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Plans unveiled for Richmond Road apartments

Will Clements
Editor in Chief - VIO

An architectural drawing was revealed last Friday by the William & Mary Real Estate Foundation detailing plans for apartment style student housing and shops across from Blow Hall on Richmond Road. According to an October 2nd William and Mary News press release by Brian Whitson, “a project to bring much-needed student retail and housing close to the William & Mary campus is moving closer to reality.”

The plans for the three story building include student friendly retail stores on the first floor with 14 apartments on the second and third floors. The proposed dorm would accommodate 56 students. The new dorm will be located at property acquired by the College’s Real Estate Foundation last year: the Taylor Building and the former Master

Craftsman site. The press release claims that “the College has been working with the William & Mary Real Estate Foundation to expand options for students close to campus.”

The plan schedules building to be complete by the fall 2011 semester, and construction to begin this summer. According to the College’s statement, “the project has been several years in the making.” 12,000 square feet of retail space on the first floor will likely be occupied by stores and restaurants that would provide students with increased entertainment opportunities. The plans emphasize outdoor seating for a restaurant and a “breezeway” that will allow direct access to Richmond Road from the parking lot. This month the plan will be submitted to the Williamsburg’s Architectural Review Board for approval.

Reveley: William and Mary must support itself

Mason Watson
Editor at Large

In a recent interview, President Taylor Reveley spoke honestly about his low expectations for continued state support for the College of William and Mary. “We have been privatized *de facto*,” he said. “I don’t think that’s going to change.” Mr. Reveley explained that the state government’s emphasis on low taxation means that budget cuts – such as the \$6.7 million cut in the College’s operating budget announced this September – will probably not be reversed any time soon.



REVELEY

This most recent budget cut is the fifth the College has endured in the last few years. President Reveley noted in a press

“The more out-of-state students we have, the better we’re off financially.”

release that, including this new cut, the state has reduced its support for the College’s operating budget by \$16.6 million since 2008 – nearly 32% of the budget. As Mr. Reveley told *The Virginia Informer*, “every time you turn around you’re being sliced.”

The effect of these cuts, which were announced midway through the fiscal year, is to seriously destabilize the College’s financial plans. The administration must come up with a plan to deal with the budget cuts by the time the Board of

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Benefactor of Miller Hall discusses healthcare

Alum, healthcare CEO opposes public option

T.D. Crowley
Contributor

Alan B. Miller came out strongly against the prospect of a public option for healthcare reform Saturday during an hour-long forum sponsored by Americans For Informed Democracy and hosted by Miller in the new building that bears his name. Mr. Miller, a William and Mary graduate and CEO of hospital management firm Health Services Incorporated, emphasized his support for greater government regulation of healthcare but suggested that the infrastructure and expertise of private insurance companies could not be easily duplicated by the government.



MILLER

Beginning his remarks by stressing the “extremely complicated” nature of problems within American healthcare, Mr. Miller proceeded to speak about the reforms proposed by the Clinton administration in 1994. Under the Clinton plan, the national government would have created its own in-

surance company to compete with private insurers. Mr. Miller called the public option supported by the Obama administration “very similar, if not exactly the same” as the Clinton plan, which was roundly defeated in Congress. He expressed concern that with an endless supply of taxpayer revenue to support it, and said that such a plan could undercut private insurers while providing poor service for consumers.

Questioning the statistic that 45.7 million Americans are without health insurance, Mr. Miller said that the number of American citizens who are both uninsured and could not obtain coverage if they so chose is closer to 16 million. He suggested that 12-14 million of those could obtain coverage if Congress allowed the purchase of health insurance across state lines, which would substantially increase competition between insurers and could lower premiums.

Mr. Miller also championed a cap on punitive damages in malpractice lawsuits. Not only do high premiums for malpractice insurance force doctors to charge

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Administration makes final speech code change requested by FIRE

Elizabeth Hexter
Contributor

According to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), the College is on track for a “green light” designation. The “green light” designation is given to colleges and universities with free-speech-friendly policies. This designation would reflect the recent changes to the College’s speech code for both student and faculty conduct. In a recent news article, FIRE stated that all the College had to do was make a change to its Office of Equal Opportunity website and it would be promoted to “green light” status. According to College Spokesman Brian Whitson, the administration has decided to make that change.

The College’s Office of Equal Opportunity maintains a page on “discrimination” that, according to FIRE, “explicitly includes protected expression as examples of harassment.” FIRE is in complete agreement with the definition of harassment given on the website, but takes issue with the examples of harassment provided on the website, claiming that they do not match the definition. FIRE suggested that the administration leave that definition up, but remove the

list of examples of harassment.

FIRE did not contact the administration of the College directly about implementing the final changes. However, the College was already in the process of reviewing the website prior to FIRE’s suggestion to revise it. According to University Relations, President Reveley asked that this process be expedited and the decision has been made to remove the examples in question from the website.

The administration has already made several changes to policies regarding speech in the code of conduct recently, including eliminating a ban on anonymous postings and modifying an internet usage policy that prohibited any “unsolicited messages which contain profane language or which pander to bigotry, sexism or other forms of discrimination.”

Former Student Assembly Student Rights Secretary Braum Katz (’10) first brought the issue of free-speech-stifling policies to the administration’s attention in the Spring of 2008 after the controversy over the Sex Workers’ Art Show. In the aftermath of the show, it became

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New WMTV programming
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Former Rector Powell to kick-off "Ethics Week"

Hart Moore
Assistant News Editor

On Tuesday, November 3rd, Michael Powell ('85) will be returning to his alma mater at the request of the Honor Council to give a speech kicking off the Honor Council's Ethics Week.

Ethics Week is hosted annually by the Honor Council, and it serves to foster student familiarity with the School's Honor Council and Honor Code. According to Skyler Halbritter ('11), a member of the Council, "Ethics week is a means of reaching out to the William and Mary community and inducing a dialogue between students and Council members about the College's honor code."

A number of other Ethics Week events include a guest author, as well as a mock Honor Council trial, which will serve to familiarize students with Honor Council proceedings.

Mr. Powell, the son of former Secretary of State Colin Powell, graduated in 1985 as a brother of the Theta Delta Chi fraternity.

While at William and Mary Mr. Powell participated in ROTC. He served in the military following graduation, and suffered severe injuries from an accident suffered while in Germany. He has served as a member of the Board of Visi-

tors and as Rector of the College, a position he stepped down from this summer. Among other notable achievements, Mr. Powell has chaired the Federal Communications Commission from 2004 to 2005. Most recently, Mr. Powell spoke to students during the 2007 Convocation Ceremony.

Mr. Powell's tenure as Rector was marked by controversy. Following the resignation of former President Gene Nichol he faced insinuations from some students that he violated the Honor Code by mis-characterizing the Board's decision not to renew Mr. Nichol's contract as unanimous.

Mr. Powell addressed town hall events packed with students and faculty after the decision and defended the actions of the Board and his characterization, noting that in the business world such decisions are reached by consensus and without an actual vote. Subsequent visits to



source: wm.edu

Ethicist-in-chief: Michael Powell served as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission and Rector of William and Mary. He will return this November to speak at the Honor Council's Ethics Week.

campus prompted a handful of students to greet him in protest with signs reading "Fire the liar! No more Powell!"

William and Mary's Honor Code has a distinguished history, ranking

as the oldest of its particular kind in the all the Americas. The contemporary Honor Council hopes to use Ethics Week as an educational opportunity to better inform students of ethics-related topics.

Briefly...

Compiled by Kirk Vernegaard, News Editor

Delly returns to previous owner

The *Virginia Informer* has recently learned that The College Delly will not be shutting down permanently. According to Brian Ruottinen, a cook at the familiar bar and restaurant, the original owner has bought the establishment back from Jerry Tsitsidopoulos over what Mr. Routtinen described as a disagreement regarding the style of management.

Mr. Routtinen claims that the original owner, local businessman Dean Tsamouras, felt that the "the original concept of the Deli had changed." Mr. Tsamouras originally bought The College Delly in 1986 before selling it again in 2007. That year, it was heavily rumored that Starbucks would be the new tenant of the building.

Under new management, Mr. Routtinen says that the establishment's quality will increase, prices will drop, and more specials will be added. The result, Mr. Routtinen believes, will be a more "college-friendly" enterprise. Mr. Tsitsidopoulos - known to many students as "Jerry" - owned the Delly for approximately two years. "D-Rey", the notorious bouncer of The College Delly, will remain on the staff according to Routtinen.

Business School Dedicated

The dedication and grand opening of Alan B. Miller Hall was Friday, October 2. The new home of the Mason School of Business is named in honor of W&M alum Mr. Miller - the founder and CEO of Universal Health Services. The healthcare entrepreneur has been a vocal critic about Obama's proposed healthcare bill.

The \$75 million, LEED-certified building represents the entrance to the College's Western Campus. The architectural firm, Robert A.M. Stern, was responsible for construction. The company has com-

pleted state-of-the-art projects in the past for Harvard Business School and Georgetown University.

Sustainable Algae Project Underway

The College of William and Mary and The Virginia Institute of Marine Science have teamed with a number of corporate and public enterprises in order to begin The Chesapeake Algae Project. The project is designed to research ways to produce sustainable biofuel from algae by-products. The project aims at reducing harmful "dead zones" of algae blooms that persist in the tidewater area.

Norwegian-based StatoilHydro, an energy company, has taken a prominent lead in the project. Lars Nordli of StatoilHydro's biofuel division says that "by taking the first step in close cooperation with some of the most skilled researchers the U.S. has to offer in this field, we feel confident that we have the best starting point possible for reaching a successful result and a good basis for attracting new private and public partners in the future."

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CSU 7056, P.O. Box 8793
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editor@vainformer.com
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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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College's email contract expires this year

Justin Duke
Staff Writer

Some students frustrated by problems with campus email will be interested to learn that William and Mary's current responsibilities may be changing hands. The current email system in place for William and Mary is set to expire in June 2010, to be replaced by a new three-year contract. The contract with Mirapoint involves the use of the company's 'Mirapoint Message Server', a system which received an upgrade in 2002, considered a relatively distant past in an industry that offers email systems such as Google's Gmail, which offers 7.4 GB of email storage per student as opposed to the often-truncated inboxes in Mirapoint's system. Another possibility is WindowsLive. Both services would be free.

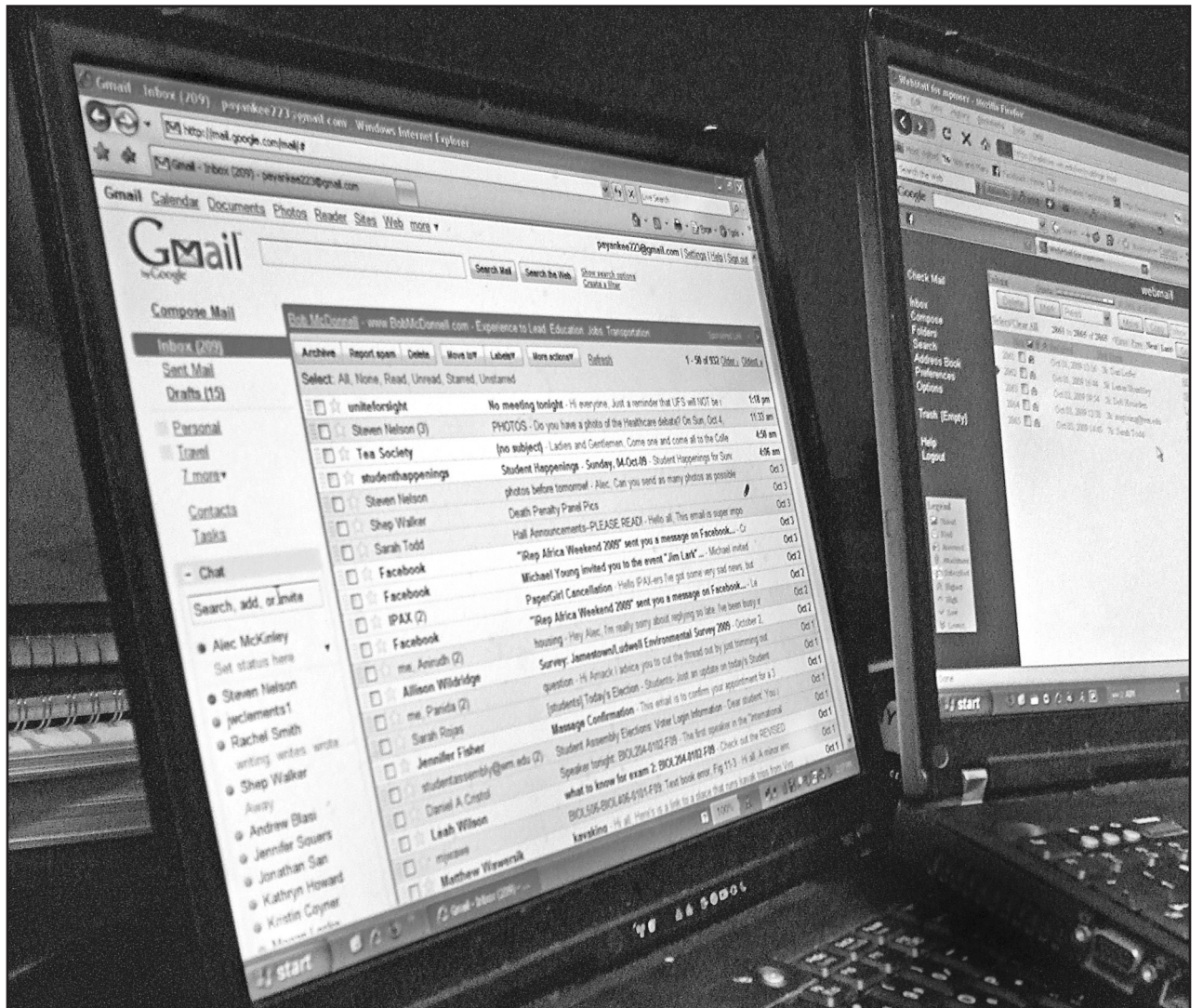
"Mirapoint's system has caused a few problems for me," said Scott Waldman ('13). "I've lost a schedule for a choir practice, and a few times I missed an email from my Public Administration professor because the server was tied up."

Another recent hangup in the college email system occurred last Thursday during the annual Student Assembly elections, when an email outage trapped campus-wide emails containing URLs and passwords required for ballot completions.

A common complaint with Mirapoint is its dated webmail interface, which has been described as slow and less than pretty.

"Mirapoint is pretty inconvenient when I need to check my mail often — it loads slowly", said Melissa Jarmas (12). "After the first week, I always just get it redirected through Mozilla Thunderbird."

Mozilla Thunderbird is a computer program that offers an alternative to the reportedly sluggish Mirapoint system by automatically directing emails to one's desktop. It operates similar to Microsoft Outlook or Apple Mail. Gmail is also popular with students. Many students bypass the current school email server by having all emails forwarded to another address.



Alec McKinley

Campus Email: William and Mary may upgrade its email system to Gmail when its current contract with Mirapoint expires in 2010.

There are few drawbacks to switching away from Mirapoint. It is possible that many older students who are more accustomed to the system may be dismayed at the prospect of readjusting to a different

email structure. Ultimately it is, despite its downfalls, a "robust system with little downtime" according to William and Mary's Chief Information Officer Courtney Carpenter.

Greek God and Goddess crowned at all-greek formal

Brittany Lane
Features Editor

On Saturday, members of the Greek community on campus convened in Trinkle Hall for an evening of music and dancing at the second annual All-Greek Formal. As an effort to bolster attendance of the event last year, the Inter-Sorority Council (ISC) and the Council for Fraternity Affairs (CFA) added the Greek God/Goddess competition. Associate Director of Greek Life and Leadership Anne Arseneau stated that it was "a way to generate some excitement and enthusiasm from individual chapters before the event happened." Because of its success, the competition continued.

Many of the chosen candidates agreed that their nomination was unexpected. Leacy Burke ('12) of Chi Omega was "very surprised," and Pi Kappa Alpha nominee Nick Dewispelaere ('10) stated "I guess I'm flattered, though I never really viewed myself as a Greek God nominee."

Juliette Jordan ('10) of Pi Beta Phi even described her nomination as "humorous." "I'm not really a 'goddess' - not the beauty pageant type, but I guess that people voted for me because I am Pan-Hellenic in spirit." Sean Haywood ('11) replied, "My reactions to being nominated as the Greek God representative of Sigma Chi went in this order: denial, surprise, flattery, 'why me?' and 'why not Bert Mueller?'"

The formal offers the chance for members of the Greek community to spend time together, regardless of chapter affiliation. The Greek God/Goddess contest fostered friendly competition as well, as the chapters of the two winners received a \$100 donation from ISC/CFA for their philanthropy of choice.

Each sorority and fraternity chapter was able to select one candidate. After one round of online voting by the Greek community, which

closed last Wednesday, the top five finalists for men and women continued to the next round of voting. This year, the finalists were Steve Fletcher of Beta Theta Pi, John Donehey of Delta Phi, Imad Matini of Kappa Delta Rho, Paul Berry of Kappa Sigma, Jimmy Mancari of Lambda Chi Alpha, Carrie Litten of Delta Delta Delta, Lauren O'Hagen of Delta Gamma, Laila Selim of Gamma Phi Beta, K.C. Maloney of Kappa Alpha Theta and Joy Thomas of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

On the night of the formal, those who attended received two tickets at the door to cast their vote for one god and one goddess. During the dance, the votes were counted and the new Greek God and Goddess were crowned.

Overall, the nominees viewed the All-Greek Formal and voting for a God and Goddess as a nice way to rally behind Greek life on campus and spend quality time with friends.

Finalist Jimmy Mancari ('10) responded, "I am ecstatic that not only my brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha but also the entire WM Greek community recognized me as someone who epitomizes what it means to be Greek on this campus." In regards to the competition, Burke said, "No one takes it too seriously, which lets it be low key and fun."

Congratulations to this year's Greek God and Goddess, Jim Mancari and Laila Selim.



Courtesy of Laila Selim

Apotheosis: Jim Mancari is crowned as Greek God during the Greek Community event in Trinkle Hall last Saturday.

Getting to know WM's God and Goddess

Laila Selim

Organization: Gamma Phi Beta
Hometown: Port Washington, NY
Year: Senior
Major: History and Medieval and Renaissance Studies
What was your reaction to being named Greek Goddess?
"It was pretty overwhelming. The amount of people chanting and cheering was nuts. I was so shocked to see the reaction of my sisters—they rushed the stage! I felt so happy for my sisters who got to have recognition for the sorority."

Jim Mancari

Organization: Lambda Chi Alpha
Hometown: Massapequa, NY
Year: Senior
Major: History and Kinesiology
How does it feel to be a Greek God?
"I am honored beyond belief...being voted as the representative of what it truly means to be Greek at William and Mary— words can't describe the honor. I've always tried to contribute to the Greek Community here and in a way, I feel as if this is recognition of that."

WMTV Crossroads premieres

Student television show aims to broadcast bi-weekly

Michael Young
Assistant Features Editor

In recent years, many students have grown unaware that we even have a campus television

station, let alone any programming. However, a group of students is actively attempting to change this perception in a noticeable way.

Many people have seen the Facebook ad campaign and wall-to-wall postings for the new show

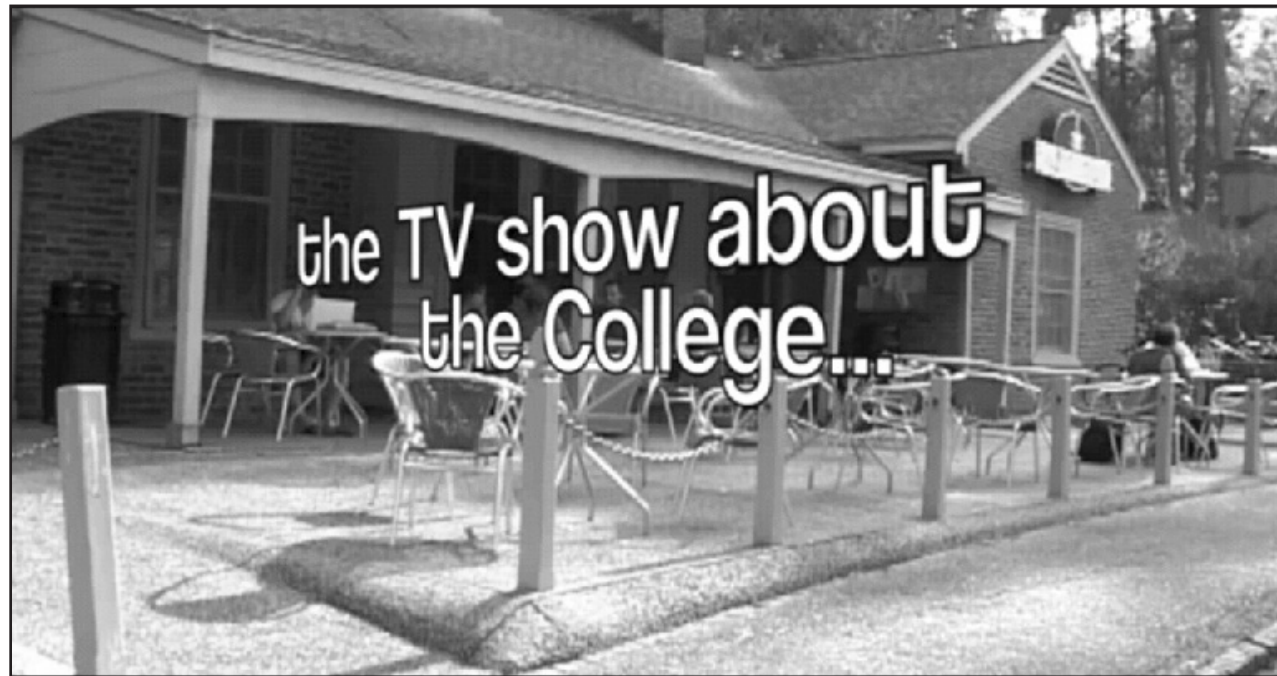
Crossroads that premiered on October 1st. The Informer caught up with one of the show's writers, Eamonn Cummings ('12), who had this to say about the structure of the show: "The Show is a news entertainment show. The concept is to showcase professors, events, and all school activities in a humorous manner. We are taking a lot of inspiration from The Daily Show and The Colbert Report."

According to Mr. Cummings, "Crossroads will have a "Crossfire-like" segment called 'Cross-Check,' but that will not be the show's main focus. The section would feature rapid-fire debate between opponents of diametrically-opposed points of view. Crossroads will discuss William and Mary's academics, sports, arts, and clubs. We have divided up the show into segments to better cover each of these topics. So far we have 'Better Know Your Professor,' 'CrossCheck,' 'Kings of the Hill' (Student Government), 'Hark Upon the Fail' (so we can highlight UVA), 'The Minority Report' (to highlight our school's diversity, and some of the little-known organizations on campus), 'Cummings and Goings' (covering campus arts and limited engagements), and 'TSPN' (Tribe sports). We are planning to add more as time goes on."

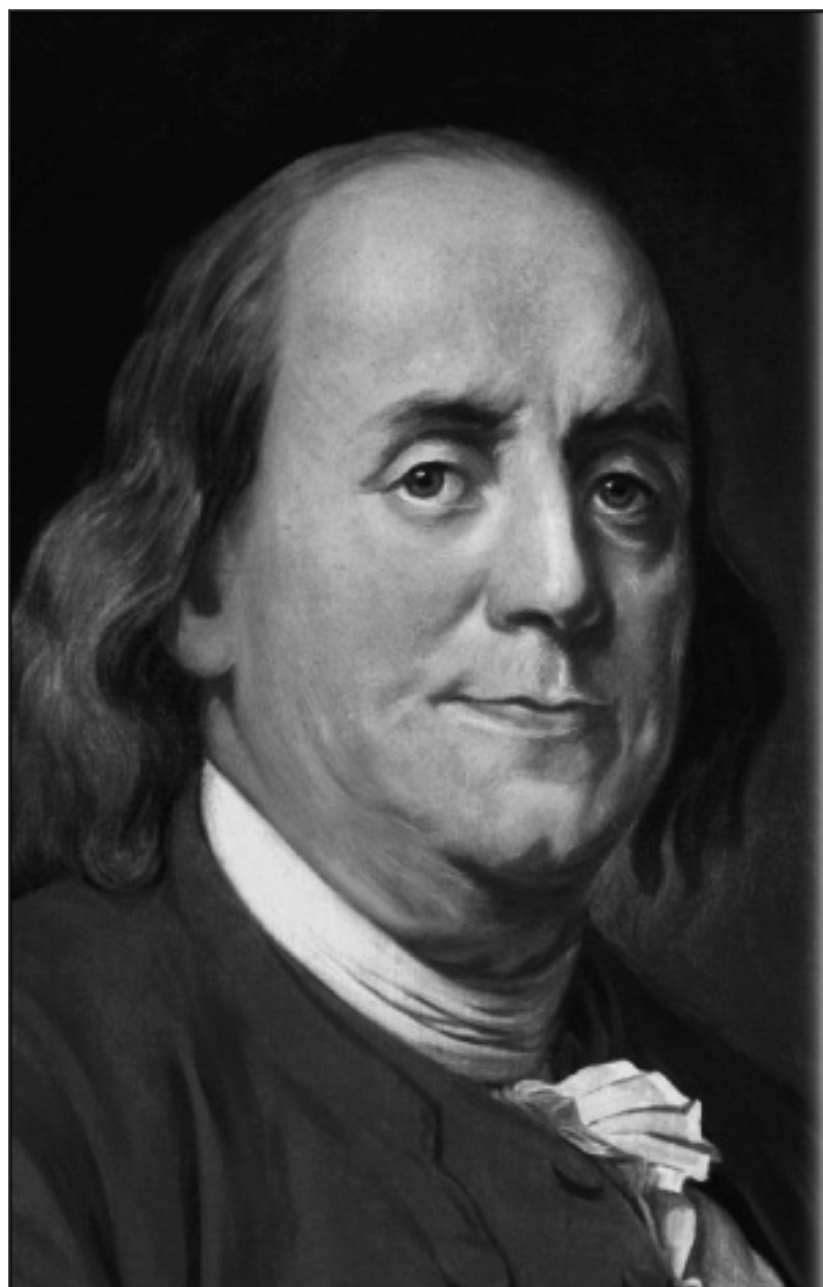
However, many of the other aspects of the show feature Tribe sports fans and club enthusiasts. Even the art folks are excited because it will be a show that both highlights their events and brings their activities to a wider audience.

Many of the show's segments have already been filmed, including an interview with SA president Sarah Rojas ('10), a trip to UVA on a fact-finding mission (which, Cummings has informed me, failed), and even a segment on William and Mary's own production of the classic, Little Shop of Horrors.

The show began on October 1st at 7pm, and it will continue with a new episode every two weeks at the same day and time. Crossroads joins recent addition Everyday Gourmet on William and Mary TV, bringing with it a seeming resurgence for campus broadcasting.



Courtesy of Crossroads



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Blame It on the Alcohol

Fat Weasel Ale bores despite alcohol content

When asked if I wanted to be the Virginia Informer's beer columnist, I was at first a little confused. A columnist whose sole job is to drink and write about beer is already a foreign concept to me, but a female beer columnist is unheard of. I soon realized that I actually am a legitimate candidate for the position and would be an idiot not to accept the offer. Unlike most of my friends, I would take a beer over a fruity cocktail any day, so why not embrace this reality and share my experience? Also, I now always have an excuse to drink. This job is perfect for me!

The first beer that I chose to try is Fat Weasel Ale from Trader Joe's. I'm a sucker for logos, which explains the impulsive decision to buy this beer in particular. The box features what appears to be a weasel wearing a straw hat, sunglasses, and a purple button down shirt. Not only is the weasel clothed, but he is also drinking beer from a giant silver mug. This combination of the weasel's clothes and drinking device fascinated me for some reason, and I decided I must try it.

Unfortunately, the box does not give any information as to what type of beer Fat Weasel is, so I was unpleasantly surprised upon opening the first bottle. Fat Weasel is definitely not for weak beer drinkers. It is a very strong ale. Not only is the taste strong, but so is the alcohol content – a whopping 7.10% alcohol by volume. Normally this fact would excite me, but I have learned that nothing about Fat Weasel excites me. Perhaps this can be explained by the fact that I

bought the beer Friday afternoon with the anticipation of drinking it Saturday night at the dinner party that my housemates and I were hosting. Maybe I hyped it up too much over that 24-hour period, and as a result it never really stood a chance. Regardless of what happened, Fat Weasel did not perform its intended task of enhancing my dining experience on Saturday night, which is a colossal disappointment.

Although Fat Weasel did not make a positive impression on me and can be best described as a generic strong ale, it did teach me a valuable lesson. Just like the age old saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover" I have learned to never again judge a beer by its logo. For most people I doubt that this is a problem, but evidently it is for me.

I would like for the next beer I try to make my evening better, not worse and even make me want to drink it again. Fat Weasel failed in both of these departments. Going forward in my beer-testing career I know to be more cautious about what I buy. I know that logos are not indicative of how a beer tastes and that it might be in my best interest to do a little research prior to my trip to the grocery store. I have faith that the next beer I drink will be exponentially better than Fat Weasel, and I can't wait to discover it. I might even find a really good beer with a horribly boring logo.

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



Kathryn Failon
Beer Columnist



source: wm.edu

Far and away: Rani Mullen observed the Afghan election first-hand as an international observer. The election has been the subject of intense scrutiny due to claims of electoral manipulation by the Karzai government.

Professor served as an international observer in Afghan election

Julia Riesenber
Editor at Large

William and Mary assistant professor Rani Mullen acted as an international observer to the presidential election in Afghanistan this past August. The election process has been stagnated by widespread allegations of voter fraud, an ongoing controversy that poses a serious threat to the future of the nascent democracy.

Ms. Mullen spent a week stationed in Kabul as one of 80 participants of Democracy International's Election Observation Mission in Afghanistan, one of the global organizations responsible for monitoring the election process.

Ms. Mullen reports that she did not personally witness significant signs of fraud, though states in her blog that colleagues stationed in the "insecure areas of southern Afghanistan" gave accounts of "stuffed ballot boxes early in the morning when observers showed up, political pressures exerted by government officials to favor President Karzai, and no sign of the mandatory tally sheet posted on polling center doors."

In her most recent posting, Ms. Mullen concludes "Afghanistan had two elections on August 20th, 2009."

On September 8, the Afghan Independent Election Commission announced that preliminary vote results gave President Hamid Karzai a second consecutive victory, claiming the majority by 54.1 percent. Yet international election officials and observers continue to challenge the legitimacy of these results, criticizing the IEC for refusing to implement stricter safeguards that would discount a significant number of ballots, enough to force President Karzai into a second election against his closest opponent, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah.

This criticism follows statements from the heads of the European Union's election monitoring commission determining that as many as one-third of the ballots cast in favor of President Karzai are suspect, and in need of further investigation.

Ms. Mullen co-authored an article published in the September 18 issue of Foreign Policy along with fellow

A nightmare scenario is one in which the United States is expected to partner with a government delegitimized by the very process by which it has hung onto power.

election observers William Maley and Marvin Weinbaum, which analyzes the long-term ramifications of an unsettled election.

"It will likely take weeks to determine whether President Karzai... can avoid a runoff election," write the authors.

Due to the testimonies of international observers, the United Nations-backed Electoral Complaints Commission, an Afghan and international panel, has called for a recount of ballot boxes in insecure areas. The ECC has the ultimate authority to determine the authenticity of election results, though Western officials worry that President Karzai's supporters could accuse the commission of attempting to disenfranchise Afghans.

Furthermore, if the recount "invalidates enough votes to trigger a runoff," wrote Mullen, Maley and Weinbaum, "the onset of winter by late October and the resulting inaccessibility of remote areas would mean that such an election would have to wait until spring. This long delay, with Karzai continuing to hold the presidency, would trigger a constitutional crisis, and possibly an outbreak of serious violence in Kabul."

"If a decision is made to investigate all electoral fraud complaints and a runoff election is required in the spring," the authors call for "an interim government... authorized by the country's Supreme Court and the Afghan National Assembly."

The election controversy in Afghanistan could seriously affect international and domestic support for the Obama administration's decision to expand the war in the country.

As Mullen, Maley and Weinbaum write, "a nightmare scenario is one in which the United States is expected to partner with a government delegitimized by the very process by which it has hung onto power."

Nooks & Crannies of William and Mary

The great William and Mary athletics scandal

Daisy Weill
Staff Writer

I'm not the biggest football fan. I have problems sticking around to watch games past halftime, and last February, I chose to take a well-needed nap instead of watching the Super Bowl. Even still, I am jumping up and down at our football team's success so far this season. I know I'm not the only one. Tickets to the game against Delaware sold out, I've never seen so many over-sized yellow "Tribe Pride" t-shirts worn at once before, and the newly formed Tribal Fever has been stirring up an incredible energy on campus.

Decades ago, the College only dreamed of success like this, and in 1946, the Board of Visitors decided to do something about it. Departing from traditional matters of budget management and long-term planning, the Board mandated that the College make it a top priority for the school "to win more contests than we lose." In other words, the College's football,

basketball, and baseball teams needed to step it up and start winning big.

In the forties, the athletic department dominated the school's budget. It encompassed not only all of the school's varsity teams, but it also acted as an academic department, since the College stipulated that all students fulfill a physical education requirement. Rube McCray, the head football coach, headed this department. Once President Pomfret informed Mr. McCray of the Board's instructions, he knew he needed to take drastic measures. The football team, as well as the basketball and baseball teams, was far from winning a majority of its games.

By 1951, scandal engulfed the College. It turned out that Mr. McCray believed the best way to improve the quality of the athletics department was to manipulate the grades of student athletes. Mr. McCray coerced professors into raising the grades of poor performers and he gave athletes credits for courses they never attended. Mr. McCray even pressured three female students that worked in the athletic department office to alter the grades on high school transcripts of potential

College athletes before the transcripts were given to the admissions office.

One of these students, the president of the Women's Honor Council, was particularly devastated about the pressure Mr. McCray put on her to break the Honor Code in order to help the athletics department. In an interesting twist, the scandal was only discovered because of the school's lack of

technology; all altered transcripts contained smudged 'e's thanks to a faulty typewriter in the athletics department office. That spring, the College's administration confronted Mr. McCray about the altered transcripts that the admissions office had discovered. Mr. McCray not only denied the allegations, but blamed them on Alfred Vandeweghe, an assistant football coach. Mr. Vandeweghe was fired immediately.

But the accusations kept coming. That summer a faculty committee, led by the very extraordinary Richard Morton, endured the intense Williamsburg summer heat to seek out the truth. Rube McCray's actions were brought to light, and he, along with the head basketball coach, resigned that August. After Mr. McCray left, the College divided the athletics department into a smaller athletics department and a separate physical education department. The administration reduced funding to the athletics department, and the College once again began striving for football victory.



File Photo

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Physics professor wins raft debate

Jordan Bloom
Arts and Culture Editor

Amidst rousing cheers from a jam-packed Commonwealth Auditorium, a William & Mary tradition continued last Wednesday. This year, physics professor David Armstrong won the debate and the last boat off the island, supported by an enthusiastic audience of aspiring scientists.

The Raft Debate pits three professors representing the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities against each other, each arguing that, in the hypothetical event that they were stranded on an island, they deserve the one-person escape raft more than the other. The fourth, education professor Jeremy Stoddard, plays the devil's advocate, arguing that none of them deserve saving.

Each maroon is given ten minutes of speaking time, including a seven-minute expository argument and a three-minute rebuttal.

Mr. Armstrong, coolly confident in a Hawaiian shirt, led off with a metaphor comparing academia to *Gilligan's Island*. Ginger represents the humanities, nice to look at but mostly impractical, and the bumbling, useless Gilligan is, of course, sociology. The savior of the island -- and by implication, academia -- is the pre-

cious Professor, the natural scientist.

Economics professor David Feldman followed. Arguably, he had the toughest job of the night, trying to convince the audience of his discipline's superiority in the midst of the current economic climate. His argument was apologetic, contending that the social sciences "answer human questions" and "work with issues" rather than figures and so couldn't be counted on for precise predictions.

Dr. Giulia Pacini went for the throat even during her expository time, addressing the irony of seeing an economist submerged or stranded like so many mortgages and foreclosed homes. She railed against the failings of science, citing the 1999 crash of a NASA orbiter due to a unit conversion error. She didn't shy away from cheap shots, either; she asked who was more likely to procreate, "the inventor, the number cruncher, or the storyteller?"

Props figured into the devil's advocate's time, and he ridiculed the very premise of setting a nuclear physicist, an economist, and a scholar of French culture against one another. "It reads like a bad joke," Mr. Stoddard said. He poked holes in Mr. Armstrong's metaphor, noting that Gilligan actually got them off the island and that the Professor never did anything useful. Addressing Ms. Pacini, he hand-

ed her a graph predicting a world with more French scholars; it showed higher STD's and lower productivity, if you couldn't guess.

Despite some modest ribaldry, the tone remained friendly. Mr. Feldman even offered several high-fives to his competitors. After winning over the crowd, Mr. Armstrong graciously commented, "I attribute my modest success in the debate to my adoption of the classic technique of 'proof by obfuscation,' and the audience being stacked with physics graduate students!" He also made sure to mention his "great respect and affection for the humanities and the social sciences."

There really isn't a more unique tradition than the Raft Debate; it's part lecture, part absurd intellectual exercise, part comedy. It lets us take pride in our chosen disciplines, cheering along while our professors engage in some good-natured rhetoric, and we get to see our professors out of the classroom, accessible and having fun. Totally frivolous, but a damned good time. And there was cake after.



Alec McKinley

I'm on a boat: Three professors, each representing the Social Sciences, Humanities, or Natural Sciences, vie for a one-person boat off of a hypothetical island upon which they were shipwrecked. While each had to prove their respective discipline's value to the whole of humanity, Physics Professor David Armstrong emerged victorious.

Drink of the Week

Wild Turkey Whiskey



Jeff Dailey

Jeff Dailey
Staff Writer

I will admit that my drinks can air on the side of pomposity, pretension, or down right bastardism. But I'm really not that complicated of a drunk mixologist. Every once in a while, I've found, you need to go back to the basics. It's like in the *Mighty Ducks*, when Coach Bombay gets back on the ice, just to skate around. There no gimmicks, no fruity mixers, experimental teas; no whatever.

Here, it's just bourbon-- Wild Turkey, Rare Breed to be exact. It's 108 proof, due to its uncut, barrel-strength, and it consists of a blend of 8, 10, and 12 year aged batches of Wild Turkey 101. It's for sipping, pure-and-simple. Serve on the rocks, with a splash of water; that way you'll experience its complexity, without numbing your taste-buds from the barrel strength liquor.

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

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Coming through A history of disasters at the

The Sir Christopher Wren Building

The Wren Building itself has suffered its fair share of fires. In 1705, the uncompleted main building of the College burned for its first time. While the actual cause of the fire is still undetermined, historians theorize that ash spilling from the fireplaces may have been the catalyst. Originally designed to burn coal, the fireplaces were built smaller like in England. But in Virginia, where wood was more profuse than coal, the ashes from the large logs spilled onto the hearth and may have likely started the first fire. In 1859, another fire demolished the building. The cause of this fire is also undetermined, but it is thought to have started in the chemistry laboratory. In 1862, the third fire struck the College Building. This last fire was started by the Fifth Pennsylvania cavalry, who were stationed in Williamsburg during the Civil War. The soldiers started the fire in retaliation for an attack on the town by the Confederate Cavalry.



Jennifer Souers
Staff Writer

Hurricanes. Wars. Tornadoes. Plus year history, the College has survived its fair share of disasters. At the Randolph Complex, every building touched by some type of natural

The President's House



Like the Wren Building, the President's House has also seen three fires. In 1781, during the Siege of Yorktown in the American Revolution, the President's House was converted into a hospital for French soldiers and was accidentally set on fire during the process. In 1834, a tornado came through the area and did some damage to the roof. In 1879, another fire caught at the President's House, this time due to a faulty chimney. In 1922, a third fire gutted the third floor and the center halls.

Ewell Hall

Before it housed the music department and dean of undergraduate studies, Ewell Hall was the original Phi Beta Kappa auditorium. In 1950, the ceiling caved in under the north balcony, partially destroying the auditorium. On December 29, 1953, the auditorium was completely destroyed by a fire. It was rebuilt, thanks to John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who gave the College \$250,000 for the reconstruction of the Phi Beta Kappa auditorium. After the fire, the College decided to build a new structure, thus moving PBK from its home in Ewell to its current location.



Storms

Ernesto

September 2006 was witness to yet another summer storm. What began as Hurricane Ernesto was downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it arrived in Virginia. However, the storm did cause a significant amount of flooding on the campus, and resulted in the postponement of the 2006 Convocation ceremonies. Convocation was not held until mid-September.

Isabel

William and Mary is no stranger to severe weather or intense storms. The 2003 Hurricane Isabel was one of the more serious storms the College has weathered. The Category 5 Hurricane made landfall in North Carolina and moved up the East Coast, with the greatest damage being sustained by the Hampton Roads area of Virginia north to Washington DC. Students from the College were evacuated to their homes, with out of state students going home with roommates, friends, or seeking shelter in William and Mary Hall. While the buildings on campus survived with little to no damage, the campus took a few days to regroup, letting evacuated students make their way back to campus.

The "Christmas Ice Storm"

Beginning on December 23, 1998, a major ice storm struck Virginia, knocking off power for days and stranding people in their homes. The ice became so heavy and thick on trees that branches began falling off under the weight. With students on Christmas break, no students were harmed or injured, and the campus buildings suffered only minor damages. Colonial Williamsburg, however, did close its gates to visitors for a short time after several guests were nearly injured by falling branches.

Timeline of natural disasters

- 1693
Incomplete Wren building burns down for the first time.
- 1781
President's House has roof damaged by a tornado.
- 1859
Wren Building burns down for the third and final time. The fire was started by the occupying Union army in retaliation for a Confederate assault on the town.
- 1879
President's House caught on fire for the third time. The fire destroyed the interior of the third floor and the center halls.
The north balcony of Ewell hall, then home of Phi Beta Kappa auditorium, collapses, partially destroying the auditorium.
- 1953
Jefferson Hall dormitory is completely gutted by a fire which began in the middle of the night and was started by faulty refrigerator wiring.
- 1998
In response to Hurricane Isabel, the College evacuated the campus. Fortunately, no buildings were seriously damaged.
- 2005
The Chi Omega house in Sorority Court sustained minor damage from a kitchen fire.
- 2006

on the other side:

College of William and Mary

s. Ice Storms. Fires. In its 300
of William and Mary has sur-
s. From the Wren Building to
part of the campus has been
ral phenomenon.

Disasters at the College

College is chartered.

1705

President's House damaged by av-
fire for the first time, having been
converted into a hospital for the
French soldiers helping in the Amer-
ican Revolution and accidentally set
alight.

1834

Wren building burns down for the
second time, possibly starting in a
chemistry lab.

1862

President's House is set on fire for
second time, this time as the result
of a faulty chimney.

1922

1950

The PBK auditorium, then housed
in Ewell, is completely destroyed by
a fire.

1983

A serious ice storm causes minor
damage to campus buildings.

2003

Preston Hall in the Randolph
Complex caught fire because of a
faulty exhaust fan in the attic. The
third floor was seriously damaged
and the first and second floor sus-
tained smoke damage.

Tropical storm Ernesto causes
substantial flooding around campus,
resulting in the postponement of
Convocation.

2008

Jefferson Hall



In 1983, Jefferson Hall dormitory was al-
most completely gutted by fire in the middle
of the night. Faulty wiring in a new refrigera-
tor on the first floor started the fire, forcing
students out into a freezing January night,
where the temperature outside was around
14°F. Reports from the event recall the fire-
fighters' gloves freezing to the water hoses as
they put out the fire. Fortunately, no students
were killed or injured in the fire, but Jefferson
Hall was closed until it reopened in 1985.

Sorority Court - Chi Omega House

With fire being the most common disaster at the College, it
makes sense that the most recent disaster was a minor kitchen
fire at the Chi Omega house in March 2008. The fire occurred
over spring break, so most students were away from the cam-
pus. The residents who remained in the house got out in time,
and the house suffered only minor damages.

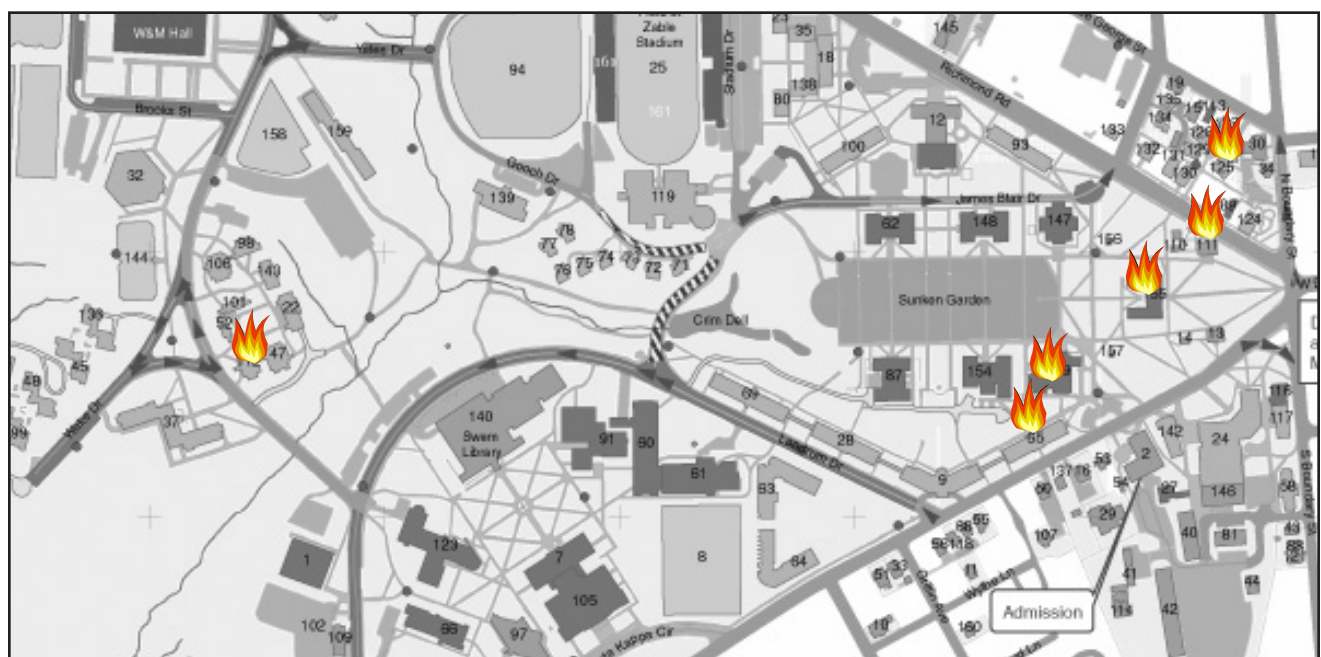


Preston Hall



2005 witnessed another fire in a dormitory,
this time at Preston Hall in the Randolph
Complex. A faulty exhaust fan in the attic of
Preston Hall started a fire that greatly dam-
aged the top floors and left smoke damage
towards the lower floors. The fire occurred
at the end of August, just as students were
beginning to move into the dorm. The 70
students assigned to live in Preston instead
moved into the Governor's Inn, where the
College arranged housing. Fortunately, no
students were injured during the fire, but
the third floor was badly damaged. The
second and first floors sustained extensive
smoke damage.

Locations of Fires on Campus



DONOR SPEAKS ON HEALTHCARE: Alumnus namesake of Miller Hall opposes public option

continued from page one

more, Mr. Miller said, but the prospect of costly malpractice judgments also encourages the practice of "defensive medicine", in which doctors order unnecessary tests to appear thorough in the event of a lawsuit. He estimated that defensive medicine wastes between \$100-125 billion every year.

During a question and answer session, Mr. Miller disputed the claim that government-run healthcare in Europe provides better care than the American system. Citing Health Services' experience managing hospitals in Britain, he called British healthcare "deficient" in comparison to the United States, due to long waits for routine care and in-demand procedures, poor maintenance of public hospitals, and the unavailability of certain drugs and procedures

which the government has not determined to be cost-effective. Health Services also manages hospitals in France and Canada; Mr. Miller said that those countries face similar problems.

Alan B. Miller graduated from William and Mary in 1958 and obtained his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. He is the chairman, founder, and CEO of Health Services Incorporated and has received a lifetime achievement award from the American Hospital Federation. In addition to his work in the healthcare field, Mr. Miller is a trustee of and donor to the College, and is a retired US Army Captain. The Alan B. Miller Hall, new home to the Mason School of Business, opened this fall and was dedicated on October 2nd.

REVELEY DISCUSSES FINANCES: President expresses little hope of future state aid

continued from page one

Visitors meets in November.

"We're looking at some really tough choices," Mr. Reveley said. The President emphasized that his intention was to avoid raising tuition if at all possible. He noted that alumni donations, always important, are becoming even more essential to the College as state support diminishes. "We are working very, very hard to raise more money each year," Mr. Reveley said, noting that the College has received record donations from alumni. "Last year we raised more money than the College has ever raised in its history," he said.

Nevertheless, the possibility of a tuition increase is very real, even for the second semester of the current academic year. Since the budget cuts were announced after the beginning of the semester, any tuition hike intended to compensate for the financial loss

must come mid-year. Mr. Reveley stressed, however, that he understood that percentage increases in tuition disproportionately affect out-of-state students, who already pay higher tuition rates.

Mr. Reveley also noted that it is unlikely that the proportion of out-of-state students at the College will be increased, though out-of-state students are a potential source of revenue. "It's a highly sensitive political issue," he said. "We really don't have much freedom at all to adjust [the in-state to out-of-state ratio]." Nevertheless, he did acknowledge that out-of-state students bring a great deal to the college. "The more out-of-state students we have," he said, "the better we're off financially." Mr. Reveley also indicated his policy towards adjustment of the in-state to out-of-state ratio may change if the negative trend in state support continues. "If the

state is unable to support our operating budget the way it used to...then we really need the freedom to support ourselves," he said.

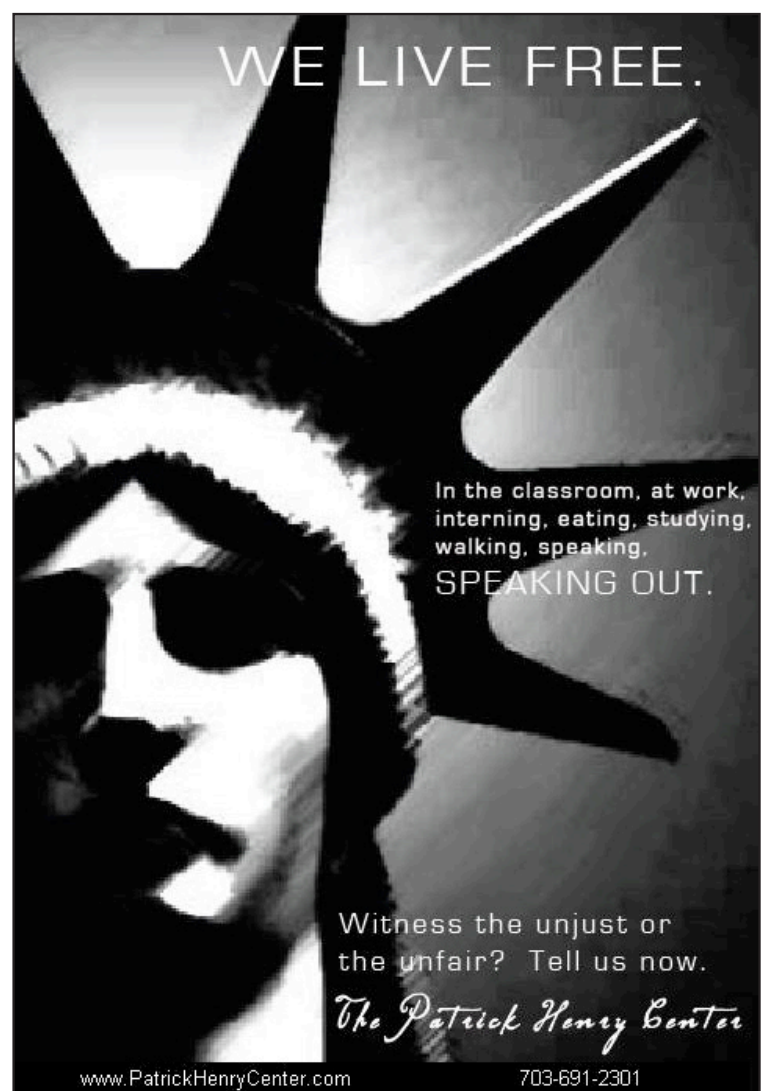
But while Mr. Reveley lamented the drop in state support for the operating budget, he emphasized that Richmond continues to support the College's building projects liberally. "They've been very generous," Mr. Reveley said. He also stressed that William and Mary's financial troubles are by no means unique. "This is happening to everybody over the country," he said. "We're not alone in it." The College, he says, has fared surprisingly well so far. "We've gotten through the first two years of the great recession with most of our fur intact," he said.

The Board of Visitors will decide the College's response to the budget cuts at their meeting on November 19 and 20.

FINAL FIRE CHANGES MADE: College institutes final revisions recommended by

continued from page one

apparent to Mr. Katz "just how unaware students are as to the full extent of their First Amendment rights." This realization was a catalyst for his new mission: "I decided that I wanted to educate fellow students about free speech and work proactively to make the College a more free-speech friendly campus." As part of that mission, Mr. Katz says, "I sat down with the code of conduct and rewrote the policies in such a way to make them constitutionally acceptable." Mr. Katz then presented his revised versions of the code of conduct policies to the administration. Mr. Katz's action, combined with the pressure placed on the administration by FIRE, played a large role in their ultimate decision to revise the code of conduct.



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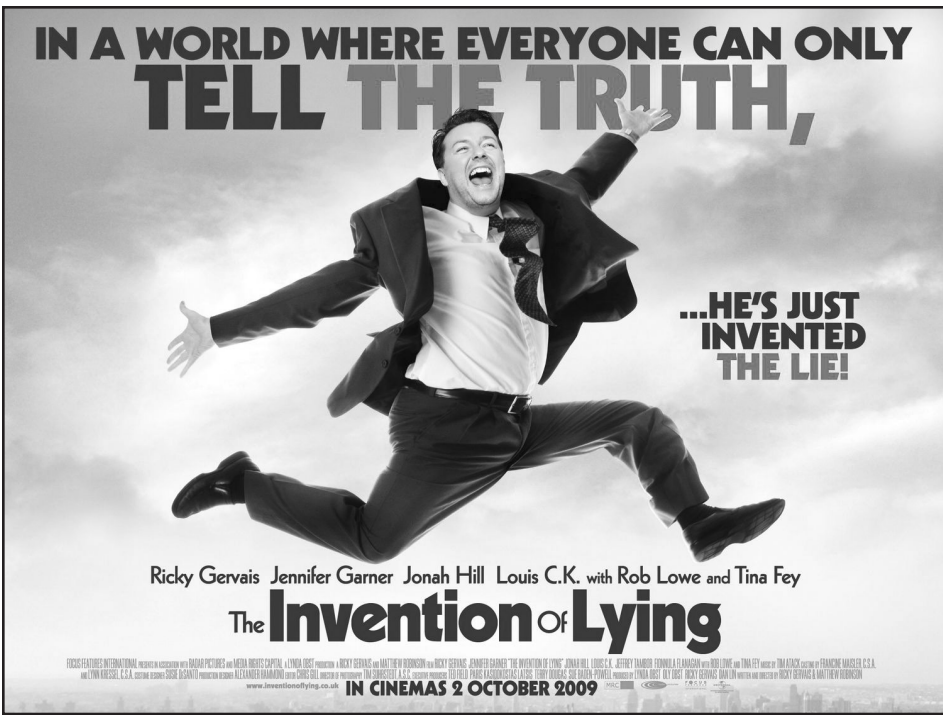
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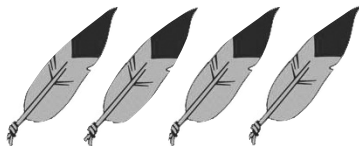
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Movie Review:

The Invention of Lying falls just short of excellence

Justin Duke
Staff Writer



Imagine, like the writer-director duo of Matthew Robinson and Ricky Gervais does in *Invention of Lying*, a world where dishonesty isn't just frowned upon but is non-existent.

In his directorial debut, Gervais presents a fantastic premise – as one might surmise from the title, a world in which truth is the norm and lying does not exist – that produces solid laughter for the first fifty minutes. Ultimately, though, the premise alone could not sustain the movie: the plot graduated from quips and clever commentary to a portfolio of romantic comedy tropes and pseudo-pedagogy.

There isn't much to be said about the comedy that the film esconces: fans of *The Office* and *Extras* will feel right at home with Ricky Gervais' performance, which he delivers with characteristic aplomb. Tina Fey and Louis C.K.'s performances also stand out, they cope well with the quickly dwindling material they are dealt.

The script, co-written by Gervais and Robinson, shows a strong effort to maximize the potential of the clearly fertile concept of truth. Sadly, it is constantly hobbled by being pulled too many places at once. The writers did not play to their strengths consistently; *Invention* works best when it is quiet and simple, but as the relationship between Gervais and Garner grows, we lose track of the script's humor and find the very cliches it attempts to skirt. And when the thematic structure of the plot, an

But, truth be told, it's still a romantic-comedy and that fact prevents it from being spectacular.

interesting idea centered around the championing of amorality, descends from social commentary to heavy-handed prose, *Invention* bores.

Religion is presented as an outright sham in the film. This is an interesting idea, but the humor falls flat faster than the main character's elaborate lies. Gervais can present atheism all he wants, but when he doesn't make it funny, the film suffers.

Invention cannot decide the breadth with which it wants to present its novel take on dishonesty. It tries to both quietly present the offbeat tempos of an uncomfortable romance and satirize society at large, specifically religion. And when it tries to do both with humorless wit and witless humor, it fails miserably.

That being said, the movie is laudable for the audacity with which it perpetuates its good spirits and the charisma of the universally talented set of leads and cameos. It has its funny moments, its charming moments and its 'awwwww' moments. All of these work very well to win you over. They just never present themselves with enough rapidity or simultaneity for the movie to be fantastic.

All things considered, the presentation of a relatively novel concept and a talented cast elevates *The Invention of Lying* to a solid romantic-comedy. But, truth be told, it's still a romantic-comedy and that fact prevents it from being spectacular.

Truth hurts, doesn't it?

Restaurant Review:

Baker's Crust offers trendy ambiance, memorable desserts

Chelsea Sisson
Contributor

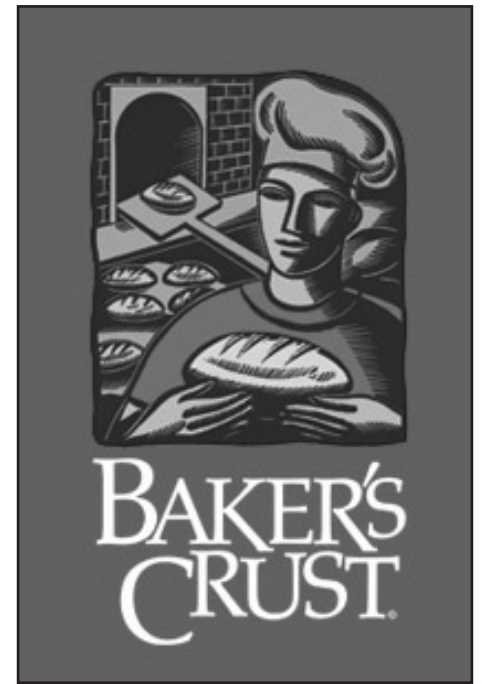


Anytime something new opens in a town, people talk about it. Having just opened, Baker's Crust, located on Monticello Avenue, already had this in its favor, and I was curious to check out this new addition to Williamsburg. With a name like Baker's Crust, I was expecting a very casual sandwich deli. This was not what I found.

Baker's Crust has a great atmosphere. I did not walk into the deli-like atmosphere that I expected, but a place with an artsy feel. Beads hung above some of the booths, and the lights were dimmed just enough to give it a cosmopolitan air. In addition, the restaurant also had a full bar in back, further shaking the preconceived image I held based on its name.

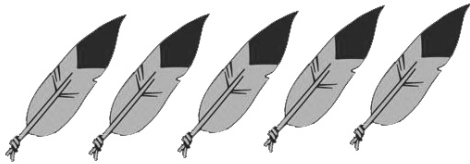
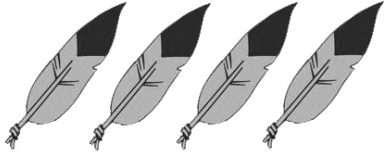
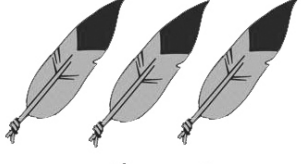


I found the service very satisfactory at Baker's Crust. The waitress for my table seemed determined to keep the bread basket full and the drinks replenished. She even took the time to talk to my group for a bit. She informed us that she was from Poland and asked how we liked school. This politeness added to the pleasant and welcoming atmosphere around us.

I ordered the baked goat cheese appetizer and the Cajun jambalaya pasta. I was not dissatisfied with either choice, however neither one exceeded my expectations. The baked goat cheese appetizer was smaller than anticipated. The Cajun Jambalaya pasta was not, as the name might suggest, spicy at all. The best part of my meal was the bread, which is understandable considering the name of the restaurant. The food was savory and filling, and I left feeling satisfied.



Others at my table seemed to agree that the food was satisfactory. The major consensus was that the sandwich was one of best things this restaurant had to offer. The sandwiches range from typical, such as roasted chicken, to a bit more exotic, like the "Mediterranean Chicken Bistro" sandwich. The other major consensus was that the desserts were fantastic. In fact, many at my table claimed they would forgo dinner and come in just for the desserts.

The one downside to this restaurant is the slightly steep price. My appetizer was \$7.99 by itself, and the pasta was \$14.99. These prices are not extravagant, but a strain for the typical college student's income. For the quality of the food, these prices are a bit high, which is another thing to consider. My recommendation is to try Baker's Crust, if only for the desserts and the atmosphere. The prices, though, will keep it from becoming a regular habit, unless your wallet is feeling particularly heavy these days.

	Excellent
	Good
	Average
	Poor
	Terrible

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The Finer Side:

How to walk in heels through life

I have a very favorite pair of shoes. They're a pair of black, patent leather, pointed-toe, sling-back pumps, with a perilously high stiletto heel. They're what I automatically wear when I need to feel powerful or successful. But walking in these heels isn't something that most people are automatically good at. It takes practice. Learning how to strut your stuff in a killer pair of pumps, however, isn't the only thing you have to practice. Life takes practice. Living, just getting through the day, takes some skill. Life is stressful right now; as a senior, I am personally inundated with the daily stresses of finding a job, studying for the LSAT, keeping up with coursework, and doing it all while trying to maintain a happy, polished image. It's something that takes practice. And like walking in heels, it's something that can only be done one day, one step at a time.

Walking in heels is like going through life. You have to put your heel down and take a step. There's always a risk that you may stumble or trip, fall or even break an ankle, but you just have to keep walking gracefully on. You have to take



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

the risk and keep walking. Life without risk is no life at all. Every time you put on the strappy sandals, there's a possibility that you'll trip on the cobble stone (which, at William and Mary, is no laughing matter, as I recently discovered!). You have to take the chance that you'll be rejected, turned down, or that life won't turn out the way you thought it would. Sometimes the perfect pair of peep-toes just doesn't fit your feet the way you hoped. But sometimes everything does work out. Sometimes the job offer comes through, the acceptance letter from grad school arrives, and the glass slipper fits.

To successfully walk in heels, you have to have confidence. You have to stand tall with your shoulders back. You have to put one foot in front of the other and not stare at the ground in front of you, wondering when you'll fall next. You can't tiptoe your way through life. If you tiptoe in heels, you look timid and awkward. If you tiptoe through life, you miss the chance to make a difference. You can't run in heels. Ever seen someone try to sprint in 3-inch wedges? Not a pretty sight. You can't run through life either. Walking in heels forces you to

take your time, to look where you're going, to see the world around you. If you're so focused on falling on the sidewalk in front of you, you'll miss the scenery around you. You'll miss the people next to you. Don't be so concentrated on what's beneath your soles that you miss what's right in front of you.

When you walk in heels, you are in control. You are graceful, you are beautiful. You are in charge of your life. Only you can put on the t-strap pumps in the morning. When you walk in heels, you make the decisions; you don't just let stuff happen to you. Life is what you make of it, and you only get the chance to do this once.

And if you do trip or fall, as you're bound to do, you pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and keep going. You steady your ankle and keep walking. You may limp for a bit, you may get a bruise or a blister. There will be people who will kick a rock into your shoe. They will do things that will cause you pain. So you stop and shake the rock out of your shoe and go on. But you take the next step. You don't take off the shoe and give up. You keep walking. You stand tall, you throw your shoulders back, and look life in the eye. You keep living.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Live Performances

Dean Shostak's Crystal Concert
Oct. 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 30
Shows at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm

The Williamsburg Synchronia presents Masterworks:
Concert #1
Oct. 13, 14
Shows at 8 pm

Fiddeworks
Oct. 13, 29
Shows at 10:30 am

Jamestown Lecture: Becoming Bermudian
Oct. 20
Show at 7 pm

A Recovery Comedy Show: Mark Lundholm
Oct. 16
Show at 7 pm

Miss Williamsburg Scholarship Pageant
Oct. 24
Show at 2, 7:30 pm

Fright Night at The Symphonia
Oct. 25
Shows at 1:30 and 3 pm

Sweeny Todd
Oct. 27, 28
Shows at 7 pm

October Schedule

Movies

Food, Inc
Rated: PG
Oct. 7-11

Shows at 4:15 and 6:15 pm on Oct. 7-9
Shows at 4:30 and 6:30 pm on Oct. 10, 11

In the Loop

Rated: Not rated
Oct. 12-18

Shows at 4:30 and 6:30 pm

Afghan Star

Rated: Not rated
Oct. 17-22

Shows at 4, 5:45, and 7 pm

The Way We Get By

Rated: Not rated
Oct. 23-31

Shows at 4, 5:45, and 7 pm

Thirst

Rated: R
Oct. 30, 31

Shows at 4:15 and 6:45 pm

Music Review:

A Brief History of Love frontloaded but fun

Jack Evans
Music Critic



There's this guy Tucker Max I keep hearing about recently. He's an admitted sleaze who wrote a New York Times Bestseller about his drunken sexcapades and now has written and produced a semi-autobiographical movie, which is apparently out now in limited release.

My point is: I am one hundred percent positive that Tucker Max would love the hell out of The Big Pink (ugh, that name). This is a band who, in the hype-filled months right before *A Brief History of Love* was released, came across like the embodiment of everything missing from indie rock nowadays: the kind of brash, hook-driven, hypermasculine and a little bit misogynistic rock and roll from the 90's, before grunge and Britpop starting sucking. In short, they looked like they could be the drinking man's MGMT.

A Brief History of Love is pretty good for essen-

tially the first six songs, but this album is ridiculously frontloaded. Around the two-minute mark, opener "Crystal Visions" snaps into this amazing spaced-out chorus completely out of nowhere. They are singing, "Do you know the way to the silver covered roads?" But it really doesn't matter what the lyrics are.

Well, that's not entirely true. The stupidly catchy latest single "Dominos," has this for a chorus: "These girls fall like dominos." It's a bizarre, vaguely sexist, non-sequitur of a lyric and they sing it clearly and triumphantly, like it's the best lyric they've ever written, which it's definitely not. That honor goes to "If you really love him/ Tell me that you love him again," which sounds like what Phil Spector used to write for the Ronettes' songs.

The more I think about it, the second half of the album might not be bad per se, just not memorable in any way, although the album closer "Countdown to Ten" will probably grow on me. But, wow, they should have put "Velvet" there instead.

Musically, it's an epic crescendo of pulsating synth and bastardized shoegaze guitar. Lyrically, it goes from regretful ("I'm not looking for love but it's hard to resist") to sneering ("These arms of mine don't care who they hold"). It perfectly encapsulates every good

thing about The Big Pink (besides The Band reference it has to be a euphemism for...hmm, well...)

Speaking of which, I hope you like pretentious, would-be artsy pictures of naked chicks on your rock albums covers!

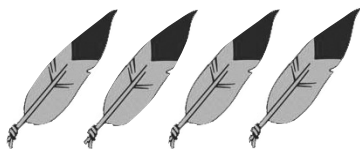
Told you Tucker Max would love this band.



Theater Review:

Jean Brodie enthralls as it appalls

Travis Jones
Contributor



We've all—if we're lucky—had teachers who have changed our lives, whose boundless energy and dedication inspires universal admiration and respect from their pupils. But what happens when one of these teachers become lost in this admiration, no longer able to differentiate between their own desires and the needs of their students? This is the question raised by the William and Mary Theatre production of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, which ran October 1 through October 4 on the Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall Mainstage.

Set in Edinburgh during the early 1930s, the play revolves around Miss Jean Brodie (Zoe Speas '12), whose unconventional teaching methods and vibrant clothing contrast with the prevailing nature of the "essentially conservative" Marcia Blaine School, and the "Brodie set," the girls on whose "young shoulders" she endeavors to put "old heads." In pursuit of this goal, she chews traditional subjects such as Math-

ematics and History, instead teaching her students about European current events and men like Benito Mussolini and Francisco Franco whom she glorifies as overturning the status quo she detests.

Sister Helena (Francesca Chilcote, '11), whose narration some three decades later frames the story, tells of how Miss Brodie's unorthodoxy and the precocity of her set earns the attention of

Marcia Blaine's headmistress Miss McKay (Sarah Dixon). McKay judges Miss Brodie's emphasis on "Goodness, Truth, and Beauty" out of touch with the aims of the school's traditional character and is determined to force her resignation. Miss Brodie avoids this possibility, keeping her love affairs with the art teacher Teddy Lloyd (Greg Benson, '11) and music teacher Gordon Lowther (CJ Bergin '11) well under wraps and remaining otherwise above reproach.

Remaining at Marcia Blaine, Miss Brodie continues to take particular interest in her favorite girls, even as they move to the upper school and are no longer under her tutelage, all of whom continue to strive for her approval. In her recognition of the girls' talents, however, it becomes increasingly clear that her encouragement is by no means selfless. As the girls mature, Miss Brodie begins to see not only the girls' talents, but also how she can use them for her own purposes. She sees in Jenny (Maggie Seegers '10) the potential to disentangle herself from Lloyd, by putting Jenny in Lloyd's bed instead. She creates a loyal following and personality cult, backdropped by fascism's spread across Europe. Finally, McKay forces Brodie from the school.

Sister Helena's intimation in the first scene that she was a student of Miss

Brodie's compels the audience to ask which one? It is not primarily this question, but rather the captivating force and depth of the play's main characters and their interactions that move the play. Playing the titular character, Speas commands of the audience the same rapt attention as the girls in the classroom with an intensity that initially charms and then horrifies as we discover the deep flaws of her character. Myers' Sandy shows the development from a young girl imitating Miss Brodie and trying to win her approval, to a young woman whose intelligence and confidence matches and foils that of Miss Brodie. By the final scene between the two, the intensity of these two strong women at odds with one another is so great that they are both engrossing and frightening.

The play's bare staging heightened the power of the characters' interactions. With a minimum of props and setting and mostly close lighting, attention is directed toward these interactions in a way that leaves one almost desirous of distraction from the power of the characters and the unease of the play's subject. To leave the theater upon seeing *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* is to feel kinship with those characters who interact with her: first enthralled, then appalled and in the end, entirely depleted.

Upcoming Theater Productions:

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde

-Director Kristen Pilgrim
-October 15-17 PBK Lab Theater

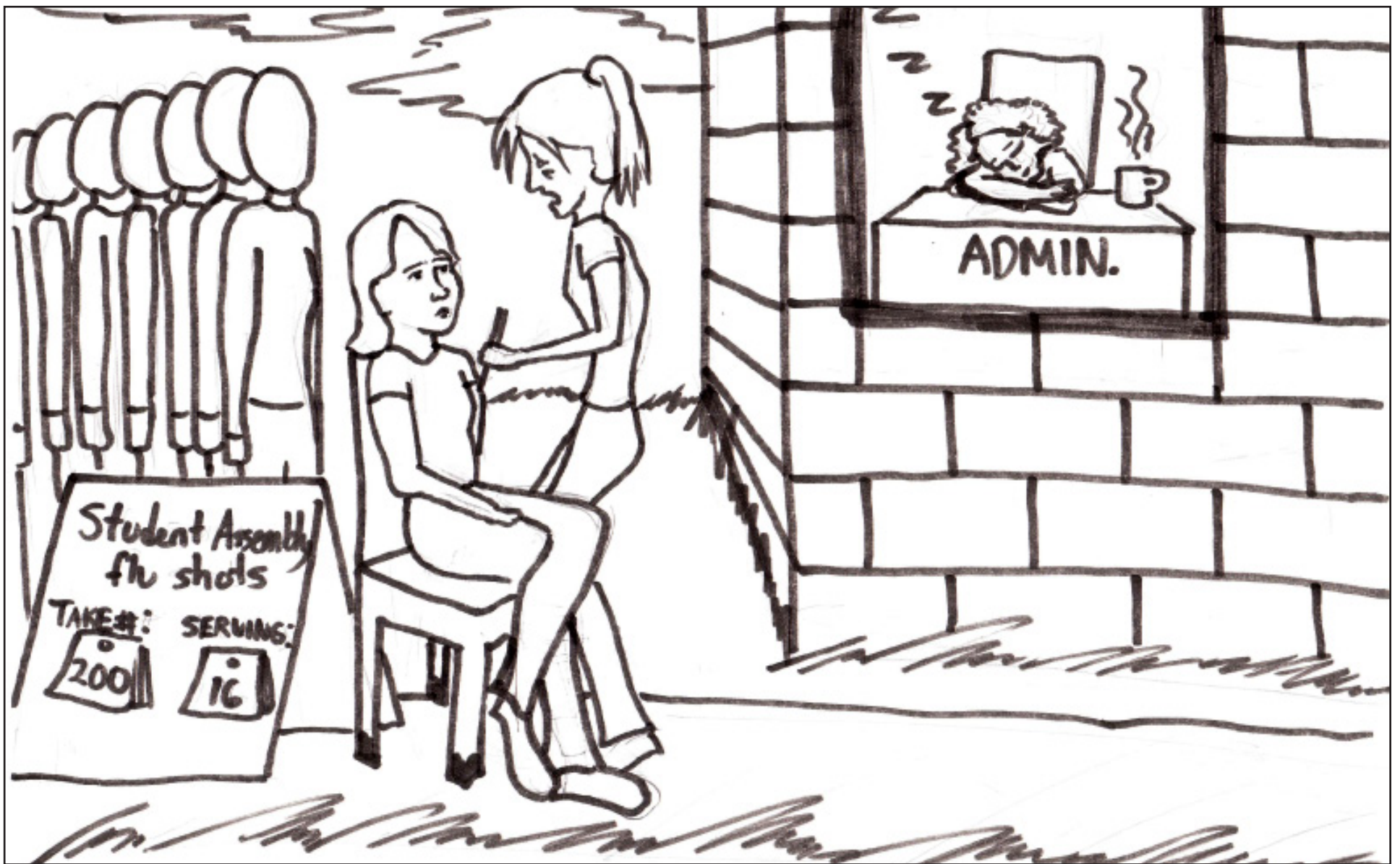
Little Shop of Horrors

-Directors Christopher Owens and Gary Green
-November 13-15 PBK Mainstage
-November 19-22 PBK Studio Theater

WANTED: Students who want to make an IMPACT on campus

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

Meetings on Mondays, 7:30pm in Blow 331



Reland Happel

Spend my money or lose it

While the rest of the College and its students are tightening their belts in these tough economic times, there is one area of the school that just keeps getting fatter: the consolidated reserve of the Student Assembly. The consolidated reserve is an account held by student government that is comprised of the rollover budgets accrued each year. The balance of this account is quite large, standing today around \$180,000. This figure is constantly on the rise because each student pays around \$200 a year in student fees and unused money “rolls over” into the account. This is simply ridiculous.



Alexander Powell
Opinion Editor

While the SA sits on a large pile of ever-growing cash, members of the student body are forced to shell out even more of our (or our family’s) hard-earned cash. Though \$100 a semester might not seem like a lot each year, that extra money would go a long way in a student’s budget. To put it in the terms of a recent campus event, \$100 a semester is almost five trips to Busch Gardens on student day. The SA cannot in good conscience and should not, being elected to be careful stewards of student money, allow student fees to go up one cent while the consolidated reserve continues to grow. If this happens under the SA’s watch, we the student body must throw every senator that allowed it out of office. If we vote for a raise in student fees while the consolidated reserve still stands, each one of us should be ashamed. The consolidated reserve must be spent to make the College better.

On that note, recently the SA has introduced or passed two bills that I support on the principle of improving student

life. One is very helpful and could stand to do some good. The other is rather silly, but I am sure many students will enjoy and benefit from it. The first is the allocation of \$13,000 of the consolidated reserve to health services. This money will provide free or subsidized STI testing. This bill not only spends the CR but could very well protect a good number of students. That we did not already have free or cheap testing (a full battery of tests could cost over \$200) on a sexually

active campus is alarming, but that is an issue for another article. The SA is putting the CR to good use in this case, and I applaud them. The second bill is one that would provide a ping pong ball dispenser in the UC so students may enjoy a wholesome game of ping pong in their residences. Perhaps some of the more pious among us would raise an eyebrow at helping underage students get smashed (not to mention this bill only spends a few hundred of the CR), but it is still a step in the right direction. Isn’t it better to spend the money on something that makes campus a little nicer or a little more convenient than to have the money taken from us and then used for absolutely nothing?

While the consolidated reserve still stands and grows, each one of us is being cheated. There is no good reason the SA needs such a large stockpile of cash. We, in one voice, must demand that the CR is spent to better the school and improve our lives. If the Student Assembly approves raising student fees while the CR increases, they have failed in their duty and are no better than common thieves.

Staff Editorial:

Switch our e-mail to Gmail

The Informer is pleased to learn that the College is considering switching from its current email service provider to a system powered by Gmail. Gmail is reliable, broadly used and more easily navigable than the current Mirapoint set-up. As the contract with the current provider is set to expire in the near future, we feel almost any change would be an improvement.

While in the process of switching email service providers, we recommend that the school also look into changing from Blackboard to one of its competitors. Although Blackboard has been essentially the leading option available in the field of virtual learning environments, there are now competitors with products that are more user friendly than the clunky design of Blackboard. Cornell recently experimented with Moodle, another virtual learning environment, and had very positive results. Colorado State University and Arizona State University switched to Kuali in 2009. In turn, a number of open-source programs have sprang up as colleges have found better ways to provide course information to students. According to Inside Higher Education magazine, an online news source dedicated to higher education news, colleges can save “many millions” by switching to an open-source alternatives. This would surely be a benefit to the school.

Another large and somewhat bothersome problem that would be fixed by switching is the issue of space. Many students find their in boxes quickly filled to the brim with mail from clubs, classes

and class mates. If one has to peer review others papers they had better become acquainted with the delete button. With a full box important emails can be lost and wreck havoc on a student’s life. The Mirapoint set up is just too small. The WM email service has only 50 MB of storage. Gmail has 7376 MB. The two aren’t even in the same league. The fact that the College expects the average student to make due with a limit

laughable in the late 90’s is down right absurd. Students receive more email than the current system allows and the limit is just a frustrating and easily solved problem.

With a switch to Gmail never again would students of the college see that frustrating ‘your mailbox is full’ email.

Although *The Informer* does not know whether ending the college’s relationship with Blackboard is the best option, we can be sure that looking at other options cannot hurt. We hope that the college spends some time looking at open-source options and more user-friendly alternatives to Blackboard.

In a year ridden with the ill-tidings of state funding cuts, we can at least take heart that our email experience will improve. Although the changeover to Gmail will make a relatively small difference in the lives of students in the long run, we feel it is worthwhile to highlight this good news. It is our belief that a change to a Gmail-powered email service would be a substantial improvement over our current system, one which is racked by dubious reliability and shoddy design. Google may be talking over, but for the time being, we kind of like it.

Although *The Informer* does not know whether ending the college’s relationship with Blackboard is the best option, we can be sure that looking at other options cannot hurt.

City needs comprehensive housing reform

About 17 years ago, the City of Williamsburg passed a law preventing more than three unrelated people from living in the same place together. This law is the infamous "three-person-rule." Since 2003, an ever-growing student movement has developed to oppose this and other Williamsburg laws that make life hard for students.

At the end of the summer, the Williamsburg Planning Commission was asked to advise the City Council on the future of this rule. Just this past week, the Planning Commission essentially agreed to veto the four-person proposal. Though the City Council can still pass this proposal over the Planning Commission's objections, they should veto this proposal as it stands. Contrary to what you might think, this plan is no improvement at all.

Here's what the "four-person-proposal" is all about. It would create a special permit to allow for a fourth resident to live in certain houses.

Landlords would have to apply for this permit at a public meeting in which town residents could voice their complaints, and the overall process would take several months from start to finish. It would also cost the landlord \$800 to apply, a cost which would be handed down directly to students.

In order to apply, the house has to be over 2,000 square feet in size. Many of the houses in which students are currently living with four or five people -- breaking the law -- are far smaller, and yet can clearly fit more than three people. Many of the houses in which three students are currently living -- legally -- are far smaller as well, but can handle more than three residents all the same.

An eligible house must also have four large parking spaces. If you agree to live under this special permit, you cannot sublet your house, which drives up the price for

students, who typically only live in Williamsburg for nine months of the year.

The consequence of all these rules is to limit the number of houses which can apply to hold just one extra person.

I've spoken to several landlords, and they don't see this proposal as a valuable investment. Why should a landlord spend a lot of money applying for a permit, which is not guaranteed, when students have no problem breaking the law and living four, five, or six people to a house already?



Joshua Karp

The success of this four person proposal, if passed, will perhaps depend on landlords taking action. If they have no incentive to apply for a four-person permit, then students won't ever see the benefits of this proposal.

But even if landlords do decide that these four-person permits are good investments, how many houses will this proposal actually affect?

Twelve. That's right, only 12 rental houses in Williamsburg would become eligible to handle an additional fourth resident under the provisions contained in this proposal. That's only 12 more spots for students to live off campus. The four-person proposal hardly solves our housing problems.

Some folks may point out that there are about 450 total homes which meet the criteria outlined in the proposal. Unfortunately, only 12 of them are rentals, many of them are far away from campus, and for the same reasons landlords don't like this plan, it is unlikely that this plan as it

stands will encourage significantly more people to start renting.

This proposal is a band-aid on a shotgun wound. It's a token measure that does very little to address students' housing concerns. Many City Council members have expressed frustration at the Planning Commission's voting down of the bill, claiming that this proposal is a necessary step along the way to an ultimate solution. They claim that change to the three-person rule must be incremental.

But how long do we want to wait until we get the next, small, incremental step towards change? In two years, is the City Council going to offer up another 12 houses just to calm the waters? Will it take longer than two years for the next proposal? Or will Williamsburg residents use this fractional step as a reason not to allow any more change at all?

Instead of accepting immediate reform that lacks teeth, we should fight for a legitimate and actual fix to the broken three-person rule. Accepting the four-person rule as it stands is not a change from the status quo. Instead, now is the time that we let the City Council know how we feel about the lack of off-campus housing. Now is the time that we register to vote in Williamsburg elections and then vote for people who have long-term, creative solutions for student concerns.

Now is the time for students to stand up for a new housing policy that doesn't disadvantage our own ranks. Now is the time that we should make our voices heard.

Joshua Karp is the co-founder of Students for a Better Williamsburg (www.sbmpac.net), a student-run Political Action Committee focusing on student issues.

College right for investing in business school

On Friday, September 25th, alumni and students converged on Miller Hall to participate in the "Dog Street to Wall Street" symposium. This event was designed to introduce students to Wall Street and help them network with alums from impressive firms such as Morgan Stanley, UBS, JP Morgan, etc. But the alums were not the stars at this event; the real star of the show was the new building, Miller Hall. The building is wildly ostentatious. Fireplaces? Climate-controlled study rooms? Leather sofas? Yep, it is nice. But amidst all these distractions is a real plan that involves the future of William and Mary as a premier learning institution.

Cut to the alumni brunch held on September 27th, during Parent's Weekend. At this brunch, President Reveley answered questions regarding the future of state funding to the school. His speech was short and to the point: there is no more funding coming. If anything, there will be less.



Bert Mueller
Executive Editor

He stated that we will have to fend for ourselves and that, generally speaking, we should think of ourselves as self-sufficient, i.e. private. That begs the question, where then should the school go for alternate funds? Easy answer: Wall Street.

Although this may seem laughable at the current time, in the long-term, this makes perfect sense. The market will not tank forever. The administration made an investment in the new business school because it believes that this is where the College can make up for lost financial ground. There aren't many alternate sources of funding, and rich Wall Street alumni could provide a steady stream of income to school if donor relations are well cultivated. Moreover, strengthening the department will help students who will in turn help the school. It's a nice symbiotic

relationship.

Yes, other departments are crying foul over the extravagances. Yes, the school is blatantly suckling at the teat of Wall Street. But really, until sociology majors start bringing home the bacon, it probably doesn't matter too much to the powers that be. On a side note, perhaps the school should consider building a new government building, next on the agenda. Morton really isn't cutting it and we don't want spiteful government majors working to regulate these new enterprising business majors out of existence...

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

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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 Assembly holds election, funds STI testing

Sarah Nadler
Managing Editor

The end of September was a busy time for the Student Assembly. A bill allocating \$13,000 from the SA's consolidated reserve to fund STI testing passed during the Senate's September 29 meeting. Students who visit the Student Health Center will now be able to receive testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections for free. Sponsors of the bill intend to put a referendum question on the Spring Student Assembly ballot to ask students whether they would like to increase their annual student fees to pay for continued testing. Monthly invoices from the Health Center and Sentara Hospital for STI testing will be paid through the current allocation.

Freshmen SA elections were held on October 1. All other undergraduate classes also voted in the election, though competition was sparse to fill the various class officer positions. The election

experienced a setback when the school's email server prevented a mass email sent by polling service eBallot from reaching many students. The issue was resolved before noon on the day of voting and voting hours were extended from 8pm to 10pm to compensate for the glitch. By the end of the night all positions were filled by new representatives, who celebrated with current SA members at the Library Tavern, following a traditional "kidnapping" of freshmen victors by their upperclass counterparts.

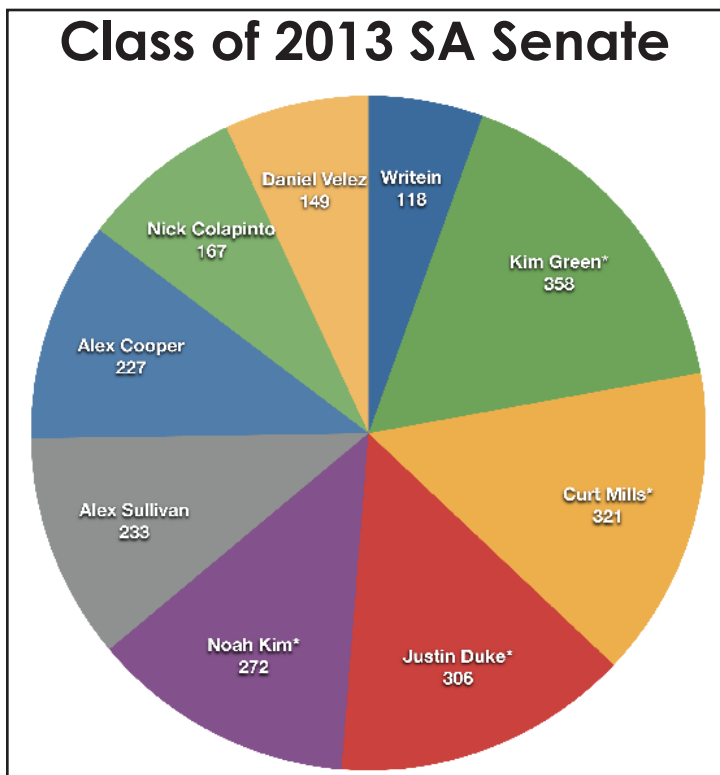
One referendum question was also voted on by underclassmen, requesting student input on reform of the Honor Council's nominating committee. The nominating committee has the power to exclude candidates from running for the Council. By a resounding 38-point margin students indicated their preference for the committee to reach a unanimous decision before removing candidates, rather than continue using a 4/5 majority.



Alec McKinley

Student Assembly election results

All data courtesy of TheStudentAssembly.org/vote



Position	Candidate	# of	% of Total
Class of 2012 VP of Social Affairs	Topher Fond	115	34.5%
	Jessica Pierson	112	33.6%
	Thomas Rogers	78	23.4%
	Write-in	28	8.4%
Class of 2011 VP for Advocacy	Erin Mee	183	62.7%
	Chris Valeska	83	28.4%
	Write-in	26	8.9%
Class of 2010 Secretary	Mireille Sharp	187	82.7%
	Write-in	39	17.3%

