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# THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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An independent publication at the College of William and Mary.

2008 Collegiate Network Paper of the Year

## \$120,000 lost to taxpayers in anti-student redevelopment

*Documents reveal losses on 110 Harrison Avenue*

**Curt Mills**  
Staff Writer

In an era of mounting federal budget deficits, it is often easy for Americans to identify examples of fiscal waste at the national level. Some residents of Williamsburg, however, contend that their own city government is a rather egregious example of wasteful spending.

Since early 2006, the city has lost approximately \$120,000 of taxpayer money in a seemingly-bungled purchase, renovation, and subsequent resale of a Harrison Avenue home, an action that, according to some, was meant to deny a potential off-campus housing location to William and Mary students.

Critics allege that not only has the deal been immensely wasteful, but that corruption on the part of city officials may have led to the deal.

In 2005, 110 Harrison Avenue was a residence available to rent, both for students and non-students alike, but was traditionally inhabited by students. In early 2006, David Kranbuehl, a chemistry professor at the College and the president of the Home Owners' Association of West Williamsburg Heights entered into contract to purchase the property for \$277,005, roughly \$129,305 above the assessed value of the property. He then assigned the rights of the contract to the Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (WRHA). Both transactions have yet to be fully explained and have been subject

**TAXPAYER MONEY LOST ON HOUSE**  
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Alec McKinley

**Nearly unanimous:** Members of the Honor Council voted almost unanimously against a change supported by seventy percent of the student body.

## Honor Council refuses to honor student vote

**Steven Nelson**  
Editor in Chief

The Honor Council rejected at its October 25 meeting a proposal to alter the organization's by-laws. The proposal was to change the number of members of the nominating committee needed to reject a student candidate from four-fifths to unanimous. Although seventy percent of student voters supported the change when it was voted on in a referendum on October 1, only three of the twenty-four members of the Council voted for the change.

Prior to the vote, members of the Council debated the utility of the change, which was presented by member Eric Robinson ('12). Mr. Robinson reported that the Rules committee had discussed the proposal over the previous week. The nominating committee is a five member group comprised of two non-returning members of the Council, one representative of the Dean of Students office, one at-large faculty member, and one at-large student. The committee has the

**HONOR COUNCIL REFUSES REFERENDUM**  
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## Former BOV member attacks Norment's employment

**Mason Watson**  
Editor at Large

Government and law professor Tommy Norment has recently come under scrutiny for his dual employment at the College of William and Mary and in Richmond, where he serves as a Virginia state senator. Mr. Norment, who has been a member of the House of Delegates since 1992, joined the William and Mary faculty in the summer of 2008. He receives \$160,000 annually for his work at the College. As a member of the Virginia senate finance committee, Mr. Norment has sponsored a bill allocating nearly \$20 million to the College.

In addition to his four-credit course load, Mr. Norment also provides legal advice to the College administration, though the extent of his duties as a legal advisor is unclear. William and Mary president Taylor Reveley has defended his decision to employ Mr. Norment, saying that the state senator has a real and important function at the College. "The work Senator Norment

does as a William & Mary employee is substantive and demanding," Mr. Reveley said in a press release. "From the beginning of his time at William & Mary, the Senator has provided me with legal counsel," he added. "He continues to do so while also now working closely with our Coordinator of Legal Affairs."

Former Board of Visitors member Paul Jost, however, is severely critical of Mr. Norment's employment by the College. "It's bad," he said. "There are all kinds of things that are bad about it." Mr. Jost ran in a closely contested campaign for state senate in 2003, but he was ultimately defeated by Mr. Norment in the Republican primary.

Mr. Jost suspects that Mr. Norment took the teaching position at the College as a way of increasing his pension. Pensions in Virginia are based on an employee's three consecutive highest-paid years of employment. By accepting employment at William and Mary, Mr. Norment has increased his state salary by \$160,000, to a total of \$178,000. Mr. Norment has denied that the increase in his pension played an important role in his decision to take the job.

Mr. Jost also believes that Mr. Norment's salary of \$160,000 per year from the College is unusually high. "A full professor with tenure in the government department makes \$110,000 per year," Mr. Jost said.

Regardless of the role that Mr. Norment may play as a legal advisor, Mr. Jost holds that it is unnecessary for the College to employ any more legal counselors. "Does the College really need another lawyer when we have all these folks at the Attorney General's office who are for the most part prime lawyers?"

Brian Whitson, a representative of the College's office of University Relations, has defended Mr. Norment's employment. "Senator Norment has provided valuable counsel to the president's office on many occasions in his role as a legal advisor," Mr. Whitson said. It is unknown, however, how many times Mr. Norment has actually met with the administration. "It's not the sort of the thing we keep record of," Mr. Whitson said, "and even if we did, discussions and working papers between the president and his advisors are not the sort of information we distribute."

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# Green Leafe Underground to open by year's end

## Bar plans to target students offering a 'cosmopolitan' feel

Hart Moore  
News Editor

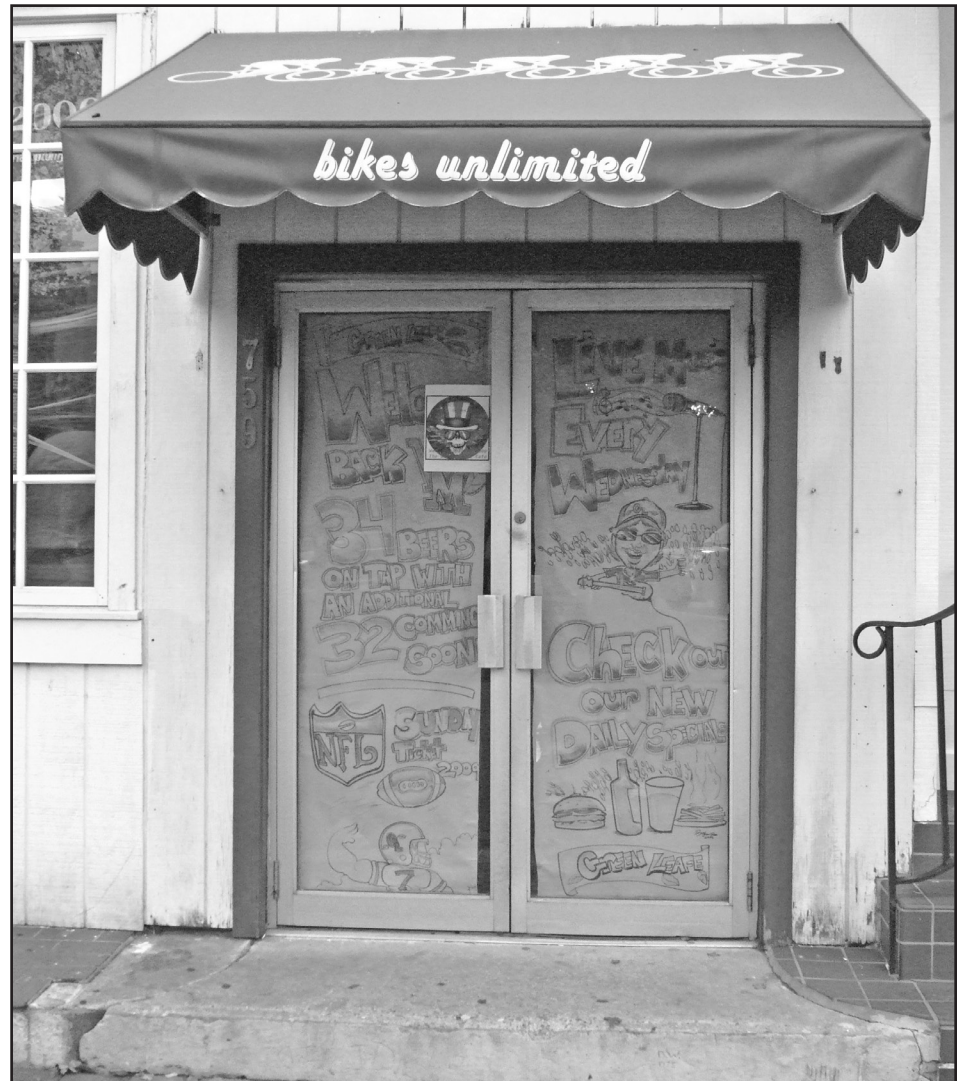
Students eagerly anticipating the opening of the "Green Leafe Underground" may not have much longer to wait. According to Tony Wilson, manager of the Green Leafe Café, the bar hopes to open their doors no later than December of this year.

Late last year, Green Leafe Café co-owner Lindsey Gormely announced her intentions to convert "Bikes Unlimited" (the bike shop directly right of the Green Leafe) into a nightclub of sorts. The underground bar is planning to cater specifically to students, and advertizes a 'cosmopolitan' vibe which Gormely hopes will accommodate students looking for a classy dinner local, as well as clubbers after 10 pm. The opening of the club is much awaited by the student body because it will add another option to the limited night life of Williamsburg. It will also be the only club in walking distance of campus. Gormely also encourages fraternities, sororities, and other campus organizations to consider this new venue for date functions and formals. The Underground was initially scheduled to open in the fall of 2009. Wilson acknowledges that the recession had a minor role in de-

laying the bar's opening, but insists that the Green Leafe has weathered the fiscal crisis better than most establishments, due to its immediate proximity to campus. The Green Leafe resumed construction of the underground bar last Wednesday. However, Wilson admitted that the City of Williamsburg has presented a larger hurdle than construction. Without approval from the City Council, the bar will be unable to open their doors, and Wilson concedes, "When we first submitted plans to the City, they were obviously not happy with a nightclub opening within their city limits."

The Green Leafe Underground has also been working closely with the College Music Department in allowing student access to its state of the art sound system. The bar plans on featuring a stage, and Wilson hopes that student bands will play an active role in the bar's music scene.

The Green Leafe Underground plans on catering more fully to students because, Wilson notes, "When it comes to bars near campus, students have the bigger impact." The Underground's bar will seat 20, which is larger than the café's bar upstairs. Student-influenced programming is in the works and there are also plans for one underage night per week.



Alec McKinley

**Debauchery downstairs:** Plans for the Green Leafe Underground, a "cosmopolitan" restaurant and club, were released last fall. The new student friendly night time venue will open in December despite delays from the city.

## Briefly...

Compiled by Michael Young, Editor at Large

### City of Williamsburg gets Twitter account

The city of Williamsburg has joined 21<sup>st</sup> century, as a colonial settlement in a digital age, and has begun tweeting its latest news, events, and various functions on the social networking site twitter, which the city hopes will be able to broaden its ability to reach residents. The city's account is at [twitter.com/WilliamsburgGov](http://twitter.com/WilliamsburgGov), and the city is encouraging all residents of Williamsburg to begin following for updates. Eventually the city hopes that the twitter account can be used for bill reminders and crisis communication also. This would greatly improve the ability of the city to communicate with its residents because Twitter can be accessed easier than e-mail for many people, according to the city.

### Duke Of Gloucester one of America's 'best streets'

DoG Street has been named one of America's 10 great streets by the American Planning Association. At 9am on October 31, 2009 there was a brief ceremony during the last farmer's market of the year on DoG street, according to the City of Williamsburg to commemorate this honor. "APA singled out Duke of Gloucester Street for its unique ability to evoke the past at the same time it maintains a lively mix of modern-day uses," according to the city. CEO of Colonial Williamsburg Colin Campbell and College President Taylor Reveley were present to receive the award from the former president of the American Planning Association, Robert Hunter.

### Jessee Vasold named homecoming queen

The college elected its first transgender homecoming queen during the homecoming festivities last weekend. Jessee Vasold (11) accepted the honor on the football

field during halftime. The school garnered some publicity from both the *Washington Post* and the O'Reilly Factor on Fox News Channel. The campus community stood behind their choice for junior class queen, and has not backed away from the controversy that this event has spurred. When asked to comment for the O'Reilly Factor the College Republicans, Young Democrats, and Lambda Alliance all refused.

### VIMS involved in oil spill drill

On October 28 the Virginia Institute of Marine Science participated in a drill in the York River that was meant to simulate a possible oil spill scenario. In cooperation with a myriad of federal and state agencies, the respondents simulated various scenarios that could be conceivable. During the daylong drill the response communication, equipment, and other plans were all tested in the name of improvement for a possible future response because of the risk posed by significant shipping traffic and the naval station's reserves. The VIMS operational staff used the opportunity to test their oil containment booms, which are essential in limiting the scope of damage that oil spills can cause.

## THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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Founders

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

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The Virginia Informer  
CSU 7056, P.O. Box 8793  
Williamsburg, VA 23186  
[editor@vainformer.com](mailto:editor@vainformer.com)  
[www.VAInformer.com](http://www.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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# HONOR COUNCIL REFUSES REFERENDUM:

## Rejection against majority of student vote

continued from page one

power to remove student candidates from running for the Council. Proponents of the reform suggested that a unanimous decision would empower the one at-large student representative.

Brian Focarino ('11) said that he supported the current requirement of a four-fifths majority to reject a student. "Eighty percent already seems to be quite substantial," said Mr. Focarino. Chase Hathaway ('10) clarified the composition of the nominating committee is not primarily made up of Honor Council members and said, "it's not like it's the Council." Dean Gilbert is one member of the nominating committee.

John Donehey ('10) suggested that all five members of the committee should need to vote in favor of allowing a student to run, the exact opposite of the proposal passed by 70% of voters in the student referendum.

Andy Rudd ('11) was most vocally in favor of adopting the change. He said, "I think it would be irresponsible for us not to move forward with this." Honor Council Chair Bailey Thomson ('10) said, "we do have bigger fish to fry" but insisted that the change was worth debating. Mr. Rudd responded that the referendum results were clear: "It was a very large landslide."

Dimelza Gonzales-Flores ('12) shared that she would favor a mid-

dle-ground approach to reforming the nominating committee, but said "if we don't do something about this right now, we may have bigger issues."

John Pothen ('11) motioned for the Council to vote on the proposed changes, a motion passed by a majority of members.

Student Assembly Senator Erik Houser ('10), one of many Student Assembly members present for the meeting, made a statement prior to the vote. He encouraged members to support the change, saying, "I would urge everyone to not think how Will Perkins is thinking when voting." Mr. Houser quoted a statement made by the Council's Student Assembly liaison Will Perkins ('11) to the SA Senate's Policy Committee indicating that he would oppose the change due to personal offense taken at external reform efforts.

Only three members of the Council voted in favor of the referendum's proposal. Mr. Rudd, Mr. Pothen, and Michael Vereb ('12) voted for the change. Ms. Thomson, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Donehey, and Mr. Hathaway abstained. All other members voted no, defeating the measure by an overwhelming majority.

A "compromise" measure is expected to be under future consideration by the Council. It would increase the number of at-large students on the nominating committee from one to two and alter the majority required to remove a student to five-sixths.

## Look who's reading *The Informer*!



**Ross  
Gillingham  
reads it,  
so should  
you!!**



file photo

## TAXPAYER MONEY LOST ON HOUSE: Government-owned house on Harrison Ave yields loss

continued from page one

to much speculation and theories of greater conspiracy.

The WHRA then proceeded to extensively renovate it, in hopes of reselling it for a net profit to a new, non-student permanent owner. The primary renovation was changing the property from a duplex to a single-family home.

In all, as of January 2009, the City had spent about \$420,000 on the purchase and renovation of the property. This number, however, does not include lost interest and other undisclosed expenses. According to figures from Phil Cerra, Williamsburg City Director of Finance, if one takes into account lost interest, the number jumps from \$40,000 to approximately \$459,400. In addition, it is estimated that the city spent an additional \$1,000 on various undisclosed expenses. Thus, in total, it appears the City spent approximately \$460,400 on this property.

Despite its best efforts, the WHRA was only able to sell the property for a final price of \$340,000, costing taxpayers a total of \$120,000. The new owners ended up being College faculty – Jonathan Glasser (Anthropology) and Kathrin Levitan (History).

Local landlord Gary Shelly, after questioning the intentions of the above contract reassignment, submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for documents pertaining to the acquisition. Mr. Shelly has lived in Williamsburg for decades and is a graduate of the College.

Mr. Shelly asserts that the documents demonstrate a clear pattern of ques-

tionable behavior on the part of Williamsburg officials. According to Mr. Shelly, the Williamsburg City Council never really allowed the public an opportunity to discuss the purchase; it did not include it in its March 9, 2006 agenda, nor in subsequent agendas. Mr. Shelly notes that the Council never divulged that the WHRA would be purchasing the Assignment of Contract from Mr. Kranbuehl instead of the previous owner, a distinction that he believes is very important.

Mr. Shelly further claims the FOIA documents confirm that neither an appraisal nor an inspection was done prior to the purchase. Mr. Shelly asserts that anyone with cursory knowledge of the real estate industry would be aghast to learn that these were not conducted.

In all, Mr. Shelly believes that Williamsburg's largest offense in the affair is that they "exploited" an "unsuspecting public." To Mr. Shelly, it was clear to everyone from the beginning that Williamsburg had purchased a "toxic asset" and violated the people's trust. "It's just outrageous that they did this... it just smelled bad from the beginning, everyone knew it smelled bad," he said.

Williamsburg has seemingly struggled to justify this publicly. Members of the City Council defend the purchase as part of a larger plan to protect a "fragile and threatened" area. Their apparent rationale is that homes in Williamsburg are really old and historic and thus should not be rented out, especially to tenants that could abuse them.

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## Inside Islam contests common stereotypes about Muslims

**Brittany Lane**  
Features Editor

Last Tuesday evening, in a packed Andrews 101, the documentary *Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think* premiered. Alum John Musselman '03 introduced the documentary, which presents data gathered from the first and most extensive major opinion poll of Muslims worldwide conducted by Gallup. Musselman currently works for the Institute for Global Engagement and is the Project Administrator for Search for Common Ground-USA. He is also pursuing his master's degree from Georgetown.

The data was gathered shortly after 9/11 and seeks to refute common stereotypes and misconceptions of Muslims and Islam as a whole. The film aims to present the data in an accessible and aesthetically engaging way. Several experts appear in the film, such as Georgetown professor John Esposito and Dalia Mogahed, Executive Director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies. They declare their mission to inform the public and act as a bridge between the U.S. and the Muslim world. With empirical data, they want to show that the two worlds have similar concerns and values.

Research directors in most of the Muslim-majority countries of the world interviewed people face-to-face in the

local language, observing local customs in order to build trust. They asked interviewees of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds questions, such as what they respected most about their own society, what they found lacking in their own development, what they did or did not respect about the West, the values they wished to teach their children, and general questions about marriage and relationships.

Once they gathered the data, they evaluated the responses under categories such as gender equality, religion, policy, and terrorism. In the film, Esposito stresses that the hard data should "speak for itself" in order to "deconstruct the cliché images" Westerners have of Muslims and vice versa.

For example, Muslims view Sharia as the rule of law much like the Bible represents core values for many Christians. While many non-Muslims think negatively of Sharia and associate it with the political doctrine of a "fringe minority" of extremists, Muslims see it as bestowing protections from God that no government can seize. The experts in the film note the role the media plays in exaggerating the population of those Muslims that resort to violence.

According to the data, most Muslims commend Western culture for our democratic ideals, liberties, and freedom of speech. However, they disagree largely

with American policy. As an example, the film presented the statistic that, according to data gathered in 2002, 3% of Kuwaitis held an unfavorable view of Canadian foreign policy, as opposed to 67% towards U.S. policies.

In regards to terrorism, the poll asked about the moral justifiability of such acts post-9/11. 7% of responders stated that the terrorist actions were completely justifiable, yet as Mogahed stated, not a single person justified their answer with a verse from the Quran. They fit the profile of a "revolutionary rather than a religious zealot." Furthermore, jihad contains positive connotations to Muslims, as they view it as an internal struggle for improvement. According to Mogahed, when we associate that term with terrorists, we give them "moral legitimacy they don't deserve."

In a film full of percentages and comparisons, the experts in "Inside Islam" stress the importance of understanding what the mainstream believes about their own faith and separating it from what the media portrays. They realize the data from the poll will not alter stereotypes overnight or even within the next few years. However, taking the time to learn about a culture viewed negatively and exposing such information to the public can dispel misunderstandings and steer foreign policy and relations in a more harmonious direction.

## Christian theologian speaks to College

**Jordan Bloom**  
Arts and Culture Editor

Ravi Zacharias, theologian, evangelist and defender of the rationality of the Christian faith, preached to a standing-room-only audience last Wednesday in the Sadler Center. The lecture, titled "Jesus Among Other Gods" was jointly sponsored by several campus ministries, including InterVarsity. A lecturer at Oxford and Cambridge and author of more than 20 books, Zacharias prefaced his sermon with an invitation to "question if what [I] say corresponds with the world as we can test it."



**ZACHARIAS**

Students and a remarkable number of community members packed into Chesapeake, crowding around the sides of the room and sitting on the floor. Many came from local churches, especially Williamsburg Community Chapel, where Zacharias spoke the day before.

He combined logic, history, and colloquial anecdotes to argue that Christianity offers the best answers to "life's big questions." Despite his philosophical bent, he spoke in the folksy aphorisms of a pastor.

He has earned headlining spots at Urbana and the Veritas forum—telling stories of his encounters with sheiks, diplomats and celebrities, always culminating in a spiritual lesson just a bit too pithy and poetic to feel real.

Zacharias sees his role as a "classical evangelist in the arena of the intellectually resistant," and explores answers to universal philosophical questions from a Christian point of view. When he speaks, he draws on a broad array of anecdotes, from Buddha's rejection of Hinduism's Vedas and the caste system—this one to demonstrate that all religions aren't essentially the same—to the United Nations. It has the effect of bringing the full gravity of world history behind his arguments.

Zacharias was especially critical of post-modern and atheistic thought, stressing the "unmitigated hubris" of writers like Richard Dawkins; he contended that an unquestioned atheistic framework was irrational and far less complete in its philosophical answers. Dawkins himself acknowledges a lack of a satisfying answer to the origin of life, sexuality, morality, and consciousness.

Zacharias argued for the reality of evil, citing some of the most extreme and detestable examples of humanity, such as Stalinist Russia and the Southeast Asian child sex trade, as violating an essential human purpose, fulfilled and defined, he argued, by a Christian God.

Raised in India, Zacharias experienced a spiritual awakening when he was 17 and suicidal. On his hospital bed, he vowed to change the course of his life and devote the remainder of it to exploring the Christian worldview. Since then, he has become one of the world's most visible and well-regarded apologists, speaking at the National Day of Prayer and at Virginia Tech in the wake of the 2007 shootings. Most recently, Zacharias published a book consisting of a series of hypothetical conversations between Jesus and Krishna. He exited Wednesday night to two successive standing ovations.

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## Blame It on the Alcohol Strawberry beer brings best of both worlds

I have blacklisted both Trader Joes and Bloom for the time being since I have yet to find any beers there that really wow me. For this reason, I decided to head to Fresh Market for this issue's featured beer. Fresh Market's beer selection isn't by any means extensive – it's just a small refrigerated section of wall space to the far left side of the store – but there are a few local beers and microbrews that make the trip semi-worthwhile.



**Kathryn Failon**  
Beer Columnist

Another interesting perk of Fresh Market is that you can make your own six-pack, which I initially planned to do. I soon realized, however, that most of the individual beers that I had to choose from to customize my six-pack were standard U.S. beers and imports.

The more that I thought about it, the stranger it began to seem that anyone would purposely buy and then drink such different beers. I will admit to sometimes scavenging my refrigerator after midnight, when the stores are no longer selling alcohol, and downing a Milwaukee's Best after first drinking a Stella Artois. Desperate times often call for desperate measures. Deliberately drinking a beer whose primary function is filling beer pong cups after finishing one that is meant to be enjoyed, is a criminal act...



not to mention dissatisfying. I may have slightly exaggerated the implications of creating one's own six-pack, but it really isn't that appealing to me. I would rather have six of one type of beer so that I can share it with friends and be able to form a concrete review. This would not be possible if I had six different beers.

Needless to say, I opted out of the make-your-own option. It also costs \$8.99, which, in my opinion, is a little steep. Just as I was starting to get discouraged with my ability to find a good beer, the stars aligned and I discovered Pete's Wicked Strawberry Blonde. Pete's is a very drinkable and light golden lager with a pleasant kick of strawberry flavor.

It's not at all the kind of beer that will put hair on your chest or that the average frat guy would buy in bulk for Saturday's tailgating festivities, but I would go as far to say that people who "don't like beer" (one of my housemates) and seasoned drinkers would both enjoy Pete's.

Pete's strikes the perfect balance between the beer and fruit aspects, which together work to create a refreshing and flavorful combination. The strawberry is not so powerful that it detracts from the beer, but it's also not so subtle that you can't taste it. Although Pete's is a fruit beer, it is not a *fruity* beer. One should not be embarrassed for liking it, nor should it be considered a "girly beer." The strawberry flavor in Pete's does not hog the spotlight or else it would akin to a wine cooler. Pete's Wicked Strawberry Blonde is overall a casual and affordable beer that I highly recommend trying.

## Unrestricted administrator bank accounts provide funding alternatives *One administrator debunks "slush fund" perception*

**Steven Nelson**  
Editor in Chief

According to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Mark Constantine, many senior administrators at the College have special, unrestricted bank accounts. These accounts are referred to by administrators as "8" accounts because they begin with that number.

Money is deposited into these accounts from vending machine proceeds. The College currently contacts its vending services to Coca Cola. Mr. Constantine says that the amount of money in his office's "8" account is typically around \$11,000 to \$12,000 a year. Other offices with such accounts include Residence Life, the Vice President's office, the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the Provost's office, according to Mr. Constantine.

In an interview with *The Informer*, Mr. Constantine said that these funds are not as restricted as those provided by the state. They are discretionary and intended to enhance the effectiveness of various offices and organizations. Student organizations may request funding from administrators with unrestricted "8" accounts.

The amount of money given to groups, and the rationale for the giving, is determined by offices with these accounts. Some examples Mr. Constantine provided included providing money

for student conferences, start up funds for student organizations, and money to put on special events. The funds can also be used for staff development, according to Mr. Constantine, as the account is "unrestricted."

One notable use of the account managed by Mr. Constantine's office was providing money for an MBA program's softball trip to the University of Virginia, which he noted was done to increase students' ability to participate without financial burden. Another use was giving around \$400 or \$500 to a law

student group so that they could attend a conference that did not fit strict conference-defining guidelines that regulated other potential sources of funding.

The "8" account managed by Mr. Constantine's office has been pejoratively referred to as his "slush fund" by students aware of this source of money. Mr. Constantine told *The Informer* that students often write proposals for funding from the account, and that receipts are required for reimbursement by his office. There is "no blank check" given to recipients of funding, which may disappoint those who consider requesting money from unrestricted "8" accounts.

*Editor's note: The Informer interviewed Mark Constantine in April, 2009.*



**CONSTANTINE**

## CafMan's Mailbox

**HELLO**  
my name is

Larry  
"CafMan"  
Smith



The food has made me as jumpy as a nervous shrew...  
Thank you!  
Student

Thanks for the comment. Um um um  
Have a nice day,  
LS  
Thurs, October 29

The turkey soup was awful!!!  
Where the 1000 Island dressing at? And the Reese Puffs!  
Talk to me  
Student

Thanks for the comment. The thousand Island has been on the salad bar since Tuesday. Reese puffs we will get  
Thanks, LS  
Thurs, October 29

# October Student Opinions

## Students divided on attitude towards Williamsburg city government, want student candidate elected

*More oppose than agree with three person housing ordinance by nine to one margin*

**Andrew Blasi**  
Editor at Large

As the Williamsburg City Council grapples with proposed reforms to the three person housing ordinance, just over half of the on-campus student body, 52%, say they hold a positive attitude towards Williamsburg city government; 44.7% hold a negative attitude. Students living on-campus oppose the three person housing ordinance by over a margin of nine to one, with 57.1% in disagreement and 6% in agreement. 36.9% of respondents did not care or did not know enough about the ordinance to render an opinion. Those with a positive attitude toward Williamsburg city government varied significantly between social classes, with 75.3% of freshman, 47.2% of sophomores, 39.2% of juniors, and 31.3% of seniors holding a positive attitude.

On-campus student opinion regarding the city's sound ordinance is more evenly divided than the three-person housing ordinance – 36.5% agree with the measure while 42.1% disagree. 21.5% of respondents did not care or did not know enough about the ordinance to render an opinion.

Notably, the desire to see one of their

own serve on the Williamsburg City Council is significant – 77.7% of students say they believe a student candidate should be elected. Corresponding with this response, 61.4% of respondents said that their interests are very unrepresented or somewhat unrepresented in the current City Council. Similar to the results measuring attitude towards Williamsburg city government, the freshman social class believes student interests are better represented than older social classes – 50.6% of freshman, 28.3% of sophomores, 21.6% of juniors, and 10.4% of seniors believe that their interests are currently very well or somewhat well represented.

58.8% of students believe the College administration should be involved or somewhat involved in the current three person and sound ordinance debates while 33.1% believe they should be uninvolved or somewhat uninvolved.

In addition, when students were asked if they find the William and Mary Police Department to be lenient or harsh, the results clearly favored leniency – 76.3% said they believe the campus police to be overly lenient or somewhat lenient while 22.3% said they believe them to be overly harsh or

somewhat harsh.

The survey data includes the opinions of 233 students, roughly 5.5% of the entire on-campus student population at William and Mary, and utilizes the appropriate survey methodology to obtain an accurate cross-section of the entire on-campus student body.

### Survey Methodology

*The Virginia Informer* collects data for its survey research using a face-to-face polling methodology. The sample selection and collection process mirrors the procedures employed by major polling firms as well as the William and Mary Department of Government to ensure true accuracy of the results. Students who participated in this survey were randomly selected on a multitude of levels to make certain that the sample reflects the overall on-campus population of the College. Off-campus students were not included in this survey because it is extremely difficult to do so while obtaining truly accurate results. *The Virginia Informer* is seeking broader data sources to change this circumstance for our next survey.

### Survey Respondent Breakdown

**Survey Date:**

October 26-31, 2009

**Gender:**

Male - 101 (43.3%)  
Female - 132 (56.7%)

**Social Class:**

Freshman - 81 (34.8%)  
Sophomore - 53 (22.7%)  
Junior - 51 (21.9%)  
Senior - 48 (20.6%)

Survey Contributors: Jordan Bloom, Will Clements, TD Crowley, Hart Moore, Bert Mueller, Sarah Nadler, TJ O'Sullivan, Alexander Powell, Mason Watson, Michael Young

### Attitude towards Williamsburg City Government by social class

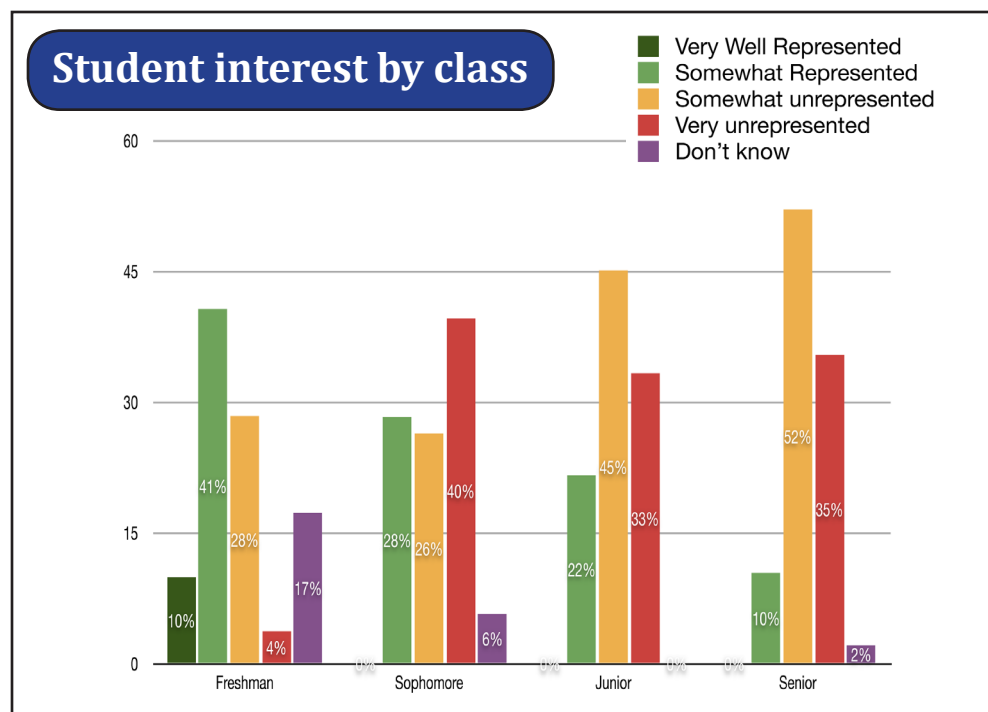
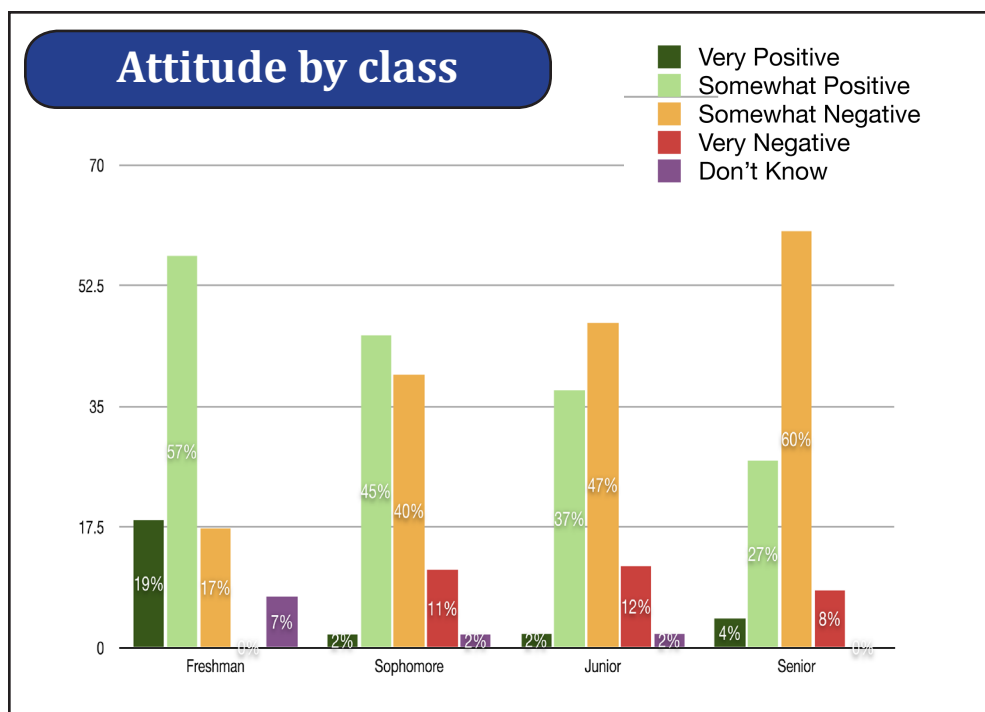
Question: Do you hold a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative attitude towards Williamsburg city government?

Social Class	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know
<b>Freshman Class:</b>	18.5%	56.8%	17.3%	0%	7.4%
<b>Junior Class:</b>	2%	37.3%	47.1%	11.8%	2%
<b>Sophomore Class:</b>	1.9%	45.3%	39.6%	11.3%	1.9%
<b>Senior Class:</b>	4.2%	27.1%	60.4%	8.3%	0%

### Student interest represented in City Council by social class

Question: Are student interests very well represented, somewhat represented, somewhat unrepresented or very unrepresented in the current City Council?

Social Class	Very Well Represented	Somewhat Represented	Somewhat unrepresented	Very unrepresented	Don't know
<b>Freshman Class:</b>	9.9%	40.7%	28.4%	3.7%	17.3%
<b>Junior Class:</b>	0%	21.6%	45.1%	33.3%	0%
<b>Sophomore Class:</b>	0%	28.3%	26.4%	39.6%	5.7%
<b>Senior Class:</b>	0%	10.4%	52.1%	35.4%	2.1%



# Opinion Survey Results

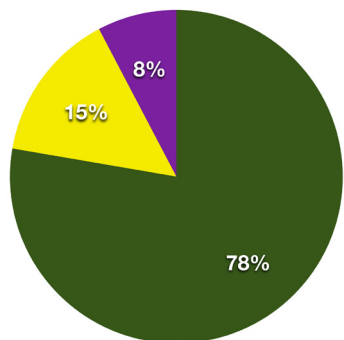
## Do you believe a student should be elected to the Williamsburg City Council?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Care or Don't Know

**Yes** 77.7%

**No** 14.6%

**Don't Care/ Don't Know** 7.7%



## Do you find the campus police to be overly lenient, somewhat lenient, somewhat harsh or overly harsh at the College?

- Overly Lenient
- Somewhat Lenient
- Overly Harsh
- Somewhat Harsh

**Lenient** 76.3%

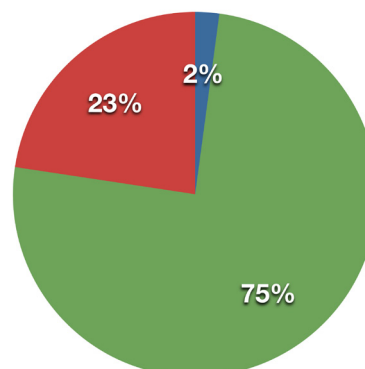
**Overly** 2.1%

**Somewhat** 74.2%

**Harsh** 22.3%

**Overly** 0%

**Somewhat** 22.3%



## Do you agree, disagree, or don't care about the current three person housing ordinance?

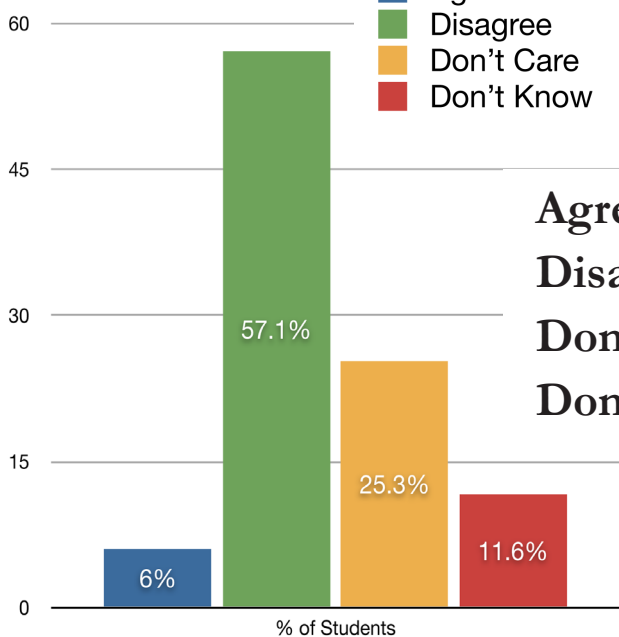
- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't Care
- Don't Know

**Agree** 6%

**Disagree** 57.1%

**Don't Care** 25.3%

**Don't Know** 11.6%



## Do you agree, disagree, or don't care about the current city sound ordinance?

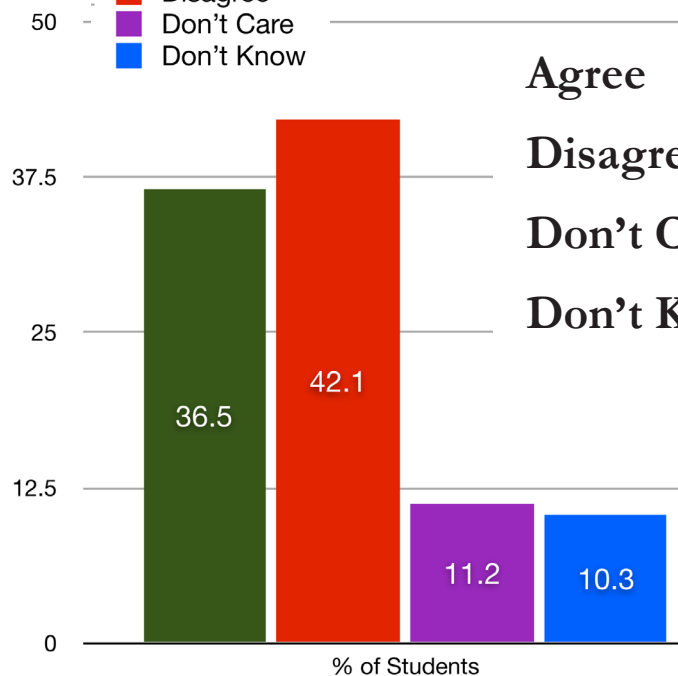
- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't Care
- Don't Know

**Agree** 36.5%

**Disagree** 42.1%

**Don't Care** 11.2%

**Don't Know** 10.3%



## Behind the numbers...

**Sarah Nadler**  
Managing Editor

The questions posed in The Virginia Informer's October survey were based upon the following issue areas:

### The Housing Ordinance

A current housing ordinance in the City of Williamsburg makes it illegal for more than three unrelated residents to live in the same rental property regardless of its size, number of bedrooms, or age of the inhabitants. The definition of 'family' in the Zoning Ordinance regulates the number of unrelated persons that can live in a dwelling unit. This ordinance is commonly referred to as the 'three person rule.' There was no limitation in the City's original 1947 Zoning Ordinance, and was amended in 1983 by establishing a four-person limit. The three-person limit was created as a part of the complete revision of the city's zoning ordinance in 1991. The ordinance has driven up the cost of living

off-campus for students and is especially relevant given that approximately 200 students are bumped from on-campus housing each year.

### The Sound Ordinance

In an April 17, 2009 decision, the Virginia Supreme court struck down the City of Virginia Beach's noise control law which defined excessive noise as sound that would "offend a reasonable person." The Court's decision in Tanner, et al. vs. City of Virginia Beach found Virginia Beach's noise ordinance too subjective, so amendments were necessary. Since the City of Williamsburg used the same vague "reasonable person" standard as Virginia Beach, the law in Williamsburg had to be changed as well. Williamsburg's sound ordinance moved to a decibel standard in order to be more objective. The ordinance now prohibits sounds in excess of 55 decibels from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. The "large party nuisance" component of the ordinance should be of particular interest

to students, as the ordinance prohibits "plainly audible sound that continues unabated for thirty (30) minutes or more, and emanates from a gathering of ten (10) or more people where the gathering is not completely contained within a structure." Students caught in violation of the ordinance face fines of \$300 or more, class 2 misdemeanors, administrative discipline, and court fees.

### Campus Police

In recent years the William and Mary Police Department (WMPD) has made a concerted effort to improve relations with the student body. The department had been criticized for perceived overzealous, or "harsh," enforcement of the noise ordinance, underage possession of alcohol, drunk in public, and other policies. The WMPD is funded primarily through student tuition, but operates as a police force in its own right with full powers accorded to other police forces. During the Spring 2009 semester, members of the Williamsburg Police De-

partment tasered an underage student outside of the Green Leafe for being uncooperative and resisting arrest. William and Mary police do not carry Tasers, but are a visible presence on campus.

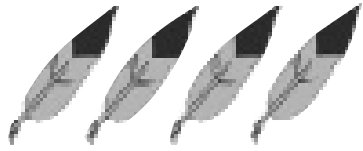
### Williamsburg City Council

The Williamsburg City Council is composed of five members elected at-large. Currently Jeanne Zeidler serves as mayor and Clyde Haulman serves as vice mayor. Paul Freiling, Robert Braxton and Judith Knudson also serve on the council. Most recently, the council is responsible for changes to the sound ordinance and the addition of the trolley to public transportation. Students registered to vote en masse in 2007 and since then the city has increased efforts to engage the student population and discuss town-gown issues. The past two students to run for the Williamsburg City Council, Matthew Beato (2008) and David Sievers (2006), lost in close election campaigns.

Book Review:

# Californication spinoff has rock 'n roll verve

Justin Duke  
Staff Writer



While *God Hates Us All* certainly was not written by *Californication*'s Hank Moody, it certainly exudes a great deal of his irrepressible, cynical verve.

*God Hates Us All* follows Hank Moody as he embarks on an adventure one part *Office Space*, one part *On the Road*, one part *Catcher in the Rye*. Trapped in a world that manages to contradict any possible con-jurations of Americana, the narrator finds himself a college dropout thrown into the not-so-tumultuous whirlwind of corporate drug traf-ficking.

The narrator isn't exactly content with his situation, thankfully, and he aspires to gain lodging in the Chelsea Hotel, the city's Village for self-endowed slackers. The majority of the book, then, is defined by his interactions with clientele and his (sometimes weak) attempts at social mobility, and particularly when these two goals become intertwined.

One might notice, the concept of being a slacker with aspiration is not alien to American culture. Still, the pervading tone of Moody's journey is surprisingly energetic and, well, not so moody. As we follow Moody across New York and into in Canada and the West Coast, we are exposed

## God Hates Us All: A Novel

Author: Hank Moody  
Pages: 208  
Publisher: Simon Spotlight Entertainment  
ISBN: 1416598235  
List price: \$15.00

to less wry cynicism and more good-natured enjoyment.

Thematically, the book chiefly explores (besides the obvious motif of the merits of self-medication) the idea of how our private and personal lives interact. As a go-between, Moody deals with what he presents as the raw form of his clients – you don't really hide that much from the person who gives you drugs, he posits.

Moody's interactions (which become very emblematic of the New Journalism style that he emulates so well) quickly get classified into ones that are 'sober' and ones that are laced with falsities, and the point that *God Hates Us All* argues so impressively is that the 'sober' interactions are so rarely made with sober people.

A problem with this idea of genuinity and sobriety is that it reveals that a lot of the heavy inspiration comes from oft-trodded sources. We can see this genuinity with significantly less aplomb in Salinger, and the style with more refinement (or, as Moody himself argues, 'stylistic endowment') in Ellis. And the novel's argument for genuinity and 'breaking away from the sheeple' is significantly undermined by essentially shoplifting its argument from the closest Beatnik thrift store.

Ultimately, the book is entirely derivative, owing its profit to its title and its style to Bret Easton Ellis. It shouldn't be discredited for this, however – like an episode of the series to which the book owes its context, it is an engaging and surprisingly optimistic ride.

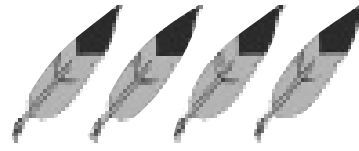


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Music Review:

# Lil' Wayne in top form for *No Ceilings*

Jack Evans  
Music Critic



Last month in Miami, Lil Wayne told MTV that he planned on going out as long as the "the studio don't swallow me." These words made me very happy. The studio is where Lil Wayne belongs—specifically, in the studio rapping. For a second we can all pretend that dreaded rock-crossover album doesn't exist and listen to *No Ceilings*.

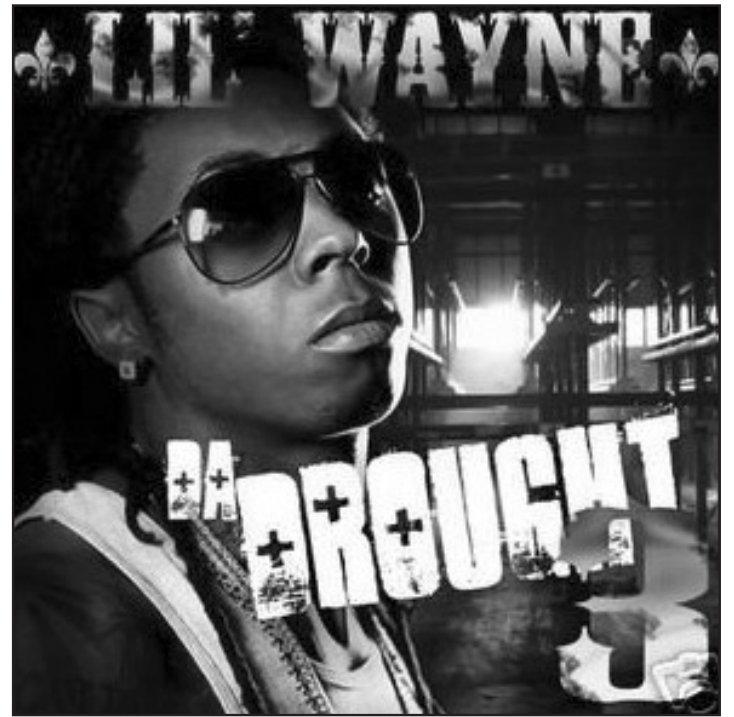
Like the 2007 masterpiece *Da Drought 3*, *No Ceilings* is a free mix-tape released on the internet in which Lil Wayne basically hijacks other rappers' beats, spewing out line after line of stoned, Freudian, stream-of-consciousness brilliance. It certainly isn't as good as *Da Drought 3*, but it's the respectable follow-up that some people have been waiting for since 2008's lukewarm *Tha Carter III*.

The bizarrely quotable punch lines are there ("You're local news I'm 60 minutes" and "I keep a house full call me Bob Saget), and Wayne just demolishes the two Jay-Z tracks, "D.O.A" and "Run this Town," like he previously did with "Show Me What You Got."

Even horrid top 40 like Black Eyed Peas "I Gotta Feeling" and Kid Cudi's "Poker Her Face" somehow become tolerable.

But as on *Da Drought 3*, Lil Wayne's greatest strength is his attention to detail and vivid storytelling. In these seventeen tracks, the listener can really get a sense of who Lil Wayne is as a person, what his life is like, and how he thinks. Case in point: "Throw it in the Bag (Remix)," Wayne's relationship testimonial about shopping with his girlfriend. He casually drops these relatable details like the "L'Oréal all around the bathroom sink" or how he "bought her ass a Mac now we be iChattin." As opposed to other gangsta rappers, Wayne has never had problem stepping out of his hardened street persona to address the mundane and everyday.

So if you want it to be, *No Ceilings* is a warm, welcome reassurance that Lil Wayne is still on top of his game and still the self-proclaimed "best rapper alive."



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The Informer is the only paper at William and Mary that is 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 at 7:30pm**  
**Blow 331**



The Finer Side:

# A Tale of Two Letters

It is the best of times, it is the worst of times. We live in a society today where communication is instant. Too many people think emotions can be more easily read through a colon and end parenthesis than by the body language of a real person. Our generation is more comfortable behind a computer screen than a dining table. And while today's technological advances help keep us better connected, they also pull us further apart. We may know how to network with others on Facebook, but that won't help us when we're standing at a reception in a room full of real people.



**Jennifer Souers**  
The Finer Side

So how do we live in a world of technology, yet still maintain the social graces that make us "social creatures?" The trick is to find a balance. Technology, when used in conjunction with other social practices, can foster communication.

There is no doubt that Facebook has helped keep us connected to people we may not otherwise stay in touch with. But it should not be a replacement for other forms of communication. Emails take the place of handwritten letters far too often. The problem with solely relying on electronic forms of communication is that it takes the personal level out of interactions. Emailing someone isn't the same as talking to them in person. And too often, we say things in an email or a Facebook message that we would never say in person because we don't have to look the person in the eye.

Keeping things personal in communication isn't only for your friends and family, but for your professional life as well. Many employers and career counselors stress the importance of thanking people you interview with after the actual interview. Believe it or not, a handwritten thank you note can actually be the difference between getting the job or not! Send a handwritten thank you note – not an email! – no later than two days after the actual interview. This tells your hopeful future employer that you care about the job, you appreciate the time they took to talk with you, and that you know

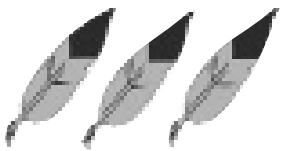
how to be gracious and courteous. It reinforces a positive lasting impression and will keep your name in the front of an employer's mind. Also remember to send out thank you notes after receiving a scholarship or grant, attending a dinner, or meeting someone at a reception.

Those personal touches are important in your private life too. Instead of dashing off a quick email to your parents as you head out to class, call them later when you have time. Send a handwritten note to a family member. Send out Christmas cards to family members you haven't seen in a while. And when you're at those holiday dinners and parties with older family members, remember don't text and talk. Not everyone understands how normal it is for us college students to text someone else in the middle of a conversation.

Technology is a wonderful thing and helps us stay connected with people we otherwise may not. But don't let it become your only means of communication. Remember that an email is never a satisfying substitute for personal interaction.

## Orchesis offers modern charms and perplexities

**Alexander Powell**  
Opinion Editor



I must preface this article with the disclaimer that I do not "get" modern dance. I know about dance in general but as an art form, I often find myself scratching my head. With that in mind, let the article commence.

The first dance of the show was an improvised dance with a jukebox feel, with various songs coming in and the dancers dancing to them until the next song jumped in without warning. The dancers then took the feel of that new number. This dance was one of the more enjoyable ones of the show, as the obvious fun the dancers were having was infectious. It was hard not to smile watching them dance to "Jesse's Girl" or "Macarena."

After this was a faculty piece called "inbox," which I assume was about how an administrator would prefer to dance than be inundated with forms and papers. While humorous and ably danced, I think I would have preferred to see a student dance rather than a professor since the event was designed to showcase student talent (or at least I was under that

impression).

This complaint could be extended to quite a few numbers in the show, as three of the seven performances were led by faculty. At the risk of offending them, I would say that I gain little pleasure watching faculty dance at student events. Yes, they are better dancers, but that is to be expected - they are professionals. It seems selfish and self-aggrandizing to put oneself in the limelight when student dancers could be performing. Eyebrows would be raised if a theater professor cast himself in the lead of a main stage show, so I don't see why dance should be any exception. I enjoyed the student-focused pieces best; "Mère, fille, soeur, amie," even though I had no idea what was going on, was ably performed. "Undercurrent," besides the brain-splitting car horn rendition of "New York, New York," was a highlight of the night, and "Changing...the Change," which featured incomprehensible beat poetry, and had wonderful live music and performances by all students involved.

Another small note was the mystifying lighting that had the house lights rise after every piece. I felt this distracted from the show, as it interrupted the drama of the performances and reminded the audience that we were, indeed watching a show. It is a minor but noticeable fault.

Overall, I find it difficult to give a rating to Dancevent; I enjoyed many of the performances, but as a whole, the event was somewhat schizophrenic. Many dances caused me to turn my head to the side like a confused dog, thinking to myself, "What did I just see?" This was not an uncommon opinion; several audience members agreed. Also, too many faculty performances were a detriment, I would have liked to see more student performances.



**Dancing in the dark:** Dancevent has been displaying original choreography and student talent for years.

Nooks & Crannies of William and Mary:

## Who's buried under the Wren Chapel?

**Daisy Weill**  
Staff Writer

With Halloween season, the hunt to find the scariest spots on campus begins. Ghost stories abound, the statue of TJ tries on several costumes, and the trees on campus take on far more eerie shapes than usual once night falls. Halloween is the time when students pilgrimage to the third floor of Tucker Hall, the President's

House, and Matthew Whaley Elementary School on ghost tours. I feel that now might be the best time to point out what may be two of the most ghostly spots on campus: the College Cemetery and the crypt below Wren Chapel. The two spots hold no ghost stories of their own, but the locations themselves certainly lend an aura to the Halloween spirit that spreads annually through campus.

When you enter the Wren Chapel, if you can draw your eyes away long enough from certain brass objects in the room, you will see several plaques mounted above the chapel seating. Take a closer look and you will see names like John Randolph, James Blair, and Lord Botetourt. These plaques represent different men buried in a crypt below the chapel. The crypt was built in 1695, and the Chapel itself was built over it in 1732. While the crypt is no longer available for future interments, men and women were laid to rest in the crypt as late as 1939. Most of the people buried there have very close connections to the College; for example, James Blair was founder and first president of the College. The crypt is not open to the public and is not even accessible through the Wren Cha-



Alec McKinley

**Halloween haunt:** The College's graveyard, near Monroe Hall, is the final resting place of several past members of the William and Mary community.

pel itself. However, a small group of students on campus called the Spotswood Society, has the opportunity to go on a crypt crawl each spring.

The College Cemetery, located behind Tucker Hall and in front of Monroe Hall, is far more accessible than the burial vaults beneath the Wren building. A faculty meeting in January 1859 established the cemetery for the use of professors and their families, as well as students. The first people placed in the cemetery were actually relatives of President Benjamin Ewell. He was also given permission to exhume the remains of his father, as well as a few other family members, and transfer them to the College Cemetery. Two students are known to have been buried in the cemetery, including George Turner, who died of mumps on June 24, 1871. The most recent burial was in 2007, when Wendy Reeves, a supporter of international study at the College, died at age 90.

The men and women that chose our beloved College as their final resting place deserve their peace. But I hope the knowledge of their presence on campus helps bring a renewed ghostly spirit to autumn. Happy haunted hunting!



Staff Editorial:

## An open letter to the undergraduate Honor Council

To the Honor Council,

Students are dismayed to see your institution reject the wishes of nearly 70% of the student body. It is difficult to get 70% of people to agree on anything, especially on political matters. The student body made its position on reform clear and yet you callously disregarded our wishes. Is it really so much to ask that five members of the nominating council must unanimously reject a candidate from running instead of four out of five? The change we, and the voters, are asking for is not much at all. If a person running is truly so horrible they cannot serve on the Honor Council, why can't all of committee agree on this before they are removed from the running? Or does the Honor Council truly believe that you are more honorable than the rest of us?

The process of electing those who mete out honor punishments should be open. The entire system is designed for students; however, on this matter you have dug in your heels and said 'no' to a change that would make you, and your organization as a whole, more accountable to student opinion. How many people would really be effected by changing this statute? Your refusal to make the the changes that student voters want makes us beg the question, what do you really have to lose? Requiring a unanimous decision to remove someone from running is a trivial matter compared to all of the work that you do. We feel this change would only diminish your power in the slightest way, and yet you refuse to budge.

Despite the overwhelming dismissal of the students' will, not all of your members are hostile to change. Andy Rudd was one of the most vocal supporters of the change, saying that it would be "irresponsible" for the Council not to move forward with the reform voted on by students. Dimelza Gonzales-Flores spoke of her support for a compromise approach. The compromise would be the addition of a sixth member of the nominating committee. A possible nominee would have to be rejected by five-sixths of this committee.

Although the proposed "compromise" would make it harder to dismiss a person, this compromise is still a bitter pill to take. You still reject the wishes of student voters and give us a compromise that allows you to retain essentially all of your power. According to your website, your election is "unique" because the candidates are selected without the use of campaigning and run solely on their reputation and status "honorable members of the William & Mary community." If you fail to compromise, your elections will also be unique in that are overseen by a nominating committee that a vast majority of students found sufficiently dysfunctional, secretive, and undemocratic.

How can we trust you to deal honorably when you refuse to listen to this reasonable request? It certainly doesn't befit a council whose purview is, allegedly, honor. The referendum came from the Student Assembly as a check on your power. They would not have presented such a question to the student body if they did not believe there was a problem with the status quo. The students have spoken, and so has the Student Assembly, and your refusal to listen paints you as an elitist group of students not interested in honor or democracy, but only in your own stranglehold on the power to select who is able to join you on the Council.

*The Informer* thinks this type of behavior is highly unproductive and undemocratic. Acting in this way trivializes our historic honor code itself and erodes the good faith and pride the student body has staked on it. The honor code and its council are here for the students. We urge you to look at this situation seriously and make the necessary change the voters prescribed.

Sincerely,  
*The Virginia Informer*

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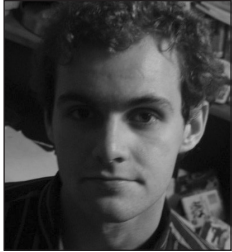
*Informer*  
meetings  
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Blow 331

## Philosopher's Corner:

## On Hedonism and the philosophy of "whatever"

Seldom has our generation been ascribed a coherent popular philosophy. Don't we stand for something? Certainly as the self-righteous heirs to our parents' Boomer decadence and disillusionment, we tend to think of ourselves as the most liberated of all generations; we are tolerant, accepting, and non-judgmental, thank you very much. "Whatever" is our mantra and our automatic response to most inquiries, whether it be in regards to our opinions, desires, or preferences. This attitude is not dismissive. We have a definite preference in all things, but lest we offend, we opt to conceal it.

Despite its appearance, "whatever" is not apathy necessarily, but rather a desensitized expression of our habitual, pleasure-saturated youth culture. We prefer pleasure. We are a generation of hedonists; however, we lack the organization and forethought of the utilitarian form, where pleasures are divided into high and low, with the highest pleasures consisting of the spiritual intangibles of art, music, and love and the lower reflecting our basal desires. The lower pleasures have the advantage of being abundant and absurdly easy to come by and what better for us lovers of consumerism and instant gratification? The higher pleasures, on



**Charles Cooper**  
Contributing Columnist

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**We love pleasure, all pleasure, unapologetically. Scruples are a vice of the past.**

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the other hand, are not obtained cheaply and lack the publicity that the lower receive. Even if the rewards of the higher would inevitably make us happier, the attraction of the immediate bewitches us no matter how ubiquitous. The intoxication provided by drugs and sex when selectively indulged in can profoundly move the spirit. Undoubtedly, the pursuit of pleasure is why we live. Being so vital to our lives, why must we be so indiscriminate? Assuredly, we are not in danger of running out of alcohol or finding willing sexual partners. Does it not seem unnecessary that we pursue them so fiercely, constantly, and recklessly?

Who am I to call it reckless? Perhaps, we are not hedonists, but libertines. We love pleasure, all pleasure, unapologetically. Scruples are a vice of the past. There is nothing empty or incomplete in this lifestyle. We have everything in excess and are epicurean to the extreme. Is this what we ought to do and desire? I think not. We so-called hedonists have a popular phrase we tend to throw about: "Don't judge me." For example, "I'm going to get trashed tonight. Don't judge me," or "If I hook up with him, don't judge me." Why, in our

robust confidence, would we even care to beseech others not to judge our actions? Why should we care? Perhaps we realize that there is hollowness, a shallowness in our intellectual reasoning, when we wallow exclusively in the prevalent lower pleasures.

Why and how have we forgotten to judge ourselves and reflect critically on our actions? Only by actively questioning ourselves can we learn how to obtain the pleasures we truly seek rather than just take what we can get. The refusal to reflect displays a key weakness in this mind set. Truly we cannot claim any philosophy that refuses self examination to be a lifestyle appropriate to reasonable people. This lifestyle's rejection of self reflection seems to posit "non cogito ergo vivo" ("I don't think therefore I live"), which rejects our very humanity and leaves us as not much more than mere beasts.

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**Despite its appearance, "whatever" is not apathy necessarily, but rather a desensitized expression of our habitual, pleasure-saturated youth culture.**

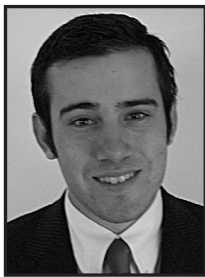
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# Tis the season

*This year's gubernatorial race is uninspiring*

The polling places are closed, the posters are down, and the votes are counted. At the time of publication, the Commonwealth should have new people in all of the top offices, and the make up of the House of Delegates should have changed one way or the other. I feel that this is an appropriate time to reflect on the political season on campus. If asked for one word to sum up my feelings on this season I would say such a request is dumb; if asked again, I would reply with a resounding "meh."

After the super-charged presidential election ending in an orgiastic celebration for the victory of Obama and the end of all bad things ever, the campus as a whole seemed somewhat reticent to involve themselves too heavily in any great political action. When told to campaign and "get out the vote," most just shrugged their shoulders and mumbled a "yeah, maybe." Even political



**Alexander Powell**  
Opinion Editor

clubs, such as the College Republicans and Young Democrats found it hard at times to rally enough folks to make campaign trips worthwhile. It is not to say that some folks didn't care and bust their humps to get the "right" candidate elected, as I know that it is not the case, but this season did not have even one-third the passion of the former. However, this was to be expected.

The candidates themselves seemed to elicit a "meh" from most students. It was either that wishy-washy man-of-the-hill-folk who seemed to change positions more than Williamsburg weather or that crazy Christian guy who wanted to chain women to the kitchen and looked kind of like Aaron Eckhart if you squinted. But unlike last year, supporting the "other" candidate was not a sure sign you hated America or black people. Instead people would shrug their shoulders, say "meh," and continue with their lives. Despite both campaigns yelling about the other guy, very few students bought the rhetoric. Very few dorm rooms were decked out with either Deeds or McDonnell signs, as many students would rather be able to check out passing co-eds or have sunlight than let everyone know who they were voting for.

With the election of either candidate I doubt there will be any celebrations outside of CR's parties. The campus will not erupt if Deeds wins because the campus as a whole probably doesn't really care. Many of us will be out of Virginia before the governor's term is done, and many who will remain don't care about state politics. And while some may look back at the heady days of last year with all the yelling and chanting of "yes we can," "Nobama," and "Go Gravel" with longing, I for one am happy that this election was met with civility and apathy, although that might just be because my guy lost last year.

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**When told to campaign and "get out the vote," most just shrugged their shoulders and mumbled a "yeah, maybe."**

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# Tailgating without tailgates

If you had a chance to stop by the Greek homecoming tailgate at 2pm on homecoming Saturday, you wouldn't have seen much. Most frats closed up shop soon after the event began. The Green Leaf beer garden was still flowing but the participants were dwindling. All in all, the event was simply not a success. Why? Location, lack of enthusiasm and the event's failure to meet the definition of what tailgating is.

For what the event was, it was very well organized, kudos to Tildi Sharp and the Inter Sorority Council. Also, the number of Greek organizations that committed to the plan was impressive. But all of this couldn't solve the main problem with the event: it wasn't a tailgate, it was a convention. Frat field was covered with tables for greek organizations. Alumni were supposed to just show up. It might as well have been Meet-the-Greeks, Alumni edition, except for the fact that the alumni were nowhere to be seen. Greeks were less

than excited about the event and so it dissolved quickly. Our Sigma Chi tailgate was over well before 1pm.

The special thing about tailgating is that it is spontaneous, casual and spread out. This allows alumni to do things the way they want to, run into the alumni they want to see again and mingle in an unsupervised manner. The chaperones standing guard at the gated frat field entrance didn't help this. Also, the alumni seemed not to have gotten the memo that frat field was the place meant for congregating - not that they would have stuck around for long if they had figured it out. Although some blame can be laid on fraternity/sorority outreach for not contacting alums, the style of the event was the real problem.

The convention on frat field provided a couple lessons on how tailgating should be handled next year. First off, cars must be involved. The entire concept of tailgating involves the backs of cars (also known as tail-

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**All in all, the event was simply not a success. Why? Location, lack of enthusiasm and the event's failure to meet the definition of what tailgating is.**

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gates). Without cars, there can be no tailgating. Frat field did not provide vehicular access and this helped stymie alumni involvement.

Secondly, a better area is needed. Frat field is a fenced-in field. Although this may make it easier to restrict entry, this shouldn't be a goal. The William and Mary Hall parking lot proved to be an excellent space in 2008. Yes, it was problematic for police as alumni set up but the general mood of tailgating in an enormous parking lot was positive. A well-planned tailgating experience either on Harrison St. or in the William and Mary Hall lot is what should happen next year. Alumni should be able to drive up and begin tailgating just as they ended up doing in the Zable and William and Mary Hall lots this year. If the meticulous planning that went

into the frat field event went into something that actually resembled a tailgate, it would be an unmitigated success.

Lastly, whatever the event is, it needs to be accompanied by the enthusiasm of the Greek community. This requires that the administration listen to the suggestions and concerns of the Greek community, particularly about where the event should be. There was some discussion this year, but in a very limited way - the opening conditions of what the event could and couldn't be were strict. Enthusiasm cannot be manufactured no matter how well-planned the event is and enthusiasm is contingent on allowing the alumni to tailgate how they would like to: with cars.

Hopefully lessons are learned from this year. It was a good effort that was misdirected from its inception due to concerns about what happened last year. Overlooked was the important question, what exactly is a tailgate? Whatever happens, let's not repeat this event as it was held this year. It was not a success and is not likely to be much better next year.



**Bert Mueller**  
Executive Editor

# They just don't get it

**Michael Watson**  
Editor at Large

In the most predictable event in the history of student politics at this College, our esteemed Honor Council has once again decided to ignore the will of the student body. Who can blame them? Why would they allow their little club to be infiltrated by the unwashed masses?

The Honor Council is in decline, and, alas, suffers from a terminal illness that will see its potential power as a force for ethics and responsibility on this campus rendered forever just that: potential. The illness is democratic deficit, and the prognosis is grim.

How, one may ask, can the Honor

Council be anti-democratic if all its members are directly elected? It is so because the voting students are expected to make their decisions based on personal knowledge and a glorified Tweet. The Honor Council also may exclude a student from candidacy based only on the opinions of its own representatives and those of the administration; at least the Council has deigned to give reasons for future exclusions. These policies will forever render the Council untrustworthy and distant in the view of the student body, and I fear they will never change.

Why is my outlook so grim? The reason is simple: the Honor Council has a fundamentally vested interest in maintaining the present system, and,



Alec McKinley

**Honor you can believe in?** Members of the Honor Council refuse to pass changes voted for by an overwhelming majority of the student body.

as we all can see now, the Council will ignore the popular will with abandon. The proscription on campaigning for office confines thoughtful critiques of the Council's operating procedure and reform plans to these and other pages and renders them far from threatening at election time. As has been well documented, the non-unanimity rule in candidate exclusion has the potential to silence the at-large student voice, the lone one among us five thousand who is able to review the records of the prospective candidates and hear the secret debates over exclusion. To think that a secretive body in concert with a friendly administration would never abuse this power is naïve. Both policies ensure that incumbents are virtually certain to be re-elected, and, should a new

Councilor gain a favorable nod, he may be converted without delay to the institutional position of the Council. Nothing ever changes.

What is to be done? The Council has not been made aware of the extent of our displeasure by three consecutive referenda. The Council has not listened to our concerns and necessary reform is therefore consigned to nothingness. We must make known our discontent with the democratic deficit. I, as should we all, therefore ask the Council to call a free, fair, and open election, in which the candidates may take positions on procedural reform, or I will vote for no one and spoil my ballot. Fifty percent spoiled ballots should suffice as a vote of no confidence. Maybe then the Council will call a real election.



Alec McKinley

**Gridlock:** Members of the Honor Council and the Student Assembly failed to reach an agreement on what reform measures the Council should enact.