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# THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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An independent publication at the College of William and Mary.

2008 Collegiate Network Paper of the Year

## Student tasered outside Green Leafe Delly Student Rights Department reacts

Michael Watson and Julia Riesenberg  
News Editor and Arts & Culture Editor

Around 2 AM on the morning of of March 27 a William and Mary student was shot with a police taser outside the Green Leafe by Williamsburg police.

Eyewitness Douglas Hurson ('09) said that the student, who was heavily intoxicated, was being uncooperative as police checked his identification. As the police moved to place the student in handcuffs, the student attempted to run, causing police to draw tasers "immediately" and fire twice. After what Mr. Hurson described as "10-20 minutes" the paramedics arrived to remove the darts from the student's back. According to Mr.

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## Despite recession, Swem is a fundraising powerhouse

Aimee Forsythe  
Staff Writer

Amidst a receding economy and budget cuts, Swem Library is actually having its best year for fundraising. According to Connie McCarthy, dean of the libraries, Swem is "having one of our best years ever," receiving gifts totaling to at least \$2.9 million this school year.

Two large donations are responsible for making this year a record one for Swem. The first gift came from the McLeod family. In October, Bee McLeod, an alumna of William and Mary, gave \$2.5 million to the college in honor of her parents. From this donation, \$1.5 million went to Swem and \$1 million went to the new business school library.

In November, Swem received another generous gift from Dorothy Vollertsen. Ms. Vollertsen did not graduate from the College. However, Dean McCarthy says that she "valued historic documents" and was very much a history enthusiast, having both ancestors that lived in Jamestown and that arrived on the Mayflower. Half of her estate, \$1.4 million was given to Swem and the other half went to the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Dean McCarthy said that these two gifts will be put towards the endowment fund, which is managed by the William and Mary Foundation. Swem will receive income from this, but it will not generate enough money to cover its recent budget cuts. According to Dean McCarthy, Swem had its budget cut by \$160,000 this year, forcing Swem to reduce funds for its collection, rather than cut back on staff.

Dean McCarthy is thrilled with the fundraising this year, saying it has at least doubled or tripled the amount raised from last year. She is still hopeful for more donations and has been grateful to those donors that have continued to give and support the library.

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Alec McKinley

**College police outside and around the Delis:** William and Mary police wait outside of the Delis on the weekends. On the morning of Friday, March 27, police tasered a student outside the Green Leafe when he failed to comply with orders.

## 'Free Speech Zones' confine SA candidates

Mike Young  
Staff Writer

Solicitation rules are usually implemented and designed to protect students from harassment by advertisers. However, on Election Day, these rules impacted students running for office who were trying to get out their messages. Considerable controversy erupted on Election Day when candidates were confined to campaign in "free speech zones" that were located in front of the SC, Campus Center, and at VIMS. Campaigning outside of these zones was prohibited.

Mark Constantine, Assistant Vice President For Student Affairs stated that these free speech zones were not violating school policy regarding solicitors that show up to campus, and that the rules governing the election are the same rules that govern any person who comes to campus to speak. Speakers are given a

designated area in which to stay, so they are not pestering.

Mr. Constantine believes that the rules are in place so that there is some kind of order to what goes on during Election Day and other days. His biggest concern is that the candidates will become pestering to students who have either already voted or don't really care. He made it clear that this was not his personal policy, but was the policy of the school.

Mr. Constantine stated that he sat down with Matt Beato, the Chairman of the SA election commission, the day before the election and discussed what the acceptable campaign tactics and locations were for the candidates. Mr. Beato ensured that candidates knew the college policy; many candidates reacted harshly

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Alec McKinley

**Freedom of speech under fire:** College administrator Mark Constantine re-affirmed that college policy forbids "solicitation" on UC Terrace prior to Student Assembly election. FIRE has forced the repeal of such policies at other universities, such as Clemson and Texas A&M University.

# International justice mission representative speaks on rule of law in Africa

**Brittany Lane**  
Assistant Features Editor

On Thursday, March 26, Joseph Kibugu of the International Justice Mission lectured on the topic "How the Rule of Law Can End Conflict in Africa." International Justice Mission (IJM) is a non-profit organization based in the United States dedicated to globally advocating for human rights through justice. They combat issues such as sexual exploitation, illegal detention, human trafficking and police brutality. Kibugu serves as the Kenyan Field Office Director with IJM and Kibugu focused his lecture on police brutality, corruption, and sexual violence.

**In one area of Kenya, 460 cases of sexual abuse were reported to the police, and officials failed to open a single file or question a single suspect.**

Kibugu began his lecture with a snapshot of his upbringing. He grew up about two hours outside of Nairobi, Kenya. His father was educated, so Kibugu was raised in a relatively insulated manner. He had no perception of the world beyond his life in his village. Thus, he felt the need to venture out and make an impact.

He enrolled in the University of Nairobi Law School and eventually got a job with a law firm that volunteered its time at a local clinic. His life drastically changed when he met a woman whose brother had recently been murdered, and the police did not investigate the incident. When he visited her family at home and saw a picture of her brother, the injustice became personal to him. Kibugu believes that the highest calling for a lawyer is to bring hope and justice to people who are poor and caught in a broken system. He joined a new IJM office in Kenya, and he continues to help victims of abuse who cannot rely on local authorities for justice.

Kibugu highlighted the fact that only a few legal systems in the world effectively address violations. Most people worldwide do not have access to prosecutors trained as lawyers, and sometimes police officers are promoted to the position of prosecutor without any legal training.

Reported infractions go unaddressed and forgotten, especially those of sexual abuse. In one area of Kenya, 460 cases of sexual abuse were reported to the police, and officials failed to open a single file or question a single suspect.

Kibugu and IJM seek to assess existing legal systems and determine solutions. Kibugu argues that the police forces need better training. In the case of sexual abuse, he asserts that police stations send victims to clinics calling abuse a medical issue and clinics send victims back, advising them to file a report on the incident in question instead.

According to Kibugu, no social demand emanates from the people wanting to change this unacceptable state of affairs. He believes the rule of law depends on people demanding justice and making it a question of politics.

He describes the challenge as huge and persistence as the key. Citing the crises of Rwanda and Darfur, Kibugu believes Africa as a whole would be a better place if rule of law systems simply provided incentives for those following the law and punishment for those that violate it as well as consistent enforcement.

At the end of his speech, Kibugu discussed how fulfilling it was to work with a group like IJM that reaches out to find out what is happening in the world. He advised everyone in the audience to strive to impact the world.

## Rule of Law in the Top 20 Most Populated Nations

1. Germany	90%
2. United States	86%
3. Japan	84%
4. France	82%
5. India	58%
6. Turkey	54%
7. Thailand	54%
8. Egypt	52%
9. Brazil	42%
10. China	41%
11. Vietnam	37%
12. Ethiopia	36%
13. Mexico	32%
14. Philippines	31%
15. Indonesia	27%
16. Bangladesh	24%
17. Iran	20%
18. Pakistan	18%
19. Russia	15%
20. Nigeria	10%

\*World Bank percentile rankings, trending highest to lowest

\* [http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/mc\\_countries.asp](http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/mc_countries.asp)

## Rule of Law by Region

1. Caribbean	65%
2. East Asia	55%
3. Eastern Europe & Baltics	54%
4. Mid. East & North Africa	49%
5. South Asia	36%
6. Latin America	32%
7. Sub-Saharan Africa	27%
8. Former Soviet Union	19%

## Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Watson, News Editor

### Greeks Hold Carnival Event for Arc of Greater Richmond

The Inter-Sorority Council and Council for fraternity affairs hosted the 10th annual Arc Carnival in conjunction with Arc of Greater Richmond, an organization that assists people with developmental disabilities. Over 250 Greek life students participated in the event by taking "buddies" around the various activity stations and showing them a good time. The event, held at the Sunken Garden, is the largest and longest-running service program undertaken by the College's Greek community as a whole, Arc officials, and College administrators approve the long-term commitment the College and its students have shown to the organization.

### Mascot Committee Begins Accepting Submissions

April 1 marked the opening of the public submission period for proposed William and Mary mascots to the College's Mascot Committee. The committee is accepting submissions in any format, although it is encouraging visual representations of proposed mascots. Over 450 individuals have used various tools to give input to the committee so far, and the Mascot Search website has received over 26,000 hits. The Committee has been encouraged by the response to the call for input. Submissions may be made by form online or by mail, and will be accepted until June 30.

### Eighth Annual Graduate Research Symposium Held

On March 27 and 28 the College held its eighth annual Graduate Research Symposium at the Sadler Center. The symposium consisted of sessions chaired by

30 William and Mary faculty, and the event program ran to 88 pages in length. The symposium was presented by the College's Arts and Sciences division. The featured lectures on the 27th were delivered by Professors Scott Nelson and Mark Forsyth, who spoke on the work of scholars and bacterial perceptions of human hosts. Awards were presented at sessions on the 28th.

### Young Guard hold weekend event

The Young Guard of William and Mary, an organization of alumni from the five most recent classes to graduate the College, held their second annual Young Guard weekend from April 3-5. The event was billed as an opportunity for recent alumni to meet with friends from their college days and hear from President Reveley and professors. Senior Adam Fowler said, "It's great that we have a program that gives alumni incentive to come back and participate in their college community."

## THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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Founders  
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# CATO scholar presents case for college privatization

**Ian Kirkpatrick**  
Assistant News Editor SA

If William and Mary were to privatize it would almost certainly “thrive,” according to Neal McCluskey, who spoke at the college this past Thursday. McCluskey, from the Cato Institute’s Center for Educational Freedom, spoke about the education market, with a focus on privatizing the college. “Privatize has a negative connotation... but it’s really just another way of saying freedom” you let people decide where they want their money to go. According to McCluskey there are two major reasons for privatizing. The first is efficiency, both for schools, as well as tax payers. The second reason is “rather unorthodox,” and that is that one “cannot reconcile academic freedom” with “compelling taxpayers to pay for education.”

Despite losing the “safety net” of government funding William and Mary would prosper, it “is well known and thus has a competitive advantage... there are 4500 facilities for higher education” in America, “many of them relatively unknown, and they still survive the competition.”

Doing business under the control of the state, with bureaucratic approval at every step is inherently inefficient—“schools need to adapt quickly to the changing market place of education.” And only nimble private institutions are flexible enough to lead the way. The “administrators at a school probably know better what their revenue needs are, compared to politicians in Richmond,” and thus can reallocate resources to satisfy the demand of students. But when the government dictates where resources should go they are wasted because the market, (i.e. students), have less say. Public schools are also often out competed for good professors, because they “have little autonomy with teachers pay.”

“Here’s something people don’t generally know: when politicians say they want to increase spending on higher education to promote so called ‘spill over’ effects for the economy” they “might be doing anything but that.” Economist Richard Vetter tested this popular assertion by correlating spending on higher education with economic growth, and *ceteris paribus*, growth went down as such spending increased.

This may seem surprising, but as McCluskey says, “when you are spending someone else’s money you don’t care nearly as much what happens to it; thus when money is given to a university it is often used inefficiently.” McCluskey sites for example the purchase of “hot tubs and climbing walls” as well as “high paid celebrity professors that often teach only one class.” One could argue that the state could stop these behaviors, but they would be better off eliminating the incentives that caused them to begin with (by making institutions more dependent on their own money).

Furthermore, “education just does

not fit the definition of a public good.” Positive externalities are non-rivalrous and non-excludable and indeed, multiple people can “consume” the same professor’s lessons, but the value would be “greatly decreased in a class of 4000 vs a class of 20” Those whose education best benefits society (such as a doctor who invents a life saving drug) would have gone to school anyway. Subsidized education removes “the pricing mechanism as dictated by all people in the aggregate,” at these “artificially low prices [people] over-consume education.” This is apparent in the figure for the “6 year graduation rate,” at 4 year institutions, which “is about 58 percent.” This figure means the government provides incomplete degrees to marginal students- for which the market value is nil.

Additionally there is “no concrete evidence that universities *directly* improve society... attending a university is a proxy for who you are as an individual, you are already the kind of person who is a good worker before you go to college,” thus schools don’t make good employees, they improve them. “And what about the poor? Philanthropic organizations spent 31.6 billion on scholarships in 2008... imagine how much they would spend if the government stopped saying they were going to do it for them.”

But still, many would protest, after all the cost of tuition has risen a lot. “Why has [the cost of] tuition increased so much? The government’s willingness to pay for everything; increases in government subsidies are correlated with increases in the cost of tuition... take the cost of tuition and deduct all the government give aways, and it’s hardly gone up at all.” “The government can deliver aid, and if [it] does, it should go to students, not to universities- there can be a voucher program, as long as parents freely choose where their money goes.” This allows “market mechanisms to allocate resources, not bureaucrats.”

The second line of argument concerns free speech; “your first amendment rights do not include the right for your neighbors to pay for your free speech.” Thus when a Virginia resident says they don’t want to pay for something (like SWAS or religious endorsement, such as the Wren cross controversy) they are fully justified in doing so.

Another example is the Ward Churchill controversy. Churchill, a professor in Colorado state school, “wrote an inflammatory essay that said 9/11 victims were little Eichmans... he said he had academic freedom to say what he wanted... and the governor affirmed this,” but said that he could not do so “as an employee of the state.” So they dug up some unsavory information against him and he was fired.” Yet “in the marketplace of ideas we have to explore everything” so in this way, publicly subsidized education is inherently stifling.



**MCCLUSKEY**

# Police deny using Bloom’s keg registry to find student parties

**Boris Kiselev**  
Staff Writer

Whenever the purchase of a keg is made at a grocery store, the store is required by law to register the buyer’s name, phone number, and the address, as well as date at which the keg will be used, with Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Concerned students have contacted *The Virginia Informer* suggesting that police have come to off-campus parties, without there first being a noise complaint, and informed the residents that they were aware that a party was occurring.

The Bloom store located on Richmond Road retains information about keg purchases on file and these are occasionally checked by ABC agents to ensure compliance. In Williamsburg, where there is a large student population and off-campus keg parties are often associated with noise complaints and underage drinking, it is suspected by students that police check the records to determine when and where parties will occur.

Bloom at the Williamsburg Shopping Center is the largest supplier of kegs to William and Mary students. The store sells an estimated 10-15 kegs every week-end to students. When asked for comment, general manager Billy Cylik was at first hesitant to comment, saying “I can’t disclose any information” citing the policy as a “grey area...[for which] we could be held liable.” Mr. Cylik went on to say, “they check it quite often...especially

when you have big events, [they know about it].” He then would not specify who checks the registration or how the process occurs.

When asked for comment Lieutenant John Coleman of the William and Mary Police Department denied any such practice, saying “we don’t do that” and that “[I] can’t imagine that’d be done just to break parties up.” However, he added that the William and Mary Police Department was not aware of any actions taken by the Williamsburg PD, saying “[we] don’t know if other individual agencies are doing that.”

Chief James Yost of the Williamsburg Police reflected the statement of the William and Mary Police Department, denying any such occurrence. “I am unfamiliar with that process,” said Mr. Yost, “I don’t know of any programs that do that.” He did say that the books might be checked “if there was an incident of someone with a keg who wasn’t of age.” Mr. Yost remarked that he did not know the practices of the ABC board itself.

Special Agent Tony Jimenez of ABC enforcement shared with *The Informer* that ABC enforcement officials were legally allowed to come in and check the registration books at any time and that checks do occur several times a year to ensure that the store is following state laws and regulations. He also said that it is legal for police officers to come in and check the books as “licensees have to cooperate”, though he did not know of any specific jurisdictions that did so.

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# March 26 Student Assembly Election

Student Assembly President and Vice President:  
Sarah Rojas '10 and Ryan Ruzic J.D. '11 (59.23 percent)

### Class of 2010

**President**  
Alyssa Wallace

**Vice President for Advocacy**  
Jessica Taubman

**Vice President for Social Affairs**  
Laura Nelson

**Treasurer**  
Ray Ciabattoni

**Secretary**  
NONE

**Senators**  
Ross Gillingham  
Jim Dunleavy  
Steven Nelson  
Erik Houser

### Class of 2011

**President**  
Michael Tsidulko

**Vice President for Advocacy**  
NONE

**Vice President for Social Affairs**  
Wayne Pearson

**Treasurer**  
Chrissy Scott

**Secretary**  
Sahra Roble

**Senate**  
Brittany Fallon  
Ben Brown  
Imad Matini  
Juan Jorquera

### Class of 2012

**President**  
Kobie Gordon

**Vice President for Advocacy**  
Steph Kumah

**Vice President for Social Affairs**  
NONE

**Treasurer**  
Xiaoyu Gao

**Secretary**  
Stephanie McGuire

**Senate**  
Matt Schofield  
Betty Jeanne Manning  
Stef Felitto  
Jill Olszewski

## Elections marred by eligibility mistake and email abuse

**Michael Watson**  
News Editor

The March 26 Student Assembly General Election was marred by an Elections Commission mistake that allowed graduate students to vote in Undergraduate class elections for a brief period, a mass anonymous attack email, and the unauthorized use of the Council for Fraternity Affairs listserv to send personal candidate endorsements.

The mistake in College's Student Information Network (SIN) voting system allowed graduate students to vote in Undergraduate class elections. In all cases but the 2010 Senate race, the graduate student votes did not exceed the margin required for the winners to achieve the threshold of election. The 2010 Senate race required a Thursday April 2 special election, since the fourth-highest tally of 238 for Eric Newman was 3 votes higher than the first eliminated tally of 235 for Erik Houser. Mr. Newman withdrew from the special election and Mr. Houser won the seat.

The morning of Election Day saw an anonymous email in all student inboxes attacking the ticket of Horacio Carreno-Garcia ('10) and Michael Douglass ('11). The email was sent from address "wmtruth15@gmail.com" and attacked Mr. Carreno-Garcia's lack of SA experience and accused Mr. Douglass of being "[the] only student senator to not vote for Steer Clear, because he felt it was 'immoral.'" Anonymous emails are prohibited by SA Elections Code. The Carreno-Douglass ticket decried the attacks as "misleading to blatantly false," and the ticket of Sarah Rojas ('10) and Ryan Ruzic (JD '11) condemned the anonymous attacks.

Fraternity men were also sent an

email by CFA Judicial Chairman and SA Senator Ben Brown ('11) endorsing the ticket of Ms. Rojas and Mr. Ruzic. Mr. Brown said that fraternity men "[will] be given the choice between two candidates who are both members of Greek organizations and understand the issues [fraternities are] facing, and two non-Greek candidates who, quite frankly, do not." CFA Chairman David Cooper ('10) declared Brown's actions "inappropriate." Mr. Brown later issued a retraction that issued "apologies for flooding [fraternity men's] inboxes on election day" and acknowledged that the CFA had endorsed neither Presidential ticket. Mr. Cooper believed the sentiments were genuine.



Alec McKinley

**Mr. Vice President:** Ryan Ruzic (JD '11) was elected to be second in command to Sarah Rojas ('10) as Vice President of the Student Assembly.

## SA holds lame duck session following election

**Ian Kirkpatrick**  
Assistant News Editor SA

Without blinking, and with around two minutes of "debate" at the March 31, 2009 SA Senate meeting, Senators unanimously approved almost \$9000 to provide daily planners for sophomores and juniors. The bill was sponsored by Senator Caroline Mullis ('09). Central to the bill's passage was that the planners had a "convenient little calendar" in them. Senators also debated the CIA (Card Information Act) for several minutes-vacillating on whether or not they should recommend (because they have no actual power) the ID office to put the counseling center number and Avalon number on the back of the ID card (in addition to the ones already there - Campus Police and Campus Escort). The bill was returned to committee following concerns that sexual assault-related phone number was recommended.

Elections Commissioner Matt Beato ('09) gave a presentation of the Certified Election

Results. He presented the election results in great detail, along with a comprehensive list of problems ("10 Things I Hate About this Election") with possible solutions. He even used graphs. It was that good, Mr. Beato's list of grievances included problems with the (confidential) candidate list. The list was once again disclosed to The Flat Hat. Beato concluded "SA members cannot be trusted with tempting lists," and that their distribution should be restricted to respectful class.

Anonymous mass student emailing was also a topic of discussion, which was in reference to the anti Carreño & Douglass attack email sent out on election day. Mr. Beato was upset that it is currently a Class One violation and carries a mere 20 dollar fine, but is not enough to disqualify a candidacy. Mr. Beato felt that it should be the far more serious Class Three because it may have had a role in tipping the election.

Senators Steven Nelson ('10) and Stephanie Felitto ('12) presented The Open Billing Act. Ms. Felitto noted that "this bill has been in committee for longer than I've been in the senate." It would try to pressure the administration to break down the "assorted fees" listed in the tuition bills our parents get. The fees amount to thousands of dollars, but are individually rather small - save for the monumental athletics fee. Hopefully this will encourage the administrators "to stop dragging their feet". Mr. Beato added that "there was a bill very similar to this in 2004" that got nowhere.

Senators Brittany Fallon ('11) and Ben Brown ('11) introduced as new business the Trash Bags Bill. This bill will provide trash bags to put in the newly purchased recycling bins placed around campus. Clipboards will also be included in the purchase, so that APO brothers can record exactly how much material is being recycled per bin.

At the 24 March meeting (again during campaign season and thankfully brief), the Escort Act passed by unanimous consent, and will fund APO to rent a second golf cart. The money will be available this coming fall semester, and will for the first time make two carts available for Escort. Now, if only they'd pick me up when I ask them for a ride home...

## Keeping it real:

# Food co-op provides *real* food on campus

Molly Taylor  
Contributor

Just after 2 pm on Saturday, March 28, a group of William and Mary undergrads, graduate students, and Williamsburg community members gathered around a plate of deviled local, free-range chicken eggs. Although this range of people together is uncommon, all members were united by a shared interest: the RealFood Williamsburg Community Cooperative. RealFood is an up-and-coming local organization bringing the local food movement into your neighborhood and right to your kitchen table, an idea that has been four years in the making.

According to legend, Williamsburg's co-op initiative began in 2005, when William and Mary student Abigail Adams ('05) founded a food co-op based on natural and organic dry goods—pastas, chips, juices, and canned food. The co-op faded upon her graduation, but the idea behind it remained, and activists reunited in the Spring of 2007 during adjunct professor Charlie Maloney's Sustainability and Agriculture course as part of a final project that was meant to be "something real." When Lea Brumfield ('08), Josh Wayland ('08), and Jimmy McDonough ('07) got together, they took this suggestion literally, and the RealFood Williamsburg Food Cooperative was born.

With a focus on local, organic, and small-farm food, RealFood's three-fold goal is to reconnect members with what they eat through buying local and naturally-grown food, to provide sustainable agriculture education, and to provide opportunities for participation in the production and preparation of food. From the time of its inception to the meeting on March 28, RealFood has continued to blossom. Its Spring 2009 listserv reaches 350 members, and is currently growing by about 2-3 members per week.

For a semesterly membership fee of \$10, or \$7 plus 2.5 hours of volunteer work for the co-op, members can purchase wholesale-priced local produce, fruit "butters" and cider, and local and grass-fed meat from Full Quiver Farm in Suffolk. RealFood's ability to provide most of its produce is made possible through its partnership with Dave and Dee Scherr, mushroom growers in Sedley and operators of their own food delivery business. The co-op also offers educational workshops and literature on sustainable food, teaching members to can, preserve, and grow their own food. RealFood's managers are constantly looking for new foods and products, and they even recruit new members at parties.

The co-op has hit its fair share of obstacles. Around the early fall of 2008, the College renewed its contract with its food provider Aramark for the next five years. This contract prohibits anyone other than Aramark from distributing food on campus, with special exceptions for the campus coffeehouse The Daily Grind. While this is a legitimate legal issue for the College, it's become clear to RealFood's managers that, at least for now, they are on their own.

Although RealFood has no "beef" with Aramark, this troublesome detail has frustrated one of RealFood's most pressing issues: the lack of a location out of which to operate. Long-term dreams include a restaurant or café serving only local goods, but RealFood managers are realistic about having more short-term goals. Any central location sanctioned by the College would do just fine for now. Since four of RealFood's five managers are current William and Mary students (the fifth graduated in '08), RealFood's intimate involvement with the William and Mary community yet simultaneous exclusion from the campus seems somewhat paradoxical.

Despite these problems, the innate re-



Molly Taylor

**Excluded from campus:** RealFood Williamsburg Community Cooperative meets off-campus because it has not been recognized as a student organization.

sourcefulness of William and Mary students has served the co-op well. Along with Brumfield, RealFood's newest manager, Ian Fuller ('11) has been instrumental in moving towards nonprofit status for the co-op, and the newly redesigned website is slated to launch in the next two weeks. After the website's launch, RealFood members will be able to order directly from the site. Upcoming workshops include bread making, canning, and self-watering plant containers.

The group is also in the process of becoming a student organization, the focus of which will be purely educational and separate from the food distribution aspect of the co-op. "Building an educational collaboration with the college is a vital step in bringing a whole, sustainable, real food attitude to the college and to Williamsburg," says manager Lea Brumfield ('08). What would a partnership with the College mean exactly, aside from distribution on campus? Think internships: getting

College credit for things like working on a local farm or connecting the local food movement to the lower-income parts of the Williamsburg community.

Despite growing pains, RealFood's future looks bright. The dedication of all involved speaks to the power of the local food movement's message. Case in point, RealFood managers spend approximately 40 cumulative volunteer hours a week to keep the co-op going and growing. The most powerful testament of RealFood's potential to succeed is the overwhelming support from its members, which manifests itself in workshop volunteers, copious "thank you!"s, and even financial backing. "It's fantastic," says Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) co-facilitator Phil Zapfel ('09) of the co-op. "It combines all the things I'm looking to see happen at William and Mary." This enthusiasm filled the room during the March 28 gathering. RealFood is here to stay.

## Study abroad offers exotic experiences around the world

Chelsea Sisson  
Staff Writer

Most students mark the beginning of summer on their calendars well in advance. Some look forward to earning some extra cash with a summer job, while others plan a leisurely summer of

lounging on a beach and relaxing. Driven students may even be ambitious enough to embrace summer classes. The exotic study abroad programs offered through William and Mary may woo students wary of the idea of summer classes.

Twelve summer programs are offered through the College of William and

Mary. These programs span across the globe. Students can choose from programs offered in Barbados, Florence, Montpellier, and Prague, to name only a few. Emily Hogge, the Global Education Services Assistant at the Reves Center for International Studies, reported that the Cambridge program and the Beijing program were two of the most popular programs offered for this summer. Hogge also revealed that originally fourteen programs were to be offered this summer, but two, one in Goa, India and another in Capetown, South Africa, were canceled due to low student enrollment.

Studying abroad offers many benefits. Yanfang Tang, the program director for Beijing, believes that studying abroad exposes students to other cultures, allows them to experience foreign languages firsthand, and gives students an opportunity to grow personally. Alex Bowles ('10), who has studied abroad in the past, agrees. Bowles traveled to Cairo, Egypt and said her stay helped her realize that "the American standard of living and American luxuries are not necessary in life." When asked if she recommended studying abroad, Bowles stated, "Yes. You will grow as a person even if it's not directly related to your major."

Many students are able to incorpo-

rate studying abroad with their majors. Of course, there is the obvious example: those majoring or minoring in a language can obtain new skills and further practice through cultural immersion. Tang reasserted this idea by saying how helpful this immersion is for the Chinese language in particular. Although studying abroad is most useful for students who are majoring in a language, many majors, such as business, can receive an international emphasis, and many GERs can be met by studying abroad.

Summer study abroad programs offer students who don't have time to take a regular semester off a chance to study abroad. Summer study abroad programs are, however, as Hogge stated, an "abbreviated experience." Students are not able to absorb as much culture and don't have as much of a chance to make contacts.

While some students will be lathering on sunscreen and sunbathing this summer, others will have what could be a life-changing experiences abroad. While some students are earning cash, other students will have foreign language and culture experiences. As Hogge stated, "Our world is changing and becoming a lot more global. Studying abroad helps prepare students for the rest of their lives."



Alec McKinley

**Gateway to the world:** The Wendy and Emery Reves Center offers students summer overseas programs and several semester-length and year-length programs.

# SWAS 2009: ACLU lawsuit threat leads to performance restriction changes

**Kristen Coyner**  
Staff Writer

The 2009 tour of the Sex Worker's Art Show marked the show's fourth appearance at the College since 2005. This year's performance occurred with fairly subdued public outcry relative to last year's, which saw numerous controversies, from campus members all the way up to Virginia's Attorney General.

In President Taylor Reveley's February 2 announcement, which stated that the show would be allowed to return without censorship, conditions were noted under which such a return would be permitted; namely, as stated in President Reveley's press release, that the show would be a "means for a serious discussion about pertinent issues, conducted with the intellectual rigor and civility characteristic of William & Mary."

In the days before the show's March 23 appearance, two attempts were made to foster a public discussion of the issues surrounding the show. One event was directed by the Women's Studies department, while the other was sponsored directly out of the President's office.

A Campus Engagement/Campus Free speech discussion was first held on March 19, several days before SWAS's appearance at the College. This event also focused on the previous week's appearance of The Century Project. Panelists included student organizers of both events and Frank Cordelle, the photographer for The Century Project. Opposition voices to either The Century Project or SWAS were absent at this forum. However, Women's Studies director Christy Burns did attempt to solicit student opposition to appear at the panel.

The College-sponsored forum was organized out of the President's office and featured one student representative from either side and a moderator, law professor Susan Grover. Jesse Vasold ('11), a student organizer for SWAS, and Alexander Powell ('10), a member of the Facebook group "Don't Spend Our

Money on the Sex Workers Art Show," composed the panel. This event occurred mere hours before SWAS with definitive student participation garnered shortly before the panel. Jesse Vasold was contacted four days before the panel, while various members of the Facebook group were contacted by Billy Mutell ('09), working on behalf of the President's office, the night before the event.

College spokesperson Brian Whitson, in speaking for Mr. Mutell, stated "there was some difficulty finding participants who were willing to participate...the president's office worked to find someone against the SWAS that wanted to take part."

In response to the abrupt nature of being asked to participate, Alexander Powell stated "I was a bit surprised and I didn't feel that it was as organized as I would have liked." Furthermore, Mr. Powell was told when contacted that he would not be the sole opposing voice on the panel nor that would he would be required to speak, saying "on both counts I was a bit misled." The decision for a College-sponsored forum frustrated Jesse Vasold, who said "there was already a forum in place."

Publicity was sparse before the College-sponsored panel and included two entries in Student Happenings for promotion. No other campus-wide advertisements were made.

At the actual forum, media and administrators primarily composed the audience. The substance of the hour-long discussion between student panelists and audience members centered on the legitimacy of using student fees to fund SWAS. In addition to President Reveley, Annie Oakley, the director of SWAS, and other performers were present.

In reaction to the forum, President Reveley stated "The debate was good, but the attendance was weak." Moderator Susan Grover further expounded, stating "It was fine as far as it went. I think perhaps people with a lot to say on



Alex McKinley

**Waiting for SWAS:** This year's show was just as popular, but escaped much of the turmoil of last year. Still, certain restrictions were lifted only after the ACLU threatened lawsuit.

the topic had talked themselves out... I do not believe there were any strong, articulate voices against the substance of the SWAS, so the debate was a bit lopsided." Ultimately, however, she noted that the reasons for having the panel were met.

Alexander Powell's assessment of the event was milder, stating "It went well for what it was, but the attendance was smaller than I thought it would be." Commenting after the forum, Jesse Vasold remarked on the event, stating "it was really good, but there was not a great turnout."

The two performances of SWAS were relatively calm compared to previous years. A few members of the Messianic Congregation Zion's Sake and the William and Mary Christian Group Chi Alpha rallied outside of the Sadler Center while the show took place. A visible student-led protest was noticeably absent this year, however. Hours before

the show, the ACLU threatened a lawsuit on behalf of sponsoring student groups, which including Lambda Alliance, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Tide-water Labor Support Committee, Meridian Coffeehouse, and Lips. The threat was due to performance restrictions which included a ban on merchandise sales, a moderator for the post-performance question and answer period, a prohibition on filming the event, and a ban on performers attending post-show parties. The restrictions were modified and the suit was not filed.

From William and Mary, SWAS travelled to Guilford College in North Carolina and Firehouse Theater in Richmond, Virginia. This year, the Student Assembly allocated \$2,300 for the show's return; students were charged \$3 for admission.

*Editor's Note: Alexander Powell is Opinion Editor of The Virginia Informer.*

## I ♥ Beer:

# Alco-pop "beers" are for the birds

**Hart Moore**  
Assistant News Editor

A taste for beer is surely a developed one. Much like coffee, this bitter brew is unique to almost all other tastes, and a teenager's first Budweiser is all too often left half finished, his taste buds disillusioned from the thrill of an adult drink. Our parents force us to eat asparagus, our peers pressure us into drinking beer, and in the end we all grow up. Except for the consumers of Smirnoff ice.

Flavored malt beverages, or "alco-pops" as Wikipedia denotes them, allow approximately half the female sex to claim they drink beer. However, nothing could be farther from the truth. The brewing process begins by completely filtering out the color and taste of a malt liquor batch. This is followed by the addition of large amounts of sugar, artificial flavor, and lastly, a stingy amount of liquor. For the higher end products, the liquor is dredged from the very bottom of the distilling barrel, but most brands

save money by using grain alcohol. After sampling a Smirnoff Ice "Green Apple Bite", the result of this process is an emasculated cocktail with enough sweetness to give you a hangover from the sugar alone. The drink is void of any hint of barley or hops.

The brewers of these drinks (Smirnoff, Bacardi, Mike's Hard Lemonade) have cleverly disguised their lollipops in the form of silver, purple, and light green beer bottles to target their largely female consumer base. However, this hasn't stopped them from reaching out to the male population. Mike's hard lemonade commercials feature a construction worker stating, "In a world gone soft, someone's got to be hard." Moreover, bacardiliver.com features a slew of suave, Ron Burgundy like gentlemen

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**Flavored malt beverages, or "alco-pops" as Wikipedia denotes them, allow approximately half the female sex to claim they drink beer.**

---

delivering pick up lines as they show off their Bacardi Silvers.

On the positive side, the beginning drinker may find this easier to imbibe. In fact, numerous political

debates have ensued over the safety hazards of such an innocent looking, sweet tasting alcoholic drink. Like malt beverages, the alcohol content ranges from 4% - 7%, allowing most stores to legally carry the drink. I concede that the product has its niche in the alcohol world, yet this niche is decidedly novice and uncultured. Until these flavored malt beverages are packaged in the Capri-Sun juice boxes where they belong, *The Virginia Informer* will not extend its endorsement.

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



Hart Moore

**Un-manly drinks:** Gendered alcoholic beverages may have stigma in the college social drinking environment.

# AU Professor delivers stark assessment of US, Islamic world relations

**Lex Powell**  
Opinion Editor

On Wednesday, March 25 the World in America speaker series had esteemed professor and Islamic scholar Akbar Ahmed speak in the Commonwealth Auditorium at the Sadler Center. The series was organized by the Reves Center for International Studies. Ahmed is currently the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University and has served on the British Royal Council on Islamic Relations.

The presentation opened with two five-minute videos, one from a recently conducted BCC interview and another piece from Ahmed's documentary *Islam and America*, in which the team went to the appropriately-named Arab, Alabama to find local opinions on Arabs and Muslims in general.

Ahmed opened his speech saying that his desire to research of the status of Islam in America began on 9/11. He hopes "to make sense between Islam and America in a time of intense emotional, political and

cultural turmoil" and to explain the events that have "triggered many ongoing wars."

In his search for understanding in the Muslim world he claimed that, "Muslims felt that America misunderstood or maligned Islam and need to treat it with much more respect."

Furthermore, he outlined the need for discourse between the Muslim world and the American Islamic community, citing that the world had 1.4 billion Muslims and that "in a couple of years, there will be four of five or six nuclear powered Muslim countries."

Mr Ahmed said that understanding the American Muslim community was "the very essence of holding onto American identity." He stated "The vision of America is pluralist, open, accepting, democratic, egalitarian, and tolerant to religion." Ahmed expressed his admiration of the founding fathers for being great progressive minds. However, he found it difficult to reconcile that now in America "a Muslim appears to have no rights" and "America has compromised its founding fathers' vision." The question Ahmed wants answered by the Christian and

Muslim American communities is "How do you define American identity?"

Ahmed then outlined the three most



Courtesy Photo

**R-E-S-P-E-C-T:** Akbar Ahmed lectures on the need for American to respect the Islamic world if peace is to be achieved.

prominent Muslim American communities, the first being the Arab or Middle Eastern Muslims, the "indigenous Islam." The second, South Asian Muslims who he dubbed "the best ambassadors for America," and the third the homegrown African American Muslims, whose faith he called "fresh, invigorating, and totally faithful." Ahmed hopes that by understanding these communities through cultural and anthropological lenses, we can form an understanding of what is to be both American and Muslim and how we might face the challenges of our nation together.

In closing Ahmed said that it was too soon to render any conclusion but was optimistic that President Obama and the forces in Washington were "using their brains for the first time in a while." And that "for the first time we have heard the word respect in dealing with the Muslim world" However he tempered this optimism with a stern realism to the challenged we face "if he [Obama] loses Pakistan, he loses Afghanistan, if he loses Afghanistan he loses the entire region and... the game is up for America."

## Witnessing Scotland's economic depression

**Jennifer Souers**  
Staff Writer

The British Conservative Party has a new slogan: "Dad's Nose. Mum's Eyes. Gordon Brown's Debt." This phrase implies that every British baby will have £17,000 of debt from the day it's born. This is what it is like to be in the United Kingdom right now. Everywhere you turn, there are signs of global recession. In Scotland, it's even worse.

When most people think of

Scotland, they think of plaid and shortbread, bagpipes and whiskey. Others may think of Sir Walter Scott or of the movie "Braveheart." While Scotland is representative of all these things, it is also deeply suffering from the current economy.

The Scottish Government has declared 2009 the Year of Scottish Homecoming, and is encouraging anyone with Scottish heritage to return to Scotland this year. It is the 250th anniversary of Scottish poet Robert Burns, who is a Scottish

hero. It's also the 10th year of Scottish Devolution, in which the Parliament at Westminster gave autonomy in certain issues back to Scotland and established the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood in 1999. The Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh is responsible for areas like education, culture and tourism in Scotland, the Scottish legal system, healthcare and the Scottish National Health Service, and other domestic issues. Interestingly enough, the Scottish Parliament does not have any

financial powers; all funding comes from Westminster in the form of a yearly grant, and the Scottish Parliament then creates its budget from the money it receives. It has little to no authority over revenues, taxes, or national financial borrowing powers.

In the United States, everyone is watching the global financial crisis closely, wondering what it means for us in the future, and comparing it to the 1930s Great Depression. In Scotland, however, the situation is even more severe. Scotland's economy is heavily dependent on the financial sector, and the United Kingdom is rapidly becoming one of the countries to suffer most from the banking crisis. The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Lloyd's, which both have a significant presence in Scotland in terms of jobs and investments, are both failing and thus plunging the Scottish economy into a deep recession.

The economic impact of bank failures is apparent all over Scotland, and it's physically visible on the streets of Edinburgh. This isn't something that you only see on the financial pages of newspapers. Building and contracting firms are declaring bankruptcy. As a result, they are leaving construction projects unfinished. For example, a housing and retail development project was recently suspended after the contractor went bankrupt, leaving a hole on the streets of Edinburgh. Every day, new numbers are released about projected job losses and debt

figures for companies and the nation as a whole.

Many wonder what this economic situation will mean for the future of the independence movement in Scotland. When the Scottish National Party (SNP) was elected in 2007, it promised to hold a referendum on independence by 2011. Just last month, however, the Parliament voted on whether or not they should consider holding the referendum on independence. It was defeated. It has become clear that because Scotland has been hit so hard from the economic downturn, independence right now simply isn't the best political or practical move.

As an American intern in the Scottish Parliament, I've seen firsthand the far-reaching influence of America. What happens in America often makes front-page news in Scotland. When President Obama was inaugurated, the Scottish paper *The Scotsman* covered it on their front page.

When Congress or the White House announces plans for a new economic strategy, both the Westminster and Holyrood Parliaments respond. Examining your home country through another country's perspective teaches you far more about your nation than any textbook ever could. Being forced to step outside your ethnocentric world view can be a fascinating and jarring experience, but one which is worthwhile and every student should enjoy.



Jennifer Souers

**A wee problem:** Building projects such as this are being shut down as the Scottish economy runs into headwinds. Much of Scotland's economy is based on banks, which were hit especially hard by the finance slump.

Drink of the Week

# The Fat Head



Jeff Dailey

**Jeff Dailey**

Staff Writer

*Jeff is in fact a recovering alcoholic*

I was planning on presenting one of my more... accessible beverages this week. But after the most recent issue of the "Fat Head," I thought I'd design something to salute the "Flat Hat's" creativity and poise, and most importantly, their word play.

**Accouterments**

- 6oz of orange juice  
(not from concentrate- Pure Valencia Juice is ideal)
- 2oz Cognac  
(Courvoisier VSOP is highly recommended)

**Methodology**

Slowly stir orange juice with two ice cubes (1 is too few, 3 is too many, 4 is right out). As orange juice reaches the critical temperature of 45 degrees, quickly add the cognac.

Sip, and quaff the beverage. It's really important to understand the complexity of the drink you are consuming. There should be a light graphite and cherry overtone, but some of it is mitigated by the acidity of the orange juice. There is a definite highlight of butter/vanilla from the imported, American white oak casks. And it should end with little aftertaste.

Enjoy, slainte!

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

With seniors leaving, *The Virginia Informer* is excited to announce openings for:

- PHOTOGRAPHERS
- GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
- WEBSITE DESIGNERS

\*some of these positions are paid

Contact Bert Mueller at [ghmueller@wm.edu](mailto:ghmueller@wm.edu)



Jon San

**So you think you can dance?** Heritage dancers include history enthusiasts and people interested in colonial dance. Such popular dances include the reel, cotillion, and the minuet.

## Ye got served:

# College heritage dancers get jiggy with colonial dance

**Jon San**

Staff Writer

While many students get their dance party fix at the frats, bumping and grinding to the newest electro pop single from Lady Gaga, a small minority enjoy a more refined, courtly style of dance. The William and Mary Heritage Dancers practice and perform colonial routines that are deliberate and dignified.

The organization was restarted two and a half years ago after a lengthy hiatus. Jenna Simpson, a graduate student, presides over the group and leads the dancers, ranging in number from six to eight people, through several selected routines every Thursday at 6pm in the Chesapeake C room.

Heritage dancing has always been popular in Williamsburg for obvious reasons and many residents and colonial history enthusiasts participate with the Williamsburg Heritage Dancers – the group which spurred Simpson to re-launch the campus heritage dancers. One member, Amy Green ('12), has been involved in heritage dancing for many years, dating back to dance classes she took in Rochester, NY. Also a graduate student, Ms. Green recently completed her thesis on dance in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In contrast to Ms. Green's experience, Paul Matson ('11) joined the Heritage Dancers on a whim, having been interested by the "fancy dresses" in passing the Chesapeake room one day.

However, unless it is a special event – such as the George Washington Ball which brings together hundreds of colonial dancers from across the nation to Williamsburg every March – the dancers dress casually: t-shirt, jeans, and sneakers are the norm. On the contrary, the dance titles (i.e. "Ramsgate Assembly and "Six Hand Reel") and music are appropriately colonial. Ms. Simpson clarified that there are thousands of dances from

which to choose – each with their distinct set of steps and movements – and that, strangely enough, people actually create new dances. While this notion of contemporary colonial choreography at first struck me as anachronistic, I suppose it is no different from fan fiction or the innumerable remakes, reboots and updates that Hollywood pumps into the box office. In fact, Ms. Simpson recently choreographed a dance she calls "A Passing Fancy."

Heritage dances are categorized into several groups: reels, cotillions, playfords, minuets, maggots (unrelated to the larval insect), and many more. The dance styles are defined by the structure, number of people required, and pacing.

I participated in a routine called "Kneeland's Romp" which was written in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As an alum of my middle school's square dancing unit in Gym class, I felt that the simple movements could not possibly present any serious problems. But once the soaring lute music began, I felt that a head-on collision would be imminent. As someone that struggles with the Electric Slide, "Kneeland's Romp" was a glaring example of my lack of coordination. In spite of this, Ms. Simpson said that I had a "knack" for heritage dancing. I imagine she was merely imitating the genteel politesse of an 18<sup>th</sup> century lady.

Even though the pacing of "Kneeland's Romp" never caught me out of breath, Ms. Green said that "some dances get very vigorous and jigs can be quite aerobic." Clearly, heritage dancing could have a place in the Fit-Well lessons at the Rec.

While it is unlikely that you will see sweaty, writhing bodies at any Heritage Dancers practice, it is perhaps a good souvenir of a time when dance was structured and music was not the by-product of Auto-Tune, synthesizers and computerized beat-programming.

# Pub Council reverses itself, provides funding for *Lips*

**Bert Mueller**

Managing Editor

In a meeting on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> the Publications Council voted to give \$2,000 in seed money to the student publication, *LIPS*. Last semester *LIPS* had been denied school funding but managed to release an issue of the magazine in spite of that fact. Also at this meeting the Christian publication *The Beacon* was granted \$1000 in seed money for an inaugural issue.

*LIPS* had been denied funding by the Publications Council seemingly due to their controversial presentation of sex and

women's issues. Another issue that was brought up was the fact that the magazine includes cutouts from magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*. There was some worry that usage might create copyright issues.

At the Friday meeting 2 members of *Lips* presented a case for funding that explained previous legal hang-ups. They had compiled the brief with the help of Professor Hulse, Professor Heymann and the Student Legal Services.

Originally, *LIPS* was interested in getting over \$2900 for the issue. This would have covered the printing costs of 1500 copies of the issue with a color cover. A

few members of the Council expressed dissatisfaction with such a high price. Mark Constantine suggested the amount of \$1600. After some deliberation, the amount of \$2000 was agreed upon and suggested for a vote.

The motion to fund the magazine with \$2000 seed money passed with a vote of 8-1 with 3 council members absent. The representatives from *LIPS* also expressed an interest in joining the Publications Council. Mark Constantine, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, recommended they seek "permanency next semester." Other council

members expressed an interest in seeing one more issue before they are considered.

The Publications Council is a board made up of the editors of student publications and staff members of the College. The Council funds member publications and has veto power over editor selections for these publications. Member publications include *Flat Hat*, *The Dog Street Journal*, *JUMP!*, *The Pillory*, *WCWM*, *WMTV*, *The Monitor*, *The William and Mary Review* and *Winged Nation*. *The Virginia Informer* is not a member of the Publications Council.



# Professor Baltes stimulates debate, creates enthusiasm, inspires students to attend class

**Ian Kirkpatrick**  
Assistant News Editor SA

If you're a government student, taking a class with Professor Baltes will prove to be a memorable academic experience. Always dressed in business casual or Northern professor garb, Mr. Baltes creates a forceful presence in the class room. As a visiting professor in the Government Department, he teaches political theory and international relations courses.

"One of the problems in teaching [this] is how abstract it is," Mr. Baltes has said. "It seems remote, distant and cold." Yet Mr. Baltes's class is notable for the interesting way he illustrates these concepts through "anecdotes from [students'] daily lives." Although he insists he is a "novice," most of his students would confess that he makes them genuinely want to come to class. Just make sure you do the reading—if you don't, he'll know, but he won't call on you.

His philosopher's gaze and Nietzschean shaved head and goatee do cast a rather intimidating first impression. Rumor has it, he is an ex cop—of which I'm sure anyone who's taken a class with him would be convinced.

In Gov 304, while drudging through the myriad of definitions of Hobbes's *Leviathan*, we come upon "vainglorious." Mr. Baltes illustrates this with an anecdote: "go on youtube and check out videos of people driving lawn mowers down stairs. They are the vainglorious, those are the

people Hobbes is talking about here." While discussing Locke's *Essay on Human Understanding*, Baltes mentions pirates, as well as sharks. "Sharks don't feel bad when they bite you, it's what sharks do." After assigning Rousseau's *Discourse*, conversation the next day focused on the noble savage. "Rousseau is upset about how physically weak and dependent society has made us," and how "every move in the direction of civil society is a step down. What would happen if you set a pit bull on the noble savage? It's only like a hundred pounds, he'd defend himself, but you'd be toast."

Sophomore Aimee Dineiro, who took his freshman seminar "Utopia Dystopia" last year, said he was "really good at sparking debate" and "breaking people's assumptions about political theory."

Mr. Baltes's page on Rate My Professors has some memorable quotes: "I'm not worthy!" writes one student. Another says "you'll stress a lot over your papers, and when you get an A, you will not feel the least bit arrogant about telling everyone you know." Indeed lecture is actually fun, and his grading policy is exceptionally fair. Students often can't get enough, and his office hours are frequently mobbed (as far as office hours go). Mr. Baltes says when you hand a paper in, "you already know what grade you have, there are no surprises." There are no exams in any of his classes, only papers and class participation. If you are interested in government, or think you might just want to give it a try, Professor Baltes is a sure bet.



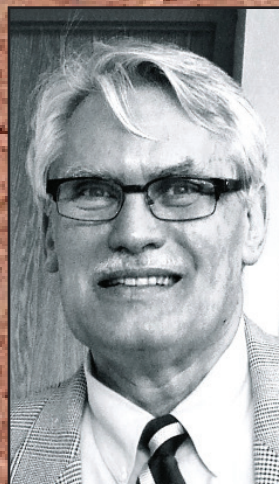
Ian Kirkpatrick

**The government guru:** Professor Baltes' ability to make abstract principles applicable and his references to pop-culture have made him a popular professor among the Government department. He is a visiting professor teaching political theory and international relations.

## CafMan's Mailbox

**HELLO**  
my name is

Larry  
"Cafman"  
Smith



Enough with the JERK SEASONING!!! You're going to back the campus sewers up.

- Student

Thanks for the comment. Okay, we will talk to our chefs.

Thanks, LS

STOP giving Football players more food than me!! I may look small but I can eat just as much! It's not FAIR!

- Student

Thanks for the comment. Please see me, I would like to know who this was. We have talked to the staff about this.

Thanks, LS

Collected from the Caf bulletin by Bert Mueller

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**Meetings on Mondays, 7:30pm in Blair 223**

# STUDENT TASERED:

## Student believed to have been attempting to get away from police

continued from page one

Hurson, "It didn't seem necessary for him to be tased."

Matt Beato (09), who was leaving the Green Leaf after the incident, reported that "at one point he [the student] was sitting up and laying on his back. [There were] definitely enough cuts on his back to notice." Other eyewitness reports differed regarding the specific details of the incident.

The week following the incident, the Student Assembly Department of Student Rights met to investigate allegations that police had used excessive force against the student. Members of the committee were divided on the question of whether the tasing was appropriate. SA Chief of Staff Jeff

Dailey (10) stated that "I agree with the policy of having policemen physically carrying tasers because it protects the policemen, but the abuse of tasing is just wrong." Interim Secretary of the Student Rights Department Amanda Mullens (10) said, "from what I've heard, he wasn't struggling to harm the police officer—he was struggling to get away."

Mullens, speaking for the Department also said, "the committee always stands behind WMPD and WPD in enforcing the law, but we have a problem when there are accounts that suggest that excessive force may have been used in the progress of upholding said law that would violate the rights of a student and a citizen of Williamsburg."

# SOLICITATION RESTRICTED: 'FIRE' criticizes college free-speech restrictions

continued from page one

with the criticism that restricting campaigning to several 10 by 10 foot squares was an insult to the First Amendment.

The candidates also largely thought that the judicial violation prescribed in the handbook for this offense would be overly harsh for violating these rules. Mr. Constantine did make it clear that next year if the election commission requests more areas be open to candidate campaigning that he will listen and assess these locations as viable campaign options as long as he is approached by a commissioner prior to Election Day.

The organization FIRE (Foundation for individual rights in education) has criticized William and Mary in recent years and rated them a red light on their "free speech stoplight." This rating was due to

the bias reporting system, e-mail monitoring, and free speech restrictions implemented by the administration. FIRE has fought against "free speech zones" at Texas A and M university, and their argument was ruled valid in court. The College, however, has not yet removed these restrictions from its guidelines. FIRE has contacted past administrations about their issues with restrictions, but so far no action has been taken.

Mr. Constantine did allude to future plans to build a symbolic free speech zone on campus, where students know they can go any time of day to hear one of their classmates "sound off" about any issue that is bothering them from international politics to why they dislike the trayless Caf. Mr. Constantine believes that there is a decent chance this will be done in the near future.

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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Restaurant Review:

# Friends' Café offers novel fare at reasonable prices

Michael Watson  
News Editor



Friends' Café, located just two blocks from campus at the intersection of Scotland and Prince George Streets, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with lunch beginning at 11 AM. The café has interior tables and counter seating, as well as patio seating, with a walk-up register for ordering. Much of the dining area was dominated by a flatscreen TV showing SportsCenter, a welcome relief from the boredom of being the only person in the café. Offerings included assorted deli sandwiches, paninis, and wraps (\$5.95-\$6.45), Asian specialties (\$12 and up), and an assortment of "burgers" (\$5.95, fries included). Drinks available included bubble tea (\$3.29), smoothies (\$3.49), soft drinks, and beer.

I decided to order the "real shrimp burger" (\$5.95) and a strawberry smoothie (\$3.49). The smoothie was prepared quickly and brought to my table by the cashier. The smoothie was served in a plastic take-away cup, revealing a deep red color. The texture was perfect and consistent

until the end, and smooth, not slushie-like but not fully liquid. And above all, the flavor was extraordinary. I recommend the Friends' Café smoothies to anyone.

The shrimp burger and fries arrived a few minutes after the smoothie and were brought to my seat by the cashier in a plastic deli tray. The portion of fries was appropriate for the price, and the fries were hot and not overly crispy. The burger consisted of a few fried shrimp doused in a sauce, lettuce, tomato, red onion, and pickle on a hamburger bun. The shrimp were more sinewy than I prefer, but were otherwise tasty. On the whole, the sandwich tasted pleasant, with the sauce providing a neutral balance of flavor that worked well with the textures of the bun, the shrimp, and the lettuce. However, the burger was a bit of a disappointment, as the fried shrimp were somewhat overwhelmed by the taste of the bun.

However, I can say that I will eat at Friends' Café again. The smoothie is fantastic, and the food offerings are diverse enough to permit me to try a different "burger" next time. Portions are sufficient for a deli lunch, and prices are within the range of a William and Mary student, especially since Friends' offers a 5% discount to students.



Michael Watson

**Close to campus:** Easily accessible to students without cars, this restaurant is perfect for a bite to eat with friends. Its low price is accentuated by its good taste.



Alec McKinley

**Imported from Richmond:** The side entrance to Jefferson Hall is through gates formerly at the Virginia state Capitol building.

Nooks & Crannies:

# Richmond Capitol building loses gates to Jefferson Hall

Bryan Callaway  
Staff Writer

The gates outside of Jefferson Hall on the Jamestown Road side have not always been there, in fact, they are from the state capital building in Richmond. The gates were installed outside the hall as a memorial to Dr. Kate Waller Barrett on April 30th, 1926.

Dr. Barrett lived from 1859 to 1925, and was an essential member of the college community. She served on the Board of Visitors, and was described as a friend of all women students at the college. In her later years she was a trustee of Phi Beta Kappa, and was also state regent of the DAR from 1918 until her death. The daughters of the American Revolution chapter from Richmond felt that Dr. Barrett deserved this honor, and donated the gates to the college to be dedicated to her memory.

The ceremony itself was begun with

an invocation by Dr. WAR Goodwin, and the formal presentation of the gates was done by Dr. JAC Chandler. During the ceremony the choir led by a Mrs. Kipp sang several selections that the daughters of the American Revolution thought would be suitable to honor the memory of such a person.

The gates themselves are somewhat of a mystery because it is not quite known when they were installed at the capitol. It is known that they were outside the governor's office guarding the entrance during the time of Governor O'Ferrall from state records, but historians differ as to when they were installed with some stating that they may have been there as far back as the tenure of Governor Monroe. What all historians agree on is that when dedicated outside of Jefferson Hall they were at least 100 years old, making them at least 180 years old today, if not more.

Now you know.

Music Review:

# Bromst creates strange but good vibrations

Jack Evans  
Music Critic



Before I listened to *Bromst*, the latest album by Dan Deacon (who performed at William and Mary on April 5th), I was acquainted with the Baltimore artist's music only through Spiderman of the Rings' "Woody Woodpecker"—a track that features a seemingly endless loop of the cartoon character's trademark laugh and may be the most annoying four minutes of music I have ever heard. At the time, I filed Deacon away with fellow Baltimore residents Animal Collective, a band whose appeal has always escaped me.

Turns out I was wrong. I am pleased to inform you that nothing on *Bromst* sounds like "Woody Woodpecker" or even Animal Collective. It is less a novelty act and more the work of a fully formed, experimental artist.

Opener "Build Voice" does exactly what its title suggests. It is an extended intro of sorts, a gradual crescendo

into "Red F," one of the more accessible songs on the album. "Red F" is full of the same bubbly synth and processed vocals that Deacon is known for, but this time it sounds bigger, more anthemic.

The album's true standout, however, is "Snookered." At eight minutes long, it seems to pass by in about half that time. It starts out pensive, with Deacon singing some introspective lyrics: "Been wrong so many times before, but never quite like this." Then his vocals are warped into an almost percussive instrument atop a drum breakdown. It is probably the album's most overtly danceable track.

Other highlights are the weirdly processed guitars on "Woof Woof" and the a cappella folk song "Wet Wings." Even the chipmunk vocals on "Baltihorse" sound good. I guess I am becoming desensitized to this guy; once you spend a little time with him, Deacon is pretty hard not to like. However, his cheeky grin in press photos indicates that he clearly does not care what anybody thinks.

Let his music speak for itself. Bottom line: With *Bromst*, Deacon has toned down the potentially grating elements of his musical aesthetic and created an album that both uncompromisingly avant garde and unabashedly pop. That's no small feat. Respect is due.

	Excellent
	Good
	Average
	Poor
	Terrible

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Book Review:

# Biography sheds new light on President Richard Nixon

Alexander Powell  
Opinion Editor



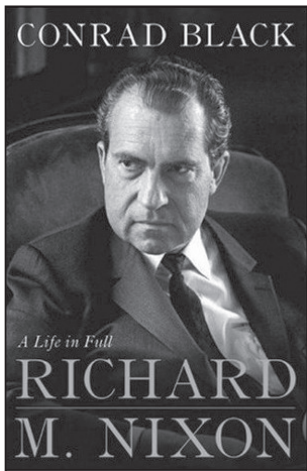
*Richard M. Nixon: A Life in Full* by Conrad Black (*Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Champion of Freedom*) is, not surprisingly, a book about the life of Richard Nixon. The 2007 book is indeed a life in full weighing in at a whopping 1059 pg so it is safe to say that this book is not for the person with only a slight interest in Nixon. Black is a skilled biographer who is able to show both the glory and grotesqueness in the character of Richard Nixon and shed some fair light on the fallen president. He is able to engage the reader with elegant prose and wit and make them want to stick with it despite its tome-like length. However, the book, even for its massive size, has very few original sources.

Most of the information used in the book is gleaned from things that others have written about Nixon and a fair share of Nixon's own memoirs and essays. This approach is not entirely wrong though, as Henry Kissinger, a man who knew Nixon as well as nearly any of his subordinates has said "Richard Nixon is much better understood reading what he wrote than listening to the idiosyncratic and inconsistent flow of what he said to his subordinates."

The first few hundred pages deals with areas often overlooked in Nixon biographies, his early life, engagement and early married life with Pat (who turned down his first few proposals), Nixon's time in the house and on the HUAC, and also his ama-

## RICHARD M. NIXON: A LIFE IN FULL

Author: Conrad Black  
Pages: 1184  
Publisher: PublicAffairs  
ISBN: 1586485199  
List Price: \$40.00



teur acting career. Although some might find this information superfluous, Black manages to humanize Nixon, a man who all too often has been turned into a caricature of himself. However, Black doesn't fail to aim the focus of his book into the area most people are interested in, the Nixon presidency, Watergate, and its aftermath.

Nearly 600 pages of this book are dedicated to these five years. Nixon's defining achievements, according to Black, were his foreign policy decisions, ending Vietnam, opening China, and so on. However, Black does a disservice to the goal of painting a full view of the Nixon presidency, since he gives a somewhat superficial gloss to such important domestic policies such as the desegregation of schools, adopting fiat currency and attempting to overhaul a failing welfare system.

All in all Conrad Black's is an important and enjoyable read that is able to establish a fair view of Richard Nixon. This biography is one written to truly understand the man and not a Nixon smear job written by a Kennedyphile as is too often the case when dealing with Nixon biographies. I would say that this book is a book that should certainly be read by all students of Government and foreign policies, especially ones with a focus on U.S. China relations. An enjoyable, if at times dry, read.

# 'Idol' singer rocks socks off WM fans

Kris Vogel  
Layout Assistant



Uncomfortably cramped inside the Chesapeake Room next to menopausal middle-aged American Idol fans and giddy college students, the Saturday night did not look promising. As a hint of body odor permeated the area, it seemed as though the evening could only get worse.

Then came the first beat. Like a crashing wave, it pulsed and swelled, growing faster and louder as the band members took their places onstage amidst the confusion of a scarlet strobe light. The guitar and the vocals swept in, culminating in a rhythmic ache that throbbed in the sternums of the gaping audience below. It was a good ache.

On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, American Idol winner David Cook performed at the Sadler Center on his national Declaration Tour, hosted by AMP (Alma Mater Productions). Cook's emotionally charged voice carried over the occasionally maxed out volume of the instrumentals. He created a playful mood by spraying water over the crowd and tossing them his used guitar pick.

The singer addressed the crowd quite humorously, joking that the College would be billed for his bass player's sneakers being destroyed by the mud of the Sunken Gardens. In response to the earsplitting cries of, "I love you David!" he smiled sheepishly and said, "I love you too—and I love my job."

Establishing something of a rapport with the crowd, Cook allowed fans to vote on a cover performance that was overwhelmingly dominated by votes for Van Halen's "Hot for Teacher." He gave the spotlight to his guitarist who captivated the audience with a dexterous solo.

For his last song, the popular hit "Light On," Cook raised his hands over his head, allowing the audience to maintain the beat and sing one repeat of the chorus. Students, singing from memory, swayed to Cook's melody and flashed their opened cell phones. Carried by changing lights and pulsing beats, the concert was a rush that none of the attending college kids, nor their fellow raging cougars, will be quick to forget.



*Kimball Theatre*

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

## Movies

### Steven Soderbergh's Che: Part Two

April 9 – 12 at 4:15 or 6:45 p.m.

### Theater of War

April 10 – 17 at 4, 5:45 or 7:30 p.m.

### The Class

April 17 – 23 at 6:30 or 9 p.m.

### The Betrayal

April 24 – 30 at 6:30 or 8:15 p.m.

## April Schedule

### Live Performances

#### Dean Shostak's Crystal Concert

April 8, 10, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29 at 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.

#### The Williamsburg Symphonia presents:

Corigliano: Elegy

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3, Joyce Yang, piano

Haydn: Symphony No. 104

April 8 at 8 p.m.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> Century Play Series:

Polly Honeycombe

April 9, 16, 23, 30 at 8 p.m.

#### A Grand Medley

April 13, 20, 27 at 7:30 p.m.

#### Coyote Run

April 18 at 8 p.m.

#### The Rat Pack

April 24, 25 at 8 p.m.

## The Finer Side:

## Floriography 101: Your guide to the language of flowers

Spring time means several things: the end of term is close, warm weather, and blooming flowers. With Easter, Mother's Day, Graduation, and several other spring and summer events drawing near, you can be sure that you'll be seeing, giving and receiving many bouquets of flowers soon. Some flowers have widely known special meanings, or are more appropriate at certain occasions – i.e. red roses mean love and romance, lilies are usually seen around Easter– though many other flowers, also with special meanings, could add a certain element of fun to include in a bouquet given as a gift, or used as a centerpiece!



Jennifer Souers  
The Finer Side

Floriography became very popular in the 19th century under the reign of Queen Victoria. As societal rules often restricted conversation, flowers became a way for people to send secret messages between each other, usually as an expression of one's romantic feelings. Flower dictionaries became best-sellers – the first one published was *Le Langue des Fleurs* by Charlotte de la Tour in 1818. More updated and comprehensive dictionaries regarding meanings and floral etiquette started appearing in the mid-1800s when flowers were more widely used as a means of communication.

While different dictionaries can give contradicting meanings, here are a few meanings to some more common flowers and some unique ones as well!

**Romance:**

Red Rose = Eternal love, romance

Thorn-less Rose = Love at first sight

Forget-me-not = True love, "key to my heart"

Carnation (pink) = A woman's love

Tulip (red) = A declaration of love

Tulip (yellow) = Hopeless love

Daffodil = unrequited love

Dill = pure lust

Morning Glory = love in vain

Honeysuckle = devoted affection, bonds of trust

**Friendship:**

Pear Blossom = lasting friendship

Yellow Rose = friendship

Dark Pink Rose = Gratitude

Rosemary = remembrance

Bells of Ireland = Good luck

**Insults:**

Orange lily = pure and simple hatred

White Carnation = disdain

Yellow Carnation = disappointment, rejection

Lettuce = cold-hearted

Yellow Rose = can also mean jealousy or infidelity

Black Rose = death, hatred

**Other Meanings:**

Cabbage = profit

Orchid = elegance

Geranium = gentility

Grass = submission

Lavender = devotion or distrust

Wheat = prosperity

Sunflower = lofty thoughts, purity, arrogance

Olive branch = peace

## Movie Review:

## Purpose, principles are the moral dilemma in Mendes' latest film

Patrick Macaluso  
Film Critic



I've been anticipating *Revolutionary Road* ever since I heard about it almost two years ago. I am an avid Kate Winslet fan, and when I heard about this film, I thought that her Oscar would be soon coming. I was almost right – she won, but for *The Reader*. *Revolutionary Road* tackles similar issues as Winslet's previous film *Little Children* – the suburban lifestyle – but in a less satirical manner and with more of an emphasis on individual principles versus the perception of a life purpose.

The film follows the life of a young 1950s couple, Frank (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Alice (Winslet) Wheeler.

Marital problems begin when they both begin to feel trapped in a life in the suburbs that they had never imagined for themselves, coinciding with feelings of obligation and responsibility. The film is enhanced by the performance of mad man John Givings (Michael Shannon) who acts as a sort of moral compass for the Wheelers.

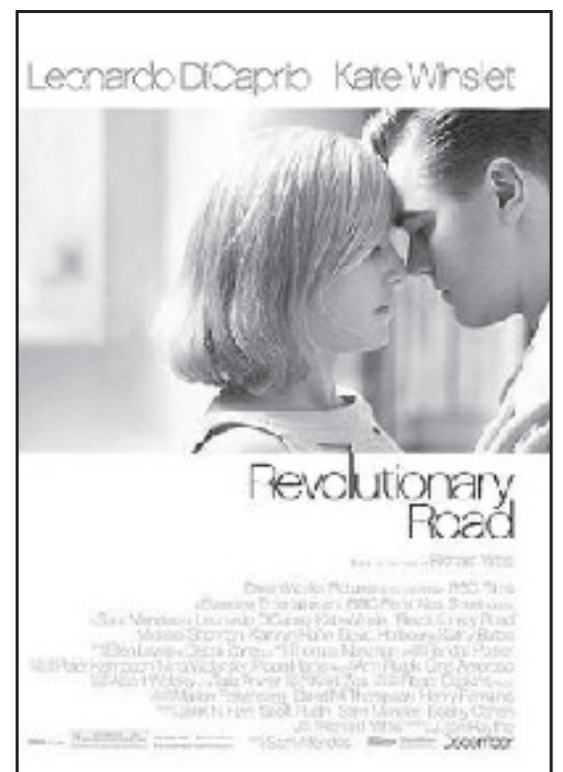
On the surface, this film's primary purpose seems to be criticizing conformity and the suburban trap. Although effectively portrayed, this idea comes perhaps a bit too late to really be considered original. However, I believe this film did a great job of portraying the mindset of the individuals involved. Films like *Little Children* effectively attacked the surface, whereas *Revolutionary Road* presented an ambivalent moral dilemma. Because of that, director Sam Mendes deserves acclaim for presenting a unique point of view.

By far the most outstanding aspect of the film was the acting. Leonardo DiCaprio should have been nominated for an Oscar. I have said before that Kate Winslet should have been nominated in the Supporting category for *The Reader* and Lead for *Revolutionary Road*. Her performance in this film was, in my opinion, her very best performance to date, which says a lot.

Michael Shannon's role, although limited, was nonetheless extremely impressive and intensely thought-provoking.

I think that the film was unjustifiably left out in the awards circuit (in favour of subpar films such as *Frost/Nixon*), but, then again, the awards circuit notoriously shafts the films that truly deserve recognition.

The film was perhaps not the best in terms of a cohesive narrative, but it was certainly thought provoking and entertaining to say the least.



## Photo gallery offers astonishing glimpse into the developing world

Bryan Callaway  
Staff Writer

There aren't too many opportunities to catch a glimpse of the realities of life inside North Korea, and so when the opportunity emerges, it should be seized. This is the case of the 2nd Annual IRC Cares Developing World Gallery, which opens tonight, April 8, in the Sadler Center. The gallery, which is sponsored by IRC Cares, an arm of the International Relations Club, seeks to promote a greater understanding of the many dif-

ferent stories and cardinalities of the developing world. In addition, this year, the gallery will dually serve in a fundraising capacity, with all proceeds from the gallery's functions being directed to Doctors Without Borders (Medecins sans Frontieres).

Perhaps one of the most unique aspects of the gallery, which is coordinated by IRC Cares, and supported in large part by the Muscarelle Museum of Art, is its exclusive use of student submissions, for which it received over 800 earlier this semester. According to IRC Cares

Director, Mireille Sharp ('10), following the review of these 800 submissions, the IRC Cares Service Initiative devised a final gallery of the 50 most intriguing and astonishing images to be displayed. Albeit a grueling process, the final selection achieves its purpose on all counts, exposing the world inside countries such as India, Syria, and even North Korea.

Indeed, while the exhibit's focus is on improving the breadth and depth of the general public's exposure to life inside the developing world, viewers will notice

the exhibit's efforts in steering away from the archetypal images that often fill the headlines of the mainstream media. "I feel like the impression a lot of people have is pictures of starving babies in the news or of exotic beaches and animals, so this allows people to see a different side, maybe see things that they would never have been able to see on their own," said Ms. Sharp.

The Developing World Gallery is one of the principal functions hosted by the IRC Cares Service Initiative. Established

in August 2007 as an effort to greater convey the impact of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) throughout the world, IRC Cares sponsors a single-NGO for one year as it works to both fundraise and improve awareness of the NGO's significant issues on campus.

Tonight's official opening of the gallery begins with a reception and silent auction of the photographs in the James Room of the Sadler Center. The exhibit, which is located in the Sadler Center atrium, will run through April 22.

Staff Editorial:

# Dance, students!

The mayor has appointed yet another council to discuss the possibility of ending the much hated “three person rule” that has plagued many a car-less student living off campus and it appears the great dance has begun again.

The dance of which we speak is that one in which “the powers that be”, the mayor and local officials, mention that they would be willing to reconsider the rule, dangling the carrot in front of the student body who naively send envoys, everybody talks (and yells) for a while, nobody listens and in the end nothing is changed.

Yet some things are achieved to make the dance worthwhile for certain parties. The powers that be get to claim they were open to discussion, the citizens can sleep easy knowing “danged punk kids” will stay off their lawns, the student reps receive nice resume filler and the student body are, once again, left holding the short end of the stick.

However, it seems that these recent batch of talks have actually begun to produce negative results. It has become

apparent that the discussion seems to be leaning towards tightening the rule rather than expanding it.

If this seems to be where the discussion is heading, the student representatives should perhaps utilize their right to use the door. We hope that discussion proves fruitful and that, at long last, the rule can be repealed, or at least expanded, to allow four people or – heaven forbid, even five people - to live together in a house. However, if the citizens of Williamsburg on the council have become deaf to our supplicant cries of moderation to a draconian law, our representatives should reserve their right to quit the discussions while still holding their heads high, knowing that no real discussion was desired.

The student body should also push for them to come home. We know that discussion seems promising and that it very well could work, but the student body needs some results on this. The longer the law stays in place, the harder it will be to remove; we students just can't keep dancing forever.

# Is it our Student Assembly?

Look at any communication from the Student Assembly in recent months and it will be emblazoned with the phrase “Brought to you by YOUR Student Assembly”. This phrase would make it seem as if the Student Assembly is solely out to make the lives of students better. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

The Student Assembly collects most of its money from mandatory Student Activity Fees. These fees amount to \$88 per student per year. These fees are allocated to student organizations for their activities. This money goes to fund events from culture nights to the Sex Workers' Art Show. Other ridiculous spending from the Student Assembly includes appropriating \$1,000 to distribute “Hark Upon the Ballot Box” stickers and spending \$575 on a new golf cart for APO, even though the organization already funds twenty socials, two retreats and two formals a semester. Payment of these fees is required whether or not a student is a member of any clubs or attends any of their programming activities.

The Student Assembly has also been criticized for not reaching out enough to the student body as a whole but their modest attempts to do so have just resulted in a further hemorrhaging of student money. The Senate unanimously decided to spend \$579.91 of student activity fees money on platters of food and copying flyers for a “What Can the Student Assembly Do For You” event. The Flat Hat estimated that the event had ten to twenty non-SA participants which would equal a minimum of \$29

per guest. A similar bill appropriated for \$400 for a student-police tailgate that was also very poorly attended. If a student wanted to get to know their Student Assembly representatives or police officers better, they could actually take the initiative to do it on their own rather than be offered a bribe of food.



Nick Hoelker  
Staff Writer

Moreover, the Student Assembly gives out annual medals to any member of the SA who has served in their senior year or who has served for two years. Thankfully, this money comes out of the SA's off-campus fees that are funded through fundraisers, such as the refrigerator sale. However, if this is truly our Student Assembly, they should be able to find something on which to spend money that is actually useful to students rather than this self-aggrandizing display of egotism.

If the Student Assembly continues to struggle to find uses for our money that actually benefit the student body as a whole, the SA should drastically drop the Student Activity Fee. Another way to accomplish this would be to cut funding for clubs' activities. This would allow students to choose to pay for which events they would actually like to attend. Nevertheless, the Student Assembly should be praised for making a bit of headway toward this goal as Student Activity Fees will be reduced by \$2 a semester to \$87 a semester next year. The newly elected Student Assembly should prioritize spending money only on what is absolutely necessary for the betterment of the whole student body and not on frivolous matters.

Letter to the Editor:

# College needs to revise its solicitation policy

In 2007, I listened as an SA Senator attempted to tell me how clear the College's solicitation policy was. “It's common sense,” he argued. “Who doesn't know what solicitation is?”

Well, I don't know exactly. And if people don't understand College policies, that's an enormous problem.

Campus policies need to be clear. In the American legal system, precedent judicial cases guide the appropriate punishments for criminal offenses. On campus, however, federal law bans the disclosure of most of the intricacies of student conduct cases, making clarity in how regulations are worded incredibly important.

Unclear regulations can thus be open to selective enforcement, interpretation, and punishment. Additionally, they can create “chilling effects” -- where someone who is afraid of violating a policy doesn't exercise rights that they otherwise would.

The College's solicitation policy is one of these unclear regulations. The policy has, in the past, been interpreted to ban the distribution of *The Virginia Informer* to students passing through the SC Terrace unless the *Informer* obtained prior permission from the College administration. Whether you read the

is rarely and selectively enforced by the College, many candidates felt they could get away with violating it, punishing individuals who follow rules as a matter of principle. Finally, because many candidates felt that the policy was in direct conflict with the first amendment, they openly and publicly chose to violate it and hoped that they would get punished so they could sue the College -- something that no one needs.

The College needs to revise its solicitation policy. The College needs to allow passive literature distribution and solicitation without prior permission in certain areas such as the SC Terrace; the current requirement to get permission in advance can lead to unnecessary suppression based on either viewpoint or timing. With regard to viewpoint, unconscious blocking of requests based on the ideology of the requester is possible. With regard to timing, if someone wanted to pass out literature advertising a memorial on a Sunday for a student who died the previous day, there is no way they could get prior permission and thus no

way they could prevent violating the policy.

To be sure, the College's policy has some good aspects. We need to preserve the parts of the policy that minimize disruption

academic and living environments. But the current policy is far too broad, cumbersome, unclear, and has far too much potential to actually be a violation of the first amendment. The College must revise this policy, lest it continue to deal with students who are confused at best or angry at worst.



Matt Beato

**Unclear regulations can thus be open to selective enforcement, interpretation, and punishment. Additionally, they can create “chilling effects” -- where someone who is afraid of violating a policy doesn't exercise rights that they otherwise would.**

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As unclear regulations tend to do, the solicitation policy caused several problems in this instance. First, because the policy was unclear, many candidates stayed away from any sort of campaigning -- which created something of a “chilling effect” on free speech on election day. The fact that the policy states the punishment for violations as anything from “warning to suspension” certainly exacerbated this effect. Second, because the policy

Letter from the Editor:

## Prepare for another year of hard hitting journalism from *The Informer*

Three years ago I started writing for *The Virginia Informer*, by accident. I had signed up at the student activities fair for the radio station, the television station, and each campus newspapers. Ultimately I only attended *The Informer's* meeting and was hooked. In the recent past *The Informer* has become an established campus newspaper, often the one students read to learn what is really going on around campus. *The Informer* exists as the only independently funded newspaper on campus, allowing us to fearlessly pursue news that goes beyond official press releases.

The paper was founded by Joe Luppi-  
no-Esposito and Amanda Yasenchak in 2005. Joe and Amanda made a name for the paper by launching investigations into the college administration and aspects of the campus previously unexplored by newspapers. They editorialized in favor of effective and open governance for the College, and achieved many successes along the way. For the past year Andrew Blasi has served as Editor in Chief. He oversaw the expansion of the paper's size and scope. Andrew convinced the administration to provide *The Informer* with on-campus office space and expanded the number of newspaper conferences editors attended, all while continuing the

*Informer's* advocacy for student rights and interviewing two Virginia Congressmen. The achievements of prior Editors are daunting, and their shoes will be hard to fill.

*The Informer's* trademark investigations will continue to expose various issues that would remain otherwise unreported. In the past we have focused attention on the anonymous bias reporting system, that the administration attempted to establish, and helped dramatically reduce its more nefarious aspects. Coverage of the behavior of the William and Mary Police Department exposed incidents ranging from a female student on bike being run over by a police cruiser and then issued a ticket, to members of the department refusing two female students' midnight request for escort hours after their friend was mugged. The functions of the Publications Council, a committee which controls the editorial leadership and funding of many other campus publications, have similarly been described by the *Informer*, notably following the denial of funding to feminist magazine *Lips*

in what appeared to be a content-driven decision. In the year ahead the *Informer* will continue to bring to the community unrivaled coverage of news that student fee-supported newspapers dare not print.

*The Virginia Informer* Online, [vainformer.com](http://vainformer.com), will also continue to be the first to break major stories. In the past year *The Informer* Online was first to reveal that the City of Williamsburg was suing student residents of 711 Richmond Road for violating the three person to a house rule. And

first to inform students of the winner of the recent Student Assembly presidential election, and first to break the news of a student being tasered by Williamsburg police outside the Green Leaf.

An important aspect of *The Informer* is our dedication to reflecting the importance of alumni. Our regular alumni profiles have seen *The Informer* interview all current members of Congress who have a William and Mary degree. We interviewed Scrubs creator Bill Lawrence ('90) and subsequently worked to bring him to campus. Dur-



Steven Nelson  
Editor in Chief

## Let them eat cake, or not, but you can't have both

It is a tired and overly heard moral trope that "you can't have your cake and eat it too" but it is a true one, and one that we often are often faced with. You can't party all the time and still get straight A's, at least most of us. You can't get all of your readings done and also get the amount of sleep humans need to function, professors should realize this, and you can't have a safe and secure campus without a robust, respected police force.

We often hear a lot about how local police forces hassle drunk students and makes life difficult on a Saturday night, but we also don't often hear about muggings, robberies, and sexual assault on campus. This isn't to say that these things don't happen; it is just that it happens less than expected. We live in a safe town and for that I am grateful.

I am a transfer student and at my last college the problem wasn't that the cops were being an inconvenience when we wanted to get drunk, but that there were not enough cops to stop the robberies, assaults and general lawlessness that our campus was plagued with. The thought of leaving your laptop out in the library unattended or your bike unlocked was met with the laughter that is generally reserved for good outrageous joke. Here at William and Mary I don't know how many times I have seen people leave their lap tops or cell phones or iPods as table markers.

Now I know that a large part of this security is due to our campus culture and the honor code, but a code with no teeth and with no one to act as watcher is not much of a code at all, more of a loose suggestion. Good and safe communities such as Williamsburg and our campus are created by a civic-minded majority of the citizenry working hand-in-hand with

the police.

In terms of what inspired me to write this, I am sure none will be shocked to hear that it was the recent taserings of a student by the local police. Now I will not claim to know all the details of this case but I have heard it on good authority that the student in question was attempting to flee and resting arrest and I certainly hope we all can agree that it is well within the rights of the police to restrain a person they are trying to arrest if they resist.



Alexander Powell  
Opinion Editor

Yet I have heard of talk about this being a student's rights violation by the Student Assembly. Since when is it a student right to resist arrest and since when has it been not within the police's right to restrain suspects in a non-lethal, relatively safe manner, such as taserings if necessary?

To me this is a maddening step backwards in student/police relations. If the student body adopts a belligerent stance to standard police procedure, this would be a decidedly antagonistic direction to take that will only hurt the students, citizenry, police and campus. How can we be surprised when, if the actions of a student are wrong and illegal, they receive a reciprocal negative result? How can we, as a student body, then support the actions of a person who has done wrong just because they might be a fellow student? If actions are wrong then they are wrong regardless of who did them. The police did what they had to do to and the student is now no worse for the wear. If we want to have a safe campus we must drop this anti-cop stance I occasionally see on campus and stand with police on the side against wrong doers. We cannot have a safe campus without police. We cannot have our cake and eat it too.

Thank you from all of  
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