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THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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of William and Mary.

2008 Collegiate Network
Paper of the Year

State extends university budget cuts Support falls by additional 15%

Mason Watson
Editor at Large

The College of William and Mary will face a 15% decrease in state support this year, amounting to a \$6.1 million cut in the College's operating budget. This cut was announced by Virginia Governor Tim Kaine as part of a larger executive spending reduction plan, which is intended to compensate for the state's FY 2010 revenue shortfall of \$1.35 billion.

The state of Virginia has reduced support for the College by 32%—about \$16.6 million—since 2008 President Taylor Reveley said in a message addressed to the William and Mary community.

According to Vice President for Finance Sam Jones '75 M.B.A. '80, this blow will be softened by significant aid from the Federal Government. "They are offsetting the millions with \$2.8 million of Federal stimulus money," he said, which leaves the college with an overall loss of \$3.3 million this year. Mr. Jones noted, however, that without stimulus money, the \$3.3 million cut may rise to as much as \$9 million next year.

Many different measures to reduce spending have been discussed with the Board of Visitors in the last few days, according to Mr. Jones. Options ranging from a hiring freeze to cuts in the size and scope of programs offered at the College were mentioned. Mr. Jones said that the administration is focusing on base cuts or permanent sources of new revenue as opposed to one-time measures, as the College is unlikely to see an increase in its support from the state anytime soon.

"We all know that the long term trend in state support has been going down," Mr. Jones said.

While the College cannot choose to privatize on its own, the effect of significant cuts in state support is to force the College to operate more independently. "We can't just unilaterally disarm," Mr. Jones said. "We are a state entity and they would have to say that it's ok for [us] to go as well." Nevertheless, William and Mary is increasingly taking on the responsibilities of a private institution.

"What's clear is we are more and more taking care of ourselves and less and less can really depend on the state to be there to help us maintain the quality of the program that we have here," he explained. "The reality of [the situation] is that we're more and more dependent on our own resources."

Mr. Jones is adamant that the College will turn to tuition hikes only as a last resort. "[Tuition increases] are typically the place we go last," he said. "You do all the other things you can to reduce cost." According to Mr. Jones, no final decision has been made whether or not to raise tuition.

Nevertheless, there are only so many ways for the College to cut costs. "We're not heavily staffed

STATE REDUCES COLLEGE FUNDING
continued on page ten



Shep Walker

Delly departure: The College Delly was forced to close its doors to the college population, leaving students high and dry when it came to nightlife options last Saturday. This eviction was widely rumored, but presumed false as the bar was open and filled to capacity Friday night. Questions remain regarding the eviction. Some say the bar will reopen soon with a change in management.

Administration lifts ban on anonymous literature in key speech code reform

Myles Busching
Staff Writer

For the last few years the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) has been working to encourage the College to make alterations to its speech code for both student and faculty conduct. According to an evaluation by FIRE, the College is a "red light" school, implying significant restrictions to

free speech on campus. *The Informer* has learned that either due to outside pressure or internal pressure alterations to the school's speech code are in the process of being made.

One major change already decided upon has been allowing anonymous fliers to be posted. The previous ban was heavily criticized by free speech advocates, including former Student Assembly Student Rights Secretary Braum Katz ('10) who criticized col-

lege rules that banned legal speech.

According to Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler, "we revised the rules relating to banners and posters to allow anonymous postings." This was something that FIRE was adamant about because they felt that it infringed on freedom of expression to have every posting registered. For instance, some organizations might want to keep membership secret.

Additionally Ms. Ambler stated that "We revisited our Computing Resources policy, and removed vague and unenforced provisions prohibiting 'pandering to discrimination,' 'profane language,' 'implicitly

NEW SPEECH CODE LIFTS BAN
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This policy especially drew the ire of some members of the English department staff who felt it was ridiculous that every time they looked up a piece of literature that met the preceding criteria that they were supposed to contact the department chair and inform them.

Senior Gift discontinues organization donations

Michael Young
Assistant Features Editor

The Informer has learned that the Senior Class Gift for the class of 2010 is not taking donations to individual organizations. This is a change in policy from previous years when seniors could pledge or donate to a student organization of their choice. The new policy allows students to donate to a general student activities

fund, but not specific groups.

The last issue of *The Informer* revealed several cases of students who had either not received confirmation of a class gift donation, or who had their funds directed to an organization that they did not intend. One such student had made multiple attempts to correct the discrepancy, but after repeatedly trying, withdrew her pledge of over \$1,000 to write a check directly to

her organization instead of going through the office.

This change was disclosed by representatives of the Fund for William and Mary at a question and answer session for the current senior class' gift committee. Although donations to individual organizations will no longer be being accepted, former class gift pledges will be honored if made before the policy went into effect.

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Attorney General candidate Cuccinelli speaks to campus

Michael Watson
Editor at Large

On September 20, Students for a Better Williamsburg and the College Republicans hosted Republican nominee for state Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli for a speech to about 60 students in the Sadler Center's Tidewater A room. Mr. Cuccinelli who is currently serving as a Virginia Senator spoke about his record and proposed policies in a speech followed by a question-and-answer session.

Mr. Cuccinelli began his speech by acknowledging his background and that of his Democratic Party opponent Steve Shannon. Mr. Cuccinelli highlighted his work writing laws that toughened penalties against driving under the influence and sexual offenses. Mr. Cuccinelli also outlined the Public Safety Program, a current policy that commits sexual offenders with a high probability of recidivism to mental health facilities. Mr. Cuccinelli proposed a new policy that would place moderately high risk offenders under a tracking program, which the candidate believed would reduce public expenditures. Mr. Cuccinelli also highlighted his work in combating gang activity and in mental health policy.

Mr. Cuccinelli highlighted the role that the Attorney General plays in writing the regulations that govern business activity in the state. Mr. Cuccinelli proposed loosening the current regulations

Mr. Cuccinelli noted that his opposition to expansion of government applied to its fiscal size and affirmed that his support of the Constitutional Amendment that banned same-sex unions in the Commonwealth was therefore not contradictory.

and specifically opposed the "Cap-and-Trade" environmental policy and defended the state's "right-to-work" law which prevents mandatory unionization. Mr. Cuccinelli advocated litigation to oppose potential effects of the "Cap-and-Trade" bill on the regulatory policy of Virginia under the Tenth Amendment, noting a study that reported that Spain's similar policy cost that nation 2.2 jobs for every job created.

Student questions addressed the candidate's positions on environmental policy, social issues, and capital punishment. Mr. Cuccinelli advocated that environmental policies not place the state at competitive disadvantages with foreign nations, which he believes the "Cap-and-Trade" policy would.

Mr. Cuccinelli was asked how he reconciled his opposition to expansion

of government with his opposition to same-sex marriage. Mr. Cuccinelli noted that his opposition to expansion of government applied to its fiscal size and affirmed that his support of the Constitutional Amendment that banned same-sex unions in the Commonwealth was therefore not contradictory.

Mr. Cuccinelli, when asked about a recent case of death penalty clemency (on which he elected not to comment), noted that although he supported capital punishment, he had supported a Democratic bill that would allow defendants to attempt to prove their innocence after the state's 21-day rule. Mr. Cuccinelli used the bill as an example of his commitment to bipartisanship in cases affecting personal liberty.

Mr. Cuccinelli was also asked about his defense of property rights. Mr. Cuccinelli spoke out in opposition to the Supreme Court decision in *Kelo v. New London* that enabled takings for private corporations but acknowledged the need for eminent domain for public works. Mr. Cuccinelli drew a distinction between himself and his opponent on this issue, noting that Mr. Shannon has endorsed an interpretation of eminent domain that enables taking on behalf of private companies.

A handful of protesters holding signs and chanting slogans denouncing Mr. Cuccinelli's socially conservative positions on gay marriage and abortion pol-



Courtesy of cuccinelli.com

No debate: Mr. Cuccinelli's Democratic opponent in the race for Attorney General, Steve Shannon, declined to participate in a debate, despite intense efforts by students.

icy gathered in the SC lobby and outside the speech room.

Mr. Shannon was invited by Students for a Better Williamsburg to participate in a candidates' debate, but his campaign declined to participate. According to SBW, no official reason was given.

Briefly...

Compiled by Jordan Bloom, Arts and Culture Editor

Provost encourages faculty

New Provost Michael Halleran was optimistic about the future of the school, even amid looming budget cuts, citing the "magnificent" new Miller Hall, 25 new tenured or tenure-eligible faculty and this year's robust freshman and transfer class. He echoed President Reveley's call for "new funding models" to cope with the state's \$6.1 million budget cut, but stressed that "in the middle term and long term, we will be fine and will continue to be a splendid institution because our budget is not what ultimately defines our vision." Halleran came to the College as the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences in 2005 from the University of Miami. Equally a scholar as an administrator, he holds a PhD in classics from Harvard University and served for eight years as the Dean of Arts & Sciences at the University of Washington, and his experience informs his commitment to quality faculty and teaching, the "things we control beyond all else...these things are important beyond all else."

3rd Captain named by WMPD

The WMPD welcomed Captain Ed Schardein to its ranks, only the third captain in its 35 year history. He has more than two decades of diverse law enforcement experience, serving in Portsmouth PD's SWAT team, Marine Enforcement and Uniform Patrol before his transfer here. Coming to the post in June, Schardein cited W&M's size and location on the Peninsula as factors in his decision to come here. Also, the WMPD is one of only four college police departments in the state accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, which is a draw for officers of Schardein's experience. The WMPD's previous Captain, Ed Davis retired this year after more than 20 years at the college.

Raft Debate set for September 30

September 30, the annual Raft Debate goes down in the Commonwealth Auditorium, wherein four professors will debate, plead and pontificate in an effort to convince the audience that their contribution to humanity is more valuable than the other three. A William & Mary tradition since the mid-1900s, the Raft Debate takes a faculty member from the sciences, social sciences and

humanities and sets them on a hypothetical desert island with a single one-passenger raft. The professors have to argue that their chosen discipline is superior, earning them the life-raft to civilization in a "delicate balance of comedy and lecture" that often includes props and costumes. This year's maroons are David Armstrong (Physics), David Feldman (Economics) and Giulia Pacini (Modern Languages & Literatures) and Jeremy Stoddard (Education) playing the Devil's Advocate, who argues that none of the disciplines are worth saving.

The Informer apologizes for the following errors in our Sep. 9 2009 Issue:

Salary information from 2006-2007 was misidentified as being from 2007-2008.

The decibel level for a noise violation after 11pm is 55 decibels, not 65.

The *Virginia Informer* would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Please submit all corrections via e-mail to editor@vainformer.com.

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Founders

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

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Students stand against Surry Coal Plant

Alexander Powell
Opinion Editor

The small town of Dendron is the potential site for a new coal plant across the James River from Williamsburg. However, opposition to the plant has formed on campus. A group within Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) called Students to Stop the Coal Plant in Surry (SSCPS) is leading the charge to prevent this construction.

The reasons for opposition to the coal plant are based in the facts that the 1,500 megawatt coal plant will emit fly ash, 118 lbs of mercury, 80 million lbs of Co2 and 17,000 lbs of Nitrogen Oxide per day. These high levels of pollution from what would be one of the largest coal plants in Virginia SSCPS fears would drive the residents from their town, or, at least, affect their quality of life. They also fear that this increased pollution would increase the ecological damage to Virginia's air and water as much of the pollution would find its way into the Chesapeake Bay.

However, some students voiced skepticism. Kierstan Hoffman '11 said, "I feel as if SEAC is simply being reactionary, just saying 'no' for the sake of saying 'no' on this issue. Yes, the environment is important. But power is going to have to come from somewhere and simply stomping your feet about the issue without truly considering alternatives is rather silly."

Proponents of the plant say that the plant will bring jobs into the Dendron. However, ODEC (Old Dominion Electric Cooperative) says that the plant will employ only 200 people after its completion, many of whom would require engineering degrees and other specialization. The construction of the plant would result in around 2000 temporary jobs. As a result it is speculated that most of the advertised jobs would not benefit the town and instead will be imported workers. ODEC says that the plant needs to be built so that they can supply areas with in state energy as currently they are forced to buy much power off-grid. The town of Dendron itself is not a member of ODEC or any of its affiliate Co-Ops and so would receive none of the electricity created in the town.

When asked about health concerns and safety precautions were raised by citizens, ODEC assured them that fly ash would be collected and stored underground in double lined containers near the plant. While statistically improbable SSCPS member David Theurer ('10) feels that, "human engineering is bound to fail...eventually it will leak." Many of their members, like Mr. Theurer,

don't feel that anyone should have to suffer the consequence if the safety measures were to fail.

ODEC has been pressing the Dendron to cede zoning rights of the area to Surry County, a vocal supporter of the construction of the coal plant because of the increase in base tax revenue it is afforded. Recently the citizens of Dendron voted not to cede zoning rights to the county. However ODEC officials found an old ordinance that caused the city council members to negate the community vote and convinced them to cede rights to Surry County through a board vote. Members of SSCPS suggest foul play in this recent turn of events because the popular vote was nixed.

Mr. Theurer has labeled this ODEC discovered ordinance a 'ghost ordinance' and insists the fight will go on. While it currently looks grim for the prevention of the

plant in the town of Dendron the members of SSCPS will continue to oppose the plant. William and Mary students have been active in organizing efforts against the plant.

ODEC has stated that the plant will produce less pollution than the surrounding plants in the area, which it will allegedly someday replace, but its size and scope remains a concern for members of SEAC and SSCPS; and especially the citizens of Dendron. The need for power in Virginia was one of the overriding issues in especially the democratic gubernatorial primary, as was highlighted in resistance to Terry McAuliffe when he came to campus, as he did not say he would oppose the plant. However, ODEC believes that any environmental concerns need to be contrasted with Virginia's undeniable need for energy, and coal is one of the easiest ways to get the energy that



Student Protest: The Surry Coal Plant will emit fly ash, 118lbs of mercury, 80 million lbs of Co2 and 17,000 lbs of Nitrogen Oxide per day. A group within the Studnet Environmental Action Coalition opposes the plant.

Freshmen SA elections delayed to October 1

Justin Duke
Contributor

Some freshmen may be surprised to discover that their Student Assembly elections have been delayed. Some may be further surprised to discover there were Student Assembly elections.

The Student Assembly, divided into a legislative branch and an executive branch, comprises four students elected to represent each class in the Senate and class officers. There is a school-wide executive branch with an elected President and Vice President and appointed departments that have specialized functions.

Due to what was perceived to be an abnormally low volume of applications, the elections were re-scheduled for October 1, a week after their originally planned date. Originally only 3 candidates filed to run for 4 Senate seats.

While the reason for low applicant turnout is unclear, Election Commissioner Jazmine Pina ('11) attributes it to the tumult that has marked the first few weeks of the 2009 fall semester, remarking that the declaration period fell "right into the last weekend of Rush" and that school-wide emails have been more focused on "more important things like swine flu, the September 11th memorial, and budget cuts."

Senator and member of the Elections

Commission Ross Gillingham ('10) agrees. "Promotion this year wasn't up to our standards this year, due to a large amount of mitigating circumstances: we didn't want to be sending out too many emails per week, and there was a lot of other information that needed to get out."

The Election Commission worries that low knowledge of the elections seems common.

Freshman Teigh Ebner said that "I didn't even know there was a Senate for freshmen - I thought that was just open to upperclassmen. I didn't really see any fliers or anything until someone told me the election was being delayed."

However, despite the perceived disparity in publicity the election commission has reported that applicant turnout has not changed from recent years.

"We're about average for the amount of students running in this election compared to past freshman elections," Ms. Pina said. In previous elections, applicants have ranged from ten to twenty.

"Even if there was a choice for every office, we felt that since there were clearly interested parties who wanted to run and that promotion wasn't at our best, we wanted to address this by extending the period to declare. We want the student body to have the largest field from which to choose," said Mr. Gillingham.

The Student Assembly accepted ap-



Delayed election: Senators meeting in the SA house discussed the underattended freshman elections. Few candidates ran for office due to lack of publicity before the election.

plications for all positions in the Class of 2013 as well as Vice President for Advocacy of the Class of 2011, Vice President for Social Affairs of the Class of 2012, and

the Secretary of the Class of 2010. More information about the assembly or the application can be found at <http://thestudentassembly.org/>.

Despite record number of applicants, admit rate increases

SAT's, demographics of incoming class remain steady

Brandon Bleakley
Assistant Business Editor

For decades, the College of William and Mary has maintained its rank among the most selective schools in the nation. The College received a record twelve thousand applications from potential students this past winter. One would assume that with a larger application pool comes a smaller acceptance rate. However, the acceptance actually increased. The rate grew from 34 percent for the class of 2012 to 35 percent for the class of 2013.

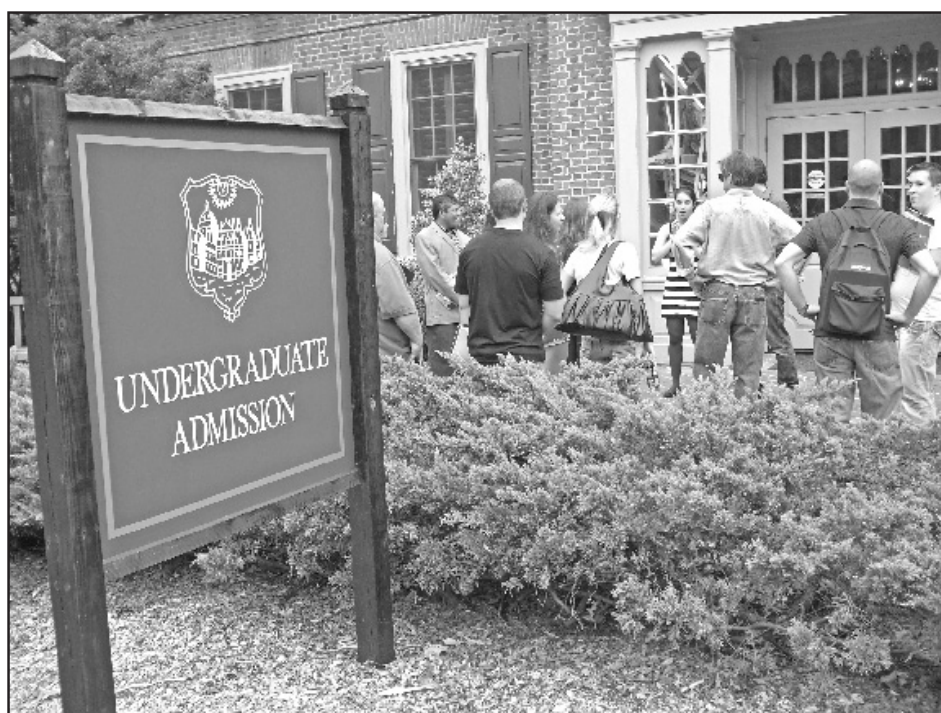
According to Henry Broaddus, the dean of admissions, "several factors contributed to [the acceptance rate]. For one thing, this class is larger than last year's group. This class also includes more out-of-state students, and the yield on them tends to be lower." The ratio of in state to out-of-state accepted students has also changed with our incoming class. Although stating the desire to achieve a 65/35 ratio of in state to out-of-state incoming students, Dean Broaddus claimed that the class of 2013 is represented by a 64/36 ratio instead.

Some may recall in January, there was speculation of House Bill 2475

passing in Virginia. The bill would have established rules and regulations "requiring that at least 75 percent of students admitted and enrolled at the institution be Virginia domiciles." The bill, however, was shot down in an appropriations committee.

Another bill, HB 2324, would have required at least 80 percent of transfer students to be admitted to the institution be Virginia domiciles. This bill, like HB 2475, was shot down in appropriations. The minority representation in the freshman class remained static, coming in at about 25 percent. This occurred despite a 7 percent increase in minority applications, or 26 percent of the applicant pool. The freshman class was greeted by convocation speaker, Former Deputy Attorney General James B. Comey. A graduate of the class of 1982, he emphasized the real world aspects of William and Mary and compared our school to an island in which we only have four short years to live on.

Mr. Comey said, "You can use that time to learn, to think, to question, to argue, to complain, to dream, to serve. In other words, you can use your time on the island to train your-



Alec McKinley

Admissions re-cap: Differences between this incoming class and the prior one are few in demographics. Interestingly, despite the number of applicants setting a new record, the acceptance rate increased.

self to become a well-rounded citizen of the world."

These words sunk into nearly 1,400 students as Mr. Comey addressed a competitive incoming class. The class of 2013 saw 79 percent of

their body graduate within the top 10 percent of their respective class. Also the middle 50th percentile on their SATs was 1260-1430, unaltered when compared to the class of 2012.



Never, never, never give up.

-Winston Churchill

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An Interview with Chon Glover, Special Assistant to the President

Jacob Evans
Staff Writer

The Virginia Informer: What is your favorite part of working at W&M?

Chon Glover: The students. Definitely the students.

VAI: So how long have you been working at the College?

Glover: I'm in my fourteenth year.

VAI: So what motivated the "rebranding" of the Multicultural Office?

Glover: We were looking to be much more inclusive with support services. The Multicultural Office worked primarily with multicultural groups. There were other groups that also need support.

VAI: Will ideological and political diversity be taken into account? If so, how?

Glover: Sure. I don't want to speak

for what will happen, because I'm not in charge of that office. The great thing about a college campus is that this is a place to have a rich dialogue, and the important thing is that voices are being heard. Diversity is not about separating people, but every voice should be heard at the table.



GLOVER

VAI: Do you see the meditation room in the Campus Center becoming a multifaith room?

Glover: Absolutely. We'll say meditation space, and it's not able to be reserved, but people could use it for prayer.

VAI: How do you respond to rumors that minority freshmen are disproportionately assigned to room together?

Glover: I don't have any factual data to respond to that. I don't want to comment on a rumor.

VAI: In your new position will you

advocate for gender blind housing?

Glover: That is not an issue that has come up. One thing I want to do is find out which issues need to be discussed. One part of our long term plan is to centralize issues on campus, to assess where we are as a community.

VAI: Why hasn't President Reveley or Residence Life created a gender blind housing option, since the SA endorsed such a measure?

Glover: I cannot answer for the President or Res Life. That is an issue that the new Vice President [Ginger Ambler] would be responsible for.

VAI: What are your personal goals for your new role?

Glover: I've been working on inclusiveness and diversity for all my career, and it is something I am passionate about. The William & Mary community is truly a microcosm of our society. I want to find ways to be an inclusive and welcoming community. I also want to find ways to

engage people in conversation.

VAI: Do you think questions of race, religion and gender should be on the application to W&M?

Glover: No one has to provide any of that information. We have a responsibility to gather student information for SCHEV [State Council for Higher Education in Virginia] and other agencies.

VAI: Should these old affirmative action questions even be made available to admissions officers?

Glover: Any info is valuable, because it's a holistic process. The more you know the better you are able to find out who that person is.

VAI: So what do you see as your primary role?

Glover: I see this role as evolving as the strategic plan evolves. I see myself as a catalyst for making the connections necessary to make William & Mary a welcoming environment.

Williamsburg police report incidents to administration

Sarah Nadler
Managing Editor

Students may think that police incidents at William and Mary are as easy to hide from the school as they are to hide from their parents. But what many students do not know is that violations of state, local, or federal law will most likely constitute violation of College regulations.

According to Associate Dean Dave Gilbert, Director of Student Conduct, "many incidents that students believe occur 'off campus' actually occur on streets or sidewalks adjacent to campus. If one refers to a map of the College's property, one will see that the College's boundaries are extensive. For incidents that are not adjacent to or on College property, the Vice President for Student Affairs determines whether an alleged conduct 'adversely affects the College community or its members.' We have determined that, if a student is arrested, this threshold generally is reached, although each report is reviewed separately by the Vice President, and she determines if jurisdiction is appropriate." In addition, the Code states, "The College considers the observance of public laws of equal importance with the observance of its own regulations" (page 21).

The Code of Conduct also states that "All students and student organizations are expected to maintain a high standard of conduct both on and off campus." (pg. 21). In addition, "College discipline shall be limited to conduct which occurs on College property, including adjacent streets and sidewalks, or property owned or controlled by the College, during College sponsored activities, or when conduct adversely affects the College community or its members" (pg. 21).

Dean Gilbert receives all reports from William and Mary Police that involve students, not just those involving drugs and alcohol. Generally, an officer walks over copies of these reports within one to two days of the incident. Ginger Ambler, Vice President for Student Affairs, receives them and then who receives copies of the reports.

For reports from Williamsburg Po-

"The College considers the observance of public laws of equal importance with the observance of its own regulations"
- Student Code of Conduct pg 21

lice, the College has an agreement that they will copy our police department on any reports involving students. The WMPD then determines what reports will be forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

When Dean Gilbert receives a copy of a report alleging a possible violation, he first decides whether the alleged conduct is, or could be, a violation of the Code of Conduct. He then determines whether the alleged incident occurred on or off campus. If the conduct occurred off campus, he must request jurisdiction be granted by the Vice President for Student Affairs. If she grants authority, Dean Gilbert assigns the matter to be addressed by one of the College's hearing officers (Dean Gilbert, another member of our staff, or an Area Director if the incident occurred in a residence hall).

Occasionally, Dean Gilbert may call a student in to meet with one of him even if an incident is not a possible conduct violation. This practice reflects Mr. Gilbert's sentiment that his position exists to help students learn from their actions. The goal of such is to discuss resources available to the student including counseling, academic assistance, and other appropriate services. Moreover, Dean Gilbert says, "If a student receives an email to meet with one of our staff members, it does not automatically mean that the issue will be treated as a conduct matter."

Is the College's involvement in conduct that occurs off campus an infringement of student rights? Dean Gilbert thinks not. He feels "it is important for students to understand that arrest records are not private—they are considered to be public record and anyone can request arrest records for another person."



Alec McKinley

The Information age: If a student is involved in an off-campus incident with Williamsburg police they may face on-campus punishments, provided the incident affected the character of the College.

Make an impact on campus...

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

COME TO A MEETING:

**Mondays
7:30pm
Blow 331**

Student witnesses historic powershift in Japan's summer elections

Kentaro Uzuki
Contributor

Japanese people witnessed a historical power-shift this summer. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has been responsible for post-war Japan's governance since 1955 for all but 11 months, lost majority in the House of Representatives for the first time in its history.

It was authentically dramatic; the solid majority which the LDP had enjoyed, holding 306 seats out of 480 before the general election, was windswept. Before that, the biggest opposition party, Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), had only 113 seats. The election completely reversed the situation. The LDP suffered a severe headwind and lost more than half of its seats. The DPJ consequently won 308 seats and only 119 seats remained for the LDP, an occurrence not seen since 1955.

Japan's National Diet consists of two houses, the House of Representatives (lower house) and the House of Councilors (upper house). The lower house generally enjoys more power. They can override vetoes from the upper house and their resolutions on important issues such as national budget and prime minister appointment precede the upper house's. General elections typically refer to those of the lower house. In addition, only members of the lower house are called Daigishi, although Dietmen are usually called Sensei, which corresponds to "teacher" in Japanese.

Putting general information aside, the Japanese political scene may seem odd to western citizens. Japanese people have not only witnessed but also brought about the revolutionary power-shift; however, nobody sounded the horn nor danced on the floor. Would any American believe that Obama could rise to political stardom last November without the sensational politics seen in America? In Japan, the two major parties do not have fixed political ideologies. Both of their economic policies leaned toward big government in this recession. People are inclined to regard the LDP as more conservative because the definition of conser-

vative/liberal tends to follow social conservatism/liberalism and nationalism in Japan. Moreover, New Komeito, whose tight grip on the politically influential casting board has had its support based on a cult. Seen from the outside, Japanese politics is a total enigma. It may help us grasp the essence of Japan's power structure when we see it at the micro-level when the macro-level viewpoints do not work.

June 18, 2009 - I nervously knocked on the door of Room 709 in one of the Member's Halls located in Nagatacho which is translated into "Japanese politics." The appointment was set at 9 a.m. to meet a member of the House of Representatives, Tetsuma Esaki. He was also ex-Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and belonged to the LDP. His father, Masumi Esaki, also used to be an influential politician. Mr. Esaki succeeded to his father's district.

Those people are called Seshu, which indicates politicians who take over their parents or relatives' districts. My grandfather's friend's wife was a friend of Mr. Esaki's brother. It might sound a bit awkward but this is how connections work in Japan - sometimes. The moment I first met him, he gave

me his business card and asked me if I could drink. I answered, "Yes." Then he took a bottle of sake. "Nikai Sensei (then Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry) gave me this bottle," said Mr. Esaki as he poured it into a cup for me. The interview lasted for a good half hour. At last, he said, "Come to the office at 9 a.m. tomorrow."

The duty in the Dietman's office was not much different than that of a student government's: filling in schedules, errands, accounting, and pick-



Kentaro Uzuki

Prime Minister: Students with Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan

ing up phone calls. One of the differences was that a minister or an Australian envoy occasionally called the office. Just as in the United States, there were a variety of types of politicians in Japan, and Mr. Esaki certainly carried the stereotypical image of "Japanese politician." His main job was not legislation, but all about meeting people. Although I worked in an office in the Member's Hall on weekdays for two months, he usually came to the office only once or twice a week. Instead, he spent almost all the time in his room in one of the public dormitories for Diet members when he was in Tokyo. He went back to his districts on weekends. The House of Representatives meets on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; hence, members of the lower house generally return to their districts to consolidate their support base, which is called "Kinkikarae."

The election season arrived in August. I went to Mr. Esaki's district and worked on the campaign for two weeks. Japanese elections are not the place to sell their policies, but all about meeting people and begging the voters. I honestly felt that our efforts were paying off. It was when I was watching up-to-minute reports of the election online at the College that I knew Mr. Esaki had lost by a 70,000 vote margin.

The moment I first met him, he gave me his business card and asked me if I could drink. I answered, "Yes."



Kentaro Uzuki



Kentaro Uzuki

National Diet: [Top right] Both houses of Japan's Bicameral Legislature meet in the National Diet Building.

Members Hall: [Left] Members Hall is one of the associated buildings for the Japanese Diet.

Tetsuma Esaki: [Bottom right] Esaki represented the Liberal Democratic Party in the Japanese Diet until this year.



Kentaro Uzuki

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Drink of the Week

Gin Rickey

Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer

This is a tasty beverage. It's traditionally considered an old-person's drink, but I don't mind that because it's so freaking refreshing on a night like this (80% humidity, you are my eternal foe.).

In the world of alcoholic beverages, our grand parents had it right. They were drunks, and they knew how to do it with style.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 oz. gin
- Juice of 1/2 limes
- Tonic water
- One lime wedge

Directions:

Mix 1 part gin (Beefeaters, to be exact) to 3 parts tonic water (on the rocks) and add a healthy splash of lime, and you'll be golden. For an extra classy touch pour into a highball glass with ice cubes.

Do a 50's dance part with Sinatra (ol' blue eyes to you pups out there). Have the ladies wear dark stockings, or have 'em draw on seams, and wear tux shirts with untied bow-ties, and you'll be living large.

History of the Gin Rickey:

The gin rickey is a variety of the popular lime rickey, whose other variations may be found in everything from the mojito to soda-fountain versions of the drink found in Sonic Drive-Ins.

The history of the drink itself is unknown, with some having attributed it to Colonel Rickey, an English officer once based in Washington, D.C. while other sources have more recently claimed that the origin of the gin rickey stems from the seaside resort of Wildwood, New Jersey.

The drink's popularity skyrocketed during the 1950's and '60's and has since become an American staple.

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



Jeff Dailey



Courtesy of wm.edu

Despite facility fee, non-business majors object to restricted Miller Hall access

Bert Mueller
Executive Editor

Students interested in taking a tour of the new business school, Miller Hall, should do it during class hours. After class hours, the building is only accessible to business school students. John Lee ('10), Connor Ahearn ('10) and Spencer Tawse ('10) recently learned this when attempting to access the building to study. Mr. Lee, an International Relations major, swiped his card at the entrance of Miller but the ID card did not work. Puzzled, he stepped away from the door and let Spencer Tawse, a business major, swipe his ID card. The doors opened.

Miller Hall's policy of only allowing business school students into the building after hours has left many non-business majors frustrated. "Since when does the school limit access to academic buildings based on major?" said John Lee. "Certainly all students have the option to spend their evenings luxuriating in Morton or Blair...am I missing a good reason on why Miller should be any different?" he added.

To add complications to matter, a portion of the mandatory student facility fee is actually used to support bonds on the new building's debt. As The Informer uncovered last year, all students pay \$300 per year from student facility fees to support the bonds. This will continue

until the bonds are paid off. Classics major Sam McVane ('11) said, "That seems pretty unjust when other buildings on campus are open for everyone and we are paying to allow this building [Miller Hall] to exist."

Most buildings allow all students to swipe in after class hours; Morton and Blair are two that do. However, according to Whitney Newman ('11), the new Integrated Science Building also has such a policy. Another reason for such a policy might be in place to prevent students from entering the Matoaka art studio. Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs at the business school, William Geary, wasn't sure about if the policy was unique to Miller and referred The Informer to Dean Pulley. He was not available for comment as this issue went to print.

Whatever the case, non-business school students are frustrated with the seeming unfairness of this policy. Spencer Tawse echoed these sentiments: "First of all I think there should be consistency across the campus. If there are specific resources in buildings which are critical to students of certain majors then perhaps a restricted after hours system should be considered for all academic buildings. It seems detrimental to the culture of a liberal arts school to have different policies for different departments and their resources."

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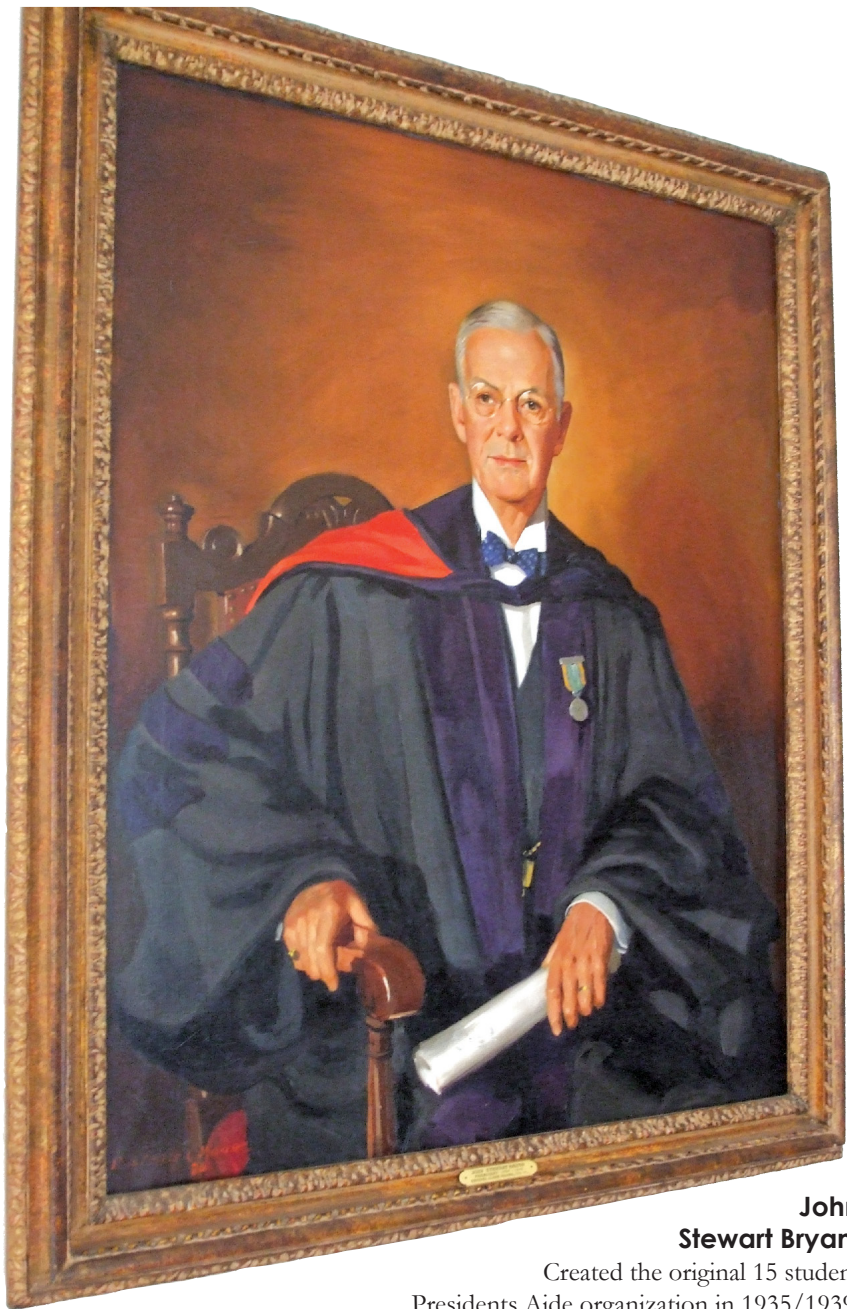
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John Stewart Bryan:
Created the original 15 student Presidents Aide organization in 1935/1939.



J.E. Pomfret:
He reformed the Aide system to include female students and expanded student representation.

Photos Courtesy Alex McKinley

Mysterious and selective organization is the subject of criticism

A history of the President's Aides

Eric Ames
Assistant Opinion Editor

Students at the College are at least aware of the existence and function of their student government and administration. They vote in the Student Assembly elections and are to some degree familiar with its function, as they are familiar with the President, his staff, and the many other administrators. One organization, however, the President's Aides, is less well known, and is not as well understood as some other aspects of student government.

The President's Aides are a group of usually fifteen to eighteen students who meet with the President on a monthly basis to discuss issues pertaining to College affairs. The group was created by President John Stewart Bryan in either 1935 or 1939, and was composed of around fifteen students selected based on various contributions to the College community. Its function at the time was to plan the major dances, and to assist the President in receiving important guests at the College, a function they retain today. Their role was also said to include "assisting in all public affairs" in a 1948 issue of *The Flat Hat*.

The Aides role in the planning of dances was substantially reduced when the Student Assembly created a separate Dance Committee in 1947. Today, this group's significance is that they get a substantial amount of time to advise the President and affect policy decisions. According to President Reveley, "the Aides are not a policy-making group for William and Mary."

Both the degree of access to the President and the nature of the group's selection have been a cause of concern to some. According to former Student Assembly Chief of Staff David Husband ('09), who was accepted to Harvard University Law School, "there is no accountability for this group, which serves in some ways as a quasi-governmental agency, and the selection process for this group is deliberately kept secret."

As described by Assistant to the President for Diversity and Community Initiatives Fanchon Glover, "the President's Aides are nominated by deans, faculty and administrators. There is no formal application process." She further stated that holistic criteria were used to select from among nominees. The President of the Student Assembly and the Senior Class President are accorded positions with the Aides, and graduate level schools have their own representatives as well.

Mr. Husband told *The Informer* that the current system does not yet adequately represent the interests of students. "Because the [William and Mary] administration is less interested in dialogue with the students than in creating controllable opinion, campus leaders who are volatile or controversial or even merely outspoken are not selected." He went on to explain that there is a conspicuous crossover in membership among the Aides, secret societies, and certain Greek organizations. In his years at the College, Mr. Husband attempted unsuccessfully to become a President's Aide.

The current method by which Aides are chosen has changed with the times. The selection process for the President's Aides began to change as early as 1944, when

President John E. Pomfret announced that the presidents of all five dormitories, the President of the Student Body, the President of the Honor Council, and the Senior Class President would be admitted, and the heads of several student organizations would automatically qualify as candidates. In what appears to have been an attempt to make the group more representative of the student body,

President Pomfret changed the system again in 1948, allowing women to serve as Aides. Mr. Pomfret's 1948 Aides drew heavily from the Student Assembly and other student body representatives. He also added two at large seats so that leaders of various student activities could be represented, a change made apparently at the behest of the Student Assembly. These changes were well received by the editorial board of *The Flat Hat*, which had expressed concern about the old system in a staff editorial published shortly after Mr. Pomfret changed the system. Their concern at that time was that Aides were being appointed by the President at the recommendation of the Deans. They felt that student interests would not be adequately represented, as it was anticipated that Deans would simply nominate the students most personally familiar to them. A subsequent issue of the paper, however, seems to indicate some student backlash against the changes.

In his contact with *The Informer*, Mr. Husband expressed a concern similar to the one expressed by *The Flat Hat* over sixty years ago. "Based on the Aides' who I have known, the Administration appears to choose those William and Mary students who are most vocally supportive of the administration under any and all circumstan-

es and who will not become a problem for William and Mary's image."

Mr. Husband believes that the College would be better served if the process were better publicized and more open. "It's official function, as I best understand it, is to serve as another channel for student communication." He had hoped that the system could have been reformed by making the body better known to students, by opening up the application process, and by encouraging Aides to represent constituent groups of the student body rather than their own views.

In a 2008 email exchange with Jackson Sasser made available to *The Informer* by Husband, he expressed his concern that there was not enough student involvement in the program. His request to meet with Mr. Sasser to discuss reforming the current system was rebuffed. In Mr. Sasser's opinion, "a more visible application process, and a more visible group, would add less to this group's effectiveness than to some others."

Mr. Husband also told *The Informer* that his understanding is that President Reveley does not fully approve of the current regime by which Aides are chosen, but that he and the College have more important issues to deal with. "I don't think he should bear any blame, as he was always willing to talk about the issue with me" Mr. Husband told *The Informer*. President Reveley has said "[the Aides] prime function, so far as I'm concerned, is to have supper with me once a month and talk about the College. I learn a lot from the conversations, as well as thoroughly enjoying them."

Editor's note: numerous President's Aides declined to offer comment for this article.

Students come together to commemorate 9-11

Josh Karp
Staff Writer

Late at night on September 10 thirty students set up 3,000 miniature American flags in neat rows. "The flags, about one for every life lost on September 11, are impossible to ignore and give a simple display of the magnitude of the events," said Thomas Chappell ('11).

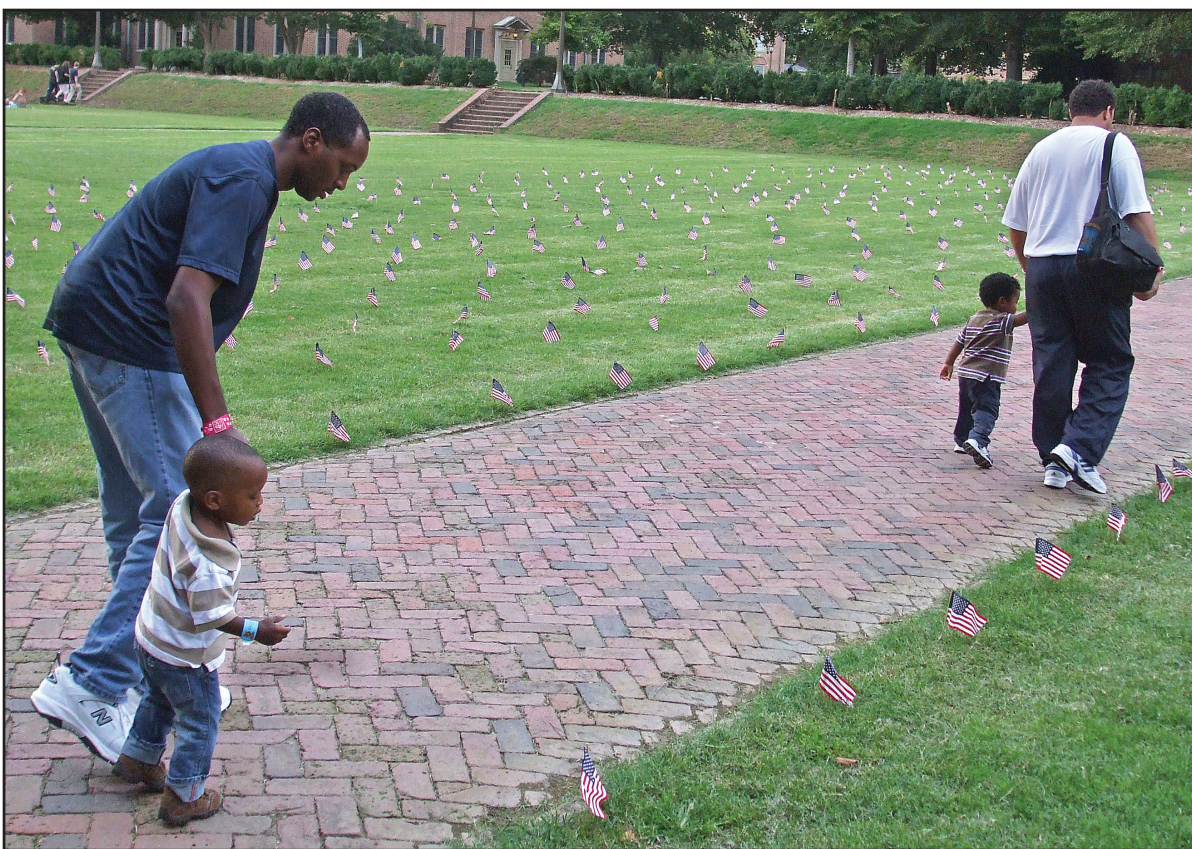
Ross Gillingham ('10), president of the Young Democrats, noted that the College Republicans and the Young Democrats have cooperated to set up the memorial for several years. "We're pleased to see this become a William and Mary tradition. It's always good to see people who are, you know, pretty opinionated, be able to lay aside politics in favor of something much more important."

Thomas Chappell, chairman of the College Republicans, expressed his hopes that "the memorial will serve as a powerful reminder of an event that shaped so much of our childhoods."

Absent this year from the commemoration was the Muslim Student Association, which was active last year. Also down was volunteer support for the commemoration; thirty students worked to set up the memorial this year, while in previous years, over 60 students helped set up the flags.

As in previous years, uniformed members of the Queen's Guard stood at attention, at the eastern edge of the Sunken Garden on the 11th. The Wren chapel itself was closed to public tours for the day so that students and community members could sit for prayer and reflection.

Student Assembly President Sarah Rojas ('10) sent an e-mail to the student body on the anniversary, encouraging them to visit the sunken gardens to view the memorial.



Alec McKinley

Eight years after: Students commemorated the anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks with a bipartisan display of patriotism, placing 3,000 flags in the Sunken Gardens.

NeW aims to spread ideals and foster intellectual growth

Brittany Lane
Features Editor

After interning for the Republican National Committee two years ago and working 40 hours a week this past summer at the Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute, Kelsey Budd ('11) decided she wanted to create an organization at the College devoted to discussing and spreading conservative ideals, particularly for women.

She examined existing clubs on campus, such as the College Republicans and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, but she found that none of the organizations offered "a real voice for conservative women."

While interning this summer, she



befriended the president of the UVA chapter of the Network of Enlightened Women (NeW). As stated in its constitution, the purpose of NeW is to foster the education and leadership of conservative university women and to focus on promoting conservative principles and intellectual diversity.

Budd believes that a liberal viewpoint prevails on campus and wishes

to offer an alternative forum for discussion about ideas and people often forgotten about on college campuses. "It's hard sometimes when you find your voice being disregarded," said Budd. While attending the National NeW Conference over the summer, she received strong support from the organization's leaders, including Executive Director Holly Carter, to launch NeW at William and Mary.

NeW started at UVA in 2004, and soon spread to over a dozen other campuses. A chapter operated at William and Mary in 2005 but fell apart due to lack of interest. Budd envisions meetings as a forum for open discussion meant for conservative women to congregate, but also welcoming members with liberal ideals, even including men.

"An important part of this club is the enlightenment," said Budd. Members also read books espousing conservative ideals to enrich themselves. Budd said that she would consider suggesting liberal-minded books as well, as "it's important to understand both sides."

NeW would not act as a venue for campaigning, but rather focus on spreading ideas and promoting informed debate. Budd noted that the key topics of discussion will revolve around particularly pertinent issues such as health care, global warming, and the economy. Members will discuss more socially conservative topics as well, though they will pay more attention to policy-driven arguments.

The reestablishment of NeW seeks to "infiltrate campus with a new way of thinking," said Budd. "We want to become more effective leaders on campus." She hopes to collaborate with other related organizations, such as the College Republicans, to bring a group of aggressive thinkers together to plan events.



Kelsey Budd

NeW faces: NeW hopes to host many leading conservative woman, including Ann Coulter [on left].



Kelsey Budd

NeW expansion: Kelsey Budd [on right] surveyed numerous college organizations in search of one focusing on conservative women. Upon meeting Caroline Rushing [on left], head of UVA's NeW, Kelsey brought it to the College. Included in the middle of the photo is Monica Crowley of Fox News

With the semester well underway, Budd mentioned two main goals she has for NeW. First, she wants to get a steady group of women interested in learning more and enlightening themselves. Secondly, she plans to screen director Ann McElhinney's documentary film "Not Evil Just Wrong" at the College on its premiere date of October 18th. This would coincide with a global warming debate, as the film acts as a rebuttal to Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth."

NeW intends to start regular meetings within the next couple weeks after receiving an effective charter at the beginning of the semester. The club's executive board consists of five students, including Budd as president. For further information about the Network of Enlightened Women contact Kelsey Budd at kibudd@wm.edu.

STATE REDUCES COLLEGE FUNDING: 15% cut announced by Governor

continued from page one

so you can only go so deep in reducing vacant positions and that kind of thing," Mr. Jones said. "You have to protect the quality of the institution."

The administration is also reluctant to consider increasing the proportion of out-of-state students at the College. Mr. Jones noted that such a measure, while a potential source of revenue – out-of-state students pay \$15,482 in tuition per year, as opposed to \$5,400 for in-state students – would not be politically viable.

Legislation recently proposed by the Virginia House of Delegates that would raise the proportion of in-state students at Virginia's top universities, such as the bill proposed by Delegate David Albo this January, indicate that an increase in the proportion of out-of-state students at the College would be poorly received in Richmond. "Some of [these measures] might not financially make sense and some might not politically make sense," Mr. Jones said.

NEW SPEECH CODE LIFTS BAN: Anonymous flouting now allowed at College

continued from page one

depicting or encouraging indecent sexual conduct,' and 'participating in an improper purpose.'" This was another reason that FIRE gave the college a red light rating.

This policy especially drew the ire of some members of the English department staff who felt that it was ridiculous that every time they looked up a piece of literature that met the preceding criteria that they were supposed to contact the department chair and inform them. Though the policy often went unenforced just having it on the books was an issue for many.

Ms. Ambler also stated that additional revisions are under way that make the wording surrounding regulation of rallies, demonstrations, etc as not being disruptions, but an exercise of free speech. The scheduling requirements will be stated more clearly in the revisions also, which means that the strict 48 hour notice requirement will likely be removed among other changes.

Ms. Ambler believes that the "students will be pleased" with many of the further revisions. The school's major revisions may result in an improvement in FIRE's evaluation, as many of the restrictions to speech are in the process of changing. Few colleges have earned a "green light" denoting free speech friendly policies.

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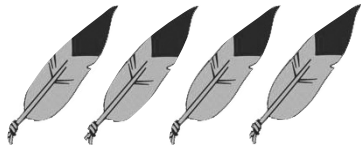
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Book Review:

Dan Brown sticks to form with new novel

Doug Tableman
Contributor



Dan Brown is living proof that talking about Jesus is the fastest way to get attention. After the 2003 release of *The Da Vinci Code*, he soared from being an ex-teacher with three languishing novels to Time's list of "100 Most Influential People." Will *The Lost Symbol* find the same fame and fortune as before? Most likely. If there's anything people like, it's something they liked before, which is exactly what his latest release is.

The plot focuses on evil mastermind Mal'akh, a man of many tattoos, talents and a vaguely sinister agenda. Mal'akh recruits our returning hero, Robert Langdon, Harvard Professor of Symbology, in order to pursue an ancient secret of the Freemasons. Unfortunately, it appears our villain stopped reading Langdon's resume after "Expert Symbologist." Had he continued, he might have noticed "Has experience in foiling evil plots." Together with Patrick's sister, Katherine, Langdon races to solve the Masonic puzzle. They're joined by the CIA in investigating a matter of national security and are aided by various Masons, who help put the pieces together.

Despite what the synopsis might

suggest, the book thrills from its first line, "The secret is how to die," and never pipes down. While maintaining no less than three different story lines at any given time, the action keeps on rolling. As soon as Langdon starts to ponder a riddle, things switch over to the CIA plotting their next move, or Mal'akh revealing more of his evil agenda. It reads as though you haven't heard of either of the pre-quels, which is an excellent move. Although the average reader is more than likely familiar with the series, the

way Langdon is characterized befits a standalone novel, rather than simply "Part 3."

Character development outside of the protagonist is equally intriguing. Although the cast seems to have expanded, each member is fully developed and decidedly interesting. To make up for the singular villain, Brown builds conflict among the forces of justice. For example, when the CIA tries to arrest Robert for failing to cooperate, he's rescued by a member of the Masons. The battle between the two factions adds to the drama, turning what could've been a simple historical romp into a high speed chase.

Holistically, the book is solid, but the devil is in the details. Repetition seems to be Dan Brown's cardinal sin; he literally recycles a single plot from novel to novel. Langdon finds himself in the middle of a crime scene, teams up with the victim's daughter, hides from the authorities, battles a religious zealot, solves a symbology-based mystery, and is rewarded with divine knowledge. Rewrite the specifics and you've got another Langdon adventure. I don't know why this is; they're otherwise very creative stories.

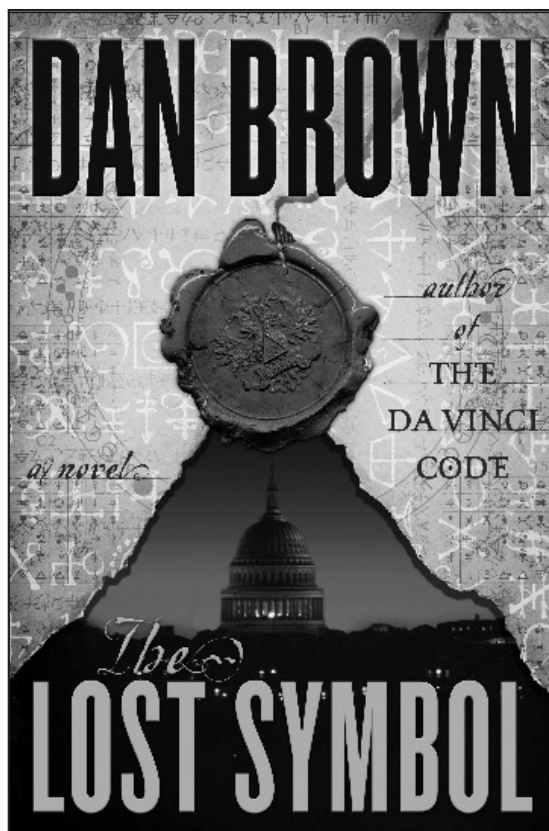
The Da Vinci Code implied that Jesus was sexually involved with a prostitute, so this book would have to sug-

The Lost Symbol

Author: Dan Brown
Pages: 528
Publisher: Doubleday Books
ISBN: 0385504225
List price: \$29.95

gest that Moses was a homosexual in order to match the public outrage. Sadly, it did not. In fact, *The Lost Symbol* seems to regard Christianity in a fairly positive light. The only catch: the book states that the Bible isn't meant to be taken literally, and that other religions are also important on the path to understanding. Nothing on *The Da Vinci Code*, but it could ruffle a few fundamentalist feathers. In addition, Dan Brown prefaces the book by promising that the science is all real, which seems a bit dubious, considering both the magnificence of the claims that some characters make and the lists of inaccuracies that seem to accompany his previous novels.

Still, I'll stick to my guns that this is a good book. Once you get near the end, it draws you in and doesn't let go. However, it's the same good book as the two that preceded it. That doesn't affect the novel so much individually, but Brown has been quoted as having plans for twelve Robert Langdon novels. It doesn't bode well that by number three we're already seeing carbon copies.



Music Review:

Histoire de Melody Nelson reissue rivets, enraptures

Jack Evans
Music Critic



This has been an abysmal year for music. I can think of maybe three new albums that really struck me and that I didn't get sick of after the fourth or fifth listen. The way I see it, some of the best, and arguably the most important, releases of this year have been reissues. The entire catalogs of The Beatles and Radiohead, three albums from Al Green's 70's creative peak, as well as debuts from The Stone Roses and The Feelies have all

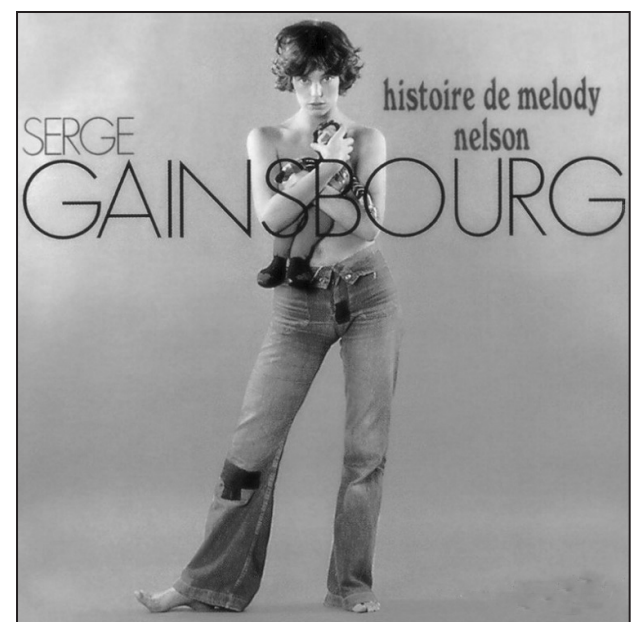
been remastered and repackaged with varying degrees of success.

The best of these reissues is Serge Gainsbourg's *Histoire de Melody Nelson*. While it is less a part of the critical canon, this album is every bit as forward-thinking as either *Kid A* or *Revolver*.

Gainsbourg released *Histoire* in 1971. It's a brief, fleeting snapshot of an album. Clocking in at less than thirty minutes, it is the most inscrutable and magnetic "concept record" of the 1970s. The concept involves the torrid affair between a Lolita-esque nymphomaniac and a much older man. More often spoken than sung, the lyrics are written from the perspective of said lecher and are completely in French. But these things shouldn't deter you! According to Oscar Wilde, there is nothing inherently moral or immoral about art, and according to Google, there are several English translations waiting for you on the Internet.

Or if you are like me, you can ignore everything superficially problematic about *Histoire* and just listen. The album begins with "Melody" and that iconic bass line slithering toward you like a serpent. Gainsbourg's spoken word enters later and you don't need to know a lick of French to know this guy is sleazy as hell. His voice is pushed way up in the mix while the drum and bass sit quietly in the background of the rhythmic pulse of his troubled, lustful psyche. The strings and lead guitar burst out of nowhere to throw him off balance before lifting him skyward for the song's (ahem) climax.

The rest of the album includes five shorter songs and a return to the theme of the opener. "Ballade de Melody Nelson" works fine as a standalone French pop song, while "Valse de Melody," "L'hôtel Particulier," and "En Melody" are a sustained build-up to a tragic ending. On "Valse de



Melody," we can practically hear the nauseous dread in Gainsbourg's voice, and on "En Melody," Jane Birkin's orgasmic screeches aren't sexy—just bizarre and frightening.

Histoire de Melody Nelson is rock and roll re-imagined as something grander and more operatic. At times it seems less like music you listen to through headphones and more like a world you can actually inhabit. But more than anything (and I know this is such a record geek cliché) *Histoire* is an album—a cycle of songs that equal more than the sum of their parts. So crank it up, sit back, and don't keep your eyes glued to your iTunes screen as the seconds of "Melody" creep by.

There will be time for The Beatles Rock Band later (or, preferably, never).

| | |
|--|-----------|
| | Excellent |
| | Good |
| | Average |
| | Poor |
| | Terrible |

The Finer Side:

What not to wear - guys' edition

While I was trying to decide what guidelines and warnings I should provide in this edition of the What-Not-To-Wear column, a friend suggested that I offer a friendly reminder of what guys should and shouldn't be wearing. After all, it's not only us girls that have to look good! After a lengthy discussion on what makes a guy "well-dressed," we boiled down five simple rules that will help any college guy transition from clueless to debonair.



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

1. No jean shorts

Guys and girls both agree on this one. Unless you're out washing the car, leave the jean shorts at home. There's really no way to make them look tailored, and they scream 8th grade. Instead, go for khaki, navy, or another neutral color in a cotton blend. If you're feeling more adventurous, go for another color like red. And remember: no shorts below the knee!

2. No cargo. Anything.

It's another clothing item that screams middle school, or gamer. Cargo pants and/or shorts do not present a tailored look, and they really shouldn't be a staple of your wardrobe. Try a boot-cut or standard fit jean instead. If you're not a jeans guy, go for khakis or other neutral-colored pants.

3. If your shirt costs less than the date will, don't wear it on a date.

Now I'm not suggesting that you need wear the most expensive shirt on the market. Most of us can't afford that while we're in college. But I am saying, don't wear that free t-shirt you just got from some campus organization on your first date with someone. In fact, stay away from t-shirts on dates in general. Go for a nice polo, or a relaxed collared button-down. It presents a more mature image and also lets your date know you cared enough to dress nicely for her. My polls show the chances of a second date increase the more nicely you dress!

4. Always wear a belt.

This goes for anything from shorts to a suit. Not wearing a belt is like not getting fully dressed. It completes the outfit. It's especially necessary when going for an interview. Not wearing a belt with a shirt and tie or a suit indicates to your interviewer that you didn't take the time to complete your outfit, and also makes you look younger. In this economy, do anything you can to make yourself stand out; the smallest details will only help you!

5. Slim fit shirts.

Too many guys think that a slim fit shirt will be too tight. For polos and button-downs, an average-built guy can make a slim fit work. Too big of a shirt makes you look like you're drowning in the material. If the shirt is too tight, then move up to the regular cut. However, stay away from t-shirts that are too tight; stick with slim fit for more tailored, fitted shirts.

Questions or comments for Jennifer? Email her at editor@vainformer.com!



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

September Schedule

Live Performances

Founding Fathers
Sept. 24, 29
Oct. 6
Shows at 1:15 pm

Our First First Lady Remembers
Sept. 27
Shows at 11:30 am

Xiayin Wang
Sept. 16
Shows at 7:30 pm

Fiddeworks
Sept. 22, 29
Oct. 6
Shows at 10:30 am

Jamestown Lecture: Venturing to Virginia
Oct. 6
Shows at 7 pm

Pirates of the Chemotherapy
Sept. 25, 27
Shows at 8 pm

Fashioning Show
Oct. 1
Show at 2 pm

Bobby Blackhat Blues
Oct. 2
Show at 7:30 pm

Movies

Cheri
Rated: R
Sept. 24
Shows at 4:45 and 6:45 pm

Moon
Rated: R
Sept. 25-28 and Sept. 30- Oct. 1
Shows at 4:30 and 6:30 pm

Shaft
Oct. 3
Show at 7:30 pm

The Hurt Locker
Rated: R
Sept. 28-30
Oct. 1-4
Shows at 4:15 and 6:45 pm

Food, Inc.
Rated: PG
Oct. 4-7
Shows at 6:30 and 8:15 pm on Oct. 4
Shows at 4:15 and 6:15 pm on Oct. 5-7

Movie Review:

9 offers stitches, digital mastery

Jordan Bloom
Arts and Culture Editor



Humanity is fascinated with the idea of its own demise. It seems like half of the programming on the History Channel is devoted to the Mayan calendar and how Nostradamus is still relevant. Roland Emmerich's three apocalyptic movies have grossed roughly \$500 million, and a fourth, *2012* will be here in November.

Enter *9*, a movie entirely without people. The people have been gassed, trampled, or otherwise pulped in a war between man and an evil machine. Bodies and ruined buildings comprise what were once cities and the world has been reduced to various shades of brown. The only trace of humanity lies in 9 burlap characters who live in constant fear of such archetypal villains as The Cat Beast, The Winged Beast, and The Seam-

Ultimately, 9's failure lies in its inability to match its artistic ambition with its narrative ability. The ending—don't worry, I won't ruin it – is visually stunning, aesthetically engaging, but totally incoherent.

stress. The Scientist created the nine creatures in an effort to preserve a vestige of human spirit, conferring his last bit of life upon the titular figure before dropping to the wooden floor, dead.

For the rest of the movie, the nine run from things, rescue things, and destroy things in a spirit somewhere between Jules Verne and *The Matrix*. None of that is important. The world, the individual scenes, and the characters are what drives *9*.

Director Shane Acker envisioned this world back in 2005 in the acclaimed short film also titled *9*. It featured many of the same "Stitchpunk" characters as the current movie being alternately fascinated and terrified by the desolate world they inhabit. It was a film school project, albeit an ambitious and particularly poignant one. The project caught the eye of Tim Burton, who offered to produce a full-length feature. Acker was given the chance to expand and explain the world we were originally allowed only to experience. But the problem with lengthening short films is that the result can feel like a lengthened short film. *9*, the feature, feels that way.

Any scene taken on its own is a study in laconic and beautiful filmmaking; Acker obviously doesn't belong to the Lucas school of CGI as the shots are spare and tasteful, owing as much to *Toy Story* as any sci-fi epic. The monsters and numbered protagonists are intricately detailed and well-cast— Jennifer Connelly, John C. Reilly, Christopher Plummer, and Elijah Wood all lent their talented voices—but they speak in genre clichés like, "this world is ours now. It's what we make of it."

Ultimately, *9*'s failure lies in its inability to match its artistic ambition with its narrative ability. The ending—don't worry, I won't ruin it – is visually stunning, aesthetically engaging, but totally incoherent. One also asks, if he was trying



to preserve life as we know it against legions of deadly robots, why The Scientist wouldn't make something a little more formidable than diminutive homunculi who wield X-Acto knives as pikes.

Regardless, freshman director Acker has demonstrated not only a mastery of digital animation worthy of Pixar, he's created an ambitious thing in *9*. The film's success is debatable, but Shane Acker's eminence is not.

Nooks & Crannies of William and Mary

Morton Hall, loved by one

Daisy Weill
Staff Writer

I love Morton Hall. My friends think I am crazy. They often try to convert me and emphasize their complaints wholeheartedly: "Daisy, the building is so far," "The building looks like a prison," and of course the trump card all government and economics majors brandish: "Morton is sinking. That thing is literally sinking into the ground."

I will admit that Morton Hall does not love me back. During spring finals my sophomore year, I learned that the warm and inviting metal grid walkway in the front lobby of the building has a ferocious appetite. After an otherwise pleasant evening of studying in Morton's second floor computer lab, I dropped my card while calling campus escort. The metal slots entrapped and swallowed it, and my ID was never seen again. That's right, Morton ate my ID card. Despite Morton Hall's own feelings toward me, I hold my ground. I cherish the long trek across campus to and from the building. The daunting "to Wren in ten" challenge between classes is intimidating, but the pilgrimage forces me into a period of quiet reflection that I would otherwise never make time for. I appreciate the winding stairs which I reason require the same physical exertion to climb as that cycling class at the rec center I have yet to attend. During midterm and finals, I turn to Morton's computer lab as a quiet oasis compared to the flurry that Swem often becomes.

Of course, I was absolutely delighted when I

discovered that Richard Lee Morton was not a former College president or economics professor, but rather a professor of colonial American history. A colonial history aficionado myself, I felt that my bond with the building was destiny. Professor Morton taught at the College for forty years, from 1919 to 1959. An active faculty member, Morton became head of the history department and earned an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree in 1965. During the search for the twentieth president of the College, he was a part of the selection committee—the only selection committee in the history of the school that was made up entirely of faculty members with no Board of Visitors input. Morton even helped revive the William & Mary Quarterly in 1944, which the academic history community recognizes as the best Early American History academic journal in the country.

The College dedicated Morton Hall on December 5, 1973. Less than two decades after the building opened its doors, William Merck, a former US Senator, Board of Visitors member, and law dean, called for the destruction of the building. Merck argued that Morton was a "monument to bad taste" and declared the building the worst construction blunder on campus. While students of the remaining departments bide their time, students cling to this idea and circulating rumors claim that Morton is on the chopping block. However, the College's Capital Outlay Plan, which outlines the school's construction projects for the next six years, instead lays out plans for a major renovation of the building beginning in 2014.

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Staff Editorials:

State cuts require new financial model

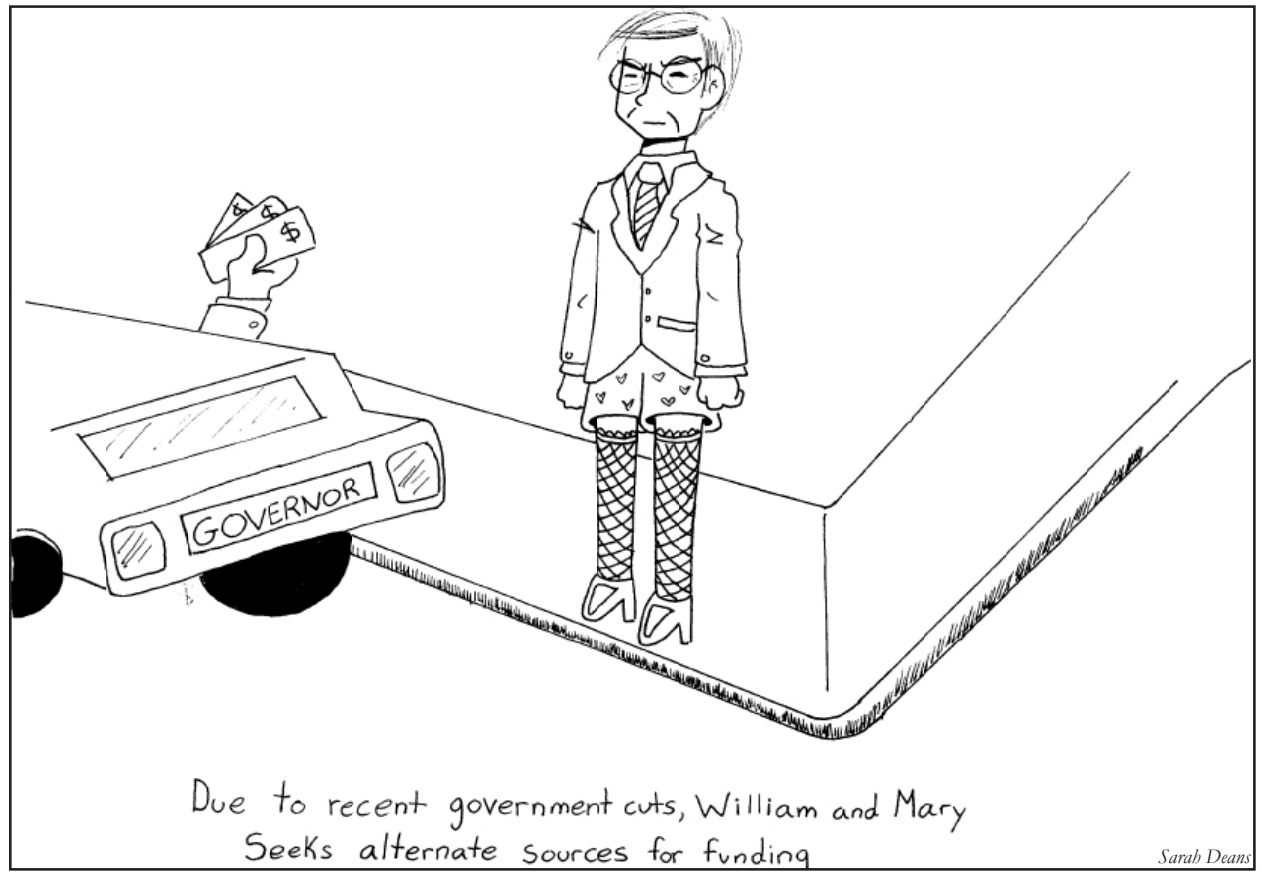
A recent message from President Reveley has served the College of William and Mary even tougher financial news. The Commonwealth of Virginia will be cutting state support by \$6.1 million, or roughly 15% percent. If one were to add this loss with previous cuts within 2008 one would see that the state has cut their operating support by almost a third at \$16.6 million. It is not too hard to see that we've got trouble, trouble right here in revolutionary city.

Although warranted, these cuts are only a small portion of our financial endowment which stood at around \$463 million in net assets after 2008. Based on this, we ask what does the state do for us here at the College? How much do we really need them, and why should we listen to their commands?

The first major concern that we have with state control is the limit placed on the percentage of out of state students allowed to attend the College. Currently we are forced by the state of Virginia to make around 65% of our student body in-state students even though out of state students bring in much more money for the college. Due to the nature of public schools, in-state students are often given very low tuition rates that bring in little revenue to the school. Despite this fact, and despite the fact that the state continues to cut funding, at least two separate proposals came out of Richmond to raise the number of in-state students William and Mary is forced to admit. Not only is this foolish and counterproductive, it is actually harmful to the college. Such decreases in tuition-generated revenue would force us to either cut programs or raise tuition and fees yet again. If anything the College must be allowed to take fewer students from in-state.

We at *The Informer* strongly encourage the administra-

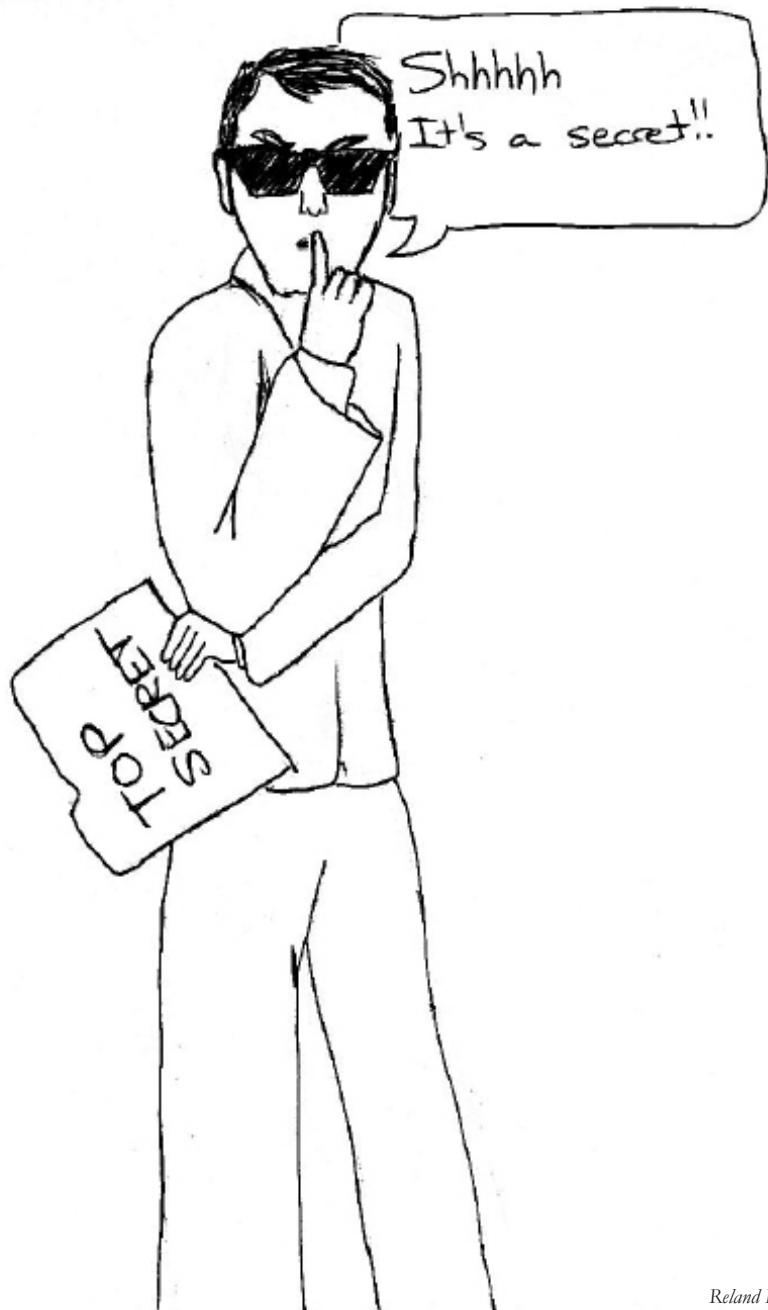
“Richmond slaps us in the face yet expects us to listen to its commands.”



tion to fight to increase number of out-of-state students we let “hark upon the gale” each year. Richmond slaps us in the face yet expects us to listen to its commands. The College is asked to stomach drastic cuts in state funding while also facing proposals that raise the proportion of in-state students. New ideas must be put forward that allow the College to keep offering a world-class education at an affordable price. Just this year alone students saw tuition rates jump thousands of dollars. Many fear that if these trends continue they might be forced out of W&M. Why is it not reasonable to require

that the College have only as great a percentage of in-state students as the percentage of our operating budget that state funding provides? If Richmond gives us 60% of our budget, let 60% of students be in-state; if only 10% then let the mandate be 10% in-state. We cannot keep the system as it is. There are options such as privatizing the school, increasing the proportion of out-of-state students and increasing in-state tuition, we just need to put them in place. We must act now, or expect that programs will be cut, the College’s quality will decline, and our school’s prestige will fall.

The SA Election Committee



Participation in the Student Assembly election is crucial for the freshmen class

Freshmen who have been reading local newspapers have already been given an orientation regarding the issues that affect the student body. At a time when students face absurd noise ordinances and unfair housing laws enforced by the city as well as an anticipated overhaul of campus alcohol policy there are numerous reasons to engage in student politics. We encourage all freshmen to vote in the Student Assembly election on October 1, and to get involved.

The initial, disappointing number of candidates who declared their intent to run for positions in the class of 2013 cannot be seen as an indicator of future participation. It has become clear that inadequate advertisement of information sessions resulted in the abnormally low numbers of students intending to run for office. The subsequent delay in both the timeframe for declarations and the election itself were unfortunate, yet necessary, measures to ensure competition and confidence in the election. Many more candi-

dates declared after the delay.

Aside from taking an active role in the campaigns of hallmates, friends, and the candidates with the best ideas and capabilities, freshmen also will likely have an opportunity to vote on a referendum question. The question, regarding free and fair Honor Council elections, is a no-brainer for a “yes” vote. Indications of support by members of the Council and a large Facebook group created by Horacio Carreño-García suggest it will easily pass, if the reforms are not implemented before the vote. We encourage students to also become involved in the process of bringing reform to the Council.

On October 1 there will be many students running in the election. It is important, above all else, to vote. But it is also important to vote based on the issues, and the ability of candidates to present reasonable ideas for solutions to the problems that affect us all. There is no excuse for voter apathy in this election. Get involved, vote, and become active in shaping your college experience.

www.VAInformer.com
All the news that's fit to go online.

I have a mind to join a club and beat you with it

Many people say that Williamsburg is dead socially speaking and while that's true somewhat-we certainly are not a New York, L.A., or even a Richmond-there always are things to do. It's just a matter of finding them. If you look in the right places, William and Mary and Williamsburg can be a nonstop marathon of activities.

Like I said earlier, William and Mary is known in some circles as the place that fun goes to die, but between never-ending study sessions at Swem, mind numbing reading jags, and cranking out so much BS writing it would put Stephen King to shame, William and Mary is one of the most active campuses in America. I can't back this up with any numbers because I'm too lazy to look them up, just trust me on this one.

Anecdotal experience tells me that a huge number of students are involved in a great many number of clubs and organizations. There is something for

everyone at William and Mary. Enjoy singing? Join/form an a capella group. Tired of all the popped collars and want some good old fashioned nerd fun? Go to Skiffy. Tired of old residents calling the cops on any house party you have? Join Students for a Better Williamsburg. Enjoy running but don't have the time to be on the team? Running Club is there for you. Are you Pro Choice? Pro Life? Each position has their own large and respective club where members can

you into their homogenous folds. Inside these clubs, friendships are formed and parties are planned. For those to which the frat life seems unappealing and the idea of spending a Saturday night part of the sweating, writhing mass that forms in the units, clubs are that welcome alternative.



Alexander Powell
Opinion Editor

So take heart fellow William and Mary student who might find too many nights spent watching Hulu in their dorm room, there is hope! William and Mary has innumerable clubs for all walks of life; from club soccer to Wizard and Muggles, from crew to the Tea Society, and societies for Christians or Atheists if you have an interest, W&M has a club for it. And

get together and delight in telling each other how right their side is and how terrible the other. Have a desire to write for a paper and have your voice heard? Write for The Informer.

Whether it be sports, politics, or general interest, there are groups of like-minded people ready to take

since this is college and most people like to party, you, dear readers, will find that suddenly nearly all your weekend nights can be spent in drunken revelry if you so wish it. Campus life, for the proactive, is alive and well. William and Mary is only as dead as you make it.

Whether it be sports, politics, or general interest, there are groups of like-minded people ready to take you into their homogenous folds.

Students are again without the power to change policy

Severe homecoming restrictions are yet another example

The College, as of this fall, has decided to raffle off a limited number of tail – gaiting lots. Ten, in fact. And the student body, or at least the active segment of the student body, will undoubtedly meet this crisis in the same fashion it has met every other ‘threat’ to student rights.



Hart Moore
Assistant News Editor

When Residence Life increased the number of in house brothers required for a Fraternity to retain special interest housing, the Greek system formed a committee. When the Williamsburg City Council failed to consider any serious reform to the

three person rule, Matt Beato ran for office. And when Gene Nichol's contract was not renewed, teachers staged sit – ins. What is the common thread to all of this resistance? On the whole, it accomplished nothing. The Greek system has taken it for granted that they must house an extra four fraternity brothers. The City Council has so generously pondered allowing four people to live in houses designed to accommodate between

six and eight. Lastly, it will come as no surprise to you that Gene Nichol teaches Law at the University of North

Carolina.

This fall's homecoming, as noted above, will feature only ten tailgating lots for the various student organizations around campus. This measure falls hardest on the College's Greek scene, where traditionally, a sorority and fraternity will team up for various social events prior to the game. The ten are set to be raffled off at some point before Homecoming weekend.

The College administration has the inherent upper hand in this eternal struggle between student activism and, well, whatever student activism dislikes. The student body, unlike any hired personnel, is transient. No matter how much we might complain, resist, and object, our tantrums can last only between 8 and 10 semesters. The Board of Visitors has become adept at this waiting game, and rightly so... their ties to the College run more permanent than ours do.

Should we place our hopes in student government? Unfortunately, our Student Assembly can do little more than allocate \$500,000 to various clubs every year. They gave a great free flu shot the other day; anything beyond that is out of their power.

This culminates in the issue of the severely limited number of tail – gaiting lots. But how seriously should we take this situation? I think I speak for most when I say we did not come to William and Mary because it was the

‘most fun’ school in Virginia. In fact, we are notorious for the impotence of our parties. Surely, the College's treatment of Greek Life proves we cannot rely on our institution for a good time. In essence, it's not worth the strife, and maybe we should start focusing on

The College administration has the inherent upper hand in this eternal struggle between student activism and, well, whatever student activism dislikes.

what the College CAN do for us. I can objectively say that our workload is far greater than any other school in our region. I'm happy that when my tran-

script goes to any employer in Virginia, they will look at it and know there is a 90% chance I spent over forty hours a week in Swem. I can only hope that MCV's Dean of Admissions will know how hard I work for my grades. William and Mary fills such a unique niche in our Commonwealth, and we should stop trying to force our College into something that it is not.

It's too easy for a University to be well rounded and mediocre, and what sets us apart from other institutions should be cherished. I'm all for Saturday morning shenanigans, but for once let's realize that it's not in the College's capacity, or even its interest, to hand those shenanigans to us. After 316 years of education, William and Mary has the art of academic challenge down to a tee, and fifty years after we graduate, it will still do what it does best. If you want a tailgate, with 100,000 fans screaming ‘Roll Tide Roll’, transfer to ‘Bama. Otherwise, I'll see you in Swem sometime soon.

Thank you from all of us at
The Virginia Informer

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Shep Walker

The Third Quarter: The Tribal Fever and high student turnout at the first home game of the season set an exciting tone for games to come. The second half begins 21-0.

Two new members nominated to the Board of Visitors

Dennis Liberson

Dennis Liberson (78) was recently nominated to the BOV to fill a vacancy by Governor Tim Kaine. Mr. Liberson graduated from William and Mary with a degree in both economics and government. He then went on to Michigan State University and received his M.A. in labor and industrial relations, and went on to spend 23 years working for Capital One as Executive Vice President for human resources and real estate. He then went on to found Blue Wildlife LLC., which is devoted to under-

water photography. Mr. Liberson's favorite hobby is to go diving, which he is able to do through the LLC he founded.

Mr. Liberson has also been involved in the Reef Environmental education foundation, which has its stated mission "To educate, enlist and enable divers and non-divers alike to become active stewards in the conservation of coral reefs and other marine habitats."

Politically, Mr. Liberson has donated \$10,800 to R. Creigh Deeds, and \$7,500 to the A Strong Majority PAC, which keeps democrats in the state legislature. Mr.

Liberson was also listed as a member on the honor roll of distinguished donors for his 30th class anniversary.

Michael Tang

Michael Tang (76), the CEO of National Material LP, a heavy industrial firm, was also nominated to the BOV. Mr. Tang earned his B.A. in Economics from the College in 1976 and continued his education at Georgetown University where he earned his J.D. Mr. Tang is admitted to the bar in Arizona, Illinois, and Michigan and has also

served on the boards of several non-profit organizations including the College's Endowment Association, which works to fulfill the College's financial needs.

Politically Mr. Tang has donated to both Republican and Democratic candidates. Mr. Tang donated to the campaign of President Bush in 2004 but donated to the campaigns of then-Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election cycle.

-Information compiled by Michael Young, Michael Watson

Block parties won't solve anything

Since the beginning of the semester, students have been slapped with numerous noise violation citations. This new anti student policy is basically a catch-all excuse to harass students and fill city coffers. In a larger sense, it is symptomatic of the shallow attempts of the city council to please political constituents while not dealing with the core of the problem. This is also evident by the city of Williamsburg's attempts to solve sour town/gown relations with a block party. This Tuesday, the city is doing just that: throwing block parties. There's just nothing better than mingling with neighbors who regularly report you to the police, is there? This is a comical attempt to soothe relations between students and their neighbors. Here's the thing: the problem isn't noise. The problem is that students and residents have different lifestyles. So, what are the solutions? Get rid of the students? Get rid of the residents? Or, recognize that within a 1 mile radius of the school, this is a college town. Period. If



Bert Mueller
Executive Editor

the city desires to truly improve town/gown relations, the rules and laws of the city must change to reflect that students live in the area around campus.

It's about time the city council actually comes up with a proposal to solve student housing within the city. Three-person rules are not solutions. Noise violations are downright unfair (not to mention expensive) to apply to students whose bedtimes and social schedules differ dramatically from their neighbors. The law should reflect this. One solution to this problem would be encouraging residents who live near the campus to sell their homes back to the college. The school could then work to turn the existing homes into student friendly housing similar to the Ludwell apartments and former fraternity housing.

It's about time the police force steps up and lets the city know that what is going on is not working. This is not a library; it is a city. Police should not be spending large amounts of time putter-

ing around measuring decibel levels. Yes, the police are here to enforce the rules but if things are obviously not working (hint: they're not), they have an obligation to speak up. It's in the city's best interest to make the necessary changes it sooner rather than later.

It's about time that some seemingly delusional residents realize that (surprise!) within at least a mile radius of college property, this is effectively a college town. That means there will be parties, there will be noise, there will be crazy teenage drivers. Do residents really think that after 300 years a noise ordinance will change all of this?

While the residents believe that students should never leave the brick walls of campus property, the College believes that their jurisdiction regarding student life encompasses most of the city. Many areas that both students and permanent residents believe to be "off campus" are on streets or sidewalks adjacent to campus. This is "on campus" as far as student conduct violations are concerned,

making the land de facto campus property. If student judicial policy treats the property adjacent to the college as "on campus" then city laws should reflect this as well.

In a word, things in the city are uncomfortable. Professors have privately expressed, off the record, that they have never seen such a strong anti student policy in Williamsburg. Students need President Reveley to put forward an actual solution to this problem and recognize that students and residents live different lifestyles. He has had a chance to become accustomed to the ins and outs of the town, and

we need him to intervene on our behalf. Whether it is building more dorms, buying up houses around the school or changing city laws to apply differently directly around the college property, this problem needs to be resolved with actual solutions, not block parties and more policing. Some Williamsburg residents will have to compromise as things change, but at the moment, the students are bearing the full brunt of the burden.



Sarah Nadler
Managing Editor