page. The e-mail address is [wmcg@flotilla67.us](mailto:wmcg@flotilla67.us), and Nick Zarembo, who is in charge of recruiting, can be reached at [njzarembo@wm.com](mailto:njzarembo@wm.com).



Photo Courtesy the David Kraemer

**I'm on a boat:** The Coast Guard Auxiliary, one of the first to be started in the nation's colleges, is seeking volunteers for nautical rescues and maritime activities.

## Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, News Editor

### Tribe basketball falls in tournaments

The Tribe Men's and Women's basketball teams competed in the CAA tournaments in early March. The men were eliminated in the first round by James Madison University 70-48. The women beat Hofstra 63-62 to advance to the quarterfinal round in which they were defeated by Virginia Commonwealth 72-52. The men ended the season 10-20 and the women finished 14-17.

### WM alum in Peace Corps killed

Kate Puzey ('06), a Peace Corps volunteer in Benin, was killed outside her residence in Badjoude village.

Puzey had been teaching English to the villagers before her death. Authorities have only confirmed that they have suspects under investigation and that there was no evidence of robbery or sexual assault.

Neither the Peace Corps nor the State Department have commented on the cause of death. The College has issued a statement expressing condolences to Puzey's family and friends.

### Admissions Office asks for videos

The Office of Undergraduate Admission has offered a prize of a \$150 gift card to the Green Leaf for the best student-produced admissions commercial in what the office is calling the brand new "More than Bricks" challenge.

In addition to the prize, the winning student will see the commercial used during events for admitted students in April and the commercial featured on the Col-

lege's internet homepage. Submissions must be 30 to 60 seconds in length and submitted in DVD format to the undergraduate admissions office by March 30.

### Alumnus Brian Crapol loses fight with cancer

College Alumni Brian Crapol ('00) died of cancer on March 13, 2009 in Alexandria, VA.

He was the son of Williamsburg mayor, Jeanne Zeidler, and Edward Crapol, Professor Emeritus at the college and author of the President Tyler biography, "John Tyler, the Accidental President." Brian Crapol studied economics as a student at the college and was an avid soccer player and member of the Men's Tribe Soccer Team.

According to the Virginia Gazette, he had been pursuing a career as a lawyer. A scholarship fund has been set up in remembrance of this Williamsburg native.

## THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

Established 2005

Founders

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

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# Senior Class gift expected to fall short of initial goal

Michael Young  
Contributor

With six weeks remaining in the Senior Class Gift's pledge drive only 32 percent of the class has participated. According to Kevin Dua ('09) there tend to be waves of pledges for senior class gift campaigns, with the final push generating many contributions. At this time a total of \$110,000 has been pledged.

Fund raising is tracking behind last year. Then around 33 percent of the Class of 2008 had pledged by February. The total participation for the class was near 60 percent. Generally the senior class will have about 70 percent participation, but both last year and this year the senior classes fell short of this level.

According to Mr. Dua, who serves as senior class President, the economy

has come into play as a factor for students determining to give to the senior class gift. With the threat of not being able to find a job many students are making every attempt to save money. Mr. Dua says that other potential factors contributing to low participation include the recent shift in Greek Housing buyouts, which has left many members of the Greek community upset with administration policy.

Greeks are generally the

## Class of 2009's Senior Class Gift

Initial goal: 80% participation  
Current level: 32% participation

most generous and participatory in the class gift, so this could be having a major impact on what is seen as a low number. Gene Nichol's controversial resignation was believed to be a major issue with lower participation in the class of 2008 gift. Mr. Dua also theorizes that many current seniors feel the same way about giving to an institution whose policy they disagree with.

Mr. Dua is still optimistic about a strong final push being able to redeem what many see

as being a blot on the legacy of the class of '09. The committee's initial goal was to get nearly 80 percent participation from their class, but Mr. Dua says that 60 percent would be "satisfactory" as

of right now, even though this was the lower number in their range at the beginning of the year. He is optimistic about getting higher amounts per pledge, which have also been lower than usual.

The issue of low participation has found its way into the class of 2010's Student Assembly presidential contest, with candidates promising to improve senior class gift participation.

Seniors, or even undergrads, who want to donate, are directed to go to [seniorclassgift.net](http://seniorclassgift.net), and pledge any amount, as low as \$5, toward the class gift.

**Mr. Dua theorizes that many current seniors feel [negatively] about giving to an institution whose policy they disagree with.**

## Referendum upcoming on bringing newspapers to campus

### SA hopes to bring in local and national papers through Collegiate Readership Program

Stefanie Felitto  
Staff Writer

A referendum asking for student support of a six-dollar increase in Student Activity Fees to make local and national newspapers available on campus will appear on the Student Assembly ballot this Thursday, March 26.

The Student Assembly voted on February 3 to run a trial program distributing *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and the *Daily Press* as part of the USA Today Collegiate Readership Program. This is a national organization that provides over 500 colleges, including the University of Mary Washington, Georgetown University, American University, George Washington University, and the University of Richmond, with newspapers at nearly half their newsstand prices.

Since February 23, they have been distributing these newspapers for free at the Sadler Center, the Campus Center, the Commons, the Law School Library, and Swem as part of a trial program to gauge student readership; the trial will end March 30.

If the referendum passes by a margin greater than 60%, senators Michael Douglass '11, and Ryan

Eickel '10, plan on proposing a second bill that will make the Collegiate Readership Program a more permanent fixture at W&M.

"The Senate will have no excuse not to pass it," said Douglass. The bill would call for an increase in the Student Activities Fee of about \$30,000, which would provide for the weekday distribution of *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and the *Daily Press* at the five locations they are currently being distributed.

Douglass notes the main opposition

to the bill, if any, will come from senators' hesitation to front funds for the program (since the newspapers will be distributed immediately and the Student Activities Fee will not be collected for several months).

Heidi Zimmerman of USA Today said the fee increase is very reasonable for students: "This is one of the few programs that can reach 100% of the student body and costs roughly the same price as a Starbucks drink and biscotti. If each student picks up the newspaper six times over the course of the year, they will have already saved themselves money."

The student response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive. After the first week of the trial distribution, Collegiate Readership surveys indicated that over 750 copies of *The New York Times* were picked up and over 670 copies of *USA Today* were taken. The *Daily Press*, however, was and has continued to be less popular. Thanks to the flexibility of the program, Eickel and Douglass have been able to control the percentage of each newspaper's distribution. They have lowered the number of *Daily Press* and increased the number of *The New York Times*,

especially in the Sadler Center, where the majority of demand occurs. Often the Sadler Center has run out of *The New York Times* due to such high demand in that location.

Some students expressed skepticism over the program as all of the newspapers provided are available for free online. Jay Schneider ('11) said, "It seems like kind of a waste. For people who really want to read [these papers] they're online. I only do the crossword." Another student, Michael Isani ('11), added "They're just taking more and more money from us and spending on things that are free already while they continue to raise our tuition. It just doesn't make sense." SWEM library also maintains subscriptions to these papers for students who enjoy reading from newsprint.

Eickel said students initially expressed wishes that *The Washington Post* be available as part of the program. Although they were asked to participate before the program began, *The Washington Post* declined delivery to W&M. *The New York Times* was selected instead. "Student response to the New York Times has been excellent—it has been flying off the shelves," says Eickel.

According to Douglass, the benefits of this program are invaluable to student life. "It is important for students to be informed beyond the college bubble," he said. Zimmerman added, "By providing a selection of newspapers that are conveniently located and free at the point of pick-up, the Student Assembly is responding to the need of your student body to stay informed of news events locally, nationally, and internationally."



Alec McKinley

**Newspaper excess:** The SA has pushed through numerous bills that have allotted a great deal of money towards purchasing newspaper subscriptions.

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# Thief raids IT department, steals laptops

**Bert Mueller**  
Managing Editor

Trouble is afoot in the William and Mary IT department. William and Mary Police are investigating a former employee who is suspected of stealing college-owned laptops and then attempting to sell them on Craigslist.

After four laptops were noticed missing during an inventory check, the IT department realized something was wrong and the Director of Systems and Support contacted the police. According to the police warrant, nine laptops were stolen altogether including one that belonged to a college employee.

After stealing the computers, the employee allegedly posted the computers and college software on Craigslist. He listed the ads in the Richmond and Norfolk areas.

Craigslist also happened to be one of the first places the police looked for the missing computers. What tipped off the police to the

laptop listings was the fact that the employee advertised the computers with software only sold in bulk to large institutions such as the college. The laptops had the Enterprise Edition of Microsoft Word 2007 on them which is one such program that is purchased by organizations with large numbers of computers.

Police tracked the Craigslist postings to a Gmail account owned by the employee after ordering Craigslist to turn over contact information. The employee had already allegedly sold one computer and police retrieved a computer from a buyer in the Richmond area. The computer's serial number matched one of those missing from the IT department.

Numerous student employees working within the IT department were contacted for this story and none were aware of the theft.

According to the warrant, the employee was a relatively new hire. According to the *Virginia Gazette*, college spokesman Brian Whitson "declined to comment further pending an arrest." The employee has yet to be charged but is no longer working for the college.



**Stolen laptops hit the web:** A number of laptops that were property of the College were stolen from IT and posted for sale on Craigslist.

Alec McKinley

# Rojas/Ruzic ticket rescued minutes before deadline

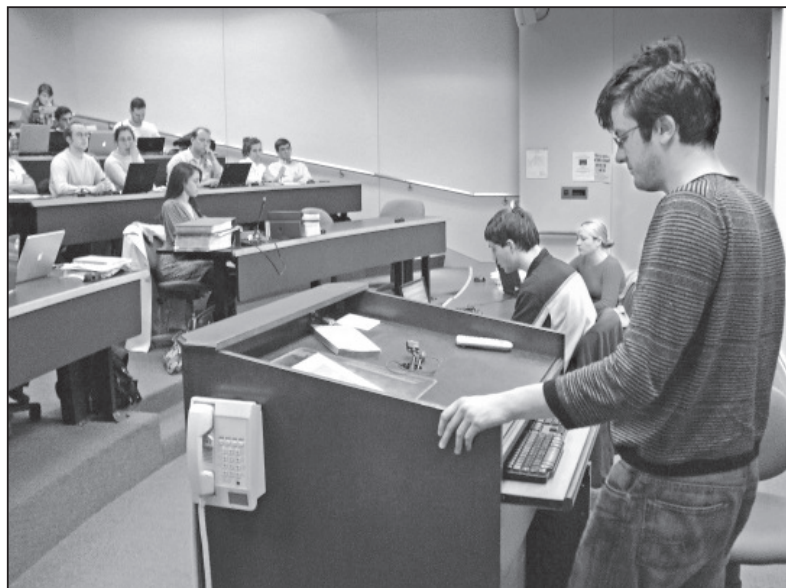
**Ian Kirkpatrick**  
Assistant News Editor - SA

According to an anonymous SA insider, approximately one hour before the March 18 deadline for SA ballot changes SA President Valerie Hopkins ('09) intervened on behalf of Presidential Candidate Sarah Rojas ('10), contacting Ryan Ruzic (JD '11) and instructing him to meet at the Wawa parking lot. Shortly after, Mr. Ruzic joined Ms. Rojas' presidential ticket, minutes before the deadline. According to Ms. Hopkins, this encounter did occur, but she was not present for the majority of the discussion that subsequently took place. Elections Chairman Matthew Beato ('09) contacted student candidates informing them that the Elections Commission had decided to allow the addition of Mr. Ruzic.

The SA senate meeting the subsequent Tuesday only ran for about 15 minutes so little was discussed. Senator Betty Jeane Manning introduced the so-called "CIA bill," or Card Information Act, which would put the respective phone numbers of the Counseling Center and Steer Clear on new ID cards. Currently only the numbers of Campus Police and Es-

cort are provided. The SA Website Overall Act, sponsored by Senators Rojas ('10), Ben Brown ('11), Britany Fallon ('11), Michael Tsidulko ('11), and Tom Flaherty ('12), would pay the current webmaster of the SA website for their services.

Senator Matt Pinsker resigned his senate seat citing health reasons, as he is currently experiencing kidney failure. Senator Pinsker planned to resign after spring break, but was greeted by a bill recommending his impeachment. Senator Ruzic introduced the bill after it was revealed that Mr. Pinsker had leaked the confidential candidate list to *The Flat Hat* before its release to the public. Mr. Ruzic had not yet chosen to run for SA Vice President when the bill was introduced. Mr. Pinsker said his "initial reaction was to fight it" but "this close to graduation [I thought] it wasn't worth it." As Mr. Pinsker has resigned, the impeachment bill is now moot. Senior class president Kevin Dua has fourteen days from the tendering of Mr. Pinsker's resignation to appoint an interim Senator for the remainder of the semester. At least one SA Senator has threatened to impeach Mr. Dua if he does not do so.



Alec McKinley

**Ego tripping:** As usual, the SA meeting featured preparations for the upcoming elections, an opportunity for the newest crop of student leaders to show their stuff.

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# VIOLENCE CANCELS TRIPS:

## Drug-related violence causes Project Mexico trip cancellation

continued from page one

The U.S. Department of State issued a Mexico Travel Alert on February 20, warning Americans of the increase in violence along the U.S.-Mexico border. Much of the new danger is a result of Mexican drug cartels that are in conflict with each other and with Mexican security

**Although our contacts said that they were not affected by the violence, we felt that it was too big of a risk. You can never predict tomorrow.**

services. All parties are vying for control over narcotics trafficking routes. Reynosa is one of the border cities caught in the cross-fire. Deadly battles have occurred there in the past few weeks.

In light of the Travel Alert, the Office of Student Volunteer Services met with Lisa Penn ('09) and Kaitlin Gonzales ('09), co-leaders of Project Mexico Spring Break, and Jenna Ogden ('10) and James Page ('11), co-leaders of Project Mexico May, to voice their concerns. Project Mexico (PMX) leaders made the final decision to cancel the trip. "Although our contacts in Reynosa said that they were not affected by the violence, we felt that it was too big of a risk," said Spring Break co-leader Penn. "You can never predict tomorrow."

These developments come after months of fundraising. On average, the participants spent four to five hours a week raising money. "We did everything we could," said Nora Foegeding ('12). "We wrote letters, raked leaves, ran the

concession stands at the football games, and hosted a Valentine's party. We even held a Mary Kay event." Project Mexico Spring Break raised \$8,655.31. Including

each team member's contribution of \$425 to cover the cost of airline tickets and building materials, the team ac-

cumulated \$14,180.31 and would have had to raise more money or contribute their own if the trip had not been canceled.

Currently, PMX leaders are unable to reimburse their team because the trip was canceled one and a half weeks from their departure date, with most payments already made. "We are working hard to have our plane ticket payments refunded so that we are able to reimburse all our teammates in full," Penn explained.

Many team members did not realize that the risk of traveling to Mexico was so high. "I didn't think the violence in Mexico was that bad. I kind of thought it was typical," said Foegeding. Members were especially upset because they would not be able to accomplish their main goal of building a home for a family in need.

For now, Project Mexico Spring Break is focused on reimbursing team members, and Project Mexico May is looking into alternative trips.

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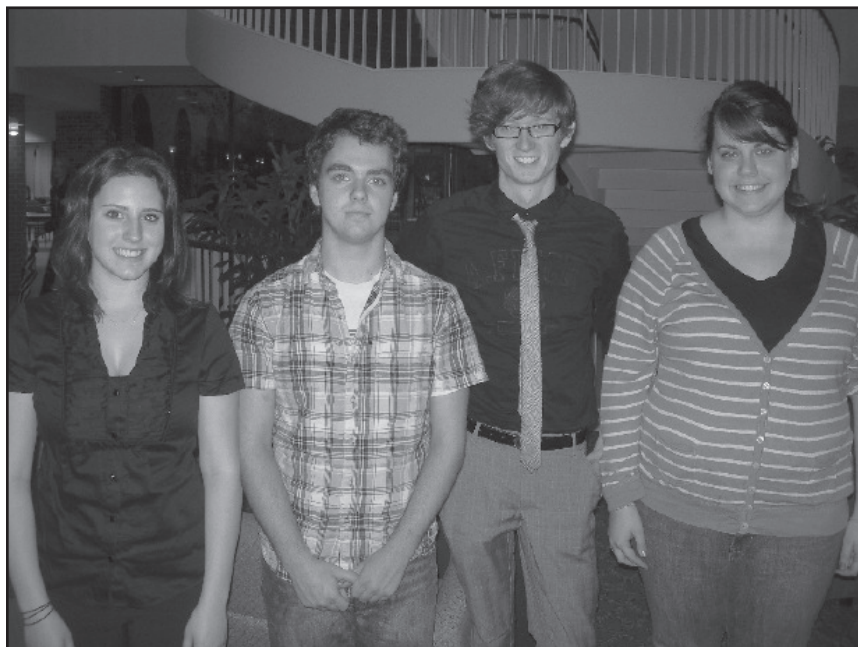
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# Founders of *MANual* seek to open dialogue on male sexuality

Jon San  
Staff Writer

Women at the College may get their tips from *Lips*, but soon enough men will have their own guide to sexuality, the aptly named *MANual*. While *Lips* explores female sexuality, the *MANual*, as stated on their Facebook page, will “create a space in which men can express their own experiences and perceptions of masculinity along with retellings of their own lived experiences surrounding sexuality.” The project is the brainchild of Casey Sears ('11) along with three other classmates in the Intro to Women's Studies course: Max Brumby ('11), Emily Tavino ('11), and Rachel Lessley ('12). While the *MANual* was conceived to fulfill a community action project for the Women's Studies course, all of the publications' founders hope that it will continue beyond the end of the semester.

Mr. Sears originally got the idea for a magazine on sexuality from the male perspective after hearing about *Lips*, which was also started to fulfill the aforementioned curricular requirement for Intro



Jon San

**Manpower:** Despite the magazine's male perspective, the founders of the *MANual* are equally divided between men and women. From left: Emily Tavino ('11); Max Brumby ('11); Casey Sears ('11); Rachel Lessley ('12).

to Women's Studies. However, Mr. Sears notes, the *MANual* is not a direct response to *Lips*. He said, “[*Lips*] has been extremely supportive of our work and has helped us a great deal.” Ms. Tavino chimed in and said that “[the *MANual*] has *Lips*' blessing.”

Elizabeth Ferris ('11), a member of the executive board of *Lips*, agreed that

the male perspective deserves a similarly unique space.”

In a format similar to *Lips*, the *MANual* will feature a variety of different literary pieces. Any artwork, photography, prose, poetry or “rants” from the male William and Mary community will be deemed acceptable submissions. Mr. Sears believes that the publication of these works would

her publication is completely supportive of the efforts of the *MANual*. She also clarified that the *MANual*'s existence would not be redundant or overlapping in any way with that of *Lips*. She said, “I hope that The *MANual* will be received as more than an offshoot or answer to *Lips* because I think that the challenges facing male-identified individuals in expressing their sexualities and negotiating their masculinities are unique and

be beneficial in not only cultivating a better dialogue between men but also between men and women on campus.

While it should be obvious, the *MANual* is not a collection of sex-jokes and frat humor. However, its founders believe that humorous sexual accounts or anecdotes are useful in strengthening their mission statement. “[the *MANual*] is intended to be taken seriously, not as a joke, but we do take humorous submissions,” said Ms. Tavino.

Since it is currently a class project, the *MANual* is unable to appeal for inclusion in the Publications Council. The publication is privately funded by the four founders, voluntary donations, profits from the bake sales they will be holding, and \$25 which is provided by the course. Currently, Mr. Sears and his colleagues hope to publish one issue this semester and another in the fall semester with the possibility of an online version.

The group also hopes to extend their message beyond the confines of ink and paper by holding a series of presentations on male sexuality. By targeting freshman halls, sports teams, fraternities, a capalla groups, and other student organizations, the founders of the *MANual* believe that they would encourage more frank and uncensored discussions of male sexuality in addition to raising interest in submissions to their own publication.

The first print release of the *MANual* is scheduled to be on Thursday, April 30th. All submissions, which can be anonymous, may be sent to [wmanual@gmail.com](mailto:wmanual@gmail.com).

# Cans vs. Bottles: the showdown

## Elite beer drinkers opt for longnecks

Hart Moore  
Assistant News Editor

While perusing the alcohol corner of Bloom this weekend, you will undoubtedly run into an age-old question: should you buy cans or bottles? Before wringing your hands over this decision, here are some facts to help you choose between the two.

The debate actually began in the 1930s with the invention of the aluminum beer can. New technology enabled breweries to package their product in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. The money saved

is still reflected today in the low price of canned beer. The can also imparts certain advantages to the consumer. Obviously, it's easier to lug a 24-can case around than two 12 packs of bottles. Also, if you happen to drop one of these awkward objects, you'll end up with 12 bottles' worth of broken glass. In comparison, bursting a can of beer usually involves shaking it up and hurling it with the unethical intention of wasting alcohol. To investigate more benefits, we must delve into

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**A friend of mine once claimed that “Cans are for poor people,” and while he was immediately beaten for his snobbery, the classy connotation of longnecks rings true.**

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the realms of science. The element aluminum transfers energy much more quickly than glass, enabling the brew to get colder more quickly. So, if you're standing in front of Wawa's beer stack at 9 pm this Friday, go with a can. Finally, an aluminum can is very easy to puncture, allowing you to engage in a variety of drinking-related activities. It is in your best interests not to attempt any of these activities with a glass bottle.

A friend of mine once claimed that “Cans are for poor people,” and while he was immediately beaten for his snobbery, the classy connotation of longnecks rings true. So if you plan on entertaining a member of the opposite sex in your room, bottles are a must. Secondly, there is a distinct taste advantage to bottles. Pasteurization and sterile filtering is

cited by a number of brewing companies as detracting from the natural flavors of beer. However, bottled beer is only subjected to the pasteurization process.

In layman's terms, bottles are to cans as chlorine-treated tap water is to a fresh mountain spring. Although aluminum chills beer quickly, the metal inadvertently seeps into your drink, affecting the taste (but luckily not your health). This is largely mitigated, however, it is not entirely absent from metallic cans.

Though packaging plants thought they solved this in the 1980's by lining their cans with plastic coats, this lining does not extend to the tab.

Bottles and cans have their benefits and drawbacks. Most high end beers only come

in the bottle variety, though there are some exceptions. But if you're willing to pay a bit more, I recommend getting a quality beer for a few extra dollars. Not only is the flavor more intense and the drink less metallic, but there is a certain satisfaction in kicking back with an ice cold glass bottle in your hand.



Hart Moore

**Bottled quality:** While bottled beers are a more expensive choice over cans, their less metallic taste is worth the extra bucks.

## Can vs. Bottle

1. Classy?  
-The curvature of the bottle wins this category
2. Expensive?  
-Ounce for ounce the can is less expensive
3. Environmental?  
-Cans produce five times their weight in caustic waste and are the clear loser here
4. Ease of use?  
-Cans are nigh indestructible

# Cooking to stop diabetes

Alexander Powell  
Opinion Editor

An outreach program was formed attempting to make and distribute a diabetes cook book to students and the community. This book will include recipes to prevent type two diabetes, which is the one of the most common and the only preventable form. The book will also include testimonials from people who have struggled with the disease relating their experiences, tips for prevention and explanations why they like or recommend their favorite recipe.

The book is designed to provide meals that are tasty, fast and affordable. "The biggest factors preventing students and community members from living a healthy life style is time and money," said Kelly Tsipsis ('10), one of the project's founding members. "The book's target audience is to be both the Williamsburg Community and the William and Mary Staff such as cooks, cleaners, and janitors. "Most of them are lower income and don't live in Williamsburg but ride over on the ferry. After having worked here all day, probably for low wages, they have to ride home exhausted and cook dinner for their families. We are making this cookbook so they can save try to save money and still get healthy." The program says that any extra books will go to the student body and Williamsburg community at large.

The group's budget is stated to be only \$25 but they hope to raise more money by fundraising and donations. The books will assemble with the help of the William and Mary Copy Center and should be released by mid to late April.

However members of the group are currently looking for assistance from the general student body. "We really need students to come forward to help us out with testimonials. If they or somebody they know has or has had diabetes, we need their help," stated Ms. Tsipsis. Students who are able to provide testimonials or recipes that are pertinent to the book would be greatly welcomed if they were to get in contact with Miss Tsipsis or any member of the group with that information. "I think it's great that this is being done by students," said an unnamed college junior. "Type 2 diabetes affects too many people simply because they were unaware that eating healthy stuff is pretty easy and cheap to do." We here at the Informer hope that anyone with knowledge pertaining to this project will come forward and participate in the construction of this book. You quite possibly will save someone's life.

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The Informer is the only paper at William and Mary that is entirely independent of the College, meaning we report the truth and go in-depth to publish what others dare not print!

COMETOAMEETING:

**Mondays**

**7:30pm Blair 223**

## Alumnus, prominent Congressman Eric Cantor reveals past as law student

Andrew Blasi  
Executive Editor

In a conversation with *The Virginia Informer*, Republican Congressman and House Minority Whip Eric Cantor ('88) discusses his experience as a law student at the College. This interview concludes *The Informer's* exclusive Congressional alumni series.

**The Virginia Informer:** Why did you decide to attend William and Mary Law School?

**Congressman Eric Cantor:** I chose William & Mary Law School not merely because it is the second oldest institution of law in the country, but because it has a proven track record of producing leaders in the field of law and beyond. Steeped in the tradition of the Constitution, W&M Law plays a vital role upholding the Commonwealth's storied tradition of jurisprudence.

**The Informer:** What is the most memorable experience you have from your time at William and Mary?

**Cantor:** I always enjoyed morning jogs down Duke of Gloucester Street. I was in the best shape of my life while at law school.

**The Informer:** Were you a member of any law organizations at the College?

**Cantor:** I was a member of the Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity as well as the Federalist Society.

REP. ERIC CANTOR	
Degree: J.D.	Class: 1988
Party: Republican	
District: 7 <sup>th</sup> District of Virginia	
Cities: Richmond suburbs, Mechanicsville	

**The Informer:** How do you feel your education at William and Mary prepared you for the successful career that you have had?

**Cantor:** William and Mary instilled in me the ability to think critically, creatively, and analytically. We learned to consider multiple sides of an argument before arriving at a conclusion. It also taught me the legal and historical underpinnings of our country, which are essential to making sound policy in Congress.

**The Informer:** Do you have any advice for current William and Mary students interested in a future government career?

**Cantor:** Always remember that a representative democracy, upon which America is based, is a dynamic and challenging arena to engage in the political process. Participation in government offers the opportunity to put great ideas forward and improve the lives of Americans.



CANTOR



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# Drink of the Week Kentucky Cocktail



Jeff Dailey

**Jeff Dailey**  
Staff Writer

I tried the Kentucky Cocktail just in time for Spring Break. This cool and smooth concoction's main ingredient is the one reason the south wasn't flattened during the Civil War, bourbon.

**Ingredients**

- 1 qt. Pineapple Sherbet
- 1 L Bourbon: Use Old Crow the get the most for your money
- 1 L Lemonade

**Directions**

The steps are simple and the results are deliciously intoxicating: Mix the bourbon and lemonade. Then slightly melt the sherbet for even mixing. Next fold in the sherbet with the bourbon and lemonade.

If you're feeling particularly sinister or fancy, jazz up your Kentucky by adding slices of fresh orange or pineapple to the punch for added brevity.

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

# VIMS professor's work featured on Google Earth

**Bert Mueller**  
Managing Editor

Professor Robert Diaz's research on marine dead zones has been included in the newest edition of Google Earth. Diaz is currently a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the graduate school of marine science under the administrative umbrella of the College of William and Mary.

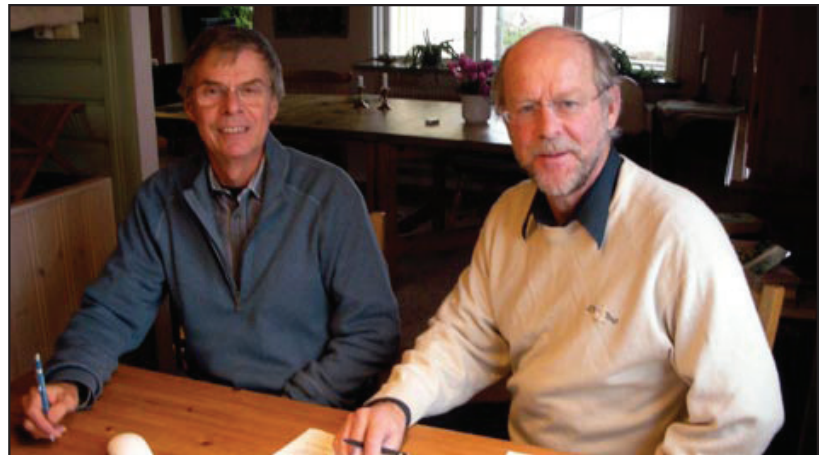
Diaz collaborated with Swedish scientist Rutger Rosenberg on the project. Their findings were published in *Science* in 2008 under the title "Spreading Dead Zones and Consequences for Marine Ecosystems". These findings were then incorporated into Google Earth 5.

Among their findings was that the number of dead zones in the oceans increased by one-third between 1995 and 2007. These zones are deemed "dead" because there is too little oxygen in them to sustain most marine life. A dead zone at the head of the Mississippi

is about the size of New Jersey.

Their research led them to the conclusion that dead zones are "the key stressor on marine ecosystems" and "rank with over-fishing, habitat loss, and harmful algal blooms as global environmental problems."

The dead zones information in Google Earth can be accessed by opening the "layers" and selecting "Ocean/State of Ocean/Dead Zones." Dead fish skeletons ominously, if not appropriately, mark the dead zones. There are a couple of fish skeletons marking dead zones just down the road from William and Mary, close to York and Hampton. As the dead zones remain dead, grow in size, or are restored to health, Professor Diaz will continue updating the database to keep the information current.



Courtesy of VIMS

**Six degrees of separation:** As evidence of the creeping power of Google, VIMS professor Bob Diaz (left) recently contributed research for Google Earth on dead zones in water - areas with low levels of Oxygen.

## THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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Courtesy of Walker Somerville

**English teachers:** CPALs is a group that helps foreign speakers learn English with a variety of exercises and teaching methods.

## CPALs bridges gap between Williamsburg's English and Spanish-speaking communities

**Rachel Smith**  
Features Editor

As the number of Latino migrants who settle in Williamsburg continues to increase, the gap between Williamsburg residents and Spanish-speaking residents continues to broaden.

Community Partnership for Adult Learners, or CPALs, is an on campus group dedicated to closing that gap by creating stronger bonds between the College and the Latino community. Every Tuesday and Thursday evening, William and Mary students meet in Morton to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring to Latinos in the area.

The CPALs Executive Board and dedicated tutors have succeeded in creating a well-structured organization that is both efficient and well organized. At weekly meetings CPALs President Amanda Potter meets with other Board members to discuss fundraising ideas, devise new strategies for recruiting tutees, and coordinate the sessions for the week. However, CPALs would not run smoothly without the help of hard-working William and Mary students. "We do a lot of delegating of responsibilities to tutors," commented Mary Henin ('10), secretary of CPALs. "This gives members of CPALs the opportunity to be even more involved beyond tutoring twice a week." For example, many CPALs members create their own lesson plans and even teach a whole class of ESL learners.

Students are divided into two groups, Beginner and Advanced. In order to determine which group tutees should be placed in, CPALs gives each learner an assessment test. Sometimes the Executive Board creates a third group, the "Super Advanced" if some learners are very proficient in English. For example, students in this group will read news articles and discuss current events in a college-like setting. This setup allows CPALs volunteers to gain valuable experience. They are able to teach, tutor, and create lesson plans even if they have never have experience in a teaching position. This exposure is ideal for students who are interesting in teaching ESL after graduation.

CPALs has hosted people from all over the world; students have come from many countries in Latin America, such as Mexico and Honduras, and South America. CPALs has even received students from Korea and Thailand. For many William and Mary students, this diversity is what makes CPALs so enjoyable. They are able to learn about their student's families and lives abroad. "Once you get to know them, they all have really interesting and diverse experiences and stories to share," said Henin. "I've learned a lot from them."

Offering beneficial experience as an ESL tutor and the opportunity to learn from their students' lives, CPALs is the ideal campus group to join. CPALs meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Morton 38 from 7:15pm to 9pm.

**Once you get to know them, they all have really interesting and diverse experiences and stories to share.**

## Professor David Holmes contrasts College life in the 1950's and today

**Ian Kirkpatrick**  
Assistant News Editor - SA

On March 26<sup>th</sup> senior faculty member David L. Holmes will speak on the changes in college life since his undergraduate years in the 1950's. Mr. Holmes expects to be retiring in the near future and wanted to share his college experiences. His discussion will be "the kind of lecture I would have like to have heard in my time." He will also discuss how college life "of 2009 is an improvement, but in some ways not... [there are] some things we've lost."

In describing his own undergraduate experience Holmes said he was involved in Greek Life and did not take college seriously until his third year. (This is when the acronym "TGIF" was invented and the word "chugalug" was coined, "the test of masculinity.") Holmes said it was "very, very strong in the 1950s. The Vietnam period, which undercut sororities and fraternities, had not yet occurred."

Professor Holmes explained that relations between professors and students have changed markedly. As academia has become more oriented towards publishing, professors have less time to spend with their students. At the same time he insists that the quality of teaching has improved.

Dating was much different, in the 50's most universities had curfews; "women had to be in their dorms by 10:00... men had no such restrictions" There were dress codes and a Dean of Men and a Dean of Women. At the College what was then the Dean of Students became Vice President for Student Affairs, the job Sam Sadler was the longtime occupant of.

Grade inflation since the 50s has been quite dramatic; "C's were the most common grade at most schools... D's and F's were not infrequent." Government mandated accep-

tance of many high school graduates meant that many students "flunked... at the end of the first semester. A B- was viewed as a fairly good grade." I can recall a student running around and saying with great happiness, "I got a B-." Holmes said that "Papers assigned were longer then, but far less frequently used in place of bluebook examinations."

Smoking was very prevalent; students would break during class to light up. "When the door... opened at the end of class, a large cloud of smoke would blow out into the hall." Mr. Holmes said he "recalls many a lecture" that sounded like this: "So the purpose of the cetology chapters. . . [puff, puff]. . . in Moby-Dick. . . [puff, puff]. . . serve more of a purpose than critics once. . . [the scratch of a match as the professor tries to relight his pipe]. . . thought. Because Melville has built into . . . [banging of pipe against his foot]. . . that material some of the themes of his great novel. . ."

Athletics have also changed a lot. With the advent of television, sports have become a way of making money for universities. Seasons are longer now, going from "eight games, now to 11 or 12."

Giving examples from his personal life, Mr. Holmes explains that life after college can be unexpected. "I never imagined I'd be a professor... I majored in English because I liked it... I thought I wanted to be a writer."

Professor Holmes received an M.A. from Columbia and Princeton and his PhD from Duke. He has taught at Carnegie Mellon, UVA and William and Mary. He is currently Walter G. Mason Professor of Religious Studies and the faculty advisor to the secret "Bishop Madison Society." The society was created in honor of the 8<sup>th</sup> president of the College, Bishop James Madison. It was another casualty of the Civil War, but was revived by Professor Holmes during his early years at the college.



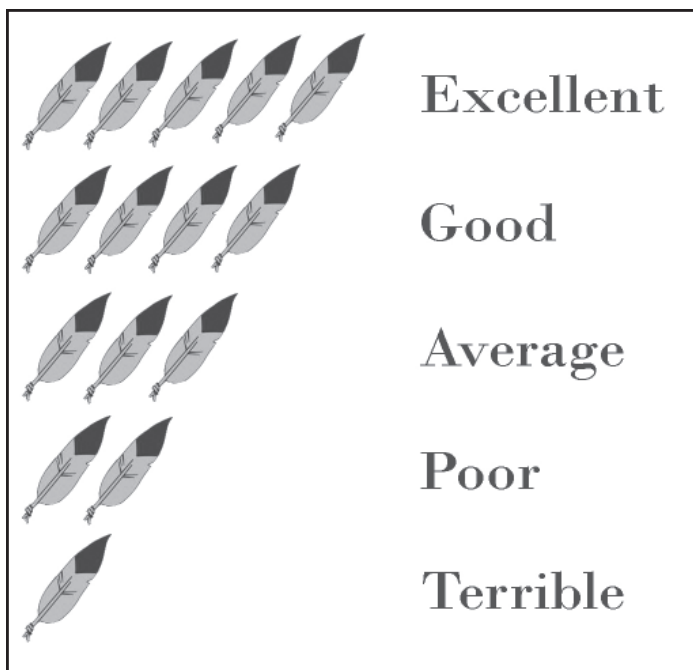
Alec McKinley

**From old to new:** Photos from the College's past illustrates Professor David Holmes' speech that compared college life from the 1950s to today in a variety of different aspects.

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## W&M Symphony Orchestra dazzles with pieces by Ravel and Shostakovich



**Alexander Powell**  
Opinion Editor

On Tuesday, March 3, the College of William and Mary Symphony Orchestra hosted their annual winter concert in Phi Beta Kappa Hall. The concert was under the musical direction and conduction of Akiko Fujimoto. The 2008-2009 season is the second year Ms. Fujimoto has directed the orchestra, previously serving for five years as the Musical Director of the Mozart Society Orchestra at Harvard. Sarah Hwang ('10) and Jessica Kim ('10) served as co-concertmasters.

The program consisted of two parts, the first featuring the short and whimsical *Ma Mere l'Oye*, or "Mother Goose," written in 1911 by composer Maurice Ravel. This piece was separated into five movements, each one about a different children's fable. The orchestra first performed "Sleeping Beauty" and "Tom Thumb," followed by "Laid-eronnette" ("Little Ugly Girl"), which brilliantly used pentatonic scales and other Asian-inspired musical devices to create a decidedly Eastern feel to the piece. The orchestra performed "Beauty and the Beast" next, which featured a duet between the clarinet (Beauty) and the contrabassoon (the Beast). The Suite closed with a classic fairy tale ending by playing "The Fairy Garden," which awakens Sleeping Beauty from her slumber. All in all, this was a delightful, but somewhat forgettable, section.

After intermission, the audience was treated to Dmitri Shostakovich's famous Symphony No. 5 in D minor, also known as "A Soviet Artist's Reply to Just Criticism." Shostakovich was known to

fight with the Soviet government for the majority of his career and suffered much from this, losing family members and loved ones to Soviet oppression. The fifth symphony was one composed to mollify Soviet officials and perhaps protect his life. However, as the alternative title suggests, this piece is laced with subtle barbs and jabs at Communist Russia.

The first movement was a headlined by a bombastic cannon marked by jumping and falling intervals, perhaps a leitmotif for Russian Militaristic nationalism. The cannon occurred many times with many different personalities, often juxtaposing the somber, slow, violins which perhaps represent the human suffering found in the USSR. This movement was at times characterized by a march in the low strings after a climactic section; the march was played somewhat mockingly in a different key than the expected F major. The second movement was the drippingly satiric waltz, grotesque and biting, introduced by low strings. This movement was quite short, only a scant four minutes compared to the nineteen-minute-long first. The fourth movement burst in contrast with the second, using loud brass and driving timpani for a pulse that quickened and intensified until it climaxed in the terrific fanfare of the finale.

This symphony, although slightly marred at times by a questionable French horn section, was wonderful. Thanks to the William and Mary Symphony Orchestra, it is not hard to see why this piece by Shostakovich has become famous and beloved in Russia as well as throughout the rest of the world. I sincerely hope that readers will attend the next Symphony Orchestra performance.

### Music Review:

## The Yeah Yeah Yeahs go disco with *It's Blitz!*



**Jack Evans**  
Music Critic

When the Yeah Yeah Yeahs announced last year that they were going disco, a lot of people seemed surprised and I'm not sure why. Recently, all kinds of indie rock bands have tried integrating dance music into their sound with varying degrees of success. Best-case scenario: we get something like Dear Science. Worst-case: we get that last Long Blondes album. *It's Blitz!* falls somewhere in the middle.

Lead single and first track "Zero" has a relentless robotic thump, synths so gnarly and distorted you don't miss the guitars. It also has one of Karen O's strongest vocal performances to date. I guess you can dance to it, though my knowledge of dancing is only theoretical.

The other standout is "Skeletons." Karen O sings with a lump in her throat like she did on "Maps" in *Fever to Tell*, but the music behind her is nowhere near as anthemic or arena-ready. More than anything else, "Skeletons" recalls TV on the Radio's stargazing balladry ("Family Tree", "Tonight"), and it's all the better for it. "Skeletons" is by far the most subtle these guys have ever been, and even though it won't knock you out of your chair like "Maps" did, I think it is just as good.

The rest of *It's Blitz!* ranges from solid to underwhelming. "Heads Will Roll" and "Soft Shock" sound pretty good in the context of the album, but by themselves they are just okay. "Dull Life" sounds like a decent enough outtake from *Show Your Bones*, but it sticks out like a sore thumb on this album. "Dragon Queen" tries to channel Iggy Pop's immortal "Nightclubbing" but winds up less sinister. On "Hysteria" I do miss the guitars; the track begs for a rumbling Nick Zinner guitar line, but it unfortunately never comes.

Still, *It's Blitz!* is a reasonably consistent addition to one of post-millennial indie-rock's more impressive discographies. Who knows, when the physical version hits retail stores in a couple weeks, I may actually buy a copy.



### Movie Review:

## Watchmen shows human nature, mentality of superhero



**Patrick Macaluso**  
Movie Critic

Because I had read the graphic novel in high school, *Watchmen* was high on my priority list to start off the 2009 film year. This film takes place in an alternate history of the United States during the Cold War. Panic and fear over nuclear war is at an all-time high. The story focuses on a group of superheroes and their characteristics in the seemingly dystopian society. In particular, the film does a great job at addressing how various aspects of human nature react when confronted with danger and corruption.

I will forewarn potential viewers: it is imperative that you read the graphic novel first if you want to understand the plot and the historical context. The disjointed plot can be hard to follow without first being familiar with the characters. The adaptation of the book is a fairly loyal one; not a whole lot is changed, though a few components of the story are omitted. Still, I feel that the novel is essential to the overall experience. The film complements the

novel very well as it is more of a screen play than an adaptation.

However, *Watchmen's* flaws are obvious. First, the very nature of the novel makes it difficult to adapt to the screen. The film drags plotlines on for too long but then quickly jumps to a new development. Even having read the novel, the film still proved difficult for me to follow. Also, at times the film seems torn between whether the director wanted it to be an action film or a political allegory. Combined on the screen, the two approaches create a confusing mess.

*Watchmen* is visually appealing, even though a shot of a blimp flying toward the Twin Towers showed poor taste. Once again, Zach Snyder, who was featured in *300*, demonstrates that he is the master of green-screen visuals. The acting was lackluster with the exception of Jackie Earle Haley, who plays the masked vigilante Rorschach. His performance is extraordinarily haunting.

Overall, I feel that the film has many positive points. And, although the plot was slightly disjointed, I feel its success should be credited to Zach Snyder's technological talents. I give *Watchmen* a B+.



Nooks &amp; Crannies:

# Strange history of Ewell Hall revealed

**Bryan Callaway**  
Staff Writer

Given the College's 316 year history, it is only natural for there to be a tale behind every brick and every piece of mortar. Such is the case of Ewell Hall. Erected in 1926, Ewell Hall currently houses the offices of the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Music. However, long before its current tenants arrived the building served as a guest residence for members of the Phi Beta Kappa National Office, in addition to being the original Theatre facility on campus.

The idea for Ewell Hall, formerly Phi Beta Kappa Hall, was first conceived by the College's 18<sup>th</sup> President, Dr. Julian Chandler as a reception and memorial hall in recognition of the Phi Beta Kappa Society's founding at the College in 1776. The original building, which was funded by members of the Phi Beta Kappa National Office, consisted of a large theatre and assembly hall and a series of guest rooms for visiting Phi Beta Kappans. In addition to these facilities, the building also included a reproduction of the Raleigh

Tavern's Apollo Room; the birthplace of Phi Beta Kappa.

During its existence as 'Phi Beta Kappa Hall', Ewell Hall experienced several modifications, each reflective of the building's place in an ever-changing society. Arguably the most notable of these changes were the addition of a radio studio and female dorm room conversion in 1938 and 1941, respectively. These changes would be short-lived, however, as the building would ultimately succumb to a fire in 1953, destroying the original auditorium. A year later, John Rockefeller, Jr. donated \$250,000 to support reconstruction and renovation efforts; a renovation which would later enable the Department of Music to take up partial residence in 1955. Because of space limitations, it would not be until 1989 that the department would be able to fully move-in.

In light of the damage done to the original 'Phi Beta Kappa Hall', and the original theatre it housed, plans were unveiled in the 1950's for the erection of Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall, subsidized again in part by Phi Beta Kappa chapters from around the nation. This new building would house the new, larger Mainstage Theatre, in addition to the offices of William & Mary's

own Phi Beta Kappa chapter, Alpha of Virginia.

With the arrival of a new memorial hall in 1957, 'Phi Beta Kappa Hall' was rededicated as 'Ewell Hall' in commemoration of the College's 16<sup>th</sup> President, and has in recent years served as a home to departments such as the Admissions Office, the Chancellor's Office, and the Office of the President. Following the addition of a 154-seat recital hall in 1988, the Department of Music would officially be able to move in to Ewell Hall in 1989, affording it one central location on campus.

Like so many buildings on campus, Ewell Hall has had a long and storied history; however, in the very same vein, it is unique in that both its existence and restoration are sole products of the extreme



Alec McKinley

**Aided by the Rockefeller family:** John Rockefeller Jr. donated \$250,000 towards the reconstruction of Ewell hall in 1954 after much of it was destroyed by fire.

beneficence of the College's benefactors. While it is often overlooked on campus, Ewell Hall's extensive history has undeniably had a sizable impact on the development of the College's "new campus", for better or worse.

Book Review:

## Disney stories through a different lense



**R.C. Rasmus**  
Staff Writer

What went through your mind the last time you watched Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*? Fluffy nostalgic musings about your childhood, perhaps, or maybe that sappy, syrupy romantic feeling that slides around inside you when you watch the love scenes in old movies like *Casablanca* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*? No? How about AIDS and homophobia?

In his delightful, yet thought-provoking work, *Tinker Belles and Evil Queens: The Walt Disney Company from the Inside Out*, Sean Griffin takes a look at America's most beloved entertainment empire through the kaleidoscopic lens of queer theory. The result is an eye-opening, scholarly romp that leads his readers through a fun and surprisingly easy-to-read critical deconstruction of Disney's various cultural offerings, from its earliest black-and-white shorts to its more modern films and television programs.

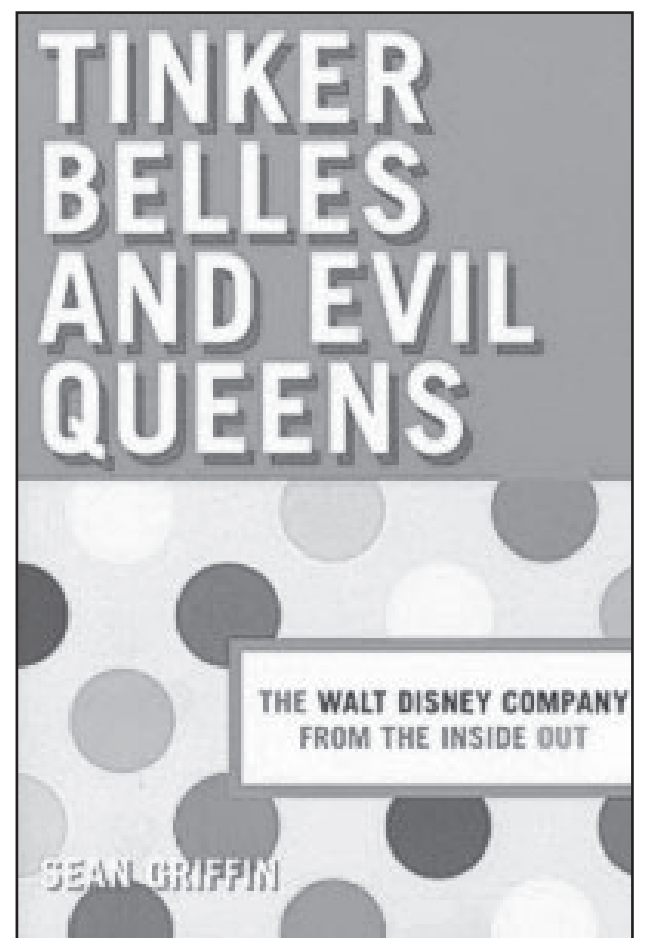
Although his chapters on gay and lesbian subcultures within the Disney Company itself and his several retrospective queer analyses of the cartoons and movies produced by the studio in its infancy are both well-written and compelling, the author really hits his stride in the fourth chapter, titled "Part of Your World: Reading Disney Queerly in the Eisner Era," in

which he brilliantly teases out the subtle subtexts that wind their way through the animated epics of the late 1980s and early 1990s by such openly gay auteurs as Thomas Pasatieri, Andreas Deja, and Howard Ashman. In this portion of his work, Griffin sets down a rapid-fire string of fascinating observations that include protracted musings on the subtle homoerotic relationships between such iconic pairs as Aladdin and the Genie and Timon and Pumbaa, identifications of various Disney characters—including Jafarr, Zazu, and Scar—as clandestine homosexuals, and translations of the coded queer messages tucked away within many of Disney's most beloved musical anthems, including "Part of that World," "Belle," and "Friend Like Me." In addition, the

author includes a number of masterful full-length critical analyses in this chapter that, for example, cast *The Little Mermaid* as a tale about coming out of the closet, *Beauty and the Beast* as an extended metaphor for the horrors of the AIDS virus, and *The Lion King* as a meditation on the mainstream's distasteful attitude toward homosexuality.

At all times, Griffin's writing sparkles with wit, playful-

ness, and a healthy amount of self-deprecation; like most good post-structural theorists, the author never attempts to cram his singularly unorthodox readings down his readers' throats, preferring instead to simply present his observations as one of many ways to understand and appreciate Disney's films, shows, and shorts. Interestingly, however, while some of Griffin's queer implications do seem a little far-fetched, many of the heterodox readings that he sets



forth in his work come across not only as entirely plausible, but indeed better and more correct than their solidly straight counterparts. In any case, it's certainly worth investigating *Tinker Belles and Evil Queens* for yourself. Who knows? After reading Griffin's book, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Hercules* may never look the same again.

The Finer Side:

Confessions of a college shopaholic: dreams come true at Harrods

While currently interning abroad in the Scottish Parliament, I was able to visit London for a weekend. Being something of a shopaholic, I of course made the pilgrimage to the world's fashion heaven, Harrods. After having tea in the glorious Terrace Bar, I then proceeded to lose myself (and the next three hours) in the winding maze of custom-made shoes, designer handbags, and diamonds worth well over £1 million.



Jennifer Souers  
The Finer Side

While Harrods is a shopping destination, it is also a city icon, with a history as rich as Buckingham Palace. The London fixture was established in 1834, by Charles Henry Harrod, who in 1849 also took over a small store near Hyde Park in order to capitalize on the crowds coming to visit the Great Exhibition of 1851. Harrod started his business with two employees and sold basic items such as medicine, fruits and vegetables, stationery, and perfumes. His son Charles Digby helped to expand the business, acquiring the adjoining buildings and employing a staff of about

100 by the 1880s. The store continued to expand throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, going public in 1889. The Managing Director in that year, Richard Burbidge, helped Harrods become known for trend-setting fashions and novelties, notably installing the world's first escalator in 1898. The early 1900s saw the transformation of the building to reflect popular architecture of the time. During this period, the famous dome was constructed, though today it houses nothing more glamorous than a water tank. Architectural stylings, such as the tiles that still adorn the Meat Hall, the tea room (now known as the Georgian Dining Room), and the Art Nouveau skylight, have transformed Harrods into the most fashionable store in Britain.

The store's motto is "Everything for Everybody Everywhere," and it has definitely lived up to its promise. According to the store's history described on its website, Harrods has delivered an alligator from its pet shop to playwright Noel Coward; delivered a baby

elephant to President Ronald Reagan; possessed the original Winnie-the-Pooh that author A.A. Milne gave to his son Christopher Robin; flown fresh herrings to Alfred Hitchcock in Hollywood; made yachts to order; embalmed Sigmund Freud through its funeral services; sold airplanes; and built houses.

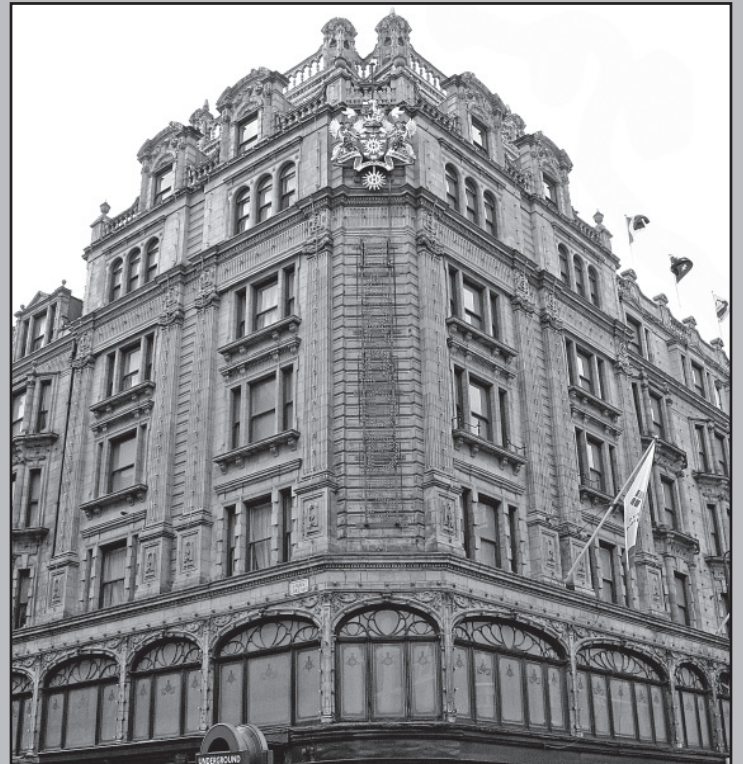
During WWII, Harrods supported the war effort by producing uniforms, parachutes, and other equipment for soldiers, as well as Lancaster bombers. After the war, however, the store suffered a hit in revenue as people simply did not have the money to spend on the store's luxuries.

In the 1980s, the Fayed family acquired the House of Fraser Group, and immediately began to bring Harrods back to its former days of glory. The sports department was added, and the luxury accessories were housed in halls of gleaming marble. The Egyptian escalator was constructed with the help of British Museum curators to maintain authenticity. The Egyptian escalator also guards the memorial to Princess Diana and Chairman Mohammed Al Fayed's son Dodi Al Fayed.

In addition to housing a fashion fortune, the build-

ing is a marvel itself. Harrods extends over 4.5 acres and 1 million square feet of selling space. It generates 70% of its own electricity from its generators and draws its own water from its three artisan wells, the deepest of which is 489 feet. The famous façade is lit by 12,000 light bulbs, 300 of which are changed each day.

Harrods has a sense of magic to it, which is enhanced by its extensive history and its glamorous merchandise. It is as much a part of London as Westminster or the Underground. And while I'm still waiting to purchase my £1 million diamond shoes, for now I'll languish in the memory of visiting a shopper's paradise.



Courtesy of Harrod's department store in London

**Materialist Mecca:** Harrods is not only the London headquarters for classy shopping, it also has a robust history as an English landmark and tourist attraction.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Live Performances

March 26

12:30 p.m. — Conversations with a Founding Father

6:30 p.m. & 8:15 p.m. — Wendy & Lucy

8:00 p.m. — Polly Honeycombe

March 27

4:00 p.m. — Wendy & Lucy

7:30 p.m. — Three Jolly Coachmen in Concert

March 28 and 29

7:00 p.m. — 8th Annual Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival - *My Mexican Shiva*

April Schedule

Movies

Theater of War (Not rated)

Fri., April 10–Fri., April 17  
April 10–15 shows at 4, 5:45, and 7:30 p.m.  
April 16–17 shows at 7 and 8:45 p.m.  
April 11–13, 16–17 screening room (35 seats)  
95 mins

The Class (PG-13)

Fri., April 17–Thurs., April 23  
April 17–18, 23 shows at 6:30 and 9 p.m.  
April 19–22 shows at 4 and 6:30 p.m.  
April 18, 20–23 screening room (35 seats)  
128 mins

The Betrayal (Not rated)

Fri., April 24–Thurs., April 30  
April 24–26, 30 shows at 6:30 and 8:15 p.m.  
April 27–29 shows at 4, 5:45, and 7:30 p.m.  
April 24–25, 27, 30 screening room (35 seats)  
96 mins.

Staff Editorial:

# Voting for SA president and vice president requires evaluation of key issues

Tomorrow's Student Assembly elections occur at a critical time for the College. The political instability of the previous few years and the bleak nature of our financial future place added importance on leadership. As the term of Student Assembly president Valerie Hopkins ('09) comes to a close, we hope that students keep in mind several key issues that pertain to the College's future well-being when casting their votes for the next SA Presidential ticket.

It is of no surprise that the SA has completed another lackluster year and come up short in their efforts to tackle key issues. To change this, students must support those candidates who they believe are competent and driven, not merely resume-padders. We have taken the time to examine the different candidates' positions on many of these key issues and students should now understand where the lines are drawn between them.

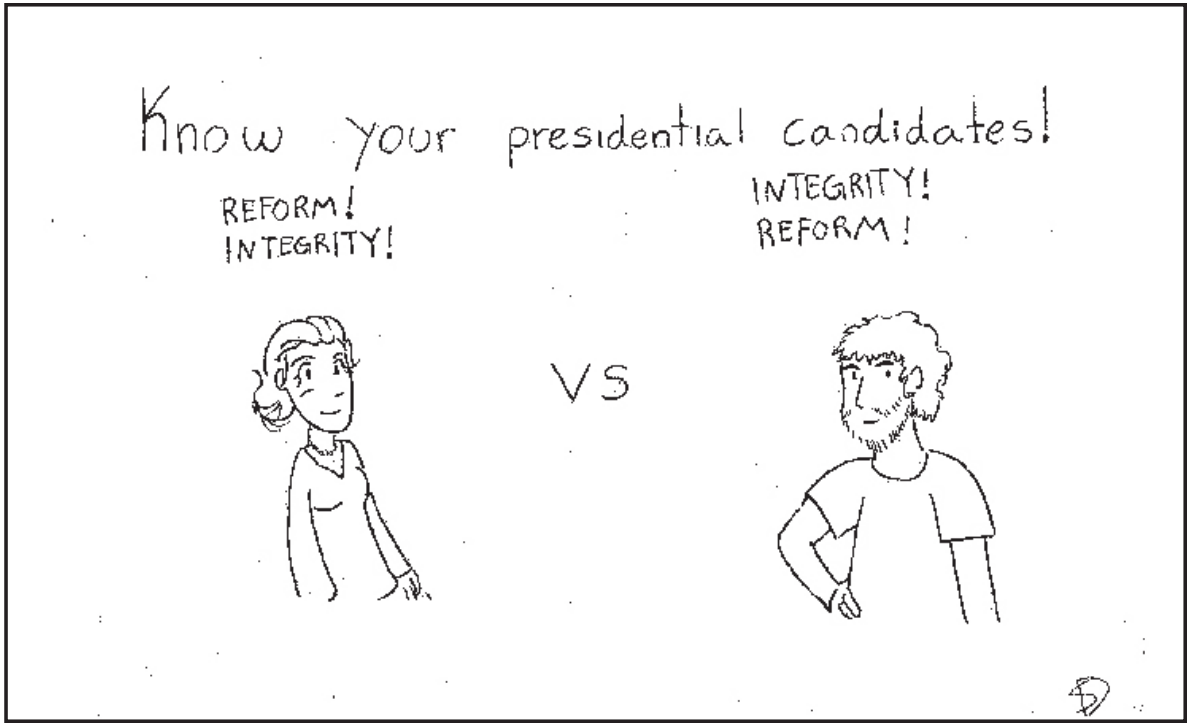
In the context of a bleak economic outlook, it is crucial that students understand the role that student representatives can have on their bottom line. There is little that the SA can do affect expected increases in tuition, but its members must be more judicious in spending or raising students' activities fees money. The reality is that the SA derives all its power from the fact that it can dispense your money. The SA President and Vice President play the key role in approving all budgetary and special event request

funding. We are told by the candidates that William and Mary needs to put a halt to and reverse cuts in the state budget, yet there is little hope of making true progress if we are not good stewards with the money we collect from our own student body.

A year ago, Matt Beato ('09), stood poised to be elected to Williamsburg City Council. That effort was unfortunately unsuccessful. With the announcement earlier this semester that the city of Williamsburg was suing the student residents of 711 Richmond Road, town-gown progress has been tainted in the eyes of many students. However, not all is dire and the new SA leadership should stand ready to capitalize upon the successes made in recent years. Positive developments have occurred this year with the formation of the Focus Group on Rental Properties Near the College, a body consisting of all stakeholders on reforming the three person rule. Further leadership is need-

ed in this area for progress to continue. Action on town-gown relationships will require creativity. Tired claims that the City needs to "take us seriously" are meaningless. Students should examine how candidates plan on working with the current focus group, and specific plans for better communication and understanding between students and residents. An understanding of the economic role that students play in the city is key. Student voter registration has clearly not been enough to elect students

to City Council, and further efforts must be made to truly reach that end. Each year, candidates running on the SA presidential ticket bite off significantly more than they can actually chew when elected. We hope that this year's candidates will hone in on the key issues and take decisive action. Students should cast their vote in tomorrow's race upon evaluations of whether true leadership can be provided on the issues most important to their quality of life at William and Mary.



Sarah Deans

Staff Editorial:

# Vote "NO" on tomorrow's expensive referenda

In addition to tomorrow's vote on individual Student Assembly candidates, students will also be asked for their input on at least three different referenda measures. If passed, each of these measures would substantially increase student fees for expensive programs. In times of financial hardship for many, as well as the

College, we urge students to vote NO. One ballot measure increases student fees by \$56 per semester, for a total of \$112 next year, in order to replace the grass on Busch Field with AstroTurf. Last year's entire student activities fee totaled \$88. This initiative is hardly to the benefit of "a great many

students," as claimed by the referendum's sponsor, SA Senator Ben Brown ('11). We're sure he felt the same way about his use of SA money to purchase the ping-pong ball dispenser that was stolen from the Sadler Center within weeks of its purchase. This proposal would be funny if it weren't actually something seriously be-

ing raised for a vote and so costly. Another referendum measure in tomorrow's election calls for a one-time charge of \$26 per student which will be allocated for the installation of an irrigation system installed on the Intramural Field. This is yet another unfair excuse to ask students to pay more money. Lastly, it might seem misguided to ask students to pay for the distribution of a publication which is already offered online for free. But that is what this final ballot measure proposes, asking students for an increased recurring fee to pay for The Onion. The Onion Pilot Program implemented last fall delivered print issues of the publication around cam-

pus costing students \$760 for a service that is already free. To make such a practice recurring through a permanent increase in the student fee would be reckless. Many issues of the The Onion went unread. Furthermore, individual students could access the publication online for free if they chose to.

With the administration and Board of Visitors preparing to raise our tuition by a substantial amount for the 2009-2010 academic year, voting against these measures will go a long way to aid struggling students and their families from paying even more out of pocket.

News Editor Michael Watson recused himself from this editorial.



Sarah Deans

[www.VAInformer.com](http://www.VAInformer.com)  
All the news that's fit to go online.

# A formula for success: The story of *The Virginia Informer*

It is quite often that members of a collegiate organization base their participation upon common interest, talent, history or enjoyment. It is quite rare, however, for members of such an organization to also base their participation upon a set of common and unwavering principles. It is this that binds the staff members of *The Virginia Informer* together and is our formula for success.

Our core belief in an independent press, the pursuit of truth, and accountability from those who govern our daily activities are principles which have and will forever define *The Informer*. Challenged on nearly a daily basis since the newspaper's founding in 2005, these principles have not only stood firm but have also fostered a thriving organization of nearly seventy staffers, producing 40 editions, 1,200 articles, and circulating 90,000 copies

in just four years time.

It has been an honor to serve as the editor of such a fantastic publication whose mission is just as remarkable as the people who work for it. It is also an honor to pass on the future of this organization to its next set of ambitious editors and officers.



**Andrew Blasi**  
Editor in Chief Emeritus

There is perhaps no one who better understands *The Informer's* core principles than its next leader, Steven Nelson. In addition to being one of the news-

paper's most dedicated editors, Steven has never been afraid to pursue the most difficult issues facing the College community. His leadership will undoubtedly bring the organization to new heights.

His accompanying editors and officers-Bert Mueller, Sarah Nadler, Kirk Verneeggard, Michael Watson, Rachel Smith, Alexander Powell,

Gunnar Gregory, Sam McVane, Alec McKinley, Meredith Wachs, Hart Moore, Brittany Lane, Eric Ames, Brandon Bleakley, Ariel Ittah, and Morgan Linski-are nothing short of stellar and collectively represent the very best student media team on campus. Each of their respective staffs is equally talented, representing the engine that moves the organization forward every day.

The success and accomplishments we have made over the past four years could not have been without the numerous editors and staff members who will be leaving us at the end of the semester. It is also the case that upon their long-dreaded departure, no member of the newspaper's 2005 founding staff will remain on campus. They represent the very foundation upon which this organization was established and are sure to accomplish extraordinary things. In particular, the contributions of Alex Mayer, Jon San, Nick Fitzgerald, Kristin Coyner, Michelle Ju, and R.C. Ras-

mus will resonate at the College for many years to come.

There has been little in my life more rewarding over the past three years than working on the staff of *The Virginia Informer*. Being afforded the opportunity to serve as the newspaper's first Editor in Chief following the graduation of its founders is an experience I will never forget. I thank the organization's founders, Joe Luppino-Esposito and Amanda Yasenchak for their wisdom, vision, and trust. I would also like to give my unwavering thanks and love to Jennifer Souers. Her work as the paper's business editor along with the advice and encouragement she has given me throughout the past year is the reason for all the success I have had.

There is no doubt that the future of this newspaper holds tremendous potential for even greater success and growth. Words cannot describe how lucky I feel to have been just a small part of it.

## Change and a New Tomorrow

As some of our more observant readers will have notice there have been changes to *The Virginia Informer* staff. The former editors, now emeritus editors, have done a wonderful job helping the paper grow and flourish in this, the Informer's 4<sup>th</sup> year. However it has been said and it is true, that all good things must come to pass, and now the Informer is helmed with new leadership and the opinions section is no different. I, Alexander (Lex) Powell will be now attempting to fill the shoes of the brilliant Kristin Coyner. This is no small feat, and I think now would certainly not be an indecorous time to pause and reflect on the nature of the opinions section and the new direction I hope I am able to take it towards.

campus. This is not to say the proverbial bread and butter will cease to the politics pertaining to the College, for that is not the case, but I hope to broaden the scope at times, for flavor, to include particularly important national issues.



**Alexander Powell**  
Opinion Editor

My reason for this is twofold. Foremost we are told that we are "the leaders of the future generations," and it can be doubtlessly asserted that we have in our student body at large some of the sharpest political minds on any campus in America, surely then some of these students can produce and would be willing to produce insightful persuasive essays

on national issues. It is possible also that these students stayed silent simply out of lack of interest in College politics or local issues. Secondly at times, we all must admit, the campus action is a little slow and pieces on things like the removal of trays from the Caf or yet another article on the SWAS hardly inflames the soul or piques much interest in most warm blooded students. It is a disservice to the student body to remain beholden only to campus issues and make mountains out of molehills when there are pressing national or state issues that affect us all just as much. In this venture I hope to remain fair and balanced, giving each side an equal voice as honest equal discussion is necessary for true debate and change. I also hope to recruit students on campus who up until this point couldn't care less about a student run paper.

Firstly the opinions section, in my opinion (ha ha), is the very heart of the paper. It is the only place where student voices on issues that affect us all can be heard. News is important to inform but the opinions page can, if done properly, awaken the heart of the activist that beats dormant within all of us. The Op-ed section can be the klaxon call to action and justice or it can act as the lighthouse, whose beacon that can hopefully steer the student body away from rocky outcroppings. It is a forum where both conservative and liberal opinions from our fellow classmates can be heard and each one of us can weigh the argument's merit for ourselves and make decisions accordingly. An open forum for the discussion of ideas and policies in which every student can access and participate is the very lifeblood of vibrant college campuses as well as wholesome republics.

Secondly, if I am able, I would like to on occasion shift the area for discussion away from issues pertaining only to the

In closing it is my goal at *The Informer* to both keep the opinions section vibrant as well as periodically expanding its purview to include national issues that affect us all now and after we depart from college. I ask for the help of all students who want a voice in the Informer and it's new direction, it cannot be done, or done as well, without you.

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

*The Informer* is an independent publication and does not receive any public funding, unlike other publications at William and Mary.

**We would like to especially recognize some of our private supporters.**

- Mr. Richard Beard - Mr. Robert Beck
- Mr. Alberto Chalmeta
- Mr. John Gleie - Mr. Lance Kyle
- Mr. Sanford Whitwell

- The Collegiate Network
- The Patrick Henry Center
- The Leadership Institute

**If you would like to support *The Virginia Informer*, please contact us at [editor@vainformer.com](mailto:editor@vainformer.com).**

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## Love us? Hate us?

Please send letters to the editor.

[editor@vainformer.com](mailto:editor@vainformer.com)

Letter to the Editor:

# SA presidential candidates' statement to William and Mary community

We believe that it's time for a change on campus—for too long the Student Assembly has been irrelevant—it hasn't been engaged, it hasn't gotten much done. We also see a student government that is out of touch with the general student body. These two problems can easily be fixed. Student government can be effective with passion—advocacy requires energy and determination. Getting in touch with the student body can be done through office hours at the grind/meridian, and a phonebanking campaign that covers the entire student body—and



**Horacio Carreno**  
Class of 2010



**Michael Douglass**  
Class of 2011

we can do it in under 300 days!

Fundamentally, the W&M community has major problems. We shout "one tribe" at the football games, but everyone gets too involved in their own thing. While having your own interests is a great thing, sometimes it's easy to lose sight of the bigger picture and the greater good. We want to fight for one tribe, one community, united around service. The SA can help by coordinating events and providing better support for organizations around campus to enrich student life. We pledge to push for that.

We plan to send permanent ambassadors from the Student Assembly to all the student organizations and increase funding. We plan to put up weekly YouTube videos so you will always know what we're doing. We plan to hold mandatory office hours for any student to talk to us personally. We plan to work with the cultural organizations to create an Intercultural Center. We plan to protect Greek housing. We plan to massively expand our lobbying efforts in Richmond to bring money back to William and Mary. We plan to raise sexual assault awareness and provide comprehensive support to the anti-sexual assault groups. We plan to expand



**Sarah Rojas**  
Class of 2010



**Ryan Ruzic**  
JD Class of 2011

the local and organic food options on campus with the help of SEAC. We plan to end the three person rule. Already, Sarah has sponsored/cosponsored bills addressing health services, residence life policy, Richmond internships, campus energy, civic engagement initiatives, environmental initiatives with SEAC, Steer Clear funding, student voter registration, and outreach to student organizations. As an undergrad, Ryan served two terms as Student Body President at University of Illinois and was Vice President of Men Against Sexual Violence. At W&M Ryan is an officer in Student Legal Services and serves in the Senate.

Letter to the Editor:

## Voters should choose Wallace in 2010 race

Dear *Virginia Informer*,

Senior Class President is more than a title; it is an incredible undertaking that requires immense commitment, drive, and experience. We feel confident in encouraging you to vote for Alyssa Wallace for Class of 2010 President on March 26th. She is not running for simply the title of President, Alyssa is running because she truly cares about the Class of 2010 and making our Senior year successful. Alyssa Wallace is, without a doubt, the best person for the job.

Certain we could not dedicate the time necessary to make senior year a success, we decided not to seek reelection as class President and Treasurer.

From coordinating the Senior Class Gift committee, to organizing every event held by that committee, to preparing for every facet of commencement weekend, to ensuring that every member of our class has a memorable senior year, the class president must dedicate the majority of their Senior year working tirelessly for our class.

With three years of experience under her belt, Alyssa has the connections and experience necessary to organize Senior Class wine and cheeses, barbecues, tailgates, and dance pre-games. The Class of 2010's famous Dessert Night in Swem basement is her brainchild, and after serving as a hall council president for the past three years and Vice President of Social Affairs for the past two it is safe

to say Alyssa has the knowledge and connections necessary to organize any event imaginable. After working closely with Alyssa on the class budget for senior year over the past few months, we are confident she is prepared to tackle this job.

Alyssa has the respect of the other officers who are running. She has an excellent rapport with college administrators. She has seen what has worked and failed in Undergrad Council and Homecoming preparations and what has worked and failed in this year's Senior Class Gift Committee.

Alyssa's commitment to our class has been clear and constant; we need someone like her next year.

-Ali Snell and Andrew Noll



**Andrew Noll and Ali Snell**  
Class of 2010 Treasurer and President

# VOTE

Thursday, March 26

Cast your ballot at  
[sin.wm.edu](http://sin.wm.edu)

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- 2nd Session: June 1-5
- 3rd Session: July 20-24

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June 8-12

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June 15-19

A weeklong introduction to the freedom philosophy for high-school students, ages 15-18, in the United States. Topics include the American founding, free-market economics, the growth of government, the myth of the "robber barons," and environmentalism.

### HISTORY & LIBERTY

June 22-26

A weeklong intellectual feast centered on the battle between liberty and power throughout history. Topics include Ancient Rome, the American founding, the Civil War, as well as European and world history.

### APPLYING LIBERTY IN TODAY'S WORLD

July 6-10

A seminar discussing the hottest public-policy issues from the perspective of the freedom philosophy. Topics include the gold standard, urban planning, the bailouts, school choice, and foreign policy.

### YOUNG SCHOLARS COLLOQUIUM

July 13-18

An advanced seminar for FEE alumni, advanced undergraduates, and graduate students highlighting cutting-edge ideas in the case for a free society. Fresh thinking in economics, political theory, and law permeates the lectures.

### ADVANCED AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS

August 3-8

A seminar for advanced students of economics. It delves into fundamentals and implications of the economic approach pioneered by Menger, Böhm-Bawerk, Mises, Hayek, and Kirzner. Latest works by the newest generation of Austrian scholars will be explored.

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