



VARIETY

Wale and K'naan live

The rising hip hop stars will appear together at Lake Matoaka Amphitheater.

SEE PAGE 6

OPINION

Coronation or discrimination?

Coronation Day ceremony brings to mind plight of Catholics in William and Mary's England.



SEE PAGE 5

SPORTS

Final approach

Stepanek leads young Tribe squad into conference tournament next week.

SEE PAGE 8



The Flat Hat

The twice-weekly student newspaper of the College of William and Mary — Est. 1911

VOL.99, NO.45

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010

FLATHATNEWS.COM

ThePulse

Bite-size news you can use

The mascot committee may have been slow, but at least they're thorough! The Wikipedia entry for "Griffin" was altered this week, reflecting the mythical creature's status as the new mascot of the College. The free online encyclopedia, which any user can edit, was also updated with this sentence: "A group of Griffins is called a Tribe."

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has created two apps for the iPhone to educate users about life in colonial Virginia. The first program, "Word of the Day," provides a bit of vocabulary from 18th century language that has fallen out of use. "Today in the 1770s" allows users to read news reported in the Virginia Gazette, the local paper in Williamsburg during that decade.

Colonial Williamsburg isn't the only group trying to keep history alive. At the request of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has proclaimed April 2010 Confederate History Month. Virginia's previous two governors refused to issue similar proclamations because of their potential to offend some groups. On Wednesday, McDonnell apologized for having omitted any mention of slavery in his proclamation and promised to include language about the institution.

Tell us something we don't already know! News website The Daily Beast has named the College of William and Mary the 44th most stressful university in America. Using statistics from the annual U.S. News and World Report ranking of colleges, the site used financial cost, academic rigor, acceptance rate, crime on campus and the presence of an engineering program in its calculations to rank the top 50 colleges in the country. Stanford University ranked first, the University of Virginia was in 36th place.

The College's Committee on Sustainability announced the funding of five awards for sustainability internships for summer 2010. The student interns — Alexandra Volpert '11, Anna Jane Morris '12, Jamison Shabanowitz '12, Max Cunningham '13 and Amanda Anderson '11 — will conduct research projects at the College aimed toward improving campus environmental sustainability. The internships are supported with funds from the Student Green Fee, which generates more than \$200,000 each year.

If you haven't yet, make sure to catch a glimpse of Renaissance master Michelangelo's work at the Muscarelle Museum of Art this weekend. The exhibit, "Michelangelo: Anatomy as Architecture," features drawings, archival pages, and engravings on loan from the Fondazione Casa Buonarroti in Florence, Italy. The Muscarelle is the only venue in the U.S. to feature this collection, and the exhibit closes Sunday.

Got a tip for The Pulse? wmpulse@gmail.com

Students turn out for mascot announcement

Griffin revealed in ceremony at William and Mary Hall

By IAN BRICKEY
Flat Hat News Editor

Hundreds of students, alumni and other members of the College of William and Mary community came to Kaplan Arena at William and Mary Hall Tuesday to see the unveiling of the College's new mascot, the griffin.

The short ceremony featured outgoing Student Assembly President Sarah Rojas '10 and Tribal Fever founder Chase Hathaway as emcees, as well as Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler '88 Ph.D '06 and Athletics Director Terry Driscoll.

Rojas began the event with a subtle jab at one of the less popular mascot finalists.

"I'm excited to tell you all that our new mascot is the pug — I'm just kidding," she said.

Hathaway then continued to build the anticipation for the long-awaited unveiling.

"This is the moment you've all been waiting for for months and months, or years and years," he said. "In just a few seconds, our school will no longer not have a mascot."

Hathaway said that, although the new mascot would hopefully be a part of the College's identity well into the future, the Tribe moniker would not change.

"We're still the Tribe, right?" Hathaway said. "Just because we have a cute mascot or mascots, we're still the Tribe."

According to Hathaway, the new mascot will help continue the apparent rise in school spirit, as evidenced by increased turnout at athletic events, the football team's appearance in the Football Championship Subdivision semi-final game and the men's basketball team's selection for the National Invitation Tournament.

"There's been so much school pride this year, and we're so excited to keep it going," Hathaway said.

Both Hathaway and Driscoll said that student and community input were taken into consideration before the Mascot Committee's final decision on the griffin. According to Driscoll, more than 800 people submitted mascot ideas, and many were very unique. The committee received over 22,000 comments on



SUN PARK — THE FLAT HAT

The College of William and Mary's new mascot, the griffin, was unveiled at a ceremony in Kaplan Arena at William and Mary Hall April 6. Tribal Fever founder Chase Hathaway '10 and outgoing Student Assembly president Sarah Rojas '10 served as emcees.

the five mascot finalists, and more than 11,000 people completed the finalist survey.

Following Driscoll's remarks, Ambler introduced a video on the mascot selection process starring College President Taylor Reveley. Reveley, who could not attend due to a prior commitment in Washington, D.C., looked to a bust of Thomas Jefferson for guidance on the selection.

"The time has come to make a final decision on this matter of the mascot," Reveley said. "Get me the griffin."

Upon conclusion of the video, the College's new green and gold griffin mascot made its first public appearance in the arena.

While each of the five mascot finalists received criticism

from some members of the College community, the mascot's entrance was greeted by applause and cheers from the audience.

"I didn't really have a preference of the five finalists, but I thought the griffin was a good choice," Samantha Rumsey '10 said.

Hillary Nebhut '10 said that she preferred the griffin from the original release of the five finalists.

"I really wanted the griffin," she said.

Ambler said that she was pleased with the reception of the new mascot.

"I think this is a great day," she said. "It was a warm welcome from the Tribe faithful."

Campus Conversation series ends

Provost discusses results of College's community engagement talks

By GLORIA OH
Flat Hat Insight Editor

The College of William and Mary held the seventh and final installment of its Campus Conversation series Thursday.

The public session centered on College Provost Michael R. Halleran's working draft report titled "William and Mary as a Leading Liberal Arts

University in the 21st Century."

Although the last session served primarily as a wrap-up to the issues raised in the previous installments, Halleran opened the floor to the assembled faculty, staff and students for discussion.

The Campus Conversation series was initiated by a steering committee comprised of three members — two faculty members and Halleran. The

previous six installments included three discussions led by faculty panelists, one led by a student panel and two featuring distinguished visitors.

Each installment was open to the public, and audience members included faculty, students, staff, administrators, alumni, BOV members and community members.

The content of Halleran's report resulted from the series of campus-wide conversations through which he received input from faculty, students and other members of the

See HALLERAN page 4



MELISSA MCCUE — THE FLAT HAT

College of William and Mary Provost Michael R. Halleran released the findings of the College's seven-part Campus Conversation series at a public meeting Thursday. The series discussed the role and future of the liberal arts university in the 21st century.

Tests of Crim Dell show level of bacteria low

Rumors of bacterial contamination overstated

By CAT BOARDMAN
Flat Hat Staff Writer

Rumors of potentially dangerous bacteria polluting the Crim Dell have recently spread around the College of William and Mary campus, causing students to worry about participating in the triathlon and prompting testing by College faculty.

But, according to scientific testing, there is nothing to be concerned about.

"The Crim Dell is in good shape," Keck Environmental Field Lab Director Dr. Randy Chambers said.

In response to concerns, Chambers conducted several tests around the Crim Dell for fecal coliform, a bacteria originating from feces. He collected 3-ml cultures from the inlet under the Sunken Garden, the inlet from the Sadler Center and the outlet of the Crim Dell itself.

The culture from the Sunken Garden showed no evidence of fecal coliform, while the cultures from Sadler and the outlet showed only 33 fecal coliform bacteria per 100-ml sample of water.

"This isn't really a concern," Chambers said. "According to the state, any fewer than 260 fecal coliform bacteria per 100 ml is both swimmable and fishable."

Chambers quelled any remaining suspicions about the small amount of fecal coliform in the Crim Dell.

"Fecal coliform is not actually dangerous to humans, it is just an indicator of other diseases like hepatitis or salmonella," Chambers said.

The presence of fecal coliform, which comes from animal excrement, reveals only the possibility

See CRIM DELL page 3

NEWS INSIGHT

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The Flat Hat

'Stabilitas et Fides'

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The Flat Hat wishes to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Corrections may be submitted by e-mail to the editor of the section in which the incorrect information was printed. Requests for corrections will be accepted at any time.

WEATHER

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Source: weather.com

A THOUSAND WORDS



SARAH VOGEL — THE FLAT HAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

BB&T bank on Second Street robbed

The BB&T Bank on Second Street was robbed April 7. An unidentified white man wearing a blue and white plaid shirt, cargo shorts and a baseball cap entered the store and handed a teller a note demanding money. He exited the bank with an undisclosed sum of money and escaped in a van with Virginia license plates that was driven by another unidentified man wearing a black hat. The van was last seen driving east on Second Street. No suspects have currently been charged.

Symbolic same-sex ceremony to be held Sunday

A same-sex marriage rally will be held in the Crim Dell Meadow at the College of William and Mary April 11. The event will feature speakers in support of same-sex marriage and will conclude with a symbolic marriage ceremony. The rally is a community action project for an Intro to Women's Studies class. Attendees are encouraged to "marry" anyone of the same sex, regardless of their sexual orientation.

College holds first Coronation Day

The College of William and Mary's inaugural Coronation Day will be held April 11 and celebrated by alumni organizations across the country. The reception invites students who have been admitted to the College and their families to join alumni to better acclimate to the College and its traditions. After Coronation Day, all admitted and current students and alumni are encouraged to wear College-themed clothing for Wear Your Green and Gold Day April 12. Following both celebrations, prospective students are invited to attend the program of events for the College's annual Day for Admitted Students April 12.

— by Jill Found

BEYOND THE 'BURG

1 Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe launched a fund-raising campaign to aid Haiti's earthquake recovery efforts. Although Zimbabwe suffers from severe economic inflation, students managed to raise \$500 U.S. to present to the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries for Haiti. Fundraisers included selling ice cream, which succeeded easily in Zimbabwe's summer heat, and collecting money during the Christian college's weekly worship service.

2 Norway is now highly reliant on foreign students to fill its doctoral programs, according to a government white paper presented to the Norwegian Parliament. High percentages of the mathematics, natural science and technological doctoral degrees awarded go to non-Norwegians. Some Norwegian professors are concerned that foreign students are choosing to study in Norway because they cannot study at more prestigious universities in the United States or United Kingdom.

3 Iraqi institutions of higher education are partnering with international universities to broaden students' and faculty members' perspectives. The Iraqi government is creating a scholarship program to send up to 10,000 undergraduate, masters and doctoral students each year to the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. A central accreditation authority has been established to ensure that Iraqi colleges meet international quality standards.

4 China's newest university doesn't offer classes on math or literature — only fast food. McDonald's Corporation just opened Hamburger University in Shanghai to train potential Chinese franchise managers. According to the company president for Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and Africa, China is McDonald's fastest-growing global market. The university will not teach students about making hamburgers, but business practices.



COURTESY GRAPHIC — WIKIPEDIA.ORG

— by Becky Koenig

5 Controversial Indian professor found dead in his home

Professor fired for homosexual activity, died of apparent suicide

By CHRIS MCKENNA
Flat Hat Assoc. News Editor

Professor Srinivas Ramchandra Siras of Aligarh Muslim University in India was found dead in his apartment Wednesday. He had been suspended in February after being filmed in a homosexual act with a rickshaw puller.

According to Indian police, Siras appeared to have vomited, and his pillow was soaked with blood. The post-mortem, released Thursday night, revealed that the 64-year-old professor of Marathi literature died due to "poisoning."

"His death was not due to natural causes," Aligarh City Superintendent of Police Maan Singh Chauhan said to The Indian Express. "Traces of poison were found in his stomach. The way his body was found points to a case of suicide. The reason of death could

be depression."

However, his death has not yet been confirmed a suicide.

"All we can say is that death was not caused by natural reasons," Dr. S.K. Varshney, the head of a three-member panel of doctors responsible for the post-mortem, said to The Telegraph.

At the time of his death, Siras was living in a rented home, which he had rented following his expulsion from his campus residence. Neighbors reported a smell emanating from the home before Siras's body was found.

Siras was suspended from AMU after two men posing as journalists filmed him engaging in consensual sexual activity on the evening of Feb. 8. The suspension came only months after the Delhi High Court had decriminalized consensual gay sex.

The university charge sheet, filed Feb. 24, claimed that Siras was fired because he had

"indulged himself into immoral sexual activity and in contravention to basic moral ethics... [he] thereby undermined the pious image of the teacher community and as a whole tarnished the image of the university."

Siras was reinstated April 1 based on a judgment from the Allahabad High Court.

"I am happy because I have been judged in a wrong way," Siras told New Delhi TV last Friday. "I have already said that I am gay. I am the same man, with the same qualification, with the same features and personality."

Siras returned to Aligarh April 5, but AMU refused to lift the suspension because a copy of the order had not yet reached the university.

"The death is highly unexpected and shocking," Dr. Tariq Islam, an AMU philosophy professor and close friend of Siras, said. "Dr. Siras had come to meet me on Monday and he seemed his normal self. He was very happy about the Allahabad High Court stay order."

STREET BEAT

What are your housing plans for next semester?



"Trying to live in Ludwell."



"I'm living in Jamestown."



"I'm gonna live hopefully in either Landrum or Ludwell."



"I'm living in the Phi Mu house."

Connor White '11 and Ryan Blackwell '12

Emily Gilfillian '13

Victoria Fairchild '13

Victoria Haynes '13

— photos and interviews by Melissa McCue

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New state budget could advance Tucker renovation

Former English building on list of projects that could receive funds

BY FELICIA TSUNG
Flat Hat Staff Writer

News of potential funds from the state has brought optimism to the renovation of the College of William and Mary's Tucker Hall.

"We have information that they have included Tucker Hall in a group of projects that they are going to fund," Vice President for Administration Anna Martin said. "We are number four in line. What we don't know is the exact amount of money that they put aside for the project."

Due to a lack of state fund commitment, the project has been stuck in the second phase of design for months, unable to move on to the planned renovation, and leaving its space unusable.

However, the College will not know whether money for Tucker will be appropriated until Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell approves the state's budget later this month.

The project has spent more than a

year and a half in the planning stage.

According to Dean Carl Strikwerda, the growing English department required a building to suit their changing needs, leading to a possible Tucker renovation.

"[Tucker Hall] never really received the full renovation that it needed," Strikwerda said. "We really needed to renovate to give them the high class home that they deserve."

Renovations for the building would include a restoration of the foyer's split staircase, a new cupola to shine light down to the first floor and architectural details that pay homage to the building's history as the College's original library.

A courtyard will also be included to allow for classes to be held outside on fair days. Several English department faculty members are eager to return to Tucker Hall.

"It'll be a lot better than what we have now," English professor Jack Martin said. "There were a lot of problems with the smell of Tucker. We're hoping



SUN PARK — THE FLAT HAT
The College of William and Mary's Tucker Hall, former home of the English department, has remained vacant since closing last year for proposed renovations. Current plans would restore the building closer to its original 1909 form, when it served as the College's library.



SUN PARK — THE FLAT HAT
The College of William and Mary's new School of Education building is scheduled to open in May 2010. The building will house both graduate and undergraduate classes.

that it'll be gone."

The process to acquire the necessary funds for Tucker's renovation goes through several levels of College and state bureaucracy.

The Advisory Committee on Space Management at the College approves building projects in a prioritized order. The list is then sent to the state every other year for validation.

If the College receives funds from the state later this month, Tucker renovations should be completed by spring 2012.

"We thought that it might be delayed based on the current state of the economy," Director of Planning, Design and Construction Wayne Boy said. "It still could be, but there are indications that there might be funding."

Tucker Hall's renovation is just one of the projects of the College's construction boom.

A new cooling addition and building, to be finished by October, is being constructed behind the Campus Center.

This structure will eventually support a total of 27 buildings on Ancient and Old Campus.

"All this piping is 40 to 50 years old," Boy said. "We're starting to get to the point that some of these repairs are so frequent that it's not economically affordable to keep repairing them."

Facilities Management will begin to replace the pipelines and old cooling towers on campus beginning this summer with the narrow corridor between the Campus Center and Taliaferro Hall.

The addition will help the College save money on power, and provide a more reliable source of cooling in buildings across campus.

The long-awaited School of Education will be finished next month. Boy hopes that students and staff will begin moving into the building in the middle of May.

The Career Center is also under construction near Zable Stadium and the Sadler Center. Designed by the

same firm in charge of Tucker Hall's renovation, the building should be completed by October 2010.

Additions to Small Hall are nearly finished. Once the new labs are finished, construction crews will gut the original building and begin renovations on the 46-year-old structure.

The entire hall will be completed by next May.

Once the English department returns to Tucker Hall, there are plans for Tyler Hall to be renovated.

Once completed, the building will become the new home of the government, economics, public policy and international relations departments at the College.

All the current construction around campus has left Boy pleased, despite financing difficulties.

"I think that the College is a great place to be," he said. "They've basically let me go hire the best people I can find, as long as I stay within budget. I'm pretty pleased with what we've got."

Runoff not dangerous Natural environmental cycle rinses Crim Dell bacteria

CRIM DELL from page 1

that hepatitis and salmonella are present.

In order for such diseases to be present, the animal feces from which these bacteria come would have had to contain these diseases before entering the contaminated water.

Designed specifically to hold storm water and runoff, the Crim Dell and its subsidiaries do receive some excrement flushed in by rainwater.

According to Chambers this small, inconsistent amount of bacteria is not enough to cause any serious harm to people who come in contact with water from the Crim Dell.

Even if it were, the ponds

tend to regenerate, rinsing out and killing bacteria quickly, often within a day.

"I'm not condoning it, but if you're going to do [the triathlon], I'd be more worried about getting stuck on a submerged tree branch than about fecal coliform," Chambers said.

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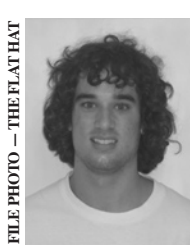
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SA unanimously votes to fund medical amnesty cards

Funding for planners passes, publications also discussed

By REBECCA PHILLIPS
Flat Hat Staff Writer

The College of William and Mary's Student Assembly passed the Medical Amnesty Info Cards Bill and the Student Organization Act by unanimous consent at its meeting Tuesday.



Schofield '12

The Senate first chose Sen. Ross Gillingham '10 to assist in running the meeting as Chairman pro tempore in the absence of Chairman Ben Brown '11.

The Medical Amnesty Info Cards Bill permits the distribution of cards to students that contain information about the College's

medical amnesty policies and safe drinking practices.

The SA has been working with the independent Core Institute to develop the cards. The group was hired by the College to research safe drinking practices in Greek life.

"I think the bill is very important because most people are extremely confused about the current medical amnesty rules," Sen. Matt Schofield '12 said. "Hopefully, these cards clear those rules up."

The cards contain information about signs of alcohol poisoning, including slow, shallow breathing and cool, clammy and bluish skin.

Each card reminds students to call emergency medical services in the event of alcohol poisoning. Neither the person who made the call nor

the person receiving the medical attention will be found in violation of the school's code of conduct for alcohol use. Students may, however, be required to meet with the Dean of Students or be assigned additional alcohol education.

The SA will set aside \$175 from the Consolidated Reserve to create the 6,000 cards.

Schofield said the cards do not indicate that the SA condones underage drinking at the College.

The SA also passed the Student Organization Act, which would pay for planners to be distributed to all students in the fall of 2010.

"The total cost was \$10,865, but with the addition of local advertisements, they will only cost \$7,597," Sen. Imad Matini '11 said.

The bill requires that this money be provided to the Office of Health Education so it can purchase 6,100 planners and add information about health services.

The planners will contain useful campus telephone numbers, suggestions for mental health resources for students and preventative information about health concerns, like influenza.

The Publications Council Contract Approval Act was also brought to the floor Tuesday. The SA negotiates a contract with the Publications Council every three years to determine the amount of funding newspapers, journals and other campus publications will receive.

If the Senate approves the bill, the new contract will be set to provide a base budget of \$148,472 to the Publications Council for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The contract stipulates that, if a publication generates more revenue

than its three year average, it can gain an additional monetary allocation constituting 50 percent of the additional revenue, but not to exceed \$3,000.

New language was added to this year's contract to ensure impartiality in the distribution of funds.

The current publications council contract states that no publication can be forced to seek additional outside sources of revenue.

The bill must pass through committee before it is brought to a vote.

The Election Reform Act is scheduled for discussion at future meetings. The bill would amend the selection process of members of the College's Elections Commission and confirm the SA President's right to remove members for neglect of duties or bias.



Matini '11

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191 Cottage Cove Lane, Williamsburg, VA
(just past Water Country USA on Rte 199)

Campus Conversation focuses on perception

HALLERAN from page 1

college community. "This conversation has ... been critical to the College's self-identity, future directions and overall strategic plan," Halleran said. "The conversation has been extensive, lively and thought provoking."

Halleran said his report addressed three issues — defining the College's identity as a liberal arts university, discussing the College's future success under its identity and setting up a system to review the current curriculum and merit processes.

Acknowledging that the traditional model was being modified, he addressed the changing perspective of factors that constitute a liberal arts university. He offered the inclusion of practical coursework such as business, engineering and medicine in undergraduate schools — courses that typically would not fall under the traditional model of liberal arts — as examples of a shift in the meaning of liberal arts education.

During his discussion, Halleran said the College had a hybrid nature due to

its relatively small size and incorporation of graduate studies and research opportunities.

"Our focus is bifocal. We don't look only at a liberal-arts based undergraduate teaching mission, nor are we blinded by graduate and research metrics only," Halleran said.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions has marketed the College's hybrid nature to prospective students, but Halleran said the changing perspective of a liberal arts university has raised questions on whether this is the best way to represent the College.

"The fact is that most institutions that look like William and Mary are elite private universities, many of which have sufficient 'brand' power not to need any descriptor," Halleran said. "For us, perhaps 'public Ivy,' or simply 'William and Mary,' will prove to be the best term for marketing. Whatever decision is made on that front, it remains true that [the College] has strong characteristics of a liberal arts college and a research university; it is neither of these, but rather a composite of the two."

Economics professor Robert Archibald raised questions about intimate classroom

instruction that valued "face-to-face" time spent with professors as opposed to "distance learning," which is seen in larger schools where classes are taught by graduate students and visiting lecturers.

"This seems to be a broad educational arena," Archibald said. "We might need an explicit description [given to the admissions office] that emphasizes that we offer face-to-face education."

Another issue discussed included reaching an ideal balance between teaching and research. Halleran reported that the conversation between participants suggested that this issue was important, but that there was no final consensus on how to attain this balance.

Halleran concluded by discussing budget cuts, saying that the College was in the process of developing a financial model which would rely less on the state for its operations.

"It will be critically important to focus on what is core to our identity, our values and our ethos, and to map our ambitions on the twin grids of a changing world and a new fiscal reality," Halleran said.

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| ANDREW CATHERMAN | ANDREW GARDEN | JACLYN KLIMCZAK | KATIE O'BRIEN | CAITLIN SMOOT | ELSIA YOO* |
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| CAROLYN COLLIER | KATHERINE GRESHAM* | AMY LEINKRAM | CHRISTY OTTINGER* | TYLER STUKENBROEKER | |
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OPINIONS

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PEOPLE MIGHT CRITICIZE ME FOR MY COLLEGE THESIS, BUT I'VE MOVED ON FROM 1889...



... ALL THE WAY BACK TO 1889.



BY OLIVIA WALCH, FLAT HAT CARTOONIST

Frat rush reform will benefit system

Ed Innace
FLAT HAT STAFF COLUMNIST



The process of recruitment is vital to any healthy Greek system. It is how new members are found and how organizations persist and traditions continue from year to year. Currently, the Council of Fraternity Affairs at the College of William and Mary is considering proposed changes to the process of fraternity recruitment that, although relatively minor, will enhance the process.

Recruitment for Greek organizations can be approached in many different ways. Comparing the different processes employed by sororities and fraternities, you get a feel for two opposite methodologies. Sorority recruitment is regulated and collective. The rules governing the process fill eight pages, compared to CFA's two. The idea is that all women go through the same process, meet each chapter on equal terms and then make their choice. To ensure fairness and to diminish competition, which would result in a great deal of lost time and money,

strict regulations are placed on sorority members regarding their interactions with potential recruits. They may only encourage women to go Greek in the general sense, and may not endorse any specific chapter. Orientation Aides, Resident Assistants and Inter-Sorority Council representatives may not even show their affiliation during the recruitment process. The regulations go so far as to limit the amount of decorations in sorority houses.

Fraternity recruitment — actually that's too formal a word for it, so let's call it rush — couldn't be more different. Truthfully, the majority of rush is carried out on an informal chapter-by-chapter basis. The only regulation pertains to the times of open houses. These events are publicized by the CFA, and take place at set times in different locations. Beyond that, rush is conducted informally through personal

contacts. OAs and RAs are particularly helpful to fraternity recruitment as they are in the position to meet incoming freshmen, to get to know them and to invite them to visit.

Both systems have advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand, the informal interactions between brothers and prospective members make socialization easier and give guys a better understanding of the groups' identities. Prospective members probably come away from the process with a good idea of whether or not they want to join, and if so, which one. However there are also problems. The informal personal contacts that drive fraternity rush usually expose interested men to a limited number of chapters, which introduces an element of chance into the process. Rush classes tend to vary by semester, causing a high degree of fluctuation in chapter sizes. This is one of the contributing factors in the persistent housing troubles that fraternities have on campus.

These are the major concerns that the proposed changes in the recruitment process hope to address.

The only current regulation for fraternity recruitment is the times of open houses.

First, a new all-fraternity event would be organized in order to give men another chance to meet different organizations. Second, chapter open houses would no longer occur simultaneously. This was less of a problem when the

units housed most of the fraternities, and one could easily move from one open house to another.

Now, however, fraternities are scattered from the units, to the lodges, to the Ludwell apartments and off campus. Having simultaneous open houses under such conditions would mean that recruits would have to attend one event at the expense of others. Both of these changes will help fraternities reach out to those who do not know any of their members and give men more information and options.

The changes are not revolutionary, and of course problems will persist, but it is a clear signal that CFA understands the current nature of the fraternity system and how it can redress recruitment. That has to count for something.

E-mail Ed Innace at einnace@email.wm.edu.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Speaking to absent ears

Everyone's been getting the e-mails — the ones about “starting a conversation on what it means for W&M to be a liberal arts university in the 21st century.” As it turns out, however, few have been attending these conversations. College of William and Mary Provost Michael Halleran recently hosted the seventh in a series of conversations about the definition and goals of the College. While they have included some illuminating discussions, the events have remained poorly attended. In this, both the provost and the campus as a whole are missing an opportunity to engage in a lively and healthy debate. By framing these certainly essential debates in a more stimulating and specific way, the provost could make great strides in creating a more inclusive dialogue.

The idea to establish this sort of forum between administration and students was innovative, and was pursued with great resolve by the Office of the Provost. We're glad to see a forum has been provided to foster communication across the various spheres of the campus community and to provoke critical discussion about issues that are at the basis of our institution. Furthermore, these events have helped provide a vital point of contact with the provost's office. Many students, who may not have even been aware of the provost prior to these talks, are now more encouraged to engage with Halleran on matters of school policy.

It's an example that the others in the College's administration should take to heart. We find it amazing that other campus discussions of this sort — on issues such as sustainability and service integration — aren't also hosted on a regular basis. It allows those in the campus community to discuss their goals for the College in these areas, which should be an essential part of drafting College policy. Instead of vaguely stating the goal of “taking campus opinion into consideration,” more administrators should follow the example of the provost in actually establishing a forum for that discussion.

There is, however, one key flaw. Attendance at these events, especially among students, has remained low. Students are definitely partly to blame in this by not taking a role in helping to articulate the goals of the College. But part of the problem is that the talks weren't framed in a way as to properly spur discussion.

The topics of each conversation, while including aspects that are relevant and essential to our College today, were often either phrased in far too vague a way to actually capture general interest, or were simply not immediately relevant to students' concerns. If these conversations and others like them are to continue into the future — and we believe they should — their topics must become more focused and involve issues on which students already have passionate opinions.

The list of potential, yet adequately specific, topics is nearly limitless. One could center on gender distribution at the College, both among majors and the university as a whole; another on the academic budget, including how students feel about cuts and how they're distributed. The idea of a community forum could even be extended to include the selection of future topics to see what people actually want to talk about.

True, some of these areas have come up in past discussions, but none of the discussions has been framed around them. But by structuring the discussions in terms of immediately relevant issues, or even by letting students and faculty themselves to help frame the discussion, these “campus conversations” might prove to be a more lively and productive forum in the future.

The staff editorial represents the opinion of The Flat Hat. The editorial board, which is elected by The Flat Hat's section editors and executive staff, consists of Mike Crump, Jessica Gold, Matt Poms, Maggie Reeb and Kevin Mooney. The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Limit letters to 250 words and columns to 700 words. Letters, staff and guest columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only. E-mail submissions to fhopinions@gmail.com.

Bay fishermen barely stay afloat

Aristotle Herbert
FLAT HAT GUEST COLUMNIST



For those students who are from out-of-state or otherwise uninformed, there is, in fact, a community of crabfishers here in the Chesapeake Bay area.

Unlike the fishermen of the Discovery Channel series *Deadliest Catch*, however, Virginian crab fishermen are being hit hard by the current financial crisis. As a result, many fisherman and fishing crews have been put out of work — yet, the College of William and Mary is part of an effort to supply hope to this beleaguered industry.

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the College-sponsored Virginia Institute of Marine Science has put 66 fishermen back to work — if only for a short period of time — through the Marine Debris Removal Program. Using sonar equipment, the fishermen set to work retrieving stranded equipment and “ghost” pots littering the bay floor.

Storms and the accidental cutting of fishing ropes by propellers have contributed to the reason for the high percentage of lost equipment. The fishermen were paid \$300 per day, in addition to their operation expenses, with the total cost of the project amounting to \$1 million. This year, the fishermen have recovered over 9,000 pots and over 600 pieces of other fishing equipment.

Since the program started in December 2008, more than 18,000 lost pots have been recovered, saving the lives of animals such as turtles, fish and ducks — all of which have been trapped in derelict pots.

The positive aspects to this program are quite obvious: it puts fishermen back to work and takes care of the environment. The marine debris is disposed of in a safe and

environmentally conscious manner, ending a potentially vicious cycle.

Furthermore, Waste Management plans to add new, convenient recycling containers for next year's continuation of the project, and since 20 percent of all pots are lost each year, it seems as though there will be a steady demand for the retrieval of these marine debris fragments.

It is important to remember, however, that these jobs are not full time. The unemployed fishermen will eventually again be in search of jobs.

If this happens, the Chesapeake Bay crab industry may take another great hit. Since the early 1990s, output has drastically dwindled. Moreover, Maryland — the other leading blue crab supplier — put restrictions on the size of crabs that can be kept and sold.

Virginia and Maryland already have come to rely on different regions for their own consumption of crabs, and if the watermen have to endure shortages much longer, the local eating establishments will have to rely more on other sources.

History has shown that this type of outside intervention in the economy is often only capable of forestalling the inevitable and, in this case, the inevitable may be the downfall of the Chesapeake Bay crab fishing industry.

Anyone who has ever enjoyed blue crab will surely share in my anxiety.

E-mail Aristotle Herbert at amherbert@email.wm.edu.

Coronation recalls persecution

Brian Doyle
FLAT HAT GUEST COLUMNIST



As a Catholic and a College of William and Mary student, I call upon College President Taylor Reveley and the Admissions Office to abandon plans to celebrate the coronation of King William III and Queen Mary II April 12. The King and Queen's primary legislative achievements were stripping British and Irish Catholics of their civil and political rights. To celebrate such an event is repugnant and an affront to the values of religious freedom and equality before the law that we cherish as Americans.

The so-called “Glorious Revolution,” in which William and Mary came to power, was a military coup, encouraged by anti-Catholic bigots in the English Parliament who could not abide having a king who was a practicing Catholic and who

permitted Catholic civil rights. William landed in England at the head of a powerful Dutch army. When anti-Catholic rioting broke out in London, King James II and other English Catholics fled to Ireland. After taking the throne, William and Mary implemented legislation banning English Catholics from voting, carrying weapons or attending school abroad. Punitive taxes were levied

on Catholics. Catholics and spouses of Catholics were barred from becoming King or Queen of England — a law that remains in effect today. William and Mary expelled Catholics from the Irish Parliament and banned them from serving in it. Under laws instituted by William and Mary's new Protestant Parliament, which represented only a small percentage of the population, Irish Catholics were barred from serving in government or the military, owning weapons or good horses, attending school, practicing law or medicine, buying land or marrying a Protestant. The prohibition of Catholic land purchases, and legal obstacles to Catholics meant most Catholics soon lost their land. Such was the result of William and Mary's ascension.

Our Founding Fathers recognized the evils of the Penal Laws. That is why we have the First Amendment, which guarantees, in Thomas Jefferson's words, “a wall of separation between church and state,” and why the Constitution mandates that “no religious test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.”

Unlike Charter Day, which celebrates the establishment of the College, Coronation Day celebrates the codification of a violent seizure of power prompted by religious bigotry that led directly to large-scale loss of freedom. While it is well and good to acknowledge the College's historical ties to England, it is wrong to celebrate what was primarily an act of political and religious oppression. The ascension of William and Mary is inseparable from the Penal Laws they soon enacted.

Celebrating William and Mary's rise to power is equivalent to celebrating the Nuremberg Laws or the Spanish Inquisition. If the administration persists with this celebration, I encourage my fellow students not to take part. Instead, take the opportunity to appreciate the rights we have as Americans — especially freedom of religion and equality before the law.

E-mail Brian Doyle at bpdoyle@email.wm.edu.



RACHEL PULLEY — THE FLAT HAT

VARIETY

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AMPING UP FOR WALE & K'NAAN

By JASON ROGERS
Flat Hat Staff Writer

A perfect storm of epic musical proportions is speeding towards Williamsburg, combining two of the rising stars in hip-hop, 2,000 screaming fans and the College of William and Mary. The Wale and K'naan concert will take place tonight at the Lake Matoaka Amphitheater. AMP will bring these hip-hop stars to the College as part of this year's spring concert, and the campus is buzzing with excitement.

Wale and K'naan are two of the brightest up-and-comers in hip-hop. Wale recently released his first studio album, "Attention Deficit," and was the Master of Ceremonies for MTV's 2009 Video Music Awards. K'naan's most recent album, "Troubadour," was hailed by Billboard as "socially alert and frequently brilliant." His single "Wavin' Flag" was selected by Coca-Cola to be the official anthem of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Booking not just one of these big names, but two, marks a huge success for AMP.

"It reflects a lot of hard work from members of our Music Committee and we're all extremely excited that we are able to bring such great music artists down to William and Mary," AMP Director of Public Relations David Cooper '10 said.

However, Cooper said that this spring concert does present a few unique challenges.

"One of our biggest concerns has been making sure everyone is aware of the concert's start time, which is earlier than other concerts we've done in the past," he said.

The concert will begin at 6 p.m.,

so AMP is working on a promotional item to be handed out to the first 500 attendees to encourage timely attendance.

Response from the campus community has been full of excitement and eager anticipation.

"It really shows to me that this isn't some small 'hole in the wall' kind of school," Caitlyn Darnell '13 said. "We are big enough and important enough to attract such big names, and that we have an amazing AMP team who can pull it together. It's really awesome that something this cool is being brought all the way to Williamsburg."

Lamar Shambley '10, who co-founded the Student Hip-Hop Organization in 2007, said he is glad to see these artists coming to campus.

"It's great to see hip-hop being headlined at the spring show," he said. "I think that AMP has been doing an amazing job with

bringing in diverse and quality artists to the College."

Having such enthusiastic support from the campus community is what makes it all worthwhile for AMP's members.

"The overwhelming positive response we've received has been great," Cooper said in an e-mail. "Its made us feel wonderful."

This is not the first time that the Matoaka Amphitheater has hosted a hip-hop concert. In April 2008, AMP brought the Ying Yang Twins to the lake, and in October 2008 The Cool Kids took the stage. While it may not be the first hip-hop concert here, it may promise to be the best. Shambley, who has been responsible for bringing many developing hip-hop acts to the College through SHHO, knows what makes a good college concert.

"I like to see artists who acknowledge the audience and know the crowd they're performing for," Shambley said. "Maybe if they knew a bit about our school. If anything, it'll make the crowd more receptive."

That is entirely possible for Wale, who grew up in Washington, D.C. and currently lives in Largo, Md. For him, Virginia is familiar territory.

"This is a homecoming for me," he said at a concert in Richmond last April.

K'naan, who grew up in Mogadishu, Somalia, brings something completely different to the table. While many rappers brag about their rough upbringings, K'naan's youth was spent ducking Somali pirates and rebel militias. His songs reflect these experiences, combining energy and intensity with impressive lyrical depth.

Though these two artists have come to us from continents apart, they'll come together Friday night at Matoka for the highly anticipated concert at the College.



COURTESY PHOTOS — INDEPENDENCEDISTRO.COM, GQ

WEIGHING THE HOUSING WOES

Pros and cons of dorms on campus

Bryan Complex

-Pros: close to the Sadler Center, Wawa, Delis, air conditioned
-Cons: hall bathrooms

Chandler Hall

-Pros: central location, suite bathrooms
-Cons: far from the Student Rec Center and the Commons

The Units

-Pros: near the Student Rec Center and the Commons, close to nightlife
-Cons: loud on weekends, unattractive appearance

Ludwell Apartments

-Pros: apartment style, has kitchen and bath tub
-Cons: distance from campus

Jamestown Residences

-Pros: newest residences, air conditioning can be controlled from rooms, new furniture, big closets, numerous study rooms, piano practice rooms
-Cons: extra cost, weak water pressure

Landrum Hall

-Pros: central location, suite bathrooms
-Cons: all girls, no air conditioning

Old Dominion Hall

-Pros: close to Wawa, the Sadler Center, Old Campus
-Cons: hall bathrooms

The Lodges

-Pros: large living space, fireplaces, close proximity to both Old and New Campus
-Cons: no laundry facilities

Randolph Complex

-Pros: singles for extra privacy and apartments that share kitchen, bathroom and living room, air conditioning
-Cons: hall bathrooms, laundry facilities in separate building

Reeves Hall

-Pros: theme of international studies, air conditioning, located near CW
-Cons: far from New Campus, the Student Rec Center and the Commons

Hunting for housing

Room selection offers students variety of choices both on and off campus

By ERRIN TOMA
Flat Hat Staff Writer

It's that time of the academic year again. By now, you've either turned in your deposits, or are diligently patrolling online rental ads. That's right — it's room selection time. Unfortunately, not everyone gets a great time slot or the opportunity to live in Jamestown North, but there are great housing options to be found on- or off-campus with a few helpful tips.

Before you worry about room location, knowing who and how many people you'll live with is an important choice. Do you still need a roommate, or even roommates, for next year? As you look for a roommate, keep in mind your study and social habits. If you like having friends or your significant other over at all times, but your roommate usually falls asleep at 9 p.m. to wake up for his or her 8 a.m. class, things could get awkward. When talking to potential roommates, if you notice your schedules could not be more different, it may be time to talk to someone else.

Being randomly paired with someone requires constant flexibility from both parties. The roommate agreement you fill

out at the beginning of the year is a great way to set some ground rules, but keep in mind, you and your roommate may be very different people. You might have to make some concessions to ensure your year together will go smoothly.

Once you have a roommate secured, check out Residence Life's website. It has information ranging from the specifics of the online room selection process to interactive tours and information concerning all of the upperclassman residences. If you have other questions or are in need of more information, the Residence Life office can be of helpful assistance. The Residence Life office is located in the Campus Center, room 212.

With your roommate, create a list of what you're each looking for in a dorm. One of the most important things to take into consideration is location. Your roommate is a sociology major with all of his or her classes on New Campus, and you're an English major in Tyler Hall. If you are the type of student who needs to run to class to get there on time, try to find a dorm in the middle, like Landrum or Jefferson Hall. Keep in

CONFUSION CORNER

Handbook of Swem species

Jason Rogers
CONFUSION CORNER
COLUMNIST



My name is Rutherford Mayweather Pennywinkle, and I am a world-renowned zoologist. I have won many awards for my research on the slope-eared newt, the poison-beaked toucan and the explosion fish. Yes, I am that Rutherford Mayweather Pennywinkle. I come to you today to offer you a sneak peek of my newest field guide, "The Wildlife of Earl Gregg Swem Library." I offer this guide to help you identify your surroundings within the library so that you may more fully appreciate the wonderful cornucopia of life that inhabits your beloved Swem.

Chapter One: The most abundant of all Swem wildlife is the Common Twamp (*Tribemus pridemus*). The environment of Swem is perfect for the Twamp. The many stacks provide this majestic creature with an abundance of intellectual sustenance, while the coffee, croissants and candy give the beast the jittery fix it needs to sustain its nocturnal lifestyle. Just as the ostrich buries its head in the sand, the Twamp

Housing offers variety of choices

ROOMS from page 6

mind your favorite dining halls, or even your propensity to spend hours in Earl Gregg Swem Library or the Student Recreation Center. These factors will help you pin down the perfect location.

If you have a later spot (sorry, rising sophomores), chances are you will not get your first pick, but don't worry. There are great dorms that sometimes go overlooked.

Take for example, Old Dominion Hall, located across the street from the Sadler Center. It's a dorm that provides easy access to dining facilities, the post office and the Student Exchange. Even though it is located

on Old Campus, residents do not have to walk far to get to the New Campus academic buildings or to Swem. The same benefits come from living in the Bryan Complex.

There is a chance you could end up living in your last-choice =dorm. While it may seem easier said than done, make the best of the situation. Go crazy with room decorations and make it feel as much like home as possible. Put the awkwardness of freshman mixers behind you, and try to make an effort to go to hall events to meet the people with whom you will be living. You might find your least favorite dorm was really the best fit after all.

For those living off campus, this year you have a new resource website created by

the College: wmooffcampus.com. After you create a username which is a quick and easy process, the website gives you access to all rental listings available in the area. You can even narrow down your choices by distance and price. If you have a car, distance becomes less of an issue, but it is not necessarily a definite deterrent. Several apartments and housing complexes, like those on High Street and Merrimac Trail, are stops on the Williamsburg Area Transport bus lines.

Although far less stressful — at least to some — than registration, room selection can be more daunting. Armed with the right information and the proper preparation, you can find the perfect place for you by April 13.



GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA WALCH — THE FLAT HAT

Twamps reign in Swem habitat

LIBRARY from page 6

rarely allows itself to be seen without its face hidden behind a large textbook. Oddly enough, nearly every Twamp I observed during my time in Swem has — like clockwork — abandoned the environment at exactly 2 a.m. It's as though they all know something I don't. I will get to the bottom of this.

Chapter Two: While many creatures in the Animal Kingdom enjoy the benefits of a symbiotic relationship, perhaps no two creatures are more repulsive in their parasitic ways than the Inappropriate Couple (Getta rooms). Much like a tapeworm, the Inappropriate Couple slowly devour each other from the inside out. However, instead of eating one another's intestines, the Inappropriate Couple destroy each other's souls. Many creatures have developed mimicry to hide from predators. The Inappropriate Couple, however, has learned how to completely eliminate the need for individual identity. If you do manage to separate one member of the Inappropriate Couple from the other, both members react much as do penguins do on land — they've been in this situation before, but they wouldn't survive very long. The Inappropriate Couple does not appear to eat, save for each other's faces. Its utter disregard for the rules of PDA is its most defining feature, although you may not be able to look at it long enough to identify it before throwing up.

Chapter Three: No creature in Swem commands our pity more than the Misplaced Jock (Lifta lotts). The Jock is not indigenous to Swem, and it is far more comfortable in its natural habitats of the Student Recreation Center, William and Mary Hall and Busch Field. Just as hunger drives many animals to territory from which they would otherwise shy away, so do academics compel the Jock to venture into Swem. The Jock rarely leaves the first floor of Swem, never allowing itself to lose sight of the exit for which it so longs. The Common Twamp is the Misplaced Jock's primary predator, the former seeking to expunge the new invasive species from its ecosystem. Just as puffer fish will enlarge themselves to intimidate other animals, so will the Twamp drop impossibly huge stacks of books next to the Jock, mutter something about "a little light reading," and open them. If the desired effect is achieved, the Jock will flee from the library, restoring the Twamp as the dominant species of the area.

Chapter Four: The Griffin — your guess is as good as mine. So there you have it — a handy pocket guide to identify the wildlife of Swem. While this guide is to be enjoyed, I must offer fair warning in one regard: do not laugh too hard at any one of these entries because, for all you know, you may be featured in the next chapter.

Happy hunting, Swemmers.
Jason Rogers is a Confusion Corner columnist. While Jason is an avid Swem hunter, he prefers to unleash his inner beast on the weekends, starting on Thursdays.

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WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS



Transferring is not always **EASY**, to come into a new environment, and its completely different **TEAM** dynamic, but she has been a **BIG HELP** in the increased rise of our team.

— Head Coach Mary Lewis



BECK'S BIG IMPACT

By JACK LAMBERT
Flat Hat Sports Editor

Junior Kristina Beck is — in a word — eccentric. First off, her parents are named William and Mary.

She also holds conversations in her head during meets. Not every gymnast does that. Watch her on the balance beam — she literally talks out loud to remind herself what checkpoints to hit in the middle of her routines.

But it's her name that draws the most attention. It's the perfect name for a gymnast, the type of name that makes headline writers salivate.

Her nickname is Teenie.

But Beck is so much more than a nickname and eccentric personality. She's a transfer student, a history major, a prep superstar and an all-around champion. And after only one season with the Tribe, Beck has already established herself as potentially one of the top women's gymnasts ever to compete at the College.

"She has come the closest to the all-around record than anybody has in a number of years," Head Coach Mary Lewis said. "I think she can be right up there."

Beck almost never made it to Williamsburg. After a distinguished prep career in which she took sixth place on the beam at the 2007 Nationals and was Florida state champion in the all-around in 2005, Beck chose to attend Penn State.

You can see her in the 2009 Nittany Lions Media Guide. But Beck never really took to the big-time gymnastics lifestyle.

"It was just not the atmosphere that I wanted," Beck said. "It was a little too serious about gymnastics, not as much about school. The coaches cared more about your output than the actual person. I was totally worn out on it and wanted a new start."

After a sophomore season in which Beck didn't compete, she decided to transfer. Her mother, Mary, made it clear that she couldn't take a step down academically from Penn State, forcing Beck to choose between Kentucky and the College.

Beck's history major held some sway in her final decision. So did the fact that the College was a change in lifestyle, both academically and athletically.

"Not in a bad way, but [here] things are more geared to academics," Beck said. "We don't get special treatment, which isn't bad at all to me. When I go out into the real world, I'm going to be treated the same as everyone else."

Already convinced of the school's academic reputation, the team's general demeanor won her over, and Beck enrolled at the College last year.

"[The team] has been awesome," Beck said. "I wouldn't have

come here if it wasn't for them. They have just been so accepting and the perfect group to come into. It's just like I had been here the whole time."

Beck's career on the mat at the College didn't begin quite as smoothly as her relationship with her teammates. An injury forced her to miss the first three meets of the season, giving the junior a different perspective on the sport as she supported her teammates.

"I think it might have [helped me]," she said. "I went to the first two meets and I just got to see how [the team] interacted, how they treated competitions differently than other teams."

Upon returning to competition, Beck finished fourth in the all-around in her first meet of the season at West Virginia. Her score of 9.700 on the vault, combined with her team-leading scores of 9.650 and 9.550 on the bars and floor exercise, earned Beck her first ECAC Gymnast of the Week Award.

She would earn another such honor after the Tribe's dual gymnastics meet against Temple, where a score of 38.900 tied her for the fifth-best all-around score in school history.

Beck's success qualified for the NCAA Southwest Regional Saturday in Morgantown, W. Va. She is the fourth Tribe gymnast to compete in the event as an all-arounder in the last 10 years.

"If you look at the stats, I know I got the fifth-highest score in school history, but I just really wanted to come in and help this team," Beck said. "I feel like I have the same mentality and I feel like my work ethic has really been helpful to the team."

Lewis, for one, believes Beck has the potential to write her name at the top of the College's record books next season.

"This might sound a little cliché, but I don't think I ever was surprised [about Beck's performance this year]," Lewis said. "We had high expectations for her and she has come through."



COURTESY PHOTO — W&M SPORTS INFORMATION

Extra Points

This week the Flat Hat spotlighted the Tribe at the Colonial Relays held in Williamsburg, profiled Teenie Beck and covered a host of other sports. For more coverage of Tribe athletics, and an in-depth look at our production process for this week's issue, check out the Flat Hat Sports podcast with co-editors Mike Barnes, Jack Lambert and associates Wesley Stukenbroeker and Travis Triggs at flathatnews.com.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Stepanek, Tribe get ready for upcoming CAA tournament

Senior aims to end career on high note in final conference postseason appearance

By MIKE BARNES
Flat Hat Sports Editor

You won't find senior Morgan Stepanek snapping golf clubs over her knee. Maybe she'll split a golf tee here or there, but, for the most part, Stepanek avoids breaking things on the golf course.

Except for records. Those she has broken with some regularity over the course of her William and Mary career.

Stepanek, the first women's golfer to break par in a round during tournament play at the College, led the Tribe for one last regular-season meet Tuesday at the Mimosa Hills Invitational in Morgantown, N.C. She tied for fifth place with a 36-hole total of 149 (+5), helping the squad achieve a sixth-place finish with a team score of 618 (+42).

The College has finished in the top 10 in more than half of its tournaments this year, making this season one of the most consistent in recent memory. Heading into CAA tournament play, the Tribe already has two titles to its name this year — the Bucknell Invitational in September and the C&F Bank Intercollegiate at Ford's

Colony in Williamsburg two weeks ago.

"I think, like most golfers, we judge our season on wins, so we have to deem the season a success in my opinion," Director of Golf Jay Albaugh said. "That being said, we still want to finish our season on a high note."

Stepanek, whose 2009 season scoring average of 77 places her first all time in College history, said she is looking forward to her final CAA tournament.

"I definitely feel good," Stepanek said. "We had the CAAs at the Homestead my freshman year. It's an interesting golf course, so I definitely think having the experience and knowledge of the course prior to going in and playing it is definitely going to work on my side. It's my last CAAs, so I feel no pressure. And it will be my last three rounds of collegiate golf, so I am just going to be focused on having fun."

In addition to Stepanek, the College will need several of its key underclassmen — most notably sophomore Caroline Sweet and freshman Betsy Birchall — to post low scores in order to contend for a title.

Sweet earned back-to-back individual victories at the Bucknell Invitational and Great Smokies Intercollegiate

earlier this year, making her the first Tribe golfer to win two tournaments in one season since 1991. She also earned the distinction of being one of just three Tribe women to break par in a round when she shot a one-under-par 69 in September.

Most recently, Sweet carded a 151 (+7) to finish in a tie for 10th place at the Mimosa Hills Intercollegiate.

"Caroline is only in her sophomore season, and when it is all said and done, I think she has the potential to be one of the best — if not the best — player to ever come through our program," Albaugh said.

Like Sweet last year, Birchall has made large strides during her rookie season, and has become a key contributor to the College's success. She posted the Tribe's lowest score in two of the past three events, including a career-best fourth-place finish at the C&F Bank Intercollegiate.

"We have a great group of girls traveling — we all work together really well," Stepanek said. "I think if we can just go into the CAAs playing relaxed golf, focusing on each shot and not putting extra pressure on ourselves, we can do a lot."



COURTESY PHOTO — W&M SPORTS INFORMATION
Senior Morgan Stepanek lines up a putt.