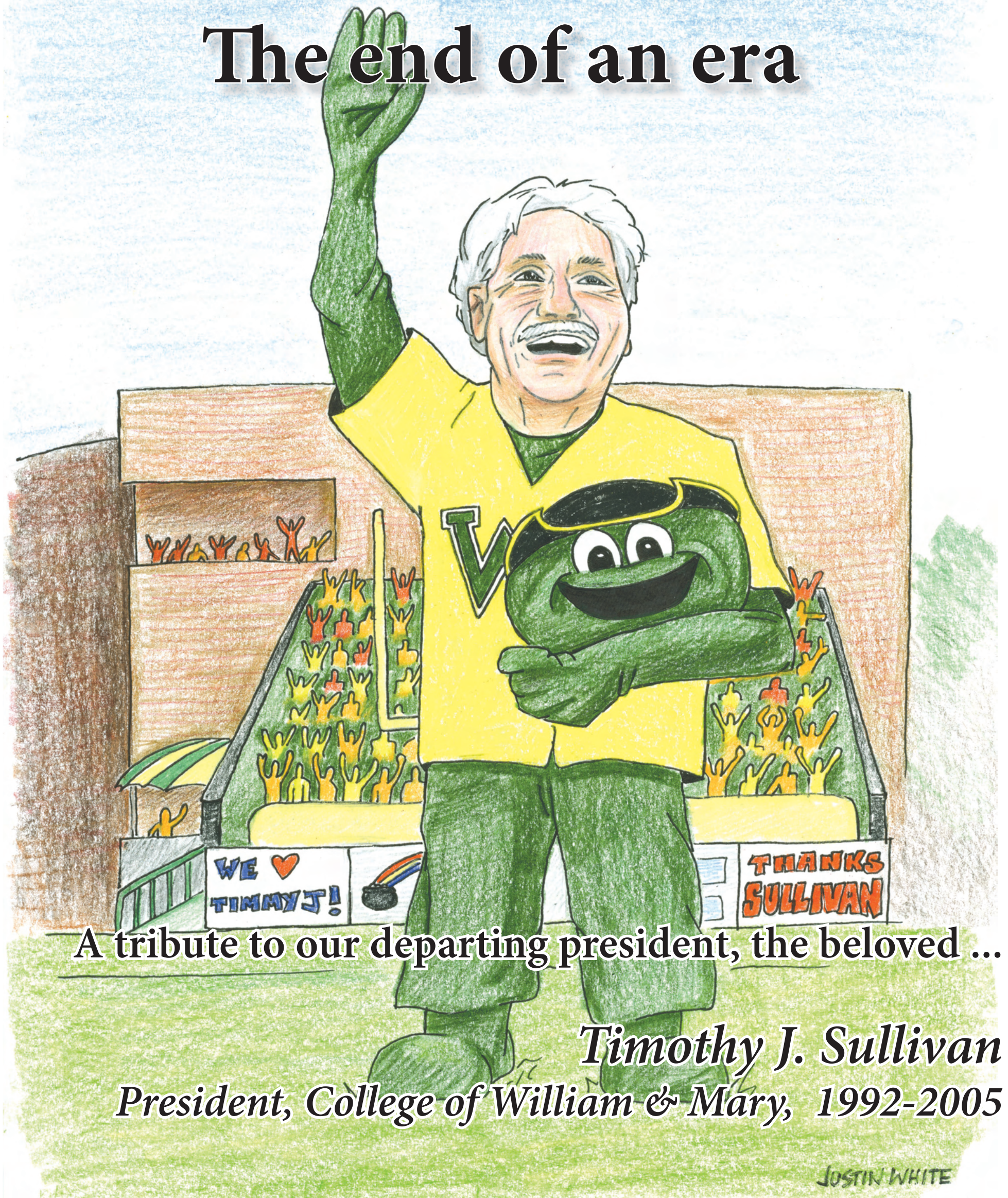


The end of an era



A tribute to our departing president, the beloved ...

Timothy J. Sullivan
President, College of William & Mary, 1992-2005

JUSTIN WHITE

A different look at our president

Our readers may have noticed a great deal of hype and emotion in the last few weeks about the immanent departure of President Timothy J. Sullivan. Instead of offering another view of Sullivan from the College, we'd prefer to give a few facts and perspectives that haven't received much ink.

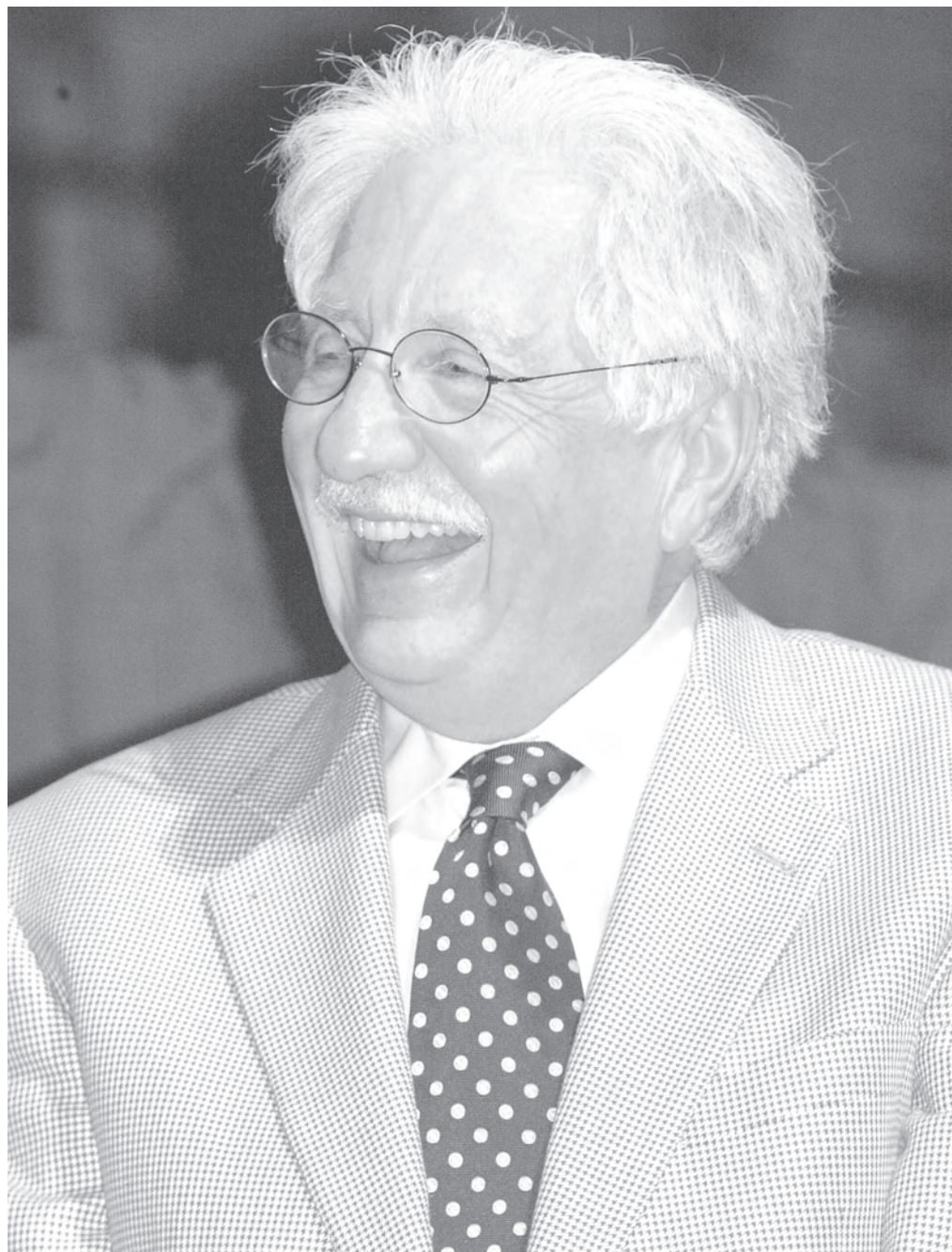
On the opposite page, you'll find a column that discusses Sullivan's role in the familiar College traditions, including the Yule Log, Opening Convocation and commencement ceremonies. According to Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler, Sullivan came up with the convocation walk himself, and he brought the entire ceremony back from the 1960s and 70s, about the time he and Sadler were students here. While the Yule Log tradition has been around for more than 50 years, Sullivan picked Santa as his character and Dr. Seuss as his author of choice. The upper left picture on that page was taken at one of Sullivan's own private traditions: his personal walk shared with students during Love Your Body Week in 2003.

On page six, you will find stories shared by former Student Assembly President senior Ned Rice and, on page seven, look for Sadler's own tall tales of Sullivan. The inner spread and the rest of the pages' photos represent our humble attempt to capture some fa-

mous and infamous pictures that will help past, present and future students visualize some of the more memorable moments with our beloved president.

Some of the events that occurred during Sullivan's presidency have been less stellar than others, but we only mention some of the more famous ones in passing. By no means are we attempting to offer a balanced overview of Sullivan's legacy, for that would likely take years of research and would probably make an excellent book. We feel confident in saying that, at the conclusion of such a work, Sullivan's legacy would be perceived as an outstanding one. Only a few recent controversies come to mind, such as the Sons of Liberty Bake Sale and the Barksdale dorm. As far as we can tell, however, these seem to have little to do directly with Sullivan, and his responses to them have been perceived by many as dignified and appropriate.

What do students think of our departing president? You might get a rough idea from our paper this week, from the editorial on page five, but it is, of course, hardly comprehensive. This section is not intended to provide such answers either, but it is intended to offer a few views and stories not commonly known. With that in mind, we hope you enjoy.



The Flat Hat

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25 Campus Center, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. 23185
Editorial Dept. (757) 221-3281 + Advertising Dept. (757) 221-3283 + Fax (757) 221-3242

The Flat Hat — flthat@wm.edu + Executive — fhexec@wm.edu + News — fhnews@wm.edu
Variety — fhvty@wm.edu + Sports — fhsptr@wm.edu + Reviews — fhrrws@wm.edu
Opinions — fhopns@wm.edu + Briefs — fhbrfs@wm.edu + Calendar — calndr@wm.edu
Advertising — fhads@wm.edu

Layout by:

Stephen Carley, Virginia Paulus, Cami Thompson,
Lauren Bryant, Allie Veinote

Photos by:

Lauren Putnocky, Lauren Bryant, Allie Veinote, Sarah Hirsch, Office of
University Relations, Project MAST

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Sullivan epitomizes traditions

Toasting to the “best senior class ever,” singing together in a cacophonous rendition of the alma mater, raising glasses and flasks high above our heads, craning perched on our high-heels and dress shoes to see the white-haired man on



Camille Thompson

stage, somehow we are drawn to President Timothy J. Sullivan as he gives his toast at the King and Queen’s Ball. I was standing just a few feet away from Sullivan last Friday night as he gave his toast, and something about his pleasant voice and Einstein-like head made the sappy tradition of repeating those same kind words about the senior class seem OK. Traditions are, at the heart, sappy, but we participate in them anyway.

Tim Sullivan, like a sweet, albeit slightly inebriated, grandfather giving the blessing over the Thanksgiving turkey, stands over a podium with the W&M seal and spouts speeches several times a year in the name of tradition. Why have students during the decade or so of his presidency continued to show up and listen to him at Opening Convocation, Yule Log and the King and Queen’s Ball? It is because those traditions are not about Timmy J.; they are about the students. They are about marking a little piece of time and performing a small ceremony year after year so that we have the chance to let ourselves get a little bit sentimental, to hear a good speaker or to mark the beginning of college and celebrate the end. Timmy J. either added to, or, in cases of the Opening Convocation ceremony and the walk through the Wren building, brought back all of these traditions during his presidency, and he has humbly made them a part of life at the College.

Let’s start at the beginning of the year. Opening Convocation is a fine way to begin here at the College. After a boring three days of orientation, you start it all off by walking through the Wren building to be greeted on the other side by a crowd of upperclassmen who are simultaneously cheering for you, mocking you and checking you out. It has the makings of a true rite of passage. As the originator and officiate of this rite, Tim Sullivan is a witty and humble one. He gives an introduction and presents the speaker, and they both try to tell the incoming class how much of a difference they can make in the world. I remem-

ber one convocation when it was hot and the air was heavy with humidity. Instead of reading his full planned speech, Timmy J. kept it exceptionally short to spare us all the misery of drowning in our own sweat. Giving up his own part in the ceremony so the students would enjoy it more — now that’s the sign of a class act.

The Yule Log ceremony is my personal favorite. Anything that involves Dr. Seuss, a Santa of questionable sobriety, cookies and hot cider is worth the wait out in the chilly weather. The ceremony demonstrates just how comfortable he is being silly for the pleasure of the students. It’s nice to know that he doesn’t take himself too seriously. Associating himself with Santa Claus can’t be bad for his image either — unless you’ve been reading a lot of feminist theory lately and the idea of such an epitomical male figurehead makes you want to explode in a fit of postmodern analysis. And as far as traditions go, it’s nice to be read a story and then symbolically throw your cares from the past year into a fire — a nice little regression into childhood followed by a mini-rebirth.

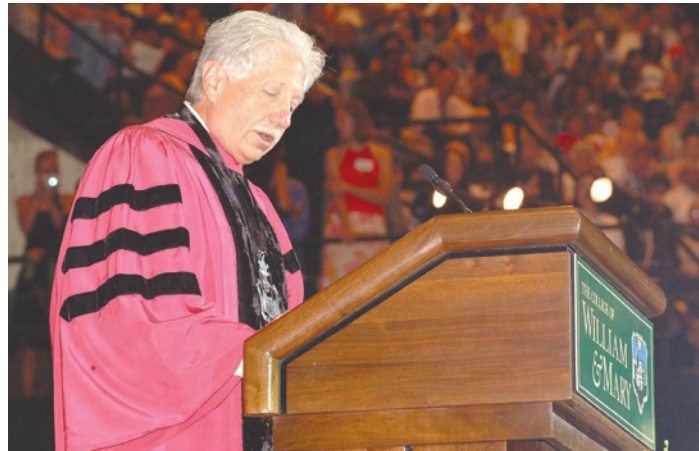
Near the end of the year, in that liminal time between the thousands of pages of catch-up reading and the catharsis of blowout, we have the King and Queen’s Ball, which includes the aforementioned toast. Timmy has said the same thing all four years that I attended the dance. Essentially, the speech goes: “This is the best class ever at the best school ever. Good luck class of [1992 + N, where N is the number of full years Timmy has been president].” Then we sing the alma mater. It’s so cheesy, it’s so trite, we know we are only the “best class” until next year, but we like it. The only reason I can figure that we enjoy this déjà vu of a spiel is that it’s given by our Santa, our official welcomer and the man who sends us back out the door again. As I sit through Commencement, yet another ceremony over which Timmy J. presides, I will have the recollection of all those little moments when he made me stop and have a toast or enjoy a Christmas story, and I’ll be glad to have four years of tradition by which to remember the College. I’ll also begin a feminist analysis of the role of ceremony in establishing a symbolic patriarchal figurehead. But hey, what’s a William and Mary education worth if it doesn’t make me think?

Camille Thompson is a senior staff writer for the Flat Hat. She’s not sentimental, she swears.

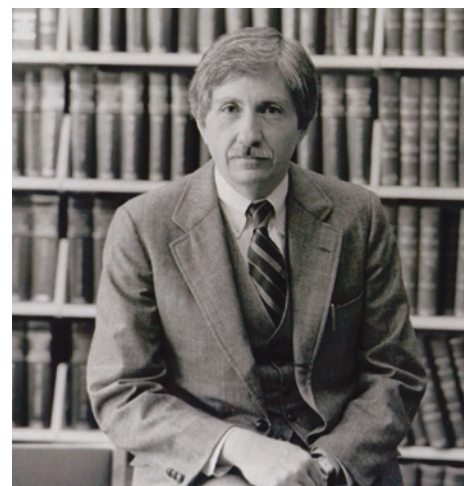




A Role Model

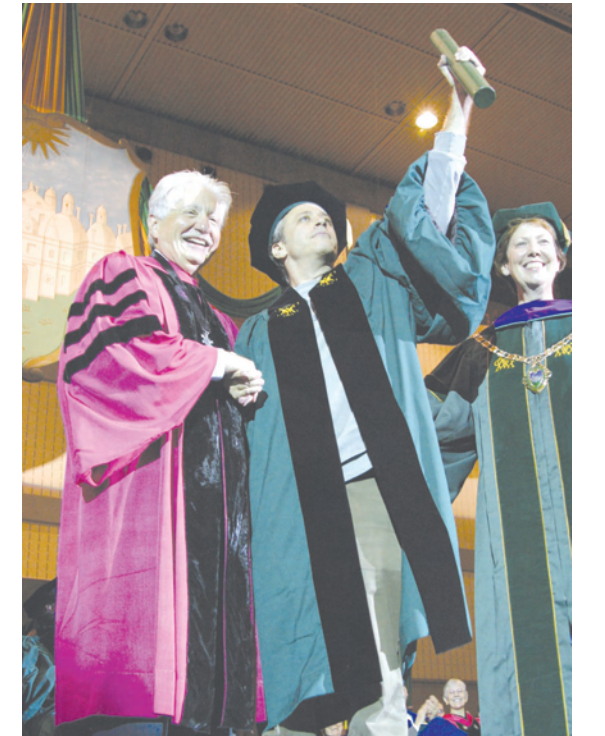
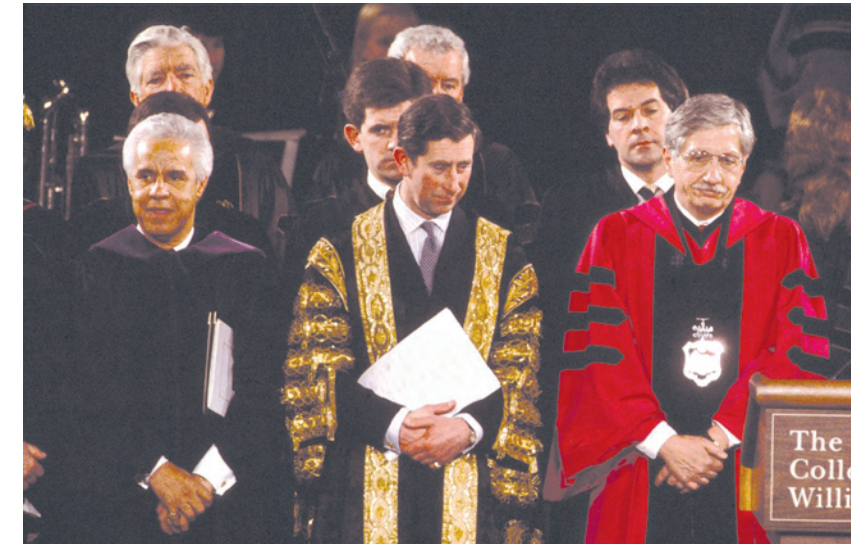
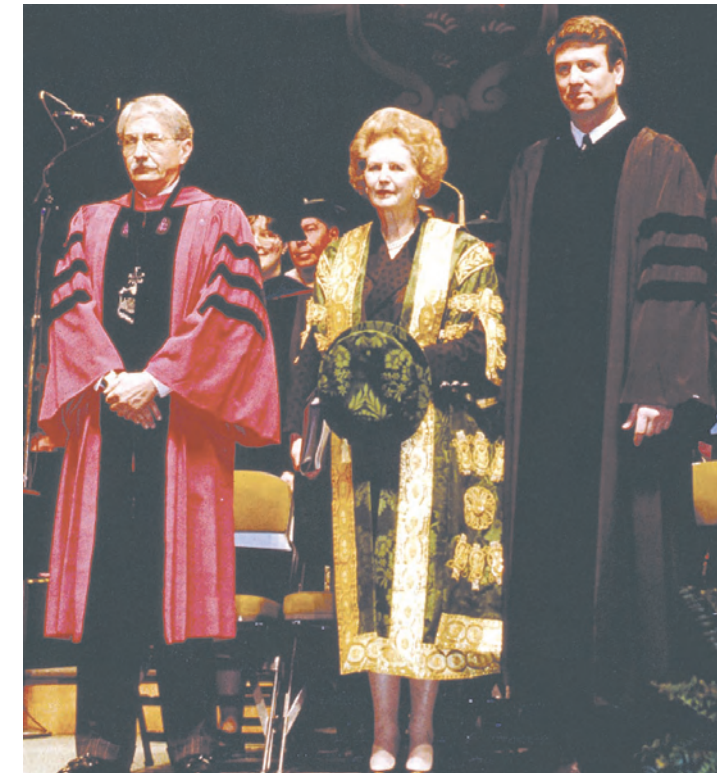


A Husband



“Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitudes and actions.”
-Harold S. Geneen

A Host



A Legacy



No one likely to forget Sullivan's legacy

President Timothy J. Sullivan's impending departure at the end of June has caused a tremendous outpouring of emotion from the students of our College. While this hardly surprises anyone on campus, it would shock people who did



Ned Rice

not know the impact that Sullivan has had on the College and its students. If you talk to friends at other campuses across the state, or across the nation, and ask them what they think of their president, you'll get some negatives and some positives, but it is unlikely you'll find any of the passion that you would when asking a student of the College the same question.

Why is it that President Sullivan is not an ordinary campus president, but more like a rock star? I remember last week at King and Queen's when it was time for him to make his annual toast. Campus officials were trying to pull him out of the mobs of students who were desperate to have their picture taken with him. I even heard one student tell

him that she bet her friend she could kiss him on the cheek.

Perhaps he is loved for his most noteworthy trait: his elegant ability behind a podium. He has an impeccable sense of humor and a quickness on his feet that captivates an audience. For example, recently Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler enthusiastically introduced him at a function for students as "your great president, Timmy J."

Sullivan stood up at the podium and deadpanned, "Thank you, Vice President Sadler. Notice I didn't call him by his first name. I have way too much respect for him to do that."

But he can also be deadly serious. When Sullivan addresses the student body, be it at Opening Convocation, Charter Day or Commencement, he doesn't just give the normal fluff associated with these events at many colleges. He views it as an opportunity to inspire the students he loves to be the best that they can be. That may sound cliché, but if you have a few free minutes, go to the president's online website, www.wm.edu/president/addresses, and read some of his past speeches. Inspire is exactly what he does.

You see, there is something about Sullivan that de-

mands your attention and respect. Something about him makes you nervous when it's finally your turn for a picture. Something about his message penetrates you and makes you think about your place in the world in a way that even your parents and close friends cannot.

Perhaps it is because he has done what so many of us aspire to do: he has found a calling in devoting his life to the constant improvement of the College to which he first came in the fall of 1962. He lives by the message he gives to his students; true success is measured by faithfully serving something greater than yourself.

"Every one of you leaves behind a small but immortal part of him or herself that has made William and Mary better and different," President Sullivan told graduates in May 2000.

When Sullivan walks out of the Brafferton for the last time June 30, he can know that he is leaving behind an enormous and immortal part of himself that the College will never forget.

Senior Ned Rice is the former Student Assembly president.



BY TEGAN NEUSTATTER
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

That Guy: President Timothy J. Sullivan

It seems appropriate that the last That Guy of the school year should be our own beloved Timmy J. As the year closes, so too does President Sullivan's 13-year reign at the College, and now it is time for him to move on to new and different things. We'll always have fond memories of him, such as Opening Convocation, the Yule Log Ceremony where he dressed as Santa and just seeing him out and about around campus. In this year's final issue, we bid a fond farewell to our longtime president and wish him the best of luck on the road ahead.

What inspired you to become president of the College?

Well, the job was open. I was finishing up seven years as the dean of the Law School when the then president of the College announced unexpectedly that he was leaving. I felt that I could do the job and that I could make a contribution. I figured, why not?

You were a student here, Class of '66. Has a lot changed since you were an undergrad?

The College is a much stronger place academically than it was then. The students are far superior to the ones that were here when I went here. The faculty is stronger as well. That doesn't mean that I think that the best students and the best faculty in those days weren't as good as the people we have now, we just have a lot more of the best. What

has been consistent, though, has been the strong sense of community we have. It isn't quite the same because the City of Williamsburg has changed so much, but on the campus, the feeling is very much the same as it was in 1962. I think we've made substantial progress academically, but we've preserved the feeling that people feel that they're a part of something here.

As a student, what clubs and activities were you involved in?

I was on The Flat Hat for two years as an editor, and I was active in the Young Democrats and student government.

After you step down as president, what are your plans for the future?

We own a townhouse in Kingsmill, which Anne has made very beautiful, so we'll be there for a few months. Maybe we'll do a little traveling. When this fall comes around, I'm going to look for a new challenge.

So no plans to become president of any other college?

You should never say never, but it's not the first thing I'd hope to do. William and Mary has been a special place, and that couldn't be replicated anywhere else. Any other college or university I would consider would have to be a place with a particular need that I could fulfill in a special way.

Will you ever come back and read "How the Grinch Stole Christmas?"

I think my days of reading "The Grinch" are over. President Nichol is going to be great, and whatever he does at Yule Log

will be wonderful. I'm going to come back, probably not to this first one, but I'll be anxious to see the whole thing from the audience's perspective.

Did you enjoy the King and Queen's Ball?

Yes. You have to appreciate how it has been transformed from its start in 1993. The first year we had maybe 80 people, 100 at most. It's grown considerably since then. It was a shame that it wasn't in the tent, but William and Mary Hall turned out nicely. It was a good time.

What is your favorite spot on campus?

The Sunken Gardens looking toward the Wren Building. Just to be out there at different times of the year, different times of the day. Or standing on the piazza of the Wren Building and looking out. Either way, it's quite a remarkable sight.

Anything you'd like to say to all the students staying behind?

You've got a wonderful new president coming. Please give him all the support you possibly can, because he will need it. It's a hard job, but it's a wonderful job, and it helps to know that you have people helping you. So please help your new president become the brilliant success he has the potential to be.

If you had to do any one part of the Triathlon before you left, which would it be: streaking the Sunken Garden, jumping the Governor's Palace Wall or swimming in the Crim Dell?

If I had to do one, probably streaking.

Recent stories about President Sullivan — compiled by virginia paulus and cami thompson

March: Sullivan pronounces College's situation as "dismal" in light of state budget.

2001

2002

Nov. 5: Sullivan praises student campaigners for work on passing bond referendum.

Sadler reminisces on 40 years of memories

To sum up 13 years of working for someone — who is also a friend of almost 40 years — is quite a challenge. I first met Tim Sullivan on the morning of his arrival on campus as a new student. I was an Orientation Aide, and he was the last of my new students to check in. Imagine my surprise many years later when he became my boss.



Sam Sadler

Many things have made the presidency of Tim Sullivan special. One of the most important has been his ability to see the possibility of the College, to find its heart and to inspire others to embrace the vision and work for its accomplishment. Serving with him over the years has been an extraordinary experience and one I cherish.

Along the way, there have been moments of laughter and times of challenge. At this time, I prefer to recall the former, though both reveal the depth and character of the man.

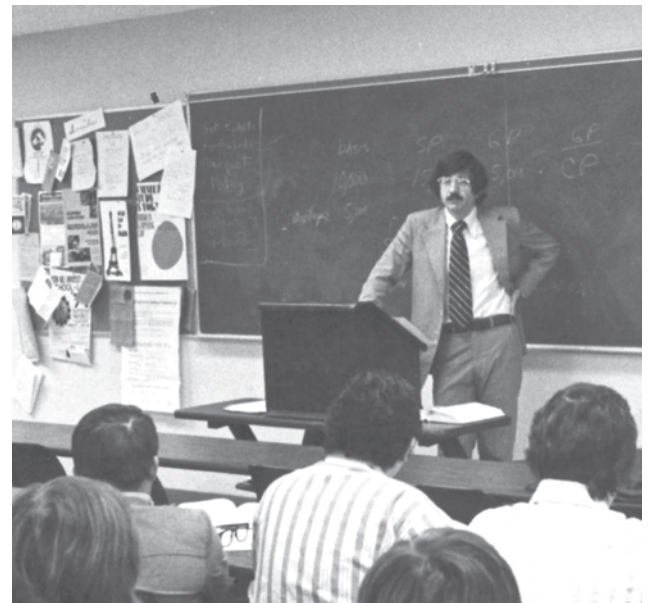
For some reason, one of my earliest experiences with him constitutes one of my favorite memories. It occurred on an August morning in the first summer he was president. He had asked to take a tour of the residences to assess their condition before our new students arrived. I checked out a master key and we set off, first to Monroe, then over to Yates, or so I thought. As we passed Bryan, he stopped. "Wait a minute, why aren't we stopping here?" he asked. "I want to see our old room." Although we were not roommates, we had both lived in Madison 152.

I noticed that the shade was pulled down on the window and muttered something along the lines of, "You know, someone could be there already." He responded, "Let's go. I really want to see the room." He was the president after all.

We entered Madison and, rather than use the key I had, I knocked on the door to 152. No response. I knocked again. No response. I was almost ready to use the key when I heard a stirring inside. I knocked again at the president's urging. There was shuffling of feet and a murmured, "Who is it?" Again I knocked. The door opened slightly. A startled male looked at the two of us and blurted, "Oh ... Uh ... Oh." Before he could say anything else, the president said, "We'd like to come in and see the room. We once lived here." The startled student looked at us in his bewilderment and said, "Uh, OK, but just a minute." He hesitated, then explained that he had just arrived early that morning and the room was a mess. He was right, but we went in, looked around, thanked the student and left. I often wondered what that student must have thought as he was startled out of his sleep and surprised to find the two of us standing at his door.

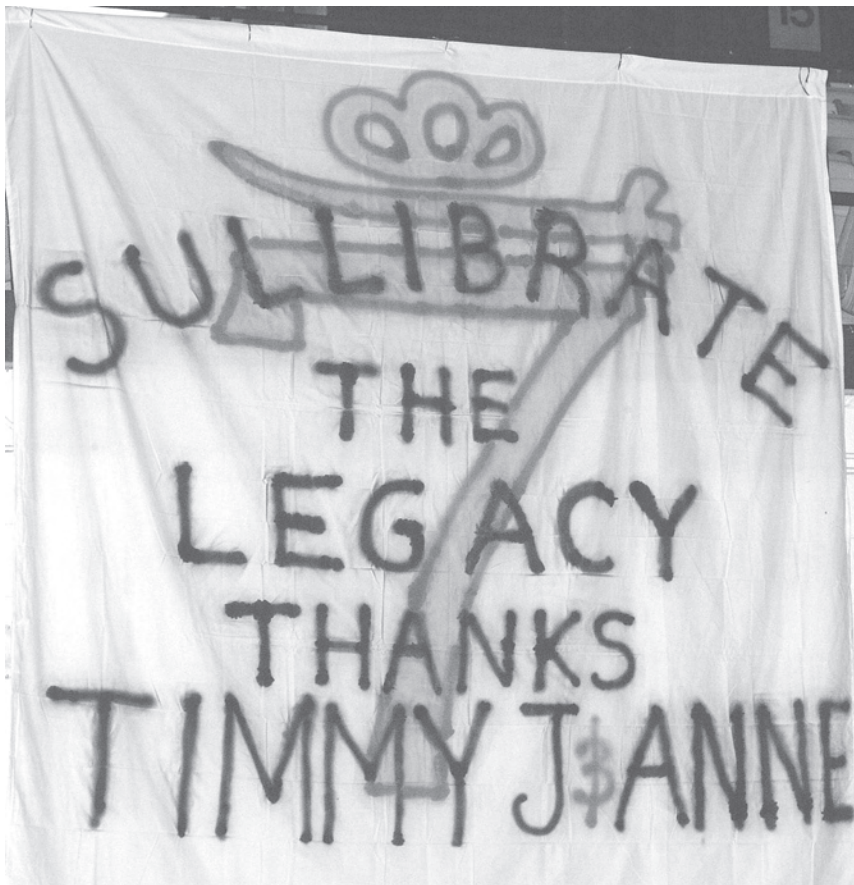
That experience taught me something about the persistence our president has when there is something he wants to accomplish. We have seen it exhibited countless times in more significant ways during his tenure. He is also someone who is willing to do almost anything (within reason) for a good cause. All of us who were here when ground was broken for the Swem Library expansion and renovation remember his donning a hard hat that was a trifle too small, putting on a pair of silly dark glasses and riding on a bulldozer for the symbolic beginning of the project.

Tim Sullivan epitomizes the College for me. He speaks



of the College's commitment to high standards and enduring values, its concern for the person, its ethic of service, its debt to history and responsibility for the future. Those qualities do describe the College, but they are also the characteristics I find and admire in him, with the addition of one more — a willingness to make time to have fun and always be able to laugh at himself. It has been an incredible honor to work with Tim Sullivan.

Sam Sadler is the vice president for student affairs. His knee predicts that Sullivan will have a long and happy retirement.



Nov. 14: Sullivan approves the measures of the Alcohol Task Force.

June 18: Sullivan announces his retirement.

February: presidential hopefuls visit campus.

Sept. 9: Sullivan and College announce Chartered Universities Initiative.

March 14: Gene Nichol selected new president.

2003

2004

2005

“It can be done ...”



... and he did it.