

The Flat Hat

UPCOMING

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FEBRUARY 9, 2007 VOL. 96, NO. 15

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY SINCE 1911

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CAMPAIGN FOR W&M

Fundraising campaign tops \$500 million early

BY AUSTIN WRIGHT
FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

The Campaign for William and Mary, the largest fundraising campaign in the College's history, reached its \$500 million goal six months ahead of its June 30 closing date.

As of Dec. 31, the seven-year campaign raised \$502.7 million, a benchmark College President Gene Nichol is expected to announce at today's Board of Visitors meeting.

According to the Office of University Relations, 58,303 people donated to the campaign, contributing \$101.2 million for academic, athletic and research scholarships, \$43.3 million for faculty support, \$57.8 million for improvement of facilities and \$75.9 for unrestricted funds.

THIS PAGE
The College says over \$200 million from the campaign goes directly into the endowment.

INSIDE
Where are the funds raised going? A table detailing the breakdown of priorities can be found on page A3.

"Reaching this milestone reminds us, unambiguously, that none love more, care more, or are more powerfully committed to the cause of their college than the alumni and friends of William and Mary," Nichol said. "I join [former College President] Tim Sullivan, the campaign's inspiration and prime steward, in pride and gratitude beyond ready description."

The press release said that the campaign will continue raising funds until its scheduled closing date.

"[This is] an incredible success story for the College," Vice President for University Development Sean Pieri said. "As higher education becomes more and more competitive, fundraising is going to be very important."

Pieri said that over \$200 million from the campaign would be directly added to the endowment. Publicly announced in 2003, the campaign's half-billion-dollar goal was more than double the goal of any other College fundraising initiative.

See \$500 MILLION page A3

Safety concerns won't guarantee alcohol amnesty

By Morgan Figa
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Despite the new College alcohol amnesty policy, underage students who have been consuming alcohol may still be subject to arrest by campus police.

The new alcohol amnesty policy says that students who call for help if they or someone they know has been drinking excessively or irresponsibly, will not be charged with a violation of College alcohol policy. This policy, however, does not prevent arrests or the issue of summonses by police.

Monday, Jan. 22, a student in Barrett Hall called police and reported that his roommate was vomiting blood and required medical assistance. Both students were eventually issued summonses for alcohol violations.

"Police are dealing with violations of law, not College policy," Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler said. "No university official can tell an officer that he may or may not arrest."

Campus police said that the police were never affected by the College's policy change.

"The police have a different set of standards," Chief of Police Donald Challis said. "However, we typically only arrest when a student's behavior is incredibly bad or uncooperative."

Challis explained that when the police take a report

See ALCOHOL page A4

Endowment grows faster than average

Endowment increased 12.3 percent last year but falls in ranking to 128th largest

By ALINA TODOR
THE FLAT HAT

A new report on university endowments provided mixed news for the College. The report showed that the College's endowment has increased 12.3 percent from \$437,724,000 last year to \$491,629,000. However, its rank relative to other universities fell in the report.

The College said that it was pleased with the endowment report.

"I think clearly this puts us in the top quartile of colleges and universities," Chair of the William and Mary Foundation, the group that manages the College's endowment, Howard Busbee said. "Our endowment has grown significantly; we're very

pleased with it."

However, the report released by the National Association of College and University Business Officers shows that the College continues to lag behind many wealthier schools, falling one spot in the rankings of largest endowments in the nation this year to 128th. The College's endowment ranking has fallen each year since records were available in 2002, when it was ranked 115th. The College's endowment is the fourth highest in Virginia, after the University of Virginia, the University of Richmond and Washington and Lee University.

Busbee said he was less concerned with how the College ranked compared to other universities.

"The rankings as far as the size of the endowment is really not our goal," he said. "I can't say we'd want to be the biggest. What we want to do is simply maximize our investments."

NACUBO reported that the Col-

lege's endowment growth was above the average endowment increase of 10.7 percent this year.

According to the NACUBO, "factors such as growth from gifts, reductions due to expenditures and withdrawals and investment returns determine an endowment's fiscal year-end market value."

Endowment growth generally occurs through investment and gifts. The Flat Hat reported Oct. 6, 2006 that the portion of the endowment managed by the William and Mary Foundation experienced a 13.7 percent investment return this year. However, not all of the College's \$492 million endowment received that investment return.

The portion of the endowment increase from gifts was also strong this year. The College announced today that it had completed its \$500 million Campaign for William and Mary. See Campaign, page A1.

Harvard University continues to top

HOW OUR ENDOWMENT RANKS

1. Harvard U. \$28.9 billion
20. U. of Virginia \$3.6 billion
43. U. of Richmond \$1.4 billion
50. U. of Delaware* \$1.2 billion
76. Georgetown* \$834.5 million
128. W&M \$491.6 million
137. Va. Tech \$447.4 million
182. UConn* \$295 million
548. JMU \$39 million
575. Mary Washington \$33 million

*Indicates peer school
Source: NACUBO

the list of largest endowments, with an endowment of \$28,915,706,000, a 13.5 increase from last year.

The College also continues to lag behind universities that it considers

See ENDOWMENT page A5

Nichol discusses research at town meeting

Nichol wouldn't say whether he would resign if BOV reversed cross decision

By MEGHAN O'MALLEY
THE FLAT HAT

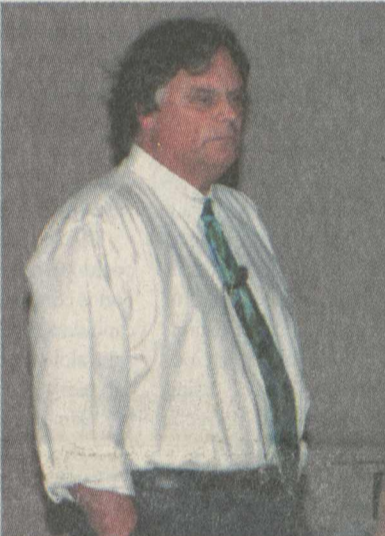
When asked by an alumnus at a Tuesday night forum whether he would resign if the Board of Visitors reversed his Wren cross decision, College President Gene Nichol said that he answers the BOV and that he looks forward to reviewing their findings.

The alumnus pressed him to answer more directly.

"[I'm] anxious to hear what [the BOV] has to say," Nichol repeated.

Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler moderated the forum, titled "Great & Public - The College of William & Mary," which included a question and answer session for students, faculty and staff.

As Nichol began his opening remarks in the Commonwealth Auditorium of the University Center, an audience member fell out of her seat, apparently injuring herself. The meeting moved to the Tidewater Room of the University Center



CASEY SCULLY • THE FLAT HAT

President Nichol conducted a Town Hall meeting Tuesday, where he answered questions about research and the Wren cross decision. Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler moderated the meeting.



because the audience member required medical attention from rescue personnel.

Nichol addressed questions regarding undergraduate research opportunities, including the use of "capstones," which are independent and faculty-directed research projects conducted by juniors and seniors.

However, Nichol said that the College must still recognize quality teaching as

the primary focus of the undergraduate academic experience.

Concerning graduate programs, Nichol said that if the professional schools and doctoral programs are kept small, they must be "world-class."

"We have a remarkable commitment to teaching and we have to have a powerful and defining set of aspirations for research," Nichol said.

Nichol acknowledged the need to renovate College facilities throughout campus, particularly the science departments.

"There are many great things about being an ancient university, the second-oldest, but having the oldest laboratories in the land is not one of them," he

See TOWN MEETING page A5

WREN CROSS CONTROVERSY

BOV decides to let cross decision stand for now

By ANGELA COTA
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

At its meeting Thursday, the Board of Visitors issued a statement acknowledging that College President Gene Nichol made "mistakes" in his handling of the Wren Chapel cross removal.

The statement was a change in tone from BOV Rector Michael Powell's Nov. 16 remarks, which said that the BOV was "proud" and "grateful" for Nichol's leadership.

Rather than taking a stance on the policy, the BOV has instead decided to allow discussion of the issue.

"We feel there is merit in taking time to reflect upon the issue and allow full discourse, led by the President's committee," the statement read.

Invited guests also spoke at the meeting on the topic of the Wren cross. From 12:45 to 1:45, a succession of diverse speakers addressed the Board of Visitors in a section of the meeting open to the public (though not public comment) to allow the Board to hear varied perspectives on the issue.

The meeting was the first since President Nichol's announcement during his State of the College address that a committee would be formed to study the use of the cross and religion in public universities.

The Board of Visitors released a statement Thursday supporting the committee;

Nichol admitted he may have acted too quickly; the Board noted this, and said that "Nichol has acknowledged that mistakes have been made."

In the meeting, Bob Thompson, '77, who described his reaction as "shocked" after the decision three months ago, spoke first.

Thompson, as a Christian, said that he feels that the action excluded his religion rather than making a welcoming atmosphere. He also argued that the policy change will not be enough to satisfy those felt excluded when the cross was in place.

"Is this so that those who are perpetually offended can be mollified?" he said.

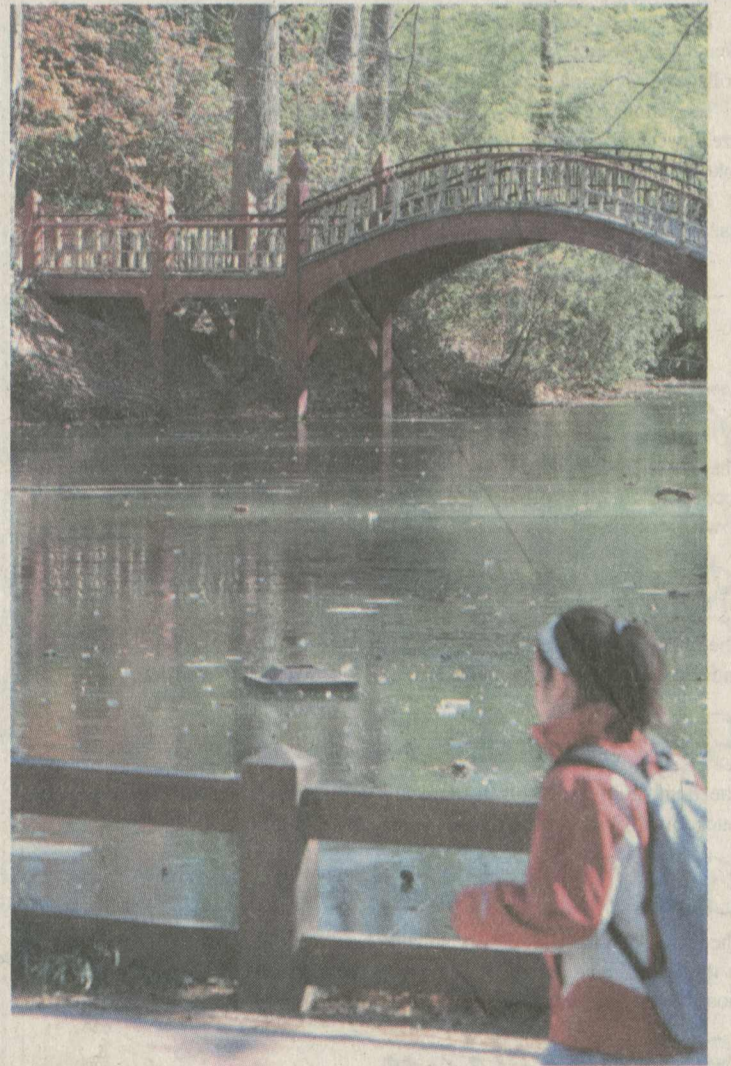
Senior James Ambrose, assistant secretary of public affairs and student assembly liaison to the Board of Visitors, stated that he spoke on behalf of students and presented a different viewpoint.

"For the majority of students I have spoken to, the issue of the Wren Cross is a non-issue," he said. "They simply do not see this as an issue that dominates what students do every day on campus."

Students support President Nichol and what he has done for the College in the past 18 months, Ambrose said.

See BOV page A4

ICING ON THE LAKE



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

As winter temperatures finally set in, people threw eggs, bricks, portions of a trash can and other debris on a frozen Crim Dell.

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Sports
Men's basketball outshoots JMU 71-56. Page A10.



Variety
Sex Workers' Art Show, coming to campus Feb. 12, will rue to its name. Page B1.



Reviews
Grey's Anatomy just doesn't live up to expectations. Page B5.



NEWS INSIGHT

The Flat Hat

'Stabilitas et Fides'

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Corrections

In the Feb. 2 issue, a letter to the editor titled "The purpose of the Chapel" was incorrectly attributed to Michael Weissberge, '05. The correct author was Todd Skiles, '92.

In the same issue, the By the Numbers feature on page A2 incorrectly stated that the Chicago bears were favored in the Super Bowl.

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

Weekend Weather

Friday



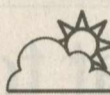
High 41°
Low 22°

Saturday



High 45°
Low 27°

Sunday



High 44°
Low 26°

Source: www.weather.com

Quotes of the Week

"This will be a full blown operatic story brought to life."

- UCAB member Andy Foiles on the upcoming My Chemical Romance concert.
See CONCERT page B1

"This may be an issue that needs to be decided in the courts."

- SA senator Brent Phillips on student voting rights.
See ASSEMBLY page A4

News in Brief

College ranks highly in Peace Corps official ranking

The College was ranked as the sixth largest producer of Peace Corps volunteers among all medium-sized colleges, the Peace Corps announced recently. The College moved up four spots this year, with 42 alumni currently serving in countries around the world. Since the beginning of the Peace Corps, 475 College alumni have served as volunteers.

The number one school in the medium-sized school category is George Washington University, closely followed by the University of Virginia. The category includes only schools with between 5,000 and 15,000 students.
- by Erin Grady

Virginia Tech to open new medical school in Roanoke

Virginia Tech announced Jan. 3 that it will open Virginia's fifth medical school, which will jointly operate with Carilion Medical Center.

The five-year curriculum will be modeled after Harvard Medical School's Health Sciences and Technology Program and the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner College of Medicine, according to a Jan. 3 press release from Virginia Tech.

The school, expected to open in either 2009 or 2010, hopes to ease any future physician shortages. It will be located in Roanoke near the Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, and construction is expected to begin next year.

The medical school is part of Virginia Tech's campaign to become a top research university and is also expected to bring jobs to the Roanoke area.
- by Alina Todor

By the Numbers

710,000

The number of tourists who visited Colonial Williamsburg in 2005, according to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The number is down from the city's peak of 1.2 million visitors in 1988.

\$28.4 billion

The difference between Harvard's endowment, the largest in the nation, and the College's endowment, ranked 128th with \$491 million.

92 yards

The number of yards run by Chicago Bears player Devin Hester for a touchdown, 14 seconds into the opening play of Super Bowl XLI.

6,300 percent

The increase in the U.S. deer population between 1900 and 2001, according to the Wall Street Journal. Current population levels are thought to equal those before Europeans arrived in the North America.

88 million

The total number of iPods sold to date by Apple Computer. iPod sales now generate 48 percent of Apple's revenue.
- compiled by Maxim Lott



COURTESY PHOTO • THE BROADSIDE

BEYOND THE BURG

Presidential hopefuls court youth vote

BY ALEXANDRA COCHRANE
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

As political participation of college students grows, they may be of increased importance in the 2008 election.

"Presidential candidates are certainly paying more attention to college students," Government Professor John McGlennon said. "They have historically relied on students as volunteers, but they are now seen as a good target for votes."

According to the United States Census Bureau in 2006, 48.8 percent of those aged 18-24 registered, and 32.4 percent voted.

McGlennon said that key issues such as foreign policy in Iraq, student loans and environmental concerns are all things that students care about and have led to more youth political participation.

Tom Vilsack, former Democratic governor of Iowa, is using YouTube, Facebook and MySpace to reach out to young voters. Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) has an extensive Facebook account that in-

cludes his plans for 2008 and links to media appearances. There are almost 3,000 posts on Obama's Facebook wall and hundreds of comments on the nine notes he has posted.

Obama's most recent note demonstrates that he believes in the importance of communicating to young voters.

"Many of you have asked what else you can do to help, and I appreciate that," the note reads. "For starters, you can talk to your neighbors and friends. You can call your mom or dad. You can ask your Facebook friends to add their name as a supporter...But most of all, you can keep speaking out and standing up for the issues that matter to you and your family."

The impact of college students could be tremendous if the support is concentrated on a particular candidate, but it will probably be split along partisan and ideological lines.

"Some candidates have targeted young voters strongly or have a particular appeal because of potential to bring something new and

different," McGlennon said.

"A few of them are Obama, who recently held a rally at George Mason, and Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), who has the potential to be the first woman president," he added. "Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) has appeal among younger voters because of his reputation for straight talk. Former Sen. John Edwards has tried to incorporate technology like podcasts and blogging."

Presidential hopeful, Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.), a Republican senator and presidential hopeful, will be speaking at the College's Charter Day Ceremony Feb. 10.

The senator will receive an honorary degree at 10 a.m., and tickets are free in advance for students.

"He's going to be an interesting person to watch," McGlennon said. "Though Republican, he is an outspoken critic of the war in Iraq. His speech will be interesting if he raises the issue of the war because it suggests he sees it as a winning campaign issue in the Republican Party."

This week in Flat Hat history

1960

Duke Ellington performed a two-hour concert at Phi Beta Kappa Hall sponsored by the William and Mary student government. The concert was open to a limited 805 students and other ticket holders. The student government sold the tickets for \$2.50.

1971

The Student Assembly debated whether or not the College's American Indian symbol should be redesigned "in order to enhance the dignity of the American Indian."

This occurred after nation-wide complaints from American Indian groups about degrading symbols.

A motion to completely abolish the mascot failed. However, the original resolution to re-design the symbol passed.

1984

Despite rain, 300 to 400 students, athletes and coaches rallied on Barksdale Field to show support for six sports that had been eliminated during college budget cuts.

Men's lacrosse, fencing, swimming and riflery as well as women's golf and fencing were cut in the budget for the following year. Students from all sports rallied in support.

2002

President Timothy Sullivan announced that the Virginia General Assembly would take \$16.4 million out of the College's general fund over the next two and a half years.

The state announced the cuts after a statewide economic downturn.

80 percent of the cut funding would have gone to pay faculty and staff salaries. Sullivan announced he was considering cutting 40 staff positions in order to deal with the new budget constraints.

-compiled by Morgan Figa

STREET BEAT

Which '08 primary candidate do you want to hear on campus?



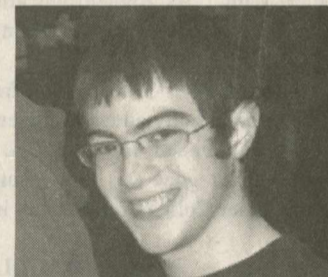
I hate all Republican and Democratic politicians. I don't know a single one that has caught my eye.
Emily Nebergall, freshman



Anyone but Hillary Clinton. Everything about her makes me angry.
Mark Enriquez, freshman



Obama. Its really interesting how well he's received... I'd love to hear him talk.
Rebecca White, sophomore



John McCain. But just so I can throw shit at him.
Dan Villarreal, freshman

- photos and interviews by Julia Schaumburg

POLICE BEAT

Jan. 30 to Feb. 5



Tuesday, Jan. 30 — A student reported vandalism to a vehicle parked on Ukrop Drive. The damage reported was to the side mirror of the vehicle. Estimated damage was \$150. **1**

Thursday, Feb. 1 — A student called into report that she had been receiving annoying and disturbing calls on her cell phone. The last call the student received was Jan. 31. The student did not file a formal complaint.

— Another student called to report that she had received obscene calls on her cell phone.

Saturday, Feb. 3 — A student living in Jamestown North reported vandalism. The student reported that someone had taken all of the food from her freezer that she had placed there two nights before. Estimated value of the food was \$50. **2**

Sunday, Feb. 4 — A student living in Unit F called the police to report a larceny. Items reported stolen were an ID card, credit card and a cell phone. **3**

Monday, Feb. 5 — A student reported that her coat and keys were stolen. She claimed that they had been stolen while she was at a party at the Sigma Chi fraternity. Estimated loss was \$125. **3**

-compiled by Morgan Figa

GA tables student voting rights bill

By AUSTIN WRIGHT
FLAT HAT ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

Student Assembly Sen. Brett Phillips is puzzled. In Williamsburg, a city with strong historical ties to the start of American democracy, students lack a guaranteed right to register to vote.

Phillips, a junior, and Ross Grogg, a sophomore, traveled to Richmond Feb. 1 to lobby for House Bill 3200, sponsored by Delegate Melanie Rapp (R-96th District), which would have ensured Virginia students the right to register to vote in the locality of their colleges by allowing them to choose where they are domiciled. It was tabled until next year's session by a subcommittee within the Privileges and Elections committee.

Now Phillips and other students who worked on behalf of the bill are considering legal action against the state.

"After two and a half years of trying to be diplomatic and trying to appeal to the conscience of those in power, this may be an issue that needs to be decided in the courts," Phillips said, adding that his first priority was to continue working on legislation. "They didn't kill it — they gave us an opportunity [to present the bill in next year's session], and we're going to take that opportunity."

The potential lawsuit would likely challenge the current policy of local general voter registrars setting standards for student registration, a system College President Gene Nichol has repeatedly called unconstitutional because different localities use different criteria.

Recently, Williamsburg General Voter Registrar Dave Andrews altered his policy to allow students with Williamsburg driver's licenses to register.

Despite the change, Phillips said that legislation is necessary because inequality persists across the state. According to a March 28, 2006 article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, students at the University of Virginia who apply to vote are almost always approved, while students at the University of Mary Washington are almost always denied.

Last year at the College, several SA senators teamed with the executive department of Public Affairs to draft legislation to standardize student voting in Virginia. Secretary of Public Affairs junior Seth Levey contacted student governments at other Virginia schools and encouraged them to endorse the HB 3200.

Currently, 11 student governments have passed resolutions imploring the General Assembly to pass the bill.

"We've really been appealing to students throughout the commonwealth," Levey said. "We had conversations with different students and got their take ... and pretty much everyone was in agreement that there should be a standard code."

In an unprecedented move, the bill won support from the College Republican Federation of Virginia and the Virginia Young Democrats. Leaders of both organizations co-wrote a Feb. 1 letter calling on General Assembly delegates to support the bill. "Never before in our decades of coexistence have the Executive Boards of both ... [the CRFV and the VAYD] eschewed partisan politics and worked together toward a common cause," the letter reads. "That time is now."

Some members of the Williamsburg community feel that because students reside in the city temporarily and do not experience the long-term affects of policy, they should vote elsewhere. After a debate Oct. 4, 2006, U.S. Representative Jo Ann Davis (R-Va.) told The Flat Hat that although she has no stance on student voting, she does not understand why students are not content to vote absentee in their hometowns.

"The big concern [of Williamsburg residents] is that we'll take over the town," Phillips said. "But that's not our agenda. We just want an equal voice with the rest of the city."

In the subcommittee hearing Feb. 2, an early motion to send the bill to the full committee failed, leading to discussion of whether it should include out-of-state students. According to Phillips, Delegate Rapp believes the bill should affect all full-time students to avoid discrimination. Several legislators, however, argued that allowing out-of-state students to register to vote in Virginia could lead to a dispute over whether they should pay out-of-state tuition.

Eventually, legislators decided to table the bill until next session.

"The thing I struggle with is this is Williamsburg, Virginia, the birthplace of democracy, and we have trouble voting," Phillips said. "It's very difficult to get legislation passed in the General Assembly anyway — 80 percent of all bills fail. The fact that this bill didn't fail, that it was tabled ... was not a win, but it was not a loss."

GA acts on cross as students line up behind Nichol

By ELIZA MURPHY
THE FLAT HAT

The Virginia General Assembly passed a budget yesterday that includes a provision that requires the Board of Visitors to establish a task force to examine College President Gene Nichol's decision to remove the cross in Wren Chapel from permanent display, the Washington Post reported today.

Another amendment, put forth by Del. Robert G. Marshall (R-Prince William), would have cut Nichol's \$331,000 annual salary in half unless the cross was restored. The amendment was defeated.

The Virginia Gazette reported Feb. 7 that Virginia General Assembly Delegate Jack Reid (R-Henrico) is supporting legislation that would effectively force the College to return the Wren cross to its original position. Though the language is vague, mandating that "any building interior or exterior change, alteration or modification shall be restored to its original state with 45 days," it is clearly aimed at forcing the College to restore the cross permanently to Wren Chapel.

Our Campus United believes that the College community should come to a decision on its own regarding the presence of the cross, without the influence of outside political views and agendas.

late about the legislature's intent. We don't see [the College] in the language that's before us. The legislature is still in session, so we'll have to see where we are when the dust settles," Stewart Gamage, vice president for public affairs, told the Virginia Gazette.

The General Assembly will consider the proposed amendment along with its other business beginning Wednesday, and a joint decision between the House and Senate will be reached before the session closes.

The political action follows the creation of a new group, Our Campus United, an association of College students and alumni. The group held a press conference Feb. 5 asking SaveTheWrenCross.org and national political figures to stop politicizing the debate over the presence of the cross in the Wren Chapel.

Our Campus United believes that the College community should come to a decision on its own regarding the presence of the cross, without the influence of outside political views and agendas.

"We wouldn't want to specu-

See GA page A5

Blackboard faces lawsuit over patents

College's Blackboard system looks to defend itself against rival

By ANDY GARDEN
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Blackboard Inc., makers of the e-learning tool Blackboard Academic Suite used at the College, may soon head to court to defend its patent on a range of e-learning materials. At issue is whether rival company Desire2Learn's similar product violates the 2006 patent awarded to Blackboard.

In a lawsuit filed July 26, 2006, Blackboard alleged that Desire2Learn "uses, offers to sell, and sells within the United States ... products and services that infringe [upon Blackboard's patent], including, but not limited to all D2L products based on the D2L learning system or platform."

Desire2Learn rejects these

claims and, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education's Dan Carnevale, will likely argue its case in court.

"We at Desire2Learn are unwavering in our position that the patent claims are invalid and unenforceable against Open Source [software], our competitors, and us, and that we do not infringe on the claims," the company wrote in a Feb. 2 posting to its online blog.

A range of interested parties, including makers of rival products, open-source software advocates and higher education officials, are concerned that Blackboard's patent is too broad and will hinder development of new technologies and innovation in higher education. Blackboard denies these claims.

According to Carnevale, "they are concerned that the patent could stifle innovation, especially among open-source vendors, such as Sakai and Moodle, which of-

fer technology similar to Blackboard's, but without demanding licensing fees."

Blackboard president and CEO Michael Chasen defended the company in a Feb. 1 press release.

"As a member of the e-Learning community, we are committed to the open exchange of ideas, collaboration and innovation," he wrote.

Desire2Learn responded in its blog: "If Blackboard were truly concerned about its customer base, Open Source, and education at large, it would welcome the [United States Patent Office's] decision to re-examine the patent."

Opponents of the Blackboard patent are hoping that the USPO's review of Blackboard's patent will result in the removal of the patent for some or all of the currently protected technologies.

Advocacy groups such as the Software Freedom Law Center, which represents several open-

source firms, hope that the submission of evidence that similar technologies existed before Blackboard's patent will cause the Patent Office to revoke Blackboard's patent.

"The Patent Office found that prior art cited in SFLC's request raises 'a substantial new question of patentability' regarding all 44 claims of Blackboard's patent," the SFLC said in a Jan. 25 press release on its website.

According to the College's Information Technology website, the College began using Blackboard in 1999.

"Blackboard (then called CourseInfo) was popular for its ease of use," the website says.

Were the lawsuit against Blackboard successful, the company would lose some or all of the patents on its software suite. While this would open it up to competitors, Blackboard would continue to be able to market its product.

SA Senators spar over pro-Nichol bill

By RACHEL OHM AND AUSTIN WRIGHT
THE FLAT HAT

Tempers flared near the end of Tuesday night's Student Assembly meeting as senators tried to leave the meeting to prevent a vote on a bill to throw SA support behind President Gene Nichol, a resolution that eventually passed. In order to vote on a bill, at least 15 senators must be in attendance.

When Sens. Andrew Blasi and Scott Morris, both freshmen, said they needed to leave — which would have put the SA below its 15-senator minimum — Sen. Meghan McCarthy, a senior, stood in front of the door and requested that they stay.

"McCarthy wasn't physically keeping them in the room — no one was," SA Vice President Amanda Norris, a senior, said. Norris, who presides over the Senate, added that she waited until Blasi said he was staying in the room on his own accord before she allowed the meeting to continue. Morris decided to leave.

The bill passed with one senator abstaining and two voting no: Blasi and Sen. Chair Joe Luppino-Esposito, a junior. Norris, along with several sources connected with the SA who wished to remain anonymous, said that they believe Luppino-Esposito was somehow involved in the attempted quorum bust, an allegation that both Blasi and Luppino-Esposito deny.

"I was accused of it, and the people who accused me have taken it back," Luppino-Esposito said. "There was no conspiracy."

Blasi said that he had e-mails proving that the people who made those allegations admitted they were wrong, but he refused to share them with The Flat Hat because he did not want to escalate the situation.

He also said that Norris threatened to personally tell Nichol that he would not support him, an allegation confirmed by Sen. Matt Skibiak, a junior.

Two issues presented earlier at the meeting concerned the conditions of the campus environment.

The New Campus Improve-



LAUREN NELSON • THE FLAT HAT
Freshmen from Dupont Hall and the Botetourt Complex attended the Student Assembly meeting Tuesday to support a bill that would provide sidewalks near their dorms.

ment Act, presented by freshman Senators Scott Morris and Andrew Blasi, was passed by the Senate after considerable deliberation concerning the subject. In attendance and in support of the act were six students from the Dupont and Botetourt residencies who were given the opportunity to voice their opinions as the senators presented the act.

The New Campus Improvement Act concerns the ground area immediately surrounding Dupont Hall, the Botetourt Complex and Keck Lab, which often becomes muddy and accumulates standing water, especially during the winter months.

"The campus is awesome ... then you have that heap of mud, which is just not attractive," freshman Chase Hathaway said.

"It would be so much easier if we just had a sidewalk," added Dupont resident, freshman Eric Rydin.

As indicated by the title, the new legislation will improve these areas on New Campus, making them safer as well as more aesthetically pleasing. It proposes the addition of paved pathways connecting Dupont to the Commons Dining Hall, and a paved asphalt street leading from Dupont to the Keck Lab.

Although the act has been

met with some opposition from environmentalists on campus, it gained unanimous consent from Student Life.

"The environment is very important, but when kids are falling on their faces, it is just not safe," Sen. Scott Morris, a freshman, said. The act plans for improvements to be underway by April.

Also in review Tuesday night was the proposed Wetlands Bill, discussed in detail by Student Assembly President Ryan Scofield, a senior. The Wetlands Bill, if enacted, would allot \$900 to the Stu-

dent Environmental Action Committee for planting flowers in the swamp behind the Student Health Center.

However, the bill was vetoed by Scofield, who says he sees the proposal as "not entirely viable and [thinks] the chance of it failing is very high."

Scofield said he does not support the Wetlands Bill "not because of a lack of effort, or a lack of desire" on the part of SEAC, but simply because of the variability of the

See SENATORS page A5

Scholarship News from the Charles Center

DEADLINES

- Udall Scholarship**
Campus Deadline: February 20 12:00pm
- Beinecke Scholarship**
Campus Deadline: February 20 12:00pm
- Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship**
Campus deadline: February 28 12:00pm
- Charles Center Summer Scholarship**
Deadline: March 20 12:00pm

INFORMATION SESSIONS

- Fulbright Scholarship Session**
February 22, 7:00pm - 8:30pm | Charles Center Lounge, Tucker Hall
Find out about the new pre-application process!

CHARLES CENTER PEER SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORS

We'll be getting started on scholarship applications by spring 2007 and next year! Meet with a Charles Center Peer Scholarship Advisor (PSA)

Charles Center PSAs hold weekly office hours in the Charles Center and are available to consult with you about your

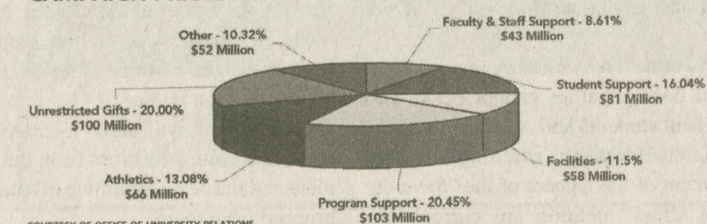
Visit the Charles Center online at:
www.vwm.edu/charlescenter

Campaign reaches \$500 mil

\$500 MILLION from page A1

Two years ago, when Nichol was a candidate for the College presidency, he said in a student forum that when the campaign

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



COURTESY OF OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

ended, a larger one would be needed. Pieri said that there are no plans for a larger campaign at this time.

"We are very pleased by the amazing results of the campaign thus far," campaign chair James Murray Jr. ('74) said. "But there is definitely more to do."

Recently, the University of Virginia announced that its \$3 billion fundraising campaign, scheduled to end in 2009, had raised \$1.12 billion, The Daily Progress reported.

Couples still marry in Wren despite new cross policy

Historic Campus director says no couple has cancelled in the wake of Nichol's Wren cross decision

By ANGELA COTA
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Despite controversy over the relocation of the Wren cross in late October, there has been no effect on the number of marriages held in the chapel.

Executive director of Historic Campus Louise Kale, who also oversees marriage arrangements in the chapel, said that she booked a typical number of weddings in the months following President Gene Nichol's decision not to display the small gold

cross on the altar.

There have been 16 weddings and 35 bookings for ceremonies in the chapel since the end of October. However, all of the weddings since late October would have been booked long before the policy change was made, so this number does not indicate any trend relating to the decision.

To get married in the Wren Chapel, the bride, groom or their parents must be affiliated with the College.

"In January I was booking a lot of weddings," she said. "In January, I can usually spend all day talking to

brides."

There was an active and healthy interest in the chapel in January. Though it is slow for marriages, January shows an increase in bookings because people get engaged over the holidays, Kale said.

"More than one-third of the weddings are booked in one-fourth of the year," she said of the winter months.

Kale does not release names of those who marry in the chapel; this has been a policy of hers since she began directing wedding arrangements because she feels the information is too personal to release.

She also does not keep statistics for the various religions of weddings in the chapel. The engaged couple

completes a questionnaire that includes information on what religious official will be needed and whether they want the cross displayed. It is impossible to tell from the November through January bookings (since Nichol's decision) the percentage of weddings associated with different religions to discern any trend concerning religions of those using the chapel for marriage after the cross's removal and subsequent controversy.

But Kale insists that there has been no change in the quantity of wedding bookings.

"Nobody has cancelled because of the cross policy," she said. "The use of the cross is having no impact on the use of the chapel for weddings."

Author discusses American Indian family issues

By CHARLOTTE SABALIS
THE FLAT HAT

Monday Feb. 5 at 6 p.m., noted author and professor Philip Deloria delivered a lecture entitled "Crossing the (Indian) Color Line: A Family Memoir" to a full house of students, professors and members of the Williamsburg community.

Deloria is the author of two books: "Playing Indian," published in 1998, and "Indians in Unexpected Places," published in 2004. He is the director of the American Culture program at the University of Michigan, where he is a professor of history and American Culture. A candidate for the presidency of the American Studies Association, Deloria has carried on a family tradition with his work. His father, Vine Deloria Jr., who died in Nov. 2005, was a well-known advocate for Native American

rights.

After commenting on the unusually cold weather the College has experienced in the past week, Deloria gave an hour-long speech that he divided into five categories.

"The first [section] is a little bit of riff about the color line and W.E.B. Dubois, then there's ... musings about culture, then three different biographies, my grandmother, my grandfather and my great-aunt, Ella Deloria," he said. "Then the three of them kind of draw together, and then the final section is sort of thinking about how they fit together in these kind of curious ways."

As suggested by the title of his lecture, Deloria's work is intricately connected with his family, which he has researched and from which he has assembled considerable oral histories.

"It wasn't entirely what I expected,

but I admired Deloria's willingness to address seemingly difficult family situations in a thoughtful and reflective manner," senior John Bell said. "He has an engaging story to tell, and the College is fortunate that he could share it with us."

Deloria spoke extensively about his white grandmother, his mixed-blood Sioux grandfather and his great-aunt, and about how all three of them blurred the color line in different ways. He also mentioned an upcoming project showcasing his grandmother, whom he felt may have been somewhat overshadowed and stifled by his grandfather.

"I had never heard Deloria speak before, but I had seen him at conferences, and of course I knew him by reputation and because of his father, Vine Deloria, Jr., [although] he has certainly distinguished himself in his own right," Andrew Fisher, a professor of

history at the College, said. "I wasn't disappointed — his new project sounds very interesting, very unique, and he is [arguably] the only person who could write it. I do think, however, he raised more questions than he answered."

Also in attendance at the lecture was Randy Flood, executive director of NATV, the first nonprofit Native American television, radio, web and podcast organization in America.

"I had never met Phil Deloria, and was only familiar with his father. I went out of curiosity, and thought that Deloria was a very good storyteller, and his subject matter was very interesting, especially his focusing on the female side of the family," Flood said. "It's interesting that he focused on that particular aspect... I wish he had gone into greater detail about his father, who was a legend, and was looked upon with great reverence."

Williamsburg tourism, finances increase in '06

CW sees 5% increase in ticket sales, end of \$500 million capital campaign

By ELIZA MURPHY
THE FLAT HAT

Colonial Williamsburg saw a marked increase in tourism and donations in 2006.

For the second consecutive year, ticket sales increased. 2006 saw 767,000 total admissions, a 5 percent increase over 2005 and the largest percent increase since the late 1980s.

The Campaign for Colonial Williamsburg surpassed its goal of \$500 million, with donations totaling more than \$510 million. This is Colonial Williamsburg's first fundraising campaign, and it goes toward preservation of the Historic Area, educational programs and endowment for key positions.

The number of individual do-

nors to the Colonial Williamsburg Fund exceeded the 100,000 mark for the fifth consecutive year. The record 115,000 donors in 2006 contributed \$14 million, another 5 percent increase over 2005.

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation President and Chairman Colin Campbell attributes the increase in attendance and donor support to the new initiatives that have been launched by the Foundation over the past six years. These initiatives include the creation of a Regional Welcome Center for America's 400th Anniversary in May 2007 and the Revolutionary City program, which began last March.

Campbell believes that this trend of increase will continue in 2007, especially due to the 400th anniversary of Jamestown and the World Forum on the Future of Democracy, both of which will receive national and international attention.

Cops can't guarantee alcohol amnesty

ALCOHOL from page A1

of any incident involving a student, they refer the report to the Dean of Students office. He said that most of the time, students are merely referred and not arrested.

"Typically, for every arrest, we make four referrals of students who could have been arrested, but weren't," he said.

Challis added that the amnesty policy has not changed much for the police force and that the policy does not require officers to act differently from how they have in the past.

"Typically, if a student is arrested, there is more to the story," he said. "The student would have to be very uncooperative or we would have had to have seen them in a similar situation three or four more times."

Sadler said that the amnesty policy should still encourage students to call if they or someone they know is

in trouble.

"We want to take off the table the fear that a lot of students had if they, for example, were worried about a friend's safety, but were also worried about whether or not they were going to get in trouble," Sadler said.

He added that students should feel free to contact whoever is qualified to help when someone is in trouble.

"In most cases, the police don't arrest," Sadler said. "Typically, if someone is sick from intoxication, they'll report it to us and we'll just deal with it."

Students who do call in under the policy will not be placed under judicial action.

"You might be referred for alcohol counseling," Sadler said. "I hope people understand why the College would be interested in helping people to build some refusal skills and deal with issues they may have or not even know they have in a setting that doesn't create a judicial record."

Sadler said that the most severe punishment that most students would receive is a conference with the Dean of Students and participation in an alcohol educational program.

He added that the student alcohol task force is creating a webpage with a question and answer section that will help students better understand the policy.



CASEY SCULLY • THE FLAT HAT

Nichol listens at the BOV meeting yesterday. The BOV issued a statement allowing Nichol's cross decision to stand after hearing testimony from both sides of the issue.

BOV allows Nichol's Wren cross decision to stand

BOV from page A1

Katherine Kulick, president of faculty Assembly and Associate Professor of French, represented faculty. At the Faculty Assembly's first meeting of the year on Jan. 30, College faculty unanimously affirmed their confidence in President Nichol's leadership and endorsed his committee formation, she said.

"The committee will lead to greater understanding for all involved," Kulick said.

Kulick also cited Professor of Economics Robert Archibald and Professor of Sociology Kathleen Slevin's combined effort for support of the President's policy change. The petition circulated for one week and gathered 394 signatures — 71.5 percent of full-time faculty.

Vince Haley spoke for SavetheWrenCross.org, providing anecdotes of his experience at the College and how he enjoyed those memories this year visiting during Homecoming weekend. But upon reading about the policy change days later, he was disappointed.

"My bubbling enthusiasm drained from me," he said.

Haley criticized the decision for its lack of public process and asked the Board to be consistent with the College's history.

Campus Ministry, alumni and students allied to resolve the cross debate on campus without outside politics, was represented by Brian Cannon, alumni ('04) and leader in OurCampusUnited.org.

"SavetheWrenCross.org and their national political allies cannot be said to represent students and alumni," he said.

He cited statistics asserting that only 6 percent of the signers of the "Save the Wren Cross" petition are current stu-

dents, only 5 percent of alumni have signed the petition and 70 percent of the signers have no affiliation with the College.

"Outside agendas should not be welcomed," he said.

The last of the invited speakers was Rector of Bruton Parish Church Holly Hollerith, who first assured his impartiality on the matter.

Hollerith provided background and history of the cross. According to him, after the Reformation, crosses were extremely rare on altars. Bruton Parish did not obtain one until 1909. Around 1939, the church received a new one and began loaning its old one to the Wren Chapel at the College. It was used not used regularly.

"I surmise that it was left there more for convenience," he said.

As a minister, he described the cross's placement as "theologically trivial."

"I urge you to be cautious of the tremendous religious and political hypocrisy that surrounds this issue," he said to the Board.

Nichol then announced the 14 chosen members of the new committee, which includes co-chairs James Livingstone, Walter G. Mason Professor of Religion Emeritus and Alan Meese, Alumni ('86) and Ball Professor of Law at the William and Mary Law School., who both spoke.

Livingstone emphasized the College's attention to religion through campus organizations and available classes. Meese addressed the new committee's upcoming challenges in organizing itself and conducting interviews.

The Board will hear recommendations concerning the cross from the president and the new committee in April and proceed from there.

As Congress fights deficits, birth control pill prices rise

By KARA STARR
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, a federal spending law that allocates drug prices, is causing an increase in the nominal — or minimum — cost of birth control.

The law also eliminates the group discount policy that allows many universities to purchase name-brand drugs for their campus pharmacies.

Many family-planning and health organizations are outraged over the decision.

"We're definitely losing sleep over [the legislation]. It's very frustrating — there were already high deductibles because of the insurance companies and they're just getting higher," Advocacy Coordinator for Planned Parenthood Margie Rashti said. "Unfortunately, it makes us have to raise our prices."

The American College Health Association is now attempting to counter the price increases.

"I want the ACHA membership to know that we are pursuing several means in which we might lessen the impact that the DRA will have on your student health services," ACHA President Dorothy Kozlowski said in a letter sent to association members. "We are actively engaging the support and expertise of the ACHA Advocacy Committee, which considers any legislation, regulation or policy development dealing with college students' access to reproductive health care ... This issue will also be a priority for the ACHA Board of Directors annual Capitol Hill visit in February 2007."

Many groups who oppose the legislation are looking to Congress for change.

"[The increase] will definitely be a problem for quite a while. A lot depends on the Democrats in Congress and what they push. We support making birth control a part of basic health care that would be available to everyone. There's more of a chance for that with the Democrats in control," Rashti said.

At the College's health center, prices have remained fairly consistent. The pharmacy chooses to stock generic pills as opposed to their more expensive brand-name counterparts, allowing for a significantly lower cost to students. Some of the pills offered are Tri-Sprintec, the generic form of Ortho Tri-Cyclen, and Aviane, the generic form of Alesse. All generic pills cost \$24 at the College pharmacy, whereas the name-brand costs would range from \$45-\$60 on a college campus.

"I don't foresee this law affecting students [at the College] because we will still be offering generic medications at a competitive price with CVS and other pharmacies," pharmacist Maureen Bounds said.

Generic versions of birth control do not equate a lower value because of a lower cost. It is more economical for the College to stock these drugs, and more convenient for students who are avoiding an expensive fee.

In her letter, Kozlowski "encouraged those who do not already do so to use generic contraceptives when possible as an alternative."

Planned Parenthood agrees, advocating generics as "just as effective, cheaper and more available."

Although generic medicine costs will not rise, existing deals that the College pharmacy had with name-brand manufacturers will be terminated as a result of this law. The NuvaRing, which is now offered on campus for the reduced price of \$20, will no longer be available. Also, Ortho Tri-Cyclen Lo, which is now sold for \$18 a month, will no longer be carried.

The pharmacy will recommend students to the local Planned Parenthood for these drugs. Planned Parenthood carries the NuvaRing for \$22 a month, a relatively low price compared to the average pharmacy's cost of \$50 per month. However, this price will continue to rise with the new law.

The few name-brand pills offered at the College are more expensive. The cost of Plan B, also known as the "morning-after pill," is \$35 and it is available over-the-counter to all females 18 years of age or older.

Another name brand medication, Depo Provera, costs \$50 for the serum and the injection. Although it used to be quite popular, a recent study has shown that the drug may cause bone loss. Now the drug is only available by prescription, but its use has dropped significantly.



CASEY SCULLY • THE FLAT HAT

Representatives on both sides of the Wren cross issue addressed the Board of Visitors with their opinion on Nichol's decision.

Under the MICROSCOPE

◆ HUMAN LINK TO CLIMATE CHANGE 'UNEQUIVOCAL,' SCIENTISTS SAY

BY KATE PRENGAMAN
FLAT HAT SCIENCE COLUMNIST

Last Friday, the worlds of science and policy met to erase some major clouds of doubt and uncertainty. For the first time, researchers and leaders came together to the announcement that global warming is "unequivocal" and that human activities are almost definitely the primary cause. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released the first of four reports due this year in Paris to document the planet's warming in the past century and the warming to come as we continue to pour greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

The report confirmed what many scientists have said for more than a decade: the increasing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are trapping more of the sun's energy as heat. In the atmosphere, trapped gases trap heat, and the increases in these gas levels are creating widespread global problems — from melting ice caps and rising sea levels to droughts, famines and unpredictable weather.

"Since 2001, there has been a torrent of new scientific evidence on the magnitude, human origins and growing impacts of the climatic changes that are under way," John Holdren, the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, told the New York Times. "In overwhelming proportions, this evidence has been in the direction of showing faster change, more danger and greater confidence about the dominant role of fossil-fuel burning and tropical deforestation in causing the changes that are being observed."

Previous reports have indicated the possibility and even likelihood of these events, but this most recent IPCC report is the first to try to end the uncertainty on the issue, reporting with greater than 90 percent confidence that global warming is becoming a dangerous result of human activity. The report stated that the past century saw a 0.74 degree Celsius increase in global temperatures, predominantly in the latter 50 years. Current greenhouse gas concentrations are indicating an increase of 0.2 degrees Celsius every decade for the next 20 years. What happens beyond that is undoubtedly affected by the decisions made now concerning human activities and emission levels.

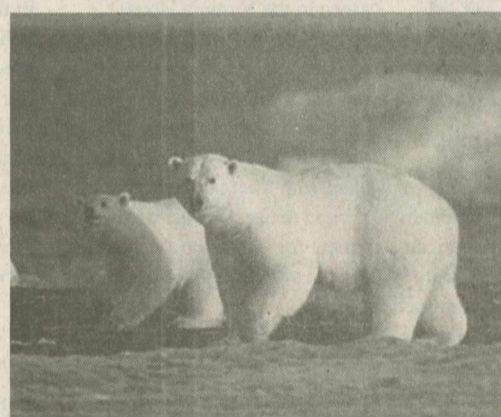
The United States has been the world leader

in greenhouse gas production; our 5 percent of the global population has created 25 percent of the problematic emissions. Along with 112 other countries participating in the IPCC, the Bush Administration — which had previously avoided acknowledging the link between human activities and global warming — welcomed and supported the findings.

"The findings, which governments have agreed upon, leave no doubt as to the dangers that mankind is facing and must be acted upon without delay. Any notion that we do not know enough to move decisively against climate change has been clearly expelled," Yvo de Boer, the executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, stated in a press release after the report was presented Friday.

It would be misleading to suggest that with the publication of this report, scientists know everything they need to know about climate change. There is still plenty of uncertainty remaining on these issues, but the question of if has shifted into questions of "when" and "how." The climate of the planet is changing, and the implications of that are vast, complicated and only beginning to be understood.

The questions that remain, even with our ever-increasing pile of supporting evidence, graphs and solid scientific research, are not going to be easy to answer, either: Yes, global climate change is happening; the earth is getting warmer and it's our fault. So, what are we going to do about it now?



COURTESY PHOTO • NYTIMES.COM
Polar bears are one animal that has become threatened due to rising global temperatures.

SA debates bill to support Nichol

SENATORS from page A3

weather and the risk of losing the money invested in planting flowers when "sometimes it rains, sometimes it snows."

Finally, there is the concern that if the bill were passed, the planting of flowers would generate excessive pollen, which would increase allergens on campus.

Additionally, Scofield expressed anxiety regarding the distribution of Student Assembly funds to an interest group for purposes other than student activities.

Although SEAC is a student-run organization, it has already received funds from the Student Assembly for other projects this year, such as the installation of a trash compactor behind the Commons Dining Hall.

GA takes up cross

GA from page A3

"Not all members of Our Campus United agree on whether President Nichol's decision was correct," senior Nate Nichols, a member of Our Campus United, said. "Nor do we have a position on whether or not the policy change instituted by President Nichol should be retained or reversed. We believe that an honest discussion of this issue cannot happen unless we remove politics from that chapel."

Members of the organization said that they believe SaveTheWrenCross.org has turned what should be an on-campus, religious debate into a national, political debate by involving outside conservative figures including former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, Fox News commentators like Sean Hannity and conservative writer Dinesh D'Souza.

This congressional action mirrors the students' concern that the Wren cross controversy has become overly politicized.

"Many of us believed this to be an issue of faith, something we needed to 'fight' for, when all the while it's been a political battle,

allowing outsiders to come to campus and use the honest faith of hundreds of students for political gain," Kate Perkins, a senior and founder of Our Campus United, said.

Perkins added that not all Christians at the College support displaying the cross in the chapel at all times because many believe that they can follow God whether or not they are in the presence of a Christian symbol.

"We don't need symbols to be Christians. This is our college community and [lawmakers] are using our college, my faith and our community as your pawns," Perkins said.

Casey Shaw, a sophomore who signed the petition on SaveTheWrenCross.org, does not believe that the debate over the Wren Cross involves many outsiders.

"I wouldn't say it's a strong outsider battle. I'd say that most of the ties and the interest and the issues have come from people that are either Virginia residents, students at the College or alumni."

Shaw also believes that members of SaveTheWrenCross.org have received no political gain in the debate and simply care about the campus.

College funds retain low rank

ENDOWMENT from page A1

peer institutions. Of the 16 public and private peer schools that were ranked on NACUBO's list, the College was ranked higher than only the State University of New York — Binghamton, the University of Connecticut and the University of New Hampshire.

The William and Mary Foundation said that their goal is "to aid, strengthen and expand in every proper and useful way the work, usefulness and objects of" the College.

Nichol holds town meeting

TOWN MEETING from page A1

said. Nichol said that he also hopes to increase the number of international students on campus. He said that will help to improve the offerings for all students on campus.

"Opening our doors to students from across the globe is one of the most terrific things we can do to impact the quality of the educational experience."

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OPINIONS

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Alcohol amnesty

Last week, The Flat Hat's Police Beat reported on a student in Barrett Hall who called the police after his roommate began vomiting blood. After receiving medical assistance, both students were issued summonses for underage possession of alcohol. While the police have not released more details about this specific incident, it has raised questions about the extent of the College's new medical amnesty policy.

Medical amnesty places the focus of the College's alcohol policy where it should be: on the safety of students. Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler announced the amnesty policy in an e-mail to the community at the beginning of this semester. Under the new policy, students who seek medical help while drinking, or for friends who are drinking, will not face judicial sanctions from the administration. However, as reported in "Safety concerns won't guarantee medical amnesty" on page A1, this policy does not protect students from arrest or summonses by the police. While some students may have assumed that medical amnesty protected them in all circumstances, this is unfortunately not the case. Nevertheless, any student who believes that they or their friends are in danger should never hesitate to call for help.

The official policy of amnesty does not extend to the campus police, but the same principles of student safety guide their actions. According to Sadler, the police are required to enforce state and local laws

regardless of College policy. While the police will report underage students found with alcohol to the administration, officers are not required to arrest students and many receive only a warning from both the police and administration. Students are normally only arrested if they become very difficult or are repeat offenders, and students who cooperate are unlikely to face any lasting punishment. In fact, only about one in five underage students caught with alcohol end up arrested.

The Student Affairs Committee on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, the College administration and the campus police should be commended for the positive steps they have taken to create a safe environment for all students. However, these policies will have little effect if students do not know about them or do not trust that they will be protected.

The fact that the medical amnesty policy does not include the police is understandable and reasonable, but was not explained as fully as it should have been. When students hear from their friends or read in the police beat that a student was arrested after calling the police for help, it undermines trust in the policy. The medical amnesty policy protects students in most cases and should remove any hesitation they may have had about calling for help. But unless students are given the full story, rumor and anecdote will undo the hard work put into creating the policy.

The Flat Hat welcomes submissions to the Opinions section. Letters to the Editor and Opinions columns are due at 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication the following Friday. All submissions must be typed and double-spaced, and must include the author's name, telephone number and any relevant titles or affiliations with campus or national groups. Letters may be no more than 300 words; columns may not be less than 500 words nor more than 700. Letters must be e-mailed to fhops@wm.edu. The Flat Hat reserves the right to edit all material. Because of space limitations, The Flat Hat may not publish all submissions. The Flat Hat Editorial Board meets weekly to discuss the position taken by editorials. Unsigned editorials are written by the Editor or a designated member of the Editorial Board. All Board editorials reflect the consensus of the Editorial Board. Letters, columns, graphics and cartoons reflect the view of the author only.

Keeping the Super Bowl super

At some point in its 41-year history, the Super Bowl became a vested American tradition. At another, perhaps more nebulous point during this span, American pop culture evolved into something

so fragmented and mixed, with so many niche markets, that catering to everyone became something of an impossibility. With last Sunday's Super Bowl XLI, however, the NFL and its myriad of sponsors attempted to achieve the ultimate mass media feat — to make something that was appealing to every person in the country.

College kids, those notoriously hip and fickle crowds, seem to have been wooed successfully. In fact, my friends were gathered around the television in heretofore unseen numbers — I doubt even an open bar could have brought us together with the force of the Super Bowl. What interested me most was that, in our liberal-artsy crowd, precious few of us even followed football. I, for example, didn't know who was playing until I arrived at the party, by which time I had missed Billy Joel crooning the Star Spangled Banner. Rats.

It seems that somehow, even with the entertainment interests of Americans having grown more disparate and specialized than ever before, the Super Bowl still has us in its grasp. When a television broadcast has the ability to severely reduce the amount of traffic on the roads, something must be up. A mere game becomes a "media event," something with the uncanny ability to make people stop what they're doing and come together — in a way that perhaps even Thanksgiving, which was created for just such a purpose, can no longer rival.

Last year I sat in a mostly empty Daily Grind and used the game as an opportunity to catch up on my reading. (Perhaps it's telling that, despite it being relatively early in the semester, I was already far behind.) During a break I visited our beloved Wawa — which, even at 4:00 a.m., can be trusted to have at least a few patrons — and found myself to be the only customer in the store. The cashier asked me if I knew the score. When I said I didn't, his reactive "oh" was laced with such disappointment that I almost felt guilty. In some strange way, skipping the Super Bowl was like skipping church on Christmas Day. It was, to some, tantamount to heresy.

For XLI, however, the NFL managed to reel me in. Though I'll confess that I watched them much more closely than the game itself, it can't be said that I was in it "for the commercials" — an interesting concept, because it means that people are eagerly awaiting being advertised to. It's no wonder that ad space during the Super Bowl is the most coveted of the year: people are demanding to see products.

One wonders why corporations aren't struggling to get this kind of hype more often, perhaps frequently debuting witty new commercials during the more popular primetime shows. If it had hilarious ads, could I be roped into watching Grey's Anatomy? Well, no — but I'd at least give it a few seconds more thought.

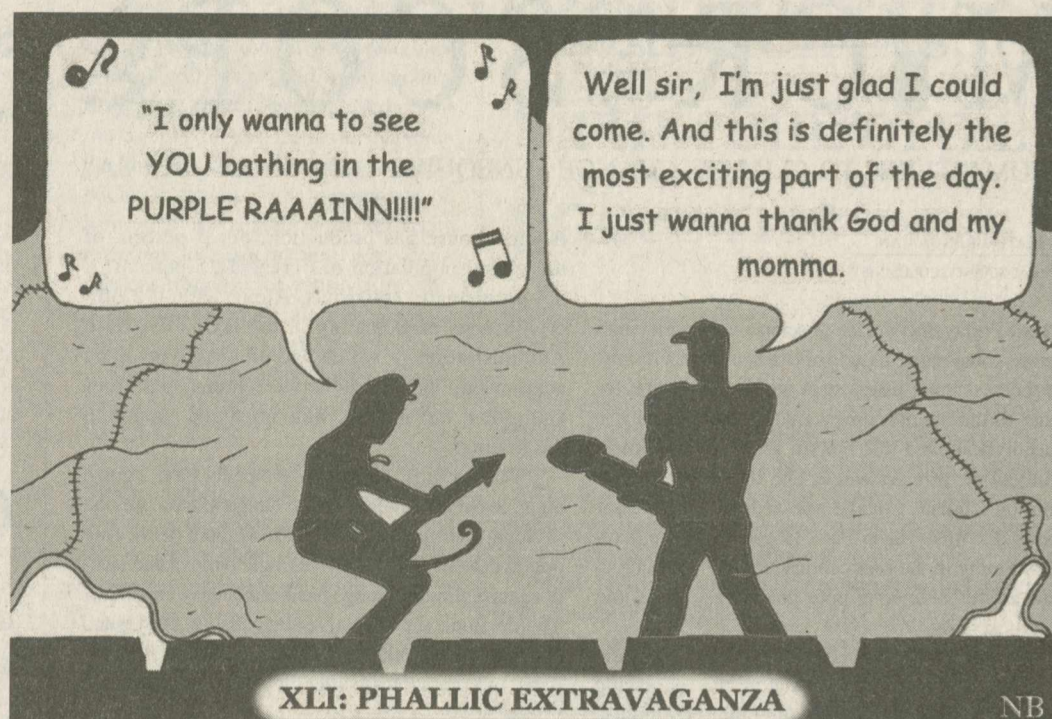
What got me for Super Bowl XLI was its halftime show, and the promise that it would feature one of pop music's greatest talents: Prince. The halftime show exists, one must assume, to attract more viewers than would otherwise be interested. As the New York Times pointed out, the decision becomes more difficult every year, particularly given the recent "wardrobe malfunction" debacle. Ever since Janet Jackson's bra runneth over, sexuality has been banned by the NFL. Any advertiser knows that sex sells, but these days, musicality has to do the trick. That means the league needs to recruit good musicians, and how many of those remain popular?

Paul McCartney and the Rolling Stones, Prince's two halftime predecessors, were both safe choices that still smacked a bit of "has-been" syndrome, but Prince's controversial past makes him the perfect choice. His searing performance of "Purple Rain" traded microphone stand-humping for plain-and-simple guitar wizardry, but the jazzy, sexy excess that made Prince's work in the 80's so masterful still echoes in his contemporary performances. Granted, there were certainly viewers who weren't interested — probably older, blue-collar white men who think that Prince is a diminutive homosexual and revel in

the Super Bowl as a celebration of all things stereotypically masculine — but for most of the population, The Purple One was the ideal entertainer in an era with too few of them.

But the Super Bowl's All-American status may be nearing its expiration date. Prince is not gay — he's made love to Carmen Elektra, which is more than anyone reading this column can likely say — and those who denounced and feared him as such are proof that it's becoming harder to keep everyone satisfied. A relatively innocuous commercial featuring Kevin "K-Fed" Federline as a daydreaming fast-food employee has already been labeled offensive by the National Restaurant Association. In several months, I'll struggle to remember who won the Bowl, and then, in several more, fail to recall who was even playing. By the time XLII comes along, most of us will reminisce about last year's commercials and Prince more than the game itself. We will continue to be alternately entertained and exasperated. And if Americans can't even agree about what makes for good television, how is anything more substantive to be accomplished?

Dan Piepenbring, a junior at the College, is a Staff Columnist. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.



Common sense voting

"Give me liberty, or give me death!" The words of Patrick Henry permeated throughout the Colonies, announcing the birth of our nation — words firmly

rooted in the principles of free speech, of political and religious tolerance, and, perhaps most fundamentally, of the right to vote. In his most famous address, given to the Virginia House of Burgesses, Patrick Henry scolded the British government for its continued repression of these rights. And it was not much longer before the streets

of Williamsburg were filled with Thomas Paine's revolutionary pamphlet "Common Sense," reflecting the uniquely American sentiment for self-determination. Yet just 230 years later, in the very birthplace of democratic idealism, such "common sense" has somehow become less commonplace.

As students of the College and citizens of Williamsburg, our right to vote locally is imperative. For many students, our college years represent the

first opportunity we have to participate actively in the democratic process. Most students live in Williamsburg nine or more of the 12 months of the year. We are residents, consumers, employees, volunteers and taxpayers. Thus, not only do the students of the College have strong immediate ties to Williamsburg, we have a consistent interest in the future of this town.

Many would argue that students are transient and thus should not be allowed to vote. However, the average American family moves every four to five years (according to the U.S. Census), roughly equivalent to the period of time that students spend in college. The true case for student enfranchisement lies in our perpetual ties to the community. With each graduating class comes a freshmen class that carries on the interests of those that have preceded them. For these reasons, students, university officials, public officials and citizens should support measures that encourage student enfranchisement instead of ignoring an inadequate system that cripples democratic ideals. Unfortunately, the latter reflects the current state of affairs.

As members of the Student Assembly charged with representing student interests to the greater public, it is our duty to ensure that your voice is heard and that your issues are represented. We have heard the stories of disenfranchisement and we have witnessed the belittlement of our concerns. For these reasons, we worked with General Assembly delegate Melanie Rapp and introduced legislation in the 2007 session of the General Assembly (referenced as HB 3200) to clarify the state election code pertaining to student voting. Subsequently, the bill was tabled to be heard next session. But, with unwavering determination, we pledge to seek all reasonable and necessary means for the realization of full student enfranchisement in Virginia. To us, it is simply "common sense."

Seth Levey, Secretary of Public Affairs in the SA, and Brett Phillips, a senator in the SA, are juniors at the College. Their views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Get out and vote

Ever since the beginning of the new year, numerous candidates have set up exploratory committees in order to determine their chances of running in the upcoming election. As the end of Bush's eight

years in office finally comes into sight, it seems that John McCain and Hillary Clinton will be the front runners in the race. With the next presidential election on the horizon, candidates are beginning to place a larger focus on campaigning on college campuses around the country.

It was only in 1972 that the 26th Amendment was enacted, allowing those between the ages of 18 and 21 to vote. However, since then voter turnout for those under the age of 30 has dramatically declined.

In the 2000 election, according to the Associate Press exit poll, only 37 percent of our age group voted. Political analysts have speculated for years on why the majority of young voters passively dismiss their right to vote. Some speculate that there is little motivation to get involved, since issues such as Medicare and drug costs seem so far removed from our own problems. Others wonder if the apparent failures of the current government make us think that involvement in politics is no longer an effective way to make a difference.

Obviously, there are many reasons why people don't vote. I think that for most it is the doubt that their individual vote will actually make a difference when millions of votes are cast. That doubt grows exponentially in a state like Virginia, which seems to

almost always vote Republican.

In recent decades, numerous national campaigns, such as MTV's "Rock the Vote" have sought to motivate the youngest generations to register and vote. However, in the 2004 election, only 11.6 million people between the ages of 18 and 24 turned out to vote. Though the 11.6 million who voted represents the highest number since 1972, that number is somewhat misleading, as a much larger percentage of those who could vote still chose to stay home.

According to a study conducted by Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, the majority of students who voted in the last election are more likely to vote for a presidential candidate from an opposing party in the upcoming election. Also according to the poll, the war in Iraq and Social Security were voted as the top concerns for college students. Both issues are likely to head the debates between the candidates running for office in the 2008 election.

In the past eight years, we have entered a war for the wrong reasons, college tuition has risen over 40 percent since 2000 for four-year public universities (according to a 2005 report by College

Board) and we have lost Social Security. Now more than ever, the issues directly affect our generation. The problem is that those who aren't voting seem to be the same people who keep complaining. We as a demographic represent millions of swing voters who have the power to greatly shift American politics. So for all of you who complain about Bush's failures, let me ask you this: did you vote? You have no right to complain if you didn't. So, as P. Diddy once said, "Vote or Die."

Rachael Siemon-Carome, a freshman at the College, is a Staff Columnist. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

The silent majority

The march of 10,000 anti-war protestors on Washington, DC, last week left me wondering: with the death toll of young Americans rising every day in the name of Iraq's security, where is the student anti-war movement?



Teddy Wertheim

Whether one supports the war or not, one cannot dispute that the American electorate no longer supports the U.S. effort to build a democratic Iraq. According to the latest CNN poll data, close to 70 percent of Americans now feel that the decision to topple Saddam was wrong. More importantly, only one quarter of the population feels that U.S. forces will secure Iraq and over 60 percent of those polled support the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces by the end of 2008. Plainly put, America clearly does not want our troops caught in the cross-hairs of Iraq's warring religious factions.

Across American colleges, the percentage of those in opposition equals a much greater percentage than the general population. However, with such low support for the war I am perplexed by the lack of a visible anti-war movement at our college campuses. Within our community, I highly doubt that the majority of students support this war; however, I have yet to see any visible signs of student protest.

On the macro level, American campuses have remained relatively quiet over the course of this war. If students really oppose the current U.S. occupation of Iraq, where are the campus demonstrations, student riots and genuine civil disobedience that defined the highly un-popular Vietnam War (a conflict that many people now compare to the war in Iraq)? This unquestionable non-existence of a visible anti-war movement differentiates this war from any previous conflict and exposes the reality of today's collegiate society.

It seems to me that today's collegiate society remains fundamentally detached from the harsh conflict that so many of our fellow Americans face every day. With roadside bombs killing more Americans daily, college life remains tran-

quil and relaxing despite the massive amount of work that so many students at the College stress over each day. Current college students face no chance of being drafted, and more importantly, most students know very few people who are serving in Iraq. These circumstances separate this war from the commonly compared Vietnam War. Unlike Vietnam, we have very little vested interest in this conflict. Thus, our genuine interest in the war falls second to more substantive aspects of college life such as exams, alcohol consumption and Facebook. I believe this lack of concern stems not from our own ignorance but from our system that fails to respond to our calls for change.

The American electorate spoke clearly during the mid-term elections. The fall of the Republican majority in Congress displayed America's desire for change. The subsequent shift in power, however, has reinforced the reality of American politics: the people speak and the elected do nothing.

Whether you support the Republicans or Democrats, no one can disagree that the Democratic victory has only resulted in more rhetoric and lofty speeches. President Bush has invested 21,500 more troops in Iraq, and troop withdrawal seems no closer than the new decade. The newly elected Congress has not established a plan for withdrawal and has shown no cohesion over what to do. Clearly, the electorate's call for change has not been answered. Therefore, apathy rather than action reigns across American college campuses.

Washington's failure to respond to America's call for change has numbed our sense of civic responsibility. But our opinions do matter and, historically, have been a catalyst for change. One cannot overlook that the costs of this war, both financial and physical, are not endured by those in Washington. Rather, these costs fall on the backs of our generation.

I challenge the College community to let your voices be heard and to put an end to this silent majority.

Teddy Wertheim is a junior at the College. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

Today's collegiate society remains fundamentally detached from the harsh conflict that so many of our fellow Americans face every day.

SA needs diversity

From Hillary Clinton to Mitt Romney to Barack Obama, the news has recently been flooded with people declaring their presidential intentions. I hope that this year during the Student Assembly elections, we will also see a diverse set of candidates running for office. The SA is in need of a makeover, and this can only happen if more people decide to run.



Liz Burroughs

Not having run for the SA senate was one of my regrets at the College, so I was excited to hear that there was a vacancy in one of the senior senate positions at the start of this semester. This was my chance to get involved, so I jumped at the opportunity to apply for the position. The U.S. Senate is comprised of 16 females, and the College senate is not any better, with only two undergraduate female senators. This is clearly not enough females

to speak for the entire population of women on campus. Just last semester, a bill was almost passed that ignored the female perspective on sexual assault cases. With more women creating bills, this oversight could have been avoided. Therefore, I applied for the senior senate seat, confident that I could offer a fresh perspective to the senate, something I think that the SA needs. The senate is a bit of a boys club, comprised mainly of white, male government majors. As a female economics and environmental studies major, I obviously do not fit

this description.

A few days went by, and I received no confirmation that my application had been received. I found out that James Evans had been appointed to the senior senate seat, but I still had not received any notification. This was the second time that I had applied for a position in the SA (I previously applied for the Department of Health and Safety), and I did not receive any notice of my application. Finally, the day after Evans became the new senator, I received an e-mail thanking me for applying and denying me a spot.

While I am confident that Evans will make an excellent addition to the senate, I am disappointed with the way that the application procedure was handled. Before applying, I heard rumors that Evans was the favorite candidate, but I am frustrated that I wasn't really given a chance. As an outsider, it appears as if the SA is an insider group, consisting mainly of people from the same group of friends.

I am not upset about losing the race, but I wish that I had gotten involved with the SA early on in my college career. I urge you all to find out about the positions you can apply to or run for with the SA, and to not be afraid to actually run. We need a more diverse SA to represent our diverse campus. This can only happen if more people run for the positions offered, and if we vote for a SA that accurately reflects the student body.

Liz Burroughs is a senior at the College. Her views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

The SA is in need of a makeover, and this can only happen if more people decide to run.

Letters to the Editor

An open letter to the College community To the Editor:

Dear thoughtful students of the College: President Nichol is destroying the earning power and prestige of your future diploma. How? By diminishing the historic connection of the Wren to its British origins, he has severely damaged a major competitive advantage we have over other schools. In a nutshell, he has selfishly and surreptitiously traded away a priceless community asset in order to satisfy his own personal, unempirical agenda. He fails to realize that the College doesn't have a major sports team or medical center to help it market to potential students and donors; it only has its academic and historic traditions and all of these flow from the Wren. Still, he foolishly devalues us further by referring to our school as "public" when in fact we are semi-private (we receive only a fraction of our annual funding from the Commonwealth). Under Nichol, we are at risk of becoming a bland, hollow, characterless and soulless institution like 99.9% of the other schools in this country. More importantly to pending graduates, you are going to get massacred in the job and graduate school market as Nichol continues

to destroy diploma value in yet unforeseen ways. Just remember that UNC Chapel Hill's law school fell 6 points in the rankings while he was dean, from 21st to 27th place. When Nichol left UNC, a local newspaper editorial quipped, "he's W&M's problem now." Good to know the BOV was looking out for us!

Dear thoughtful faculty and staff of the College: President Nichol has antagonized a majority of the alumni which means donations are certainly going to suffer unless he reverses his position toward the Wren. Why is that significant? Because it means less private supplements to salaries, stipends, grants and fellowships. The fact is, state governments are backing away from their commitments to university level education and private funding is the only long-term solution. To make matters worse, Nichol has even antagonized members of the Virginia Assembly who have been working toward recent incremental increases in faculty and staff salaries. Thanks to Nichol, our human capital is also at risk as other schools pick off our faculty and staff with higher compensation offers. Good work, Gene!

— Lance Kyle, '89

Appreciate the College

It's about this time of the year when the winter blahs start rolling in. The realization that we're back in school grind hits, "frigid" weather turns the campus into a veritable North Face fashion show, and we discover that a month off has really done nothing to diminish the Wren Cross controversy.

So, with all that looming large, it might be difficult to remember everything that brought us here in the first place, what made us so excited to receive the "fat envelope" one April.

It struck me when I arrived here after driving 900 miles from St. Louis a couple weeks ago. I was alone at the wheel, not ensconced in the back seat anymore with some travel games, a grin and a pillow. This time, I wasn't coming to visit grandparents or Virginia Beach, but simply to start my fourth semester at the College.

You see, even though I'm from the Midwest (not the "flyover states") I've been coming out here for as long as I can remember. I'm still deciding what exactly it was that lured me to the College and away from the comfort of my more familiar cornfields and Steak 'n Shakes.

It's gotten me thinking, sure, this campus might be our little bastion of excitement amidst the entertainment vacuum that is Williamsburg, but it's also so much more than a place we'll be forced to endure for four years to receive an education and a job offer.

There's something about sunny afternoons in the Sunken Garden with the scent of boxwoods hanging in the air that sends me back 12 years in an instant. I'm told this has something to do with the way the brain and the nose talk to one another, but whatever the reason, it happens just the same. I'm 20, walking from Jefferson to the University Center. I'm eight, feeding the ducks in the Crim Dell with my grandmother. I'm 20 again, worrying whether my GPA and extracurriculars are satisfactory, and then a more pressing thought: I haven't been out to Matoaka Court recently (let's hope Williamsburg Police didn't come to tow my car).

Just the other day, in fact, I was heading back from church when I decided to take a turn down the Colonial Parkway, ending up at a little beach among the tidal marshes along the James River, a world apart from my general interpreta-

tion of the area as a land of tourists and pancake houses.

Doing a bit of cliched reflecting as I strolled along that beach, it occurred to me that most of us hold a certain nostalgia, if such a thing is possible at our age, for the time when our grandmas kissed our boo-boos and our biggest debate was over whether the Power Rangers would be able to take the Ninja Turtles in a street fight (without hopping in their Zords, mind you, because that'd be lame). On the other hand, we'll probably find ourselves wishing we were back in college 20 — or two — years from now, so it could all come 'round in the end.

Then again, I came across an article in The Washington Post last week about high schoolers competing over whose course load was more miserable. What? I hope you weren't like those kids. But seriously, is that how we're going to remember the College? Will it be known as the place where we worked as much as possible to earn those jobs where we'd work even harder? I have more faith in us than that.

It's true that we have an amazing school. I mean, where else can I walk across campus and hear, "I don't even care. Schrodinger's cat pisses me off," or "Well, the major problem in our relationship is that I'm a communist and my dad's a fascist," all in the span of 10 minutes?

I'm inclined to think, however, that there's more to why we came here than academics and a few lines on a resume.

So why did we choose the College, then, as opposed to U. Va., or any of those other places that stuffed our mailboxes with "personal" letters back in high school? ("Do you hate freedom of speech and learning, Andrew? If you do, then you definitely won't like Smalltown Liberal Arts College!")

Perhaps I'm going out on a limb, but I think it's that feeling we get when we're all crowded together in the Wren Courtyard for the Yule Log Ceremony, or when we slip up and call the College "home," only to find ourselves wondering if it really was a mistake. Or maybe I'm just being overly sappy about the whole thing, and that sweet consulting job is honestly what it's all about.

Here's hoping Accenture likes sentimentalists.

Andrew Peters, a sophomore at the College, is a Staff Columnist. His views do not necessarily represent those of The Flat Hat.

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Room Selection 2007

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Several runners qualify at Mason

BY CHRISTOPHER GARRETT
THE FLAT HAT

The men's and women's track and field teams have recently begun the indoor competition season. The Tribe competed at George Mason University Jan. 27, and this past weekend at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Both teams performed well at George Mason. Seniors Jason Schoener, Keith Bechtel and Matt Keally all qualified in the 3,000-meter run for the IC4A indoor championships by placing second, third and fourth. Brandon Evans placed second in the high jump by clearing 6'5". On the women's team, senior Bonnie Meekins won the high jump competition by tying the ECAC indoor championships record at a height of 5'7", qualifying for the ECAC Championships in the event.

"I'm looking forward to competing at ECACs because I've been having a good season so far and I'm ready to put it all together and knock out a great performance," Meekins said. "This will be my last indoor meet of my college career, so it's important for me that it go well."

The women's distance medley relay team placed third with a cumulative time of 12 minutes, 41.62 seconds. Freshmen Alyssa Gaeto and Carly Morse both reached the school's top-10 lists in the 60-m dash and shot put, respectively.

This weekend at Chapel Hill the Tribe continued its excellent start to their indoor competition schedule. On the men's side, freshman Marty Ross broke the school's freshman record in the 60-m hurdles with a time of 8.85 seconds.

The women's junior runner, Allie Lewis, placed third in the 800-m run with a time of 2:14.39, qualifying for the ECAC indoor championships. Senior Jen Showker took second place in the shot put with a put of 44-0.75, and freshman Carly Morse placed fourth in the event with put of 43-0.5.

With an excellent start to their indoor season, the coaching staff is feeling optimistic about the future and is proud of the achievements that its athletes have already attained.

"Right now we are pretty pleased" with the team's progress, women's Head Coach Kathy Newberry.

Coach Newberry cited the difficulty of coming back into competition after a long winter break and was impressed with the way her "young squad had taken big steps forward."

Men's Head Coach Alex Gibby said that his team has had some "good early performances," and that there has been a "high level of accomplishment at this early juncture."

Both coaches agree that their teams' next big test will be at Virginia Tech two weekends from now. The Tribe will compete at the Vince Brown Invitational in Newport News this weekend.

Women to travel to UNC-Wilmington Sunday afternoon

W. HOOPS from page A10

slowly for the Tribe as it only recorded four points in the first six minutes. The College did not surrender, however, as Kaylor and Neumer combined for 10 points in the next seven minutes. Unfortunately, with 4:33 to go in the game, the Dukes had built a sizable 15-point advantage, leading the College 64-49. Though the Tribe rattled off another 10 points before time was up, it was not enough to substantially cut the margin as the College was defeated 59-72.

Wednesday night's battle against Hofstra proved to be an exciting showdown. Again the Tribe out-shot its opponent, 38 percent to 33.9 percent, and never trailed by more than seven points at any time. Kaylor was the Tribe's big scorer with a career-high 20 points, as Tausanovitch tallied nine points and junior guard Devin James added eight.

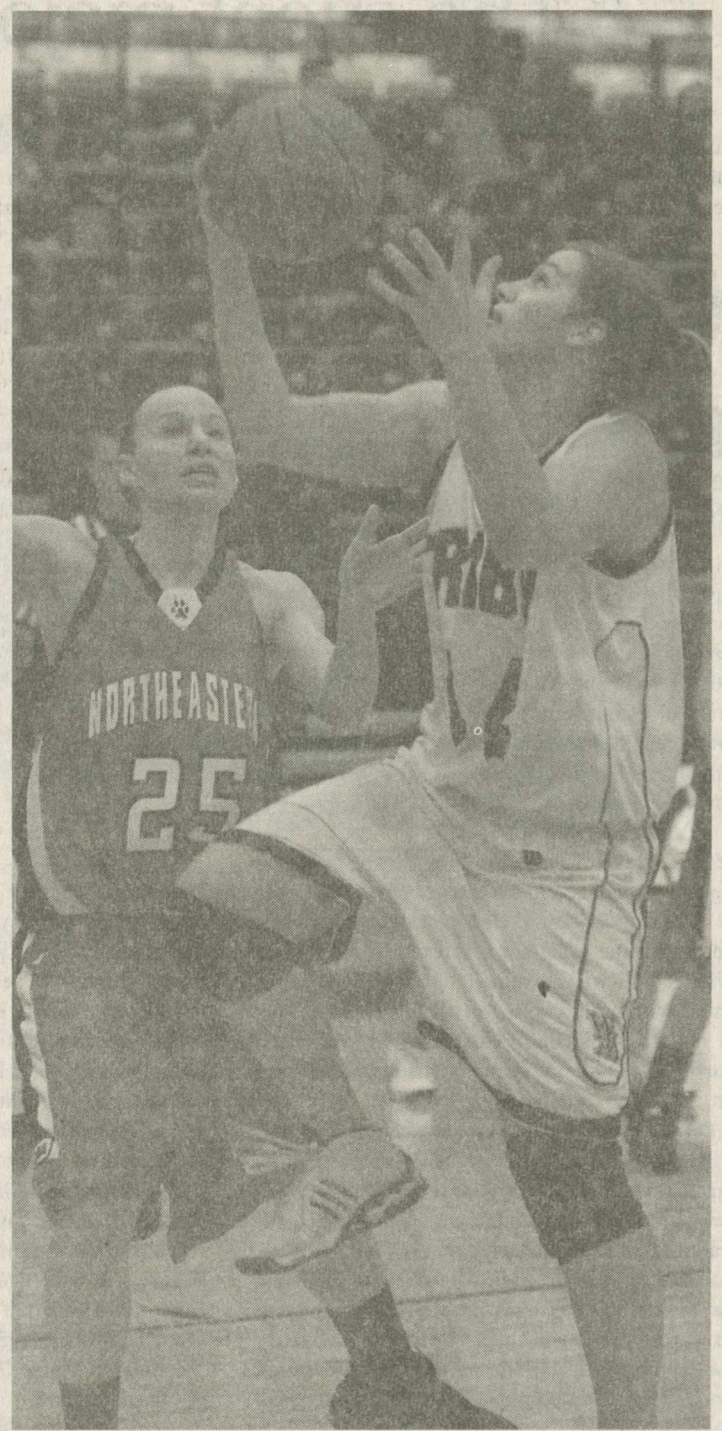
From the outset, the score remained close. Hofstra took the lead early, as the Pride led the Tribe 11-7 with 14:12 on the clock. The College responded with an 11-2 spurt, gaining an 18-13 advantage with just over nine minutes remaining in the first. Hofstra surged forward, however, scoring 10 unanswered points to put the Pride back on top, 23-18.

The College never backed down. Instead, it made another 10-2 run, punctuated by a lay-up from Stroh, to take a 28-25 lead with 3:44 to go in the first. As a result of a few turnovers and missed jumpers, the Tribe walked into the locker room trailing the Pride 32-30.

Throughout the majority of the second half, neither team could get ahead by more than two points. With 14:32 showing, the contest was tied at 38, which marked the fourth tied score of the half. It wasn't until the 10-minute mark that freshman forward Tiffany Benson ignited a 7-0 run to give the Tribe its biggest margin yet; a 50-43 lead with 6:15 on the clock.

As usual, however, the Pride fought back, going on an 11-1 run of its own to take a three-point lead with 3:38 remaining. A pair of free-throws by Kaylor put the Tribe within one point, with less than two minutes to go. In the next minute, Hofstra managed to build a five-point lead, maintaining a 58-53 advantage. Despite a three-pointer from Tausanovitch, the College was unable to narrow the margin. In the final minute, the Tribe was forced to foul in hopes of regaining possession. However, the Pride sank its last four foul shots to conquer the College 62-56.

The Tribe will travel to the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, Sunday at 2 p.m.



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT

Junior Kyra Kaylor shoots against Northeastern University Jan. 27. The Tribe won, 58-49. With this week's losses to James Madison University and Hofstra University, the College now stands at 14-9 for the season.

Second-half shooting lifts men past JMU



KYLE MCMAHON • THE FLAT HAT

Junior guard Nathan Mann looks up floor during Saturday's 61-67 loss to UNC-Wilmington at Kaplan Arena. Mann had 12 points on the night.

M. HOOPS from page A10

was able to stifle the rest of the Dukes offensively. Excluding Carter, JMU's starters made only a combined five out of 19 shots for 26.3 percent shooting.

Last Saturday night at Kaplan Arena, the Tribe succumbed to the stellar shooting of the University of North Carolina-Wilmington Seahawks, falling 61-67. UNCW shot 57.1 percent for the game and a scintillating 71.4 percent in the first half. Junior Vladimir Kuljanin — who ranks third in the nation in field-goal shooting at 67.7 percent — led the way for the Seahawks as he came off the bench to record a team-high 22 points in just 24 minutes of

action.

"They got open shots," Head Coach Tony Shaver said. "Mentally, our focus wasn't where it should be tonight. I'll take the blame for that."

Playing without junior Laimis Kisielius (sprained ankle), the Tribe came out flat and it showed as the UNCW squad — which had tallied only two conference wins prior to the game — led nearly the entire way, save 40 seconds early in the first half. The College shot 37.0 percent for the game and connected on just seven out of 27 three-point attempts.

Shaver sent a message to his players early in the second half when he sat his starters down.

"I was disappointed in our energy level and mental level," Shaver said.

The Tribe had its chances in the second half, but could only manage to cut the deficit to five points.

"[UNCW] made big plays when they needed to make big plays," Shaver said. "The game was still in our reach. We just couldn't get over the hump."

Payton tried to keep the College in contention as he scored 17 of his game-high 24 points in the second half, but his teammates only mustered 15 second-half points as the Tribe's offensive execution floundered.

"At this point in the season, you wish you didn't have these types of games," Payton said.

The Tribe returns to action tomorrow night at UNCW at 7 p.m.

Super Bowl hangover?
Check out the Daytona

SUPER BOWL from page A10

labs and universities across the nation have worked around the clock in a valiant but futile effort to uncover the elusive cure for the dreadful infection that is SBW. Unfortunately, an elixir to the confounding disease has yet to be found. That is, until Monday Feb. 5, 2007, at approximately 11:36 p.m.

Already seriously weakened by the debilitating side effects of SBW, I decided to turn on SportsCenter in an attempt to ease my inner anguish. However, much to my chagrin, a continuous repetition of Super Bowl highlights only intensified my longing for the departed NFL season. Hopelessly dejected, I feebly reached for the remote in an effort to change the channel, but at that very moment, I heard something that grabbed my attention.

"With the Super Bowl of NASCAR just around the corner . . ." SportsCenter anchor Neil Everett said. With the help of those simple words, I instantly realized the cure for the disease that has mercilessly plagued the United States since 1967.

The all-too-obvious antidote to SBW is the second-most

watched sporting event in the United States of America: the Daytona 500. Every year, this seemingly pagan sporting event goes unnoticed by all civilized sports fans. However, little do these naive fans know that the seemingly crude sport of NASCAR is the vehicle that can navigate them through the painful month of February all the way into March Madness.

Although NASCAR is an undemanding solution to the woes of SBW, realize that watching the sport does not come without risk. Side effects of NASCAR can include, but are not limited to, excessive drunkenness, a disturbing affinity for the music of Toby Keith, decreased literacy and, finally, an unexplained urge to marry your sister.

While watching too much NASCAR can be hazardous to your general well being, watching only the Daytona 500, is completely safe and a necessary element to the treatment of SBW. So, Feb. 18, tune your television sets to FOX and witness drivers Jimmie Johnson, Tony Stewart, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon duke it out during the 49th annual Daytona 500.

Graham Williamson is a sports columnist for The Flat Hat.

The Flat Hat

The Sports section is pleased to announce that it will publish twice weekly beginning Tuesday Feb. 13.

Our readers may expect much of the same content to which they have grown accustomed. The Sports Feature will appear on Tuesdays, as will From the Sidelines. Home Field Advantage will appear on Fridays.

We are excited to expand our coverage of Tribe athletics and look forward to keeping fans even better informed with more timely commentary and reporting.

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

Uninvited guest brings frostbite, wind burn

You know how when you throw a party you get really excited about the guest list? You even create a five-point algorithmic system to judge potential partyers, etc.? When party night comes, things are going great. Everyone's having fun, everyone remembered his robot or monkey costume, the strobe light's a huge hit and there are plenty of beverages to go around. But then, probably about halfway through the evening, you notice that uncostumed guy hanging out in the corner, talking to your five-star invitees and sipping your malted beverages uninvited. He has a smirk on his face as if to say, "Look at me, I'm above your silly party," when everyone knows that section 6.788 of the Geneva Convention states "No one is, or can ever be, above the robot-monkey rule." (Unbeknownst to many historians, this is the statute that ultimately led to Winston Churchill's political demise.) Now, using a slightly distorted thought process, there is only one course of action to take in response to this profound sight: full-on aggression. So you go up to this guy, whom you have neglected to notice is several times larger than you, even without a costume, and say something nasty before giving him a hard shove. Or at least it should have been hard, but the robot costume you're wearing is pretty



BRAD CLARK

constricting so it comes out as more of a lame pat in the chest. All of a sudden, despite the haze that has descended over your cognitive abilities, you can sense a spark in his eyes. He wants to hurt you. Badly. In an attempt to defend yourself, you start swinging at him wildly with your arms, but, once again, the costume takes your ferocious punches and translates them into what can only be described as a controlled flail by all in attendance. In a last-ditch effort to stave off serious bodily harm, you begin calling for help from your roommate who, in a final, ironic twist of fate, is named Will Robinson. Alas, no help comes, and you suffer the ultimate indignity of being pummeled at your own party while wearing what amounts to a giant sardine can. You can't wait to explain those Facebook pictures to future employers.

Why, you ask, did I write this long-winded intro, and just what the hell does it have to do with sports? Well, besides the fact that I'm now halfway to my word limit, and still haven't written anything of substance, I told the above anecdote to prove how much I hate winter. Namely, Old Man Winter — the guy who comes to the party uninvited, stays way too long, and finally leaves, but not before turning you into a giant pile of whimpering, bruised flesh and tin foil. He hangs out for a while in the corner, smirking to himself, saying, "Why don't you try ... curling?" before cackling at the ridiculousness of winter sports in general.

It's worse in Williamsburg than most places,

too. We don't get hockey, or ski jumping or any of the cooler winter sports. Less than a month ago I was wearing shorts, throwing the frisbee, thinking that we, as a human species, had finally outfoxed the whole nature thing. Little did I know that winter was simply lying in wait, wanting our spirits as high as possible before swooping in to make everyone miserable. Just when you think that all of our sports are safe, it hits us. All of a sudden you can't play baseball, football kind of sucks unless it's snowing and trying to play tennis with the swirling winds we've been having is a practice in futility.

Something must be done. We must stand up together and voice our anger. Too long have we sat idly by while our friends and comrades have succumbed to wind burn and frostbite. I think that we, collectively, should just ignore winter altogether — wear shorts and sandals, go to the beach, the whole nine yards. Sure, he'll get angry for a while and make everything awful, but that can only last so long. Soon enough he'll lose interest and go bother some other, less tricky campus.

So please, by all means, go and fight the good fight — the fate of the campus is in your hands. Spread the word; take the reins of this long overdue movement. The ball is in your court now. As for me, I think I'll just sit in my heap of arms, legs and sheet metal to wait everything out — it's kind of warm in here.

Brad Clark is a sports columnist for The Flat Hat.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

FOOTBALL

◆ Head Coach Jimmie Laycock announced Wednesday that 16 players — 15 high school seniors and one college transfer — signed letters of intent to play Tribe football. The recruiting class features players from nine different states, with six athletes hailing from Virginia. The lone transfer, defensive back Robert Livingston, is coming to Williamsburg from Western Michigan University, where he was a reserve defensive back last year after redshirting the previous season. The class features eight linemen, several players who figure to fit in at the skill positions of wide receiver and running back, as well as a few who will be looked upon to contribute at linebacker and defensive back. The class features one quarterback, Terrance Schmand of Buffalo, N.Y.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

◆ The Tribe cracked the top 25 of the Fila/ITA Rankings, coming in at no. 25. They began the season ranked 26th in the nation, but moved up a spot after knocking off the University of Virginia, the previous no. 25, by a score of 5-2 Jan. 28. The College will put their new ranking on the line this weekend as they compete in a three-game road swing, taking on the University of Illinois and no. 1-ranked Georgia Tech in Champaign, Ill., and then traveling to West Lafayette, Ind. to challenge the 35th-ranked Boilermakers of Purdue University.

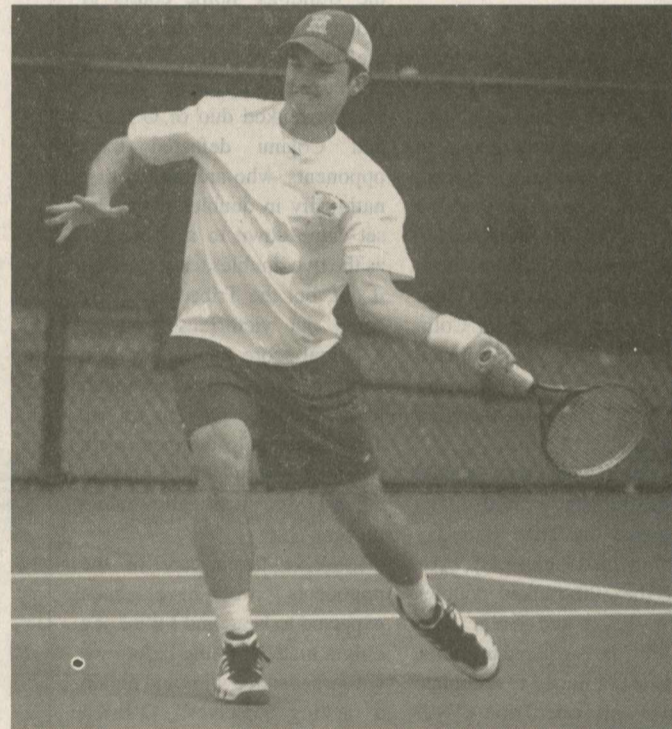
By Jeff Dooley.

Men's tennis shut out by no. 1 Georgia

M. TENNIS from page A10 University at 5 p.m.

p.m. The match will mark the fifth time already this season that the College has faced a nationally-ranked opponent. The following Sunday, Feb. 11, the Tribe will go up against Michigan State University at 10 a.m. and James Madison

"I am very interested and excited to see how we play for the rest of the year," O'Brien said. "Everyone is welcome to come out and support us. It's a fun time. It's a very high energy environment and the fans can be as loud as they want to be. They will find some very passionate Tribe players on the courts to match."



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT
Senior Colin O'Brien and partner junior Alex Cojanu defeated their no. 1-ranked opponents in doubles play, but the Tribe still fell 0-7.

THIS WEEK IN TRIBE SPORTS

FEBRUARY 10 TO FEBRUARY 13

Men's Baseball North Carolina State Sat 2/10 2 p.m. North Carolina State Sun 2/11 1:30 p.m.	Men's Tennis Michigan State Sun 2/11 10 a.m. James Madison Sun 2/11 5 p.m.	Women's Tennis Georgia Tech* Sat 2/10 2 p.m. Purdue Sun 2/11 1 p.m.
Men's Basketball UNC Wilmington Sat 2/10 7 p.m.	Men's Track & Field Vince Brown Invitational Sat 2/10	Women's Golf Richmond Sat 2/10
Women's Basketball UNC Wilmington Sun 2/11 2 p.m.	Women's Track & Field Vince Brown Invitational Sat 2/10	*Match played at Champaign, Ill. Bold denotes home game.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

Men second, women first at JMU

Portz leads for men on pommel horse, Long 38.00 overall

BY KATE TEDESCO
THE FLAT HAT

Men's gymnastics traveled to Harrisonburg over the weekend and placed second in the five-team James Madison University Open. The University of Illinois, Chicago, ranked 13th in the nation, won the event with a score of 193.30, while the Tribe totaled 189.40 points. The women competed at JMU this weekend in a dual meet and defeated their ECAC rival with a season-high score of 186.22.

Senior Chuck Portz led the way for the men, turning in his strongest performance this season on the pommel horse when it mattered most. Portz earned a score of 8.3 in the meet's last event to propel the Tribe ahead of the 19th-ranked U.S. Naval Academy by .6 points and into its second-place finish. The victory over Navy served as revenge for the College, which lost its season opener to the Midshipmen at the Navy Open Jan. 13.

Springfield College's score of 179.75 put the Pride in fourth place while host JMU finished last, managing only 158.70 points.

Second place at the JMU Open moves the College's record to 5-5 on the season. However, three of these defeats have come against teams ranked in the top 10 nationally, while the Tribe has fallen to no. 2 Penn State, no. 6 University of Minnesota and no. 9 Temple University.

The College's best event of the

meet was the vault. The Tribe earned a season-best score of 31.050 thanks to sophomore Sloan Crawford, who placed second in the event with a score of 8.2, his best vault this year.

Individual members of the team also excelled as two Tribe gymnasts placed first in their individual categories. Portz's 8.3 on the pommel horse led the Open, while junior Andrew Hunt won the parallel bars with a score of 8.80, his season high. Hunt also received a score of 8.25 on the high bar, which placed him fourth overall.

Sophomore Richard Pearson kicked off the Open with a solid score of 7.85 on the rings. Fellow sophomore James Prim earned the team's second-highest rings score with a total of 8.65 for the afternoon, good enough for third-place overall.

Freshman Derek Gyax finished the meet in fourth place with a six-event overall score of 45.05. Junior Dave Locke performed an impressive floor routine as he continued to recover from various off-season injuries, ultimately scoring a season best of 8.50 in the event.

Portz, is excited about the continuing progress the Tribe is making.

"The team is looking to qualify into the NCAA; we are on an even playing field with Temple, Navy, Army and Illinois-Chicago," Portz said. "We are still trying to 'peak' during the rest of February and early March, when we will bring out

our best routines. It is best to have high scores toward the end of the season."

Saturday, Feb. 17, the team will host its first home event, a dual-meet against JMU, beginning at 7 p.m.

For the women, many of the Tribe's veteran athletes as well as younger gymnasts competed at their absolute best. The team brought home three individual first-place finishes in the categories of bars, beams and the floor. Team season-high scores were also recorded in these three events last Friday.

Junior Tricia Long gained a season-high overall score of 38.00, and senior Christina Padilla placed first in the bars category with a score of 9.650. In fact, the bars are this captain's favorite event because, she claims, it is the most interesting.

The paramount performances of the night came from two of the younger members of the Tribe. Sophomore Sarah Jacobson gained her first event title, scoring a 9.425 on the vault. Jacobson also scored a 9.400 on floor and came in fourth place on bars. Fellow sophomore Becca Bacharach earned her first event title as well, scoring an admirable 9.750 on the beam.

Two USAG All-Americans and all-ECAC performers participated in their first meet for the season this Friday. Senior Jess Randall tied for fourth place on the floor with a score of 9.475, as well as taking fourth on the beam with a 9.550. Junior Stevie Waldman obtained an impressive

9.475 on the bars. This achievement not only placed Waldman in third place, but it helped the team reach a season-high score of 47.425.

The College placed in the top five positions for the bars. Padilla placed first, Long came in second with a score of 9.550, Waldman was third and Jacobson came in fourth, earning a personal season-high score of 9.450. Freshman Ali Medeiros came in fifth place with a score of 9.300.

Long, who says she prepares "for meets by visualizing my routine and getting a lot of sleep," was the only Tribe gymnast to compete in all of the events. She placed second on the beam with a score of 9.675 — a personal season high. Long placed fifth on the vault with a score of 9.300. On the floor she tied for the team high and placed fourth with a score of 9.475.

The gymnasts claim to be both relieved and excited about the triumph over JMU.

"Victories like this help our team to build," Padilla said. "With every meet we raise our total score and the quality of our team."

The women will take next weekend off before venturing out to North Carolina State University February 17. The College will compete in the annual Hearts Invitational against some tough contenders, including the University of West Virginia, the University of Nebraska, George Washington University and the host, N.C State.

Senior Neumer plays key role for women

TURNAROUND from page A10

two years ago came out the next season tougher and more determined," Taylor said.

Fast forward to this year, to the crucial midpoint of the conference schedule, and Taylor was forced to go to her bench as the result of an injury to sophomore guard Dani Kell and the illness of sophomore guard Courtney Portell. Needing someone to make up for their production in the starting lineup, she called on none other than Neumer. Neumer has risen to the challenge, helping the Tribe to a 14-9 record.

Against nationally ranked James Madison University last weekend, Neumer scored a career-high 17 points in 39 minutes of action.

In a back and forth game against Georgia State University in January, in which the Tribe eventually won 77-76, she chipped in five points in 28 minutes of play.

"Katy has truly been one of the most valuable pieces of the transition of this program over the past few years because she understands her role," Taylor said.

Neumer, who played only 78 minutes all of last season, accepted her role as a reserve for her first three years at the College. After being thrust into the limelight, she is now a big reason the Tribe is not only poised for its first back-to-back winning seasons since 1977-78, but also its second 20-win season in Division I school history.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to step up

and help the team," she said.

Taylor is glad to have her play such a big role. "Anytime you're a kid coming off the bench, you worry about how you perform," she said. "Now you see a much more confident Katy Neumer than you've ever seen before. That's what we need right now."

Sunday against UNCW, Taylor expects Portell to return to action, but said Neumer's starting role will not change. "She's proven she deserves it," she said.

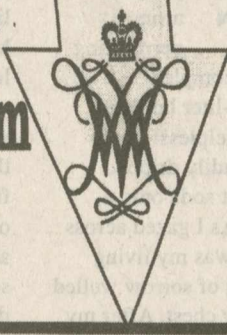
Neumer, who has embraced her new role, believes the Tribe's climb up the CAA standings over the past two years is no fluke. "We are a very different team than two years ago, and than last year," she said. "We've proved that we're here to stay."

LEAP

Leadership Program

Leadership: Developing a Contextual Framework

Wednesday,
February 14th
UC - James Room
4:15 - 5:30 PM



Questions - Please Contact Eric Eickhoff - eeick@wm.edu

SPORTS

Sports Editor Louis Malick
Associate Sports Editor Jeff Dooley
sports@flathatnews.com
Page A10

MEN'S BASKETBALL: TRIBE 71, JAMES MADISON 56

Tribe shoots lights out on JMU

76.1 percent second-half shooting performance keys conference win

BY ANDREW PIKE
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

An impressive second-half shooting performance led the Tribe to a 71-56 victory over James Madison University Wednesday in Harrisonburg. The College shot a stunning 76.1 percent in the second half, which enabled them to run away from the Dukes. Senior Adam Payton had 10 of his team-high 18 points in the second half and sophomore Peter Stein poured in 13 of his career-high 17 points in the second half as well. All told, four Tribe starters reached double

figures, including junior Nathan Mann with 14 points, and freshman David Schneider with 11 points, in addition to Payton and Stein.

The College's victory marked the sixth straight triumph over the Dukes and gave the Tribe a record of 13-11 overall and 6-8 in the CAA. The win total of 13 is the highest since the 1997-1998 season.

The Tribe started slowly, shooting 37.9 percent in a first half, which saw seven lead changes and five ties. JMU stayed close by connecting on 10 of their 14 free throws; however, after junior Terrance Carter's two free throws

gave the Dukes a one-point lead at 22-21, the College rattled off seven straight points to end the half with a 28-22 advantage.

After leading by only six points at halftime, the Tribe quickly jumped out to a 10-point lead to begin the second half as Schneider hit back-to-back three-pointers. Schneider's shots sparked the College and the lead continued to grow as the Tribe sunk shot after shot.

The College's 8-0 run from the 9:48 to 7:02 mark produced an 18-point lead and effectively put the game away. This knockout-punch included three-pointers from Stein

and senior Adam Trumbower as well as a layup from Payton. JMU would get no closer than 15 the rest of the way as the Tribe continued to execute sharply on both ends of the floor.

The College's stingy defense held the Dukes to just 36.0 percent shooting overall and 20.0 percent from three-point range; they also forced 16 turnovers which led to 15 points. Although the Tribe had difficulty stopping JMU's Terrance Carter, who finished with 26 points and nine rebounds, the College



KYLE MCMAHON • THE FLAT HAT
Freshman David Schneider drives during Saturday's 61-67 loss to UNCW.

See M. HOOPS page A8

MEN'S TENNIS: GEORGIA 7, TRIBE 0

No. 1 Bulldogs serve up shutout

O'Brien, Cojanu earn doubles victory

BY HEATHER IRELAND
THE FLAT HAT

This past weekend the men's tennis team faced off against two nationally-ranked teams, and although the Tribe was unable to add any wins to their season record, the team sees this as a learning experience rather than an obstacle.

"We've opened the year with some very tough matches: four teams in the top 26," senior Colin O'Brien said. "We've competed well in those matches, and playing the best teams will only make us better players."

Wake Forest University, ranked 26th in the country, started off its match against the Tribe Saturday by sweeping the doubles play, even defeating the 30th-ranked doubles team of O'Brien and junior Alex Cojanu. With the early lead in points, Wake Forest continued to dominate the courts; only one Tribe player reigned victorious. Sophomore Alex Zuck fought his opponent through three sets, eventually losing the match, 6-1, 6-7, 10-4. Cojanu, ranked 49th nationally in singles play, also forced his rival to a deciding tiebreaker, 6-7, 7-6, 10-7, ultimately coming out on top with the victory. The final score of the match was 6-1 in Wake Forest's favor.

The next day the Tribe took on

no. 1 University of Georgia on the Bulldogs' home courts in Atlanta, Ga. Beginning with the doubles play, the Tribe was unable to pick up the team point, but the ranked duo of O'Brien and Cojanu defeated their opponents, who are ranked first nationally in doubles play. The set came down to a tiebreaker as the two doubles teams battled it out, but the Tribe eventually came out victorious with an 8-7 final score for the set. The College did not have as much luck in singles play, as all six Tribe athletes to compete were defeated, with four playing against nationally-ranked players.

"We've taken care of the opponents we have been expected to beat, and I think it's only a matter of time before we get some ranked wins and regain a ranking ourselves," O'Brien said. "That is our goal right now. Then we will aim to get as highly ranked as possible."

With that goal in mind, the College will host three matches this weekend at the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center. The Tribe will first take on 24th-ranked University of Michigan Friday, Feb. 9, at 5

See M. TENNIS page A9

FROM THE SIDELINES

Desperate sports fans now turn to NASCAR

Countless pizza boxes lay strewn across the floor, as their half-eaten contents spilled onto an already tattered carpet. A sprawling bone yard of mangled chicken wings teetered precariously over the edge of a scrappy futon, their pungent aroma permeating the apartment complex.

Numerous two-liter bottles, having rolled helplessly onto their sides, steadily dripped remnants of flat soda onto a warped table. As I gazed across the fiasco that was my living room, a feeling of sorrow welled deep within my chest. After my friends and I had punished eight boxes of pizza, 70 hot wings and four two-liter bottles of Coke the night before, I felt as hopeless as a young child on the day after Christmas. However, my empty feeling was not the result of an absence of presents. Instead, my general state of despair was due to an epidemic that strikes

millions of sports fans across the nation each February, the dreaded scourge commonly known as "Super Bowl Withdrawal," or "SBW."

Far more agonizing than the widespread condition known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), SBW grips sports fans at approximately 9 a.m. the Monday morning immediately following the Super Bowl, and doesn't let go until over a month later at the outset of March Madness. Although SBW only lasts about one month, the symptoms make the illness virtually unbearable for both the infected fan and his or her friends and family. Symptoms of SBW may include, but are not limited to, a general sentiment of anguish and despair, unexpected mood swings, lack of appetite, decrease in libido and, finally, an unfounded increased interest in the NHL, PGA, ATP, PBA and, in the most serious cases, the WNBA.

For the past 40 years, the top scientists of prestigious

See SUPER BOWL page A8

SPORTS FEATURE

Turning the corner



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT
Junior guard Devin James and the Tribe women have put together two solid seasons in a row, rebounding from a 4-24 record in 2004-2005.

Tribe has gone from basement dwellers to consecutive winning seasons

BY CARL R. SIEGMUND
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

With a win Sunday against the University of North Carolina-Wilmington and one more victory, the women's basketball team will ensure back-to-back winning seasons. At most schools, that's a modest achievement. But for the Tribe, which has endured its fair share of losing seasons in the past, this will be the first time in nearly 20 years that it's happened.

"This is the first step in changing the history of this program," Head Coach Debbie Taylor said.

Hired eight years ago to help turn around the losing tradition of the Tribe program, Taylor is excited to see signs of positive consistency. Just two years ago, the Tribe was mired in one of its worst seasons in school history.

With only seven players available to suit up for some games and four starters out for the year, the team hobbled to a 4-24 final record during the 2004-2005 season. Out of players on this year's roster, no one remembers how hard it was to finish that season better than senior guard Katy Neumer.

Neumer, who was a bench player at the time, recalled some practices during the season when it wasn't even possible to scrimmage against a whole five-person team. "It was not easy to get

up every morning and stay positive," she said. "We never wanted to feel that way again. We felt helpless."

After a year spent as the bottom rung of the CAA standings ladder, pieces of the puzzle started to fall in place. Star players returned prior to the 2005-2006 season. Junior forward Kyra Kaylor suited up after taking a medical redshirt and did nothing less than win the CAA Player of the Year Award and VaSID State Player of the Year Award. But most importantly, everyone brought a winning attitude to the table, and the Tribe finished the season 15-13.

"The kids that struggled through that season

See TURNAROUND page A9

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: HOFSTRA 62, TRIBE 56

Pride pulls off win in grueling CAA game

Women also fall to James Madison 59-72, dropping to 14-9 for the season



IRENE ROJAS • THE FLAT HAT
The women's team fell to 6-6 in CAA competition with Wednesday's loss.

BY JESSICA HECHT
THE FLAT HAT

Throughout the Tribe's grueling match with Hofstra University Wednesday night, the lead changed hands 15 times and the score was tied on nine occasions before Hofstra eventually defeated the College 62-56. With this loss, added to the defeat against James Madison University last Sunday, the Tribe now has a 14-9 overall record and is 6-6 in league action.

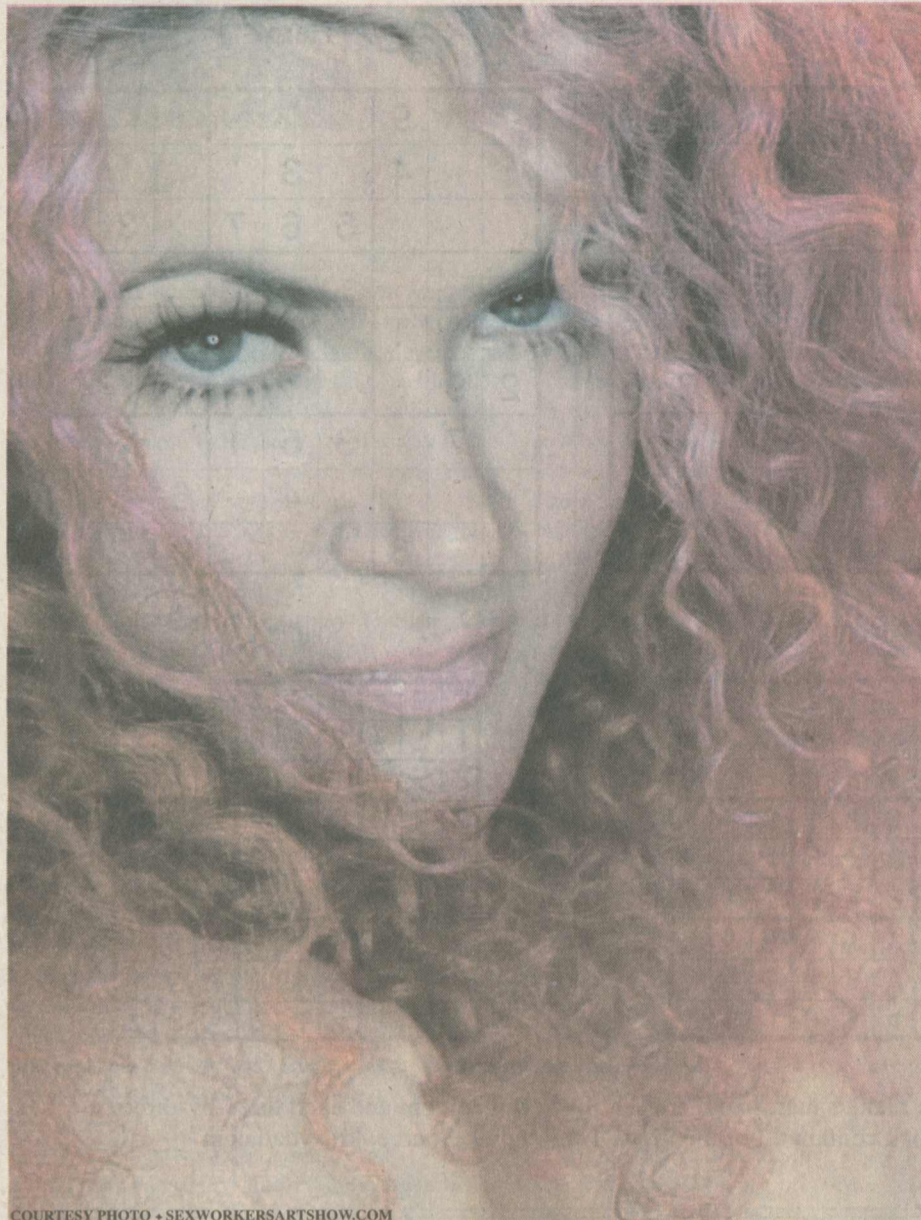
The College fell to JMU 59-72, marking only its second loss at home this season. Although the Tribe out-shot its opponent and connected on 42.9 percent of its three-point attempts, the College could not conquer the Dukes. Senior guard Katy Neumer recorded a career-high 17 points,

as junior forward Kyra Kaylor was close behind with 15 and senior point guard Sarah Stroh added 11.

The Tribe defense started strong in the first five minutes and prevented JMU from getting on the scoreboard. The College continued to hold its ground both offensively and defensively as it led the Dukes 13-5 with 11 minutes 12 seconds remaining in the first half. In the next six minutes, however, JMU picked up the intensity, outscoring the Tribe 18-10. With 5:16 showing on the clock, it was a tie game at 23 points apiece. Despite efforts by Kaylor and sophomore center Katie Tausanovitch, the College trailed JMU 30-34 at intermission.

The second half started out

See W. HOOPS page A8



COURTESY PHOTO • SEXWORKERSARTSHOW.COM

Not your typical art show

Sex industry veterans look to educate, dismiss taboos through burlesque and spoken word

By ELIZABETH COLE
THE FLAT HAT

If you're curious about those risqué signs around campus, you're not the only one. In fact, you have proven their effectiveness. The Sex Workers' Art Show is coming to campus on Monday, Feb. 12 at Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall at 7 p.m., and it guarantees to ring true to its name.

The Sex Workers' Art Show is a cabaret-style production featuring nine performers who also happen to be employees or former employees of the sex industry. The artists present a live art exhibition that includes spoken word, burlesque and multimedia performances.

Sex-related issues and awareness of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community are addressed in the show.

Student organizers Sean Barker and Virginia Walters, both seniors, are looking to spark discussion about sex-related issues on campus. In light of recent sexual assaults, Barker and Walters hope that the show will shed a positive light on relevant and pervasive issues.

Barker collaborated with junior Constance Sisk last year to bring the Sex Workers' Art Show to campus for the first time. They were contacted through unsolicited e-mails from the Sex Workers' Art Show founder, director and self-described "den mom" Annie Oakley, whose pseudonym is a nod to a female sharp shooter in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, circa 1885. According to Barker, the modern day Oakley (pictured at left) was surprised and impressed with the overwhelming feedback from the College community last year. After the show, students responded with supportive essays, letters and e-mails hailing the forum for the discussion that the show sparked.

The College was the first Virginia institution to host the show, but the performance was set up at the last minute. "The show was less organized last year ... because we had a lot of hurdles to overcome. We wanted to bring it back with more promotion and better advertising," Barker said.

Barker and Walters worked diligently this year to properly publicize the event and given the advance notice, they hope to fill PBK on Monday night.

Seven student organizations collaborated in sponsoring the event: Lambda Alliance, VOX, From the Margin, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Initiative, Meridian Coffee House and Students for a Democratic Society.

Several professors are requiring students in their classes to attend the show. All students enrolled in Introduction to Women's Studies and in music professor Sophia Serghi's Performance Art Ensemble are among at least 100 students required to attend the show.

The appeal of the show is that it creates a forum for students to embrace the idea of sexual art forms and dismiss any qualms about the topic. "It's a sex-positive event — pro-woman, pro-queer — and it brings sex issues to the forefront," Barker said.

Barker noted that the question and answer session after the show last year particularly prompted discussion, and guarantees it will recur at this year's show.

Be prepared for a performance that celebrates the lives of sex workers and highlights the artistry to be found in all realms of life, employment and sexual orientation. Barker described the show as one that "does not reduce anything."

Tickets to the show are free and admission is open to the public.

Dance and tradition combine in Filipino Culture Night

By ASHLEY MORGAN
FLAT HAT ASSOC. VARIETY EDITOR

The vibrant colors of the traditional silk dress of the Philippines float across the stage as the actors dance to the music. This dance — called the Singkil — comes from Mindanao, a Philippine island known for its vast beaches and rich heritage of gong-based music, which pounds the rhythm of this dance during the rehearsal for tomorrow night's show. The dancers are dressed in authentic Filipino clothing. The women are adorned in flowing silk dresses, while the men wear silk vests and colored pants. The dancers, many of whom are part of the Filipino-American Student Association,

have been looking forward to tomorrow for a long time.

The one and half hour show — titled "Tatlong Daan, Isang Biyaha: One Story about Three Different Lives in Filipino-America" — will be performed tomorrow at 6 p.m. in the University Center Commonwealth Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 pre-sale or \$10 at the door and include a dinner of traditional Filipino food.

"The show will include a lot of dancing," said senior and Culture Night Co-Chair Melissa Lorenzo. "There are a lot of new dances and some old favorites. The show itself includes eight dances and

See CULTURE page B2



ALEX HAGLUND • THE FLAT HAT

Members of the Filipino-American Student Association rehearse for Culture Night, which the group will present tomorrow at 6 p.m.

UCAB: MCR, Muse booked for spring

By CHASE JOHNSON
FLAT HAT VARIETY EDITOR

The University Center Activities Board confirmed Monday that popular alternative rock band My Chemical Romance will perform at Kaplan Arena at William & Mary Hall April 28 as part of the band's international Black Parade Tour. UCAB also announced that the concert will open with a performance by English progressive rock band Muse.

The band disclosed the locations of 11 stops on its tour between April 14 and April 28 to its official fan club Feb. 2 on its website, MyChemicalRomance.com. Although the timing of the

band's Williamsburg show coincided with the college's general time frame of the annual spring concert, UCAB could not comment at the time due to contractual constraints.

The commitment with My Chemical Romance marks the first time that UCAB has worked with a concert promoter company to bring a big-name headliner to Williamsburg. According to UCAB Music Committee Chair Emmagene Worley, a senior, it is important that students make a good impression on the promoter, ArtShow Productions, by selling out the arena.

"We always want students to

See MCR page B2



COURTESY PHOTO • MYCHEMICALROMANCE.COM

My Chemical Romance, known for its highly developed concept albums and energetic stage performances, will perform at Kaplan Arena April 28.

Live! From the 'Burg, it's Tracy Morgan

By ALEXANDER ELY
FLAT HAT ASSOC. VARIETY EDITOR

Popular comedian and actor Tracy Morgan will entertain students and local residents at Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall tomorrow night at 8 p.m. Morgan is most famous for his seven-year stint on "Saturday Night Live" between 1996-2003, where his impersonations and characters made him one of the country's most popular comedians. He is perhaps most well-known for his skit titled "Brian Fellow's Safari Planet" in which he portrays a "zoologist" with an elementary school education and a knack for commenting on everything from monkeys and tarantulas to complete nonsense.

The University Center Activities Board welcomes Morgan and Washington, DC native and fellow comedian Bradley Lewis, and will be selling student tickets for \$10 in the UCAB box office in the University Center from 5-7 p.m. tonight. Morgan joins a long list of famous comedians

that UCAB has featured in recent years, including Dave Attell, Jimmy Fallon, Lewis Black, Colin Quinn and Mitch Hedberg.

UCAB's comedy committee generally sponsors two major shows each academic year — a comedian of moderate popularity in the fall and a more famous, well-known performer in the spring — according to Comedy Committee Chair Brett Roth, a junior. Roth said that while the trend has been one large and one medium comedian, as well as monthly shows of up-and-coming comics in Lodge 1, UCAB's events generally depend on smart planning.

"Hopefully if we sell out we could put the extra money towards another major comedian later in the spring," he said. "Having My Chemical Romance come [to the College] filtered some of the money out of other things."

A standout actor on "Saturday Night Live," Morgan has also enjoyed a popular stand-up career. However, his material is controversial at times, which has prompted UCAB to limit the

show to people over the age of 18.

"He is actually pretty racy," Roth said. "I think that's just a quality of comedy that you have to deal with. I feel like it's their creative license. The worst thing would be for a comedian to censor themselves."

Roth said that the process of selecting comedians is extensive, and Morgan was one of 10 names that the committee was considering. "We were going to get Nick Swardson on a Comedy Central Tour which would have been filmed, but we ran into a lot of red tape," Roth said. He also said the committee was contacted by Lewis Black, but he was declined because he had already performed at the College in April of 2005. Ultimately it was Morgan whose household name made him the final choice from UCAB's list.

"We can bring in a comedian who's hilarious, but people don't know who he is and only a small amount of people get to see a great

See MORGAN page B2

Sad birthday, epiphanies abroad bring onset of quarter-life crisis

CONFUSION CORNER



Charlotte Savino

As one who studied abroad for the first semester, I feel a bit cheated coming back to campus just as things are winding down. I missed out on the leaves turning, Homecoming and Yule Log — not to mention the equally important and traditional who dated, who broke up and who is back together with whom.

Still, everyone anticipates second semester as the better half of the year — the parties are better, the concerts are bigger and, certainly, spring blowout far exceeds the relative tameness of the fall. The relationships are freer as the last months deem any commitment completely and utterly unnecessary, foolish and ultimately hurtful to both of us ... baby.

Unlike the dismal slide first semester takes into winter, second semester marches toward warmth, spring, carpoools to Jamestown beach and a thousand Greek philanthropy excuses to drink in the sun. Why wouldn't the student body be in a suspended state of jubilation? Are we

being tricked into a false sense of secure happiness? Inevitably, and with much anticipation, graduation strikes, and it all seems like second semester, nay, the college experience, was the Fat Tuesday before the long arduous days of sober, bill-paying life.

But what on earth would a junior such as myself have to say about graduation? And why so soon into the semester are our thoughts put to May? While my fellow juniors are busy with GREs, MCATs and LSATs, these things are not what plague me. Though the seniors are hearing back from graduate schools and having job interviews, still this is not what brings me to thoughts of May 20.

Once again, the sagacious words of my sister give life to my column.

While studying in Rome, I hit my first bout of homesickness on Sept. 25, my 20th birthday. Turns out turning 20 kind of sucks in any language. Even though after returning home I still

wouldn't be able to drink, I felt suddenly thrust into a new, more scarily autonomous decade. My thoughts became fixated on all of the ways I would have celebrated back at home ... in Williamsburg. Having written about my disappointment (and don't worry, subsequent *feste*) on my ubiquitous study-abroad blog, my sister wrote me the following e-mail with the subject "Sad Birthday Charlotte":

"I forgot to mention that there's a general consensus that your twenties suck. Up until that point, it's fairly clear what you should be doing and how to succeed at that but, over the next decade, you get to look forward to a wide array of uncertainty and failure. A few people will quickly find a path and success, but those friends will only be there as a measure against which you're failing. So, if your birthday wasn't it's best, it's just a taste of things to come. Happy 20th! Love, Eden :)"

The smiley face of my smug, 30-year-old sis-

ter pierced through to my very core. As a general guideline, my sister's caveats and rules of thumb are right. Needless to say, I felt screwed. I feared both failing as well as being the asshole friend that didn't fail. Uncertainty abounded, fulfilling the first of my sister's prophesies.

As for failure, the job hunt, the graduate school hunt, hell, even the relationship hunt are all full of miserable rejection (mostly for everyone's eventual benefit). Even within my own group, the "M" word (marriage, duh) is used more than Paris Hilton uses the word "hot." Here we are getting to that crazy scary commitment age just as our failure reaches its height. No wonder we're doomed.

But to return to my story, the great part about getting an e-mail like this in Rome is the city's fantastic way of making even the most unfocused student look like a business-clad power broker

See CRISIS page B2

VARIETY FUN

Sudoku

Variety Calendar

Highlights of the week
— compiled by alexander ely

On-Campus Events

♦ Tonight, the Bone Marrow Drive and the Class of 2007 host the annual **Charter Day Gala** beginning at 8 p.m. in the UC Chesapeake. Also, as part of Charter Day Weekend, **Sen. Chuck Hagel** (R-Neb.) will address students, faculty and staff in Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall tomorrow at 10 a.m.

Area Concerts

♦ Tonight, **DJ Williams Projekt** will play at the Celler at the University of Richmond at 7 p.m. **Jubeus** will perform at Sine Irish Pub in Richmond at 9:45 p.m. Admission is free and limited to 21 and older. **Jay Rakes Band and Twist of Fate** will perform at the NorVa in Norfolk at 8 p.m. tomorrow night as part of a tribute to Van Halen. **Custom Blend** will play at Granby North in Norfolk at 8 p.m. Admission is free. **The Atkinsons** will perform a free concert at 9 p.m. at Cafe Diem in Richmond. Admission is reserved for people 21 and older. **The Nighthawks** will play at the Jewish Mother in Virginia Beach beginning at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. **The Spaceheaters** will play at Cary Street Cafe in Richmond on Sunday. The show is free and reserved for 21 and older. **Hinder** will play at the NorVa at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Tickets are \$21.

To have an event printed in the Variety Calendar, e-mail variety@flathatnews.com before 5 p.m. Tuesday.



Heroman

By Thomas Baumgardner

Horoscopes

Aquarius: Jan. 20 - Feb. 18



You will take an 11-year trip to Mars purely through your elevated consciousness, only to come back pissed when you find Carlos Mencia is still on the air.

Leo: July 23 - Aug. 22



The last thing you ever wanted to do was hurt it anyone, but when it comes down to it, someone had to get the last Slim Jim at Wawa.

Pisces: Feb. 19 - March 20



While wave-riding sports such as wakeboarding and surfing have never been your forte, you've never have had a problem with rippin' a gnarly cosine.

Virgo: Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



While many scoff at your lamenting over Fidel Castro's incapacitation, you strongly agree with his policies on cigars and complete authority.

Aries: March 21 - April 19



You will understand psychologist's claim that every action is a means to an end this week when a football hits you in the groin and everyone laughs.

Libra: Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



Excitement over Tracy Morgan's arrival will leave you with nightmarishly hilarious echoes of "Take a doo doo pie" in your sleep.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20



Archaic English language rules persist in stifling your artistic creativity. However replacing every "S" with a "Z" is just completely ... well, yeah, I guess that's cool.

Scorpio: Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



President Nichol's decision to remove the cross has the campus torn, but you pay no mind as you are too preoccupied listening to yourself speak.

Gemini: May 21 - June 21



Lost in a sea of anonymity, you will regain your individualism this week not just by abusing drugs and alcohol, but by throwing a bottle of Robitussin in the mix.

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 - Dec. 21



Losing a friend this week will seem difficult, until you are enlightened to the only friend that really matters: your erector set.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22



Your overly active right brain will keep you up late this week to the point of insomnia, while your inactive left brain just keeps getting high off endorphins.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 - Jan. 19



Your fear of computers taking over the world will be reinforced when your Dell walks out of the woods and bitch slaps you.

..... compiled by stephen knapp

Epiphanies bring quarter-life crisis

CRISIS from page B1

(or academia equivalent). As I made my way past the gypsies, drunks and punks I knew that in the grand scheme of things, I was successful, both by virtue of traveling to Rome at all, and also by my standards of personal hygiene.

Whether or not my sister is right about the ubiquitous failings of her 20-somethings, I'm pretty sure when the coming decade is over, everyone comes out for the better and maybe a little better groomed. Having spent these four years in the warm incubator

of the College we have to hatch out and scramble for the next 10 years to regain the same stability enjoyed in there, hopefully with fewer hangovers, a cleaner bathroom and a bigger bed.

So whatever stage of the process you are in, keep in mind that during the next few months we are all participating in the seniors' big send-off and as lame as what may lie on the other side of Confusion Corner, at least we suffer together, and at least we partied while we could.

Charlotte Savino is a Confusion Corner columnist for The Flat Hat. She drops in Italian.

Live! From the 'Burg, it's Tracy Morgan

MORGAN from page B1

show," Roth said. "People do get more excited for someone they can see on TV every day and are familiar with."

Morgan chose Lewis to join the 'SNL' headliner as his opening act. Lewis is a D.C. native who participated in several comedy club tours and recently won

several awards at the D.C. Comedy Festival. Roth said that headlining comedians generally select their own opening acts, and that they often select comics who live close to the performance venue in order to cut down on cost.

Morgan currently stars on NBC's sitcom "30 Rock" alongside Alec Baldwin and former 'SNL' co-star Tina Fey, creator of

the show. The comedian's repertoire also includes appearances in several feature films such as "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back," "Half Baked" and "The Longest Yard."

As of Wednesday, only 100 tickets remained. "The problem with William and Mary is that people are procrastinators beyond belief," Roth said. "But this one's been selling a lot faster."

MCR, Muse booked for spring show

MCR from page B1

attend the events we plan, but it's especially important this time because this is the first time we're working with a major concert promoter, and depending on factors such as student attendance, we can develop a good relationship with the promoter which would likely result in better, more frequent concerts on campus," she said.

The College's main arena, now called Kaplan Arena, used to be a regular stop for high profile concerts, including the Grateful Dead, Bruce Springsteen and The Cars. My Chemical Romance could represent a return of big-name headliner concerts in Williamsburg.

Tickets went on sale to the general public Monday, and are available on TicketMaster.com for \$30.25, with 25 cents of each sale going to charity. Specially priced student tickets, however, go on sale starting Feb. 12 in the UCAB box office, located in the University Center, open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. every weekday. Mezzanine seats cost \$15 and floor tickets are \$21, and can only be purchased with a student ID. There is a limit of two tickets per ID and there are 2,500 student tickets for sale.

"Now is the cheapest time to buy tickets," Worley said. "We expect the student tickets to sell out quickly, and those who do not get the student rate will have to pay the public rate, which is double the special price."



COURTESY • MYSFACE.COM/MUSE

English progressive rock band Muse will open for headliner My Chemical Romance April 28 at Kaplan Arena. Tickets go on sale Monday in the UC.

MCR is known for its popular blend of alternative, punk and emo rock. The 'Parade' tour comes on the heels of the release of the band's latest album, "The Black Parade," in October. "The Black Parade" is the third effort from the quintet, comprised of frontman Gerard Way, bassist Mikey Way, drummer Bob Bryar and guitarists Frank Iero and Ray Toro. Like the band's previous two albums, "Black Parade" is a concept album looking back on the life of the central character, "the Patient."

The album debuted at number two on the Billboard Hot 100 list and has enjoyed generally positive reviews. Rolling Stone called the album "the best mid-Seventies record of 2006 — an ingenious, unrestrained paraphrasing of the over-the-top glam theater of Queen and classic Alice Cooper." Likewise, The Washington Post referred to 'Parade' as a "phantas-

magorical high-wire act."

In its live act, MCR is known for its high-energy performances and attention to thematic details. Like their concept-heavy albums, the band attempts to tell a story through the performance, and chooses song lists carefully. Sophomore Andy Foiles, a member of the music committee and a fan of MCR, said he expects the concert to be "a full blown operatic story brought to life."

Opening band Muse is comprised of guitarist and frontman Matthew Bellamy, drummer Dominic Howard and bassist Chris Wolstenholme. Like My Chemical Romance, the band is known for its energy on stage. The members have been making music together since the age of 13. Muse has been favorably compared to Radiohead, and is touring on the strength of its fifth studio album, "Black Holes and Revelations."

Dance, tradition combine in Culture Night

CULTURE from page B1

two musical numbers, including a traditional Filipino bamboo dance called Singkill." All the dances were choreographed by students.

"One of our final dances [the Singkill] is with 20 people," said junior Rob Landicho, also a Culture Night co-chair. "It is very difficult and actually pretty dangerous. It is pretty cool and I think people are going to like it."

The story line behind the show is a convergence of three different Filipino-Americans. "It is three intertwined stories," said Landicho. "You follow three different characters' paths. One is in the army, another is a cultural nut and one is a normal, ghetto, hip-hop kid. They all are Filipino, but each with different experiences."

Landicho and Lorenzo wrote the script together for personal experiences. "The show is based on our experiences with our families, friends and in our lives. It is not specific to Filipino culture, it just highlights Filipino culture."

Senior and FASA President Tara Pascual worked as a choreographer on the show. "[The goal of the show] is based on FASA's mission statement. FASA wants to educate the college and the community about Filipino-American culture and create a better understanding," said Pascual.

The students also use the dinner as a way to educate and give people a well-rounded cultural experience. "Dinner is basically authentic Filipino cuisine. It is another way to share Filipino culture with everyone."

FASA is not only made up of Filipino-Americans, but many students — from various backgrounds — that are interested in Filipino culture.

"The group of performers is very diverse. It is a lot of people coming together to have fun," said Landicho. "I brought in a lot of my friends for the show."

Not only is the show's cast diverse, but so are the types of dances included. "We have many dances and they highlight hip-hop, traditional Filipino dancing, martial arts and many other things," said Landicho. "This is a show that has something for everyone to relate to."



That Guy

Jimmy Wiencek

By ELIZABETH DERBY
THE FLAT HAT

With its punks, poets and skinny-jeaned philosophers, Monday afternoons in Tucker Hall feel about as far as a student can be from Saturday night on Frat Row. Bridging the gap seems effortless when one speaks to That Guy. With an easy laugh and inviting smile, Jimmy Wiencek is the best of both worlds: personable, modest, well-read and well-traveled. This week he talks about creative writing, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and presidential privileges.

You're an English major — what are you going to do once you graduate?

I'm going to do Teach for America. I'm going to try to teach somewhere in the south — Louisiana delta, Alabama, something like that — for two years, and then go to law school. The south seems charming. I'm from Cleveland, but William and Mary has converted me.

Tell me about your time in New York City.

This past summer I worked for The New Yorker. I worked for the poetry department, so I was a really lowly intern. But insider trade secret: you know the rejection letters submissions receive that say "from the editors"? It was just me writing those. Me and three other interns, and if no more than two of us didn't like a submission then it didn't get passed on. Ultimately we had no choice in the matter unless we liked it. Which is pretty scary for the poets, I think. That's what I did for about a month and a half. It was great. There was a young staff, and New York is a really interesting place to be.

You're a creative writer, aren't you?

I mostly write poetry, but I'm in a creative fiction class right now, so I'm opening up, starting to write short stories. I had my pre-teen fantasies of writing a novel, but I'm trying to stick to short stories and such. I've been writing since middle school, though.

What did you do over winter break?

I went to Africa, but it wasn't altruistic or anything. It was me and my mom and my dad. We climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro — five days up, two days down. We were actually climbing on Christmas Eve, spent Christmas Day peaking. We stayed in Tanzania and Kenya before and after the climb, and it was really cool to see both sides. I made it up with my family. It was a neat way to end the four years of college.

Is it snowy on Mount Kilimanjaro?

Well, Al Gore says it's not, so it's not. For the last 20 years it has been snowy for 20 miles down the slope, whereas now it's only snowy for 10. On the

night we submitted it was the worst snowstorm since 1997. We all made it, though, we just had severe wind-burn and frostbite on our cheeks. It's a story to tell. My beard had icicles in it — I felt much more outdoorsy than I actually am.

You seem like you do outdoorsy stuff.

Okay, I guess I do. I just don't like to play it up. A few summers ago I went to Alaska with a friend and we climbed glaciers. We'd hike for a couple of hours and then scale vertical faces using picks and stuff. It was nuts. That summer I also went to Costa Rica for a month and a half, so it was a pretty hot-and-cold summer.

What did you do in Costa Rica?

I taught English in a rural school. It was much lighter than it sounds. It was outside of a major city. It was a 200-person school, with classrooms of 40 kids aged six to 16. Some of them knew a lot of English — a lot meaning "Hello, how are you?" — and some of them knew nothing. It was tough to equal that out and teach them all. So I'd wind up teaching for two hours a day and then going outside to play soccer with them. It was really a defining moment for me and part of my impetus to join Teach for America. For a while I got back and was thinking globally, as most students on our campus do, but then I started reading up on Teach for America and realized that there are a lot of things that are wrong in our own backyard. Plus I don't have to speak another language here — though they're trying to get me to teach Spanish in the Bronx. I don't really speak Spanish, though, just very fluent Spanglish.

Anything you'd like to wax lyrical about concerning your time as president of your fraternity?

It's pretty hard to wax lyrical about the nitty gritty side of things. [Being the president] makes you very good at separating people from issues — treating an issue and not getting mad at a person for doing something stupid. Or on the other side of things tackling an issue and not getting annoyed with the administration. It's a good lesson in being the middle man. Hopefully it will prove to be a nice and strange little microcosm of the real world. The real world in a basement. I'm glad I did it.

What was the best part about it?

The best part was the respect that guys give you. It's nice to see the people under you respect what you say, that by and large they'll follow you. Plus it's nice to be called Mr. President. It's kind of funny because they won't quit now. They told me "Once Clinton was out of office he didn't stop being called 'Mr. President.' That's how it is for you now." I'm not sure how I feel about that.

Cures for the V-Day blues

It's almost Valentine's Day. Although I've succeeded in writing holiday-themed sex columns for lots of other holidays (Thanksgiving was the hardest), it's always nice to have an opportunity to write for a holiday that is already sexually charged.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS



Kate Prengaman

I wrote my first and second V-Day columns when I was feeling sweet, sappy and in love. Last year, I was on more of a single and bitter kick when I wrote an anti-Valentine's Day column on why it's great to be single this time of year. So the thing is, I've realized this Feb. 14 holiday means many different things to many different people. No matter if you love love, love to hate it or even if you couldn't care less, the big day is coming.

Now, if I were feeling cynical, I'd be tempted to fill my 800 words ranting about how Hallmark created a holiday to prey on our emotions and require us to spend lots of money on cheesy stuff because the economy is still suffering its post-Christmas slump. And don't get me wrong, I like chocolate as much as the next girl, but something about the Feb. 14 hoopla makes all the romance seem forced and insincere. You didn't get your girlfriend that little stuffed bear with a heart on it because you were suddenly inspired by the depth of your love for her and couldn't resist. You did it because you had to or you would have been the bad boyfriend who forgot Valentine's Day. Seriously, it can be a totally manipulative holiday.

But what if you are feeling really romantic on Valentine's Day? What can you get your significant other to prove just how much you care about them and how far you are willing to go for them when you've already said "I love you" with chocolates, roses, whipped cream and pink lingerie? My suggestion this year is to get yourself and your boyfriend or girlfriend a third partner. That's right, nothing says true love like a threesome. Plus, as an additional bonus, your single friends won't feel so bitter and left out.

Okay, I'm kidding. There are few ways to ruin your relationship more quickly than to invite a hot girl to join you and your girlfriend in bed on Valentine's Day. Threesomes are for single people. That's right, singles — here's your reason to celebrate V-Day. All the other single people are feeling left out and desperate, too, so don't settle for finding just one random hook-up that night. Instead, find two or even three.

There's nothing wrong with being single on Valentine's Day, especially if you're only in the market for a good hook-up. It's a much better



strategy then going on an "I hate Valentine's Day" campaign, because those make you seem resentful. You can bet that, given a slight change of circumstances, many of the protesters would be excitedly making dinner reservations and buying chocolate hearts. I honestly hope that those with extravagant celebrations aren't doing so to show off their love to the rest of the world instead of to their significant other, but it sure does feel that way sometimes if you're outside that love-dovey loop.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not anti-love, or even particularly anti-romance. Being in love is fantastic and frustrating. It's scary, exciting, comforting and overwhelming, and frankly, it's probably one of the best emotions to celebrate. But being in love should be a celebration in and of itself — every day, a celebration of the luck required to have someone who makes you happy in your life. It's actually pretty sad if you only take the time to celebrate it with an awkward Hallmark card once a year.

I guess what I'm saying is that I don't really know what you ought to do next Wednesday, and I don't actually care that much.

Is that sacrilegious? I'm a little nauseated by the commercial bandwagoning, but if that's what warms your significant other's heart, go for it. And really, there's no point in being bitter, because frankly, we all have love in our lives — your friends, your family, your past, your future, yourself — and it's all worth celebrating.

So forget Feb. 14. It's just another day. What's important is the significant other in your life and what you mean to each other. And your love for your friends, too (although those relationships are less likely to be featured in the sex column). Sorry to end on such a sappy note, but I swear it's sincere. If you celebrate love everyday, it takes away the power of the V-Day — the good, the bad and the ugly — and puts it back into what's significant.

Kate Prengaman is the Flat Hat Sex columnist. Even though she thinks Valentine's Day is a Hallmark holiday, she's not above accepting a box of chocolates here or there.

Farmers Market reopens its stands

By MEGAN DOYLE
FLAT HAT ASSOC. VARIETY EDITOR

A cold Saturday morning may not be a student's ideal weekend retreat after five days of classes, but music, fresh food and chefs' demonstrations promise a familiar, warm atmosphere for the Williamsburg Farmers Market's hundreds of loyal customers. This Saturday's market, which will be held from 8:30 a.m. until noon on Duke of Gloucester Street, marks the first of the season, though the tradition will celebrate its fifth year this July.

"It's exciting that we've come that far that fast," Libbey Oliver, market manager for the Williamsburg Farmers Market, said. For Oliver, like many participants, the chill and early morning commencement never dampens the excitement of the colorful, aromatic stands, which attract customers with the guarantee of fresher products at fair prices.

The farmers who travel up to 150 miles to participate are as diverse and inviting as their products. The relationship that these vendors have formed with local customers is what keeps both parties coming back. "Customers say they miss the products and their friends. That's really what it's all about," Oliver said.

In terms of economic concepts, a student's lack of sleep throughout the school week generally demands a weekend of slumber, keeping them from these morning markets. At the same time, the purpose of the Saturday event is to help stimulate the local farm economy. If principles of economic stability aren't enough to get students out of bed, health concerns that shape the dietary habits of many may serve as motivation. Most of the customers flocking from campus do tend to be staff members and professors, but both students and



HANNAH JONES • THE FLAT HAT

The popular Williamsburg Farmers Market will reopen for the first time this season tomorrow from 8 a.m. to noon in Merchants Square.

professors can appreciate a local, healthy alternative to campus dining.

Health buffs and economics majors may not be the only students who can fully appreciate the value and importance of the Farmers Market. An environmental studies class called Sustainability and Agriculture, taught by professor John Swaddle, a farm-owner who commutes to campus for classes, also promotes the benefits of this local event.

Though many area farms stop producing during the winter and the selection of the year's first market won't be at its peak due to the weather, it will provide a wide range of products including bison, chicken, honey, mushrooms and gourmet sprouts. This week, 15 vendors will attend, bringing diverse products from all over the area. While the weather will make the presence of flowers unlikely, with Valentine's

Day just days away, baked goods should certainly be one of this week's hottest items.

The recommending of this long-standing tradition in Williamsburg is special to vendors and customers, but also to the historical context of the area. Reminiscent of colonial trade markets, the event's Merchant Square setting, according to Oliver, couldn't be better. "We think we've got the best location in the country — the flower beds and benches make it a very comfortable atmosphere," she said. The weekly musical guest, sponsored by Ukrops, only enhances the aura of the DoG Street event. Later this spring, the market will feature the William and Mary Appalachian String band. This week, the "Un-Four-Gettable" women's barbershop quartet will harmonize with the bustle of customers and vendors trading friendship, products and profit.

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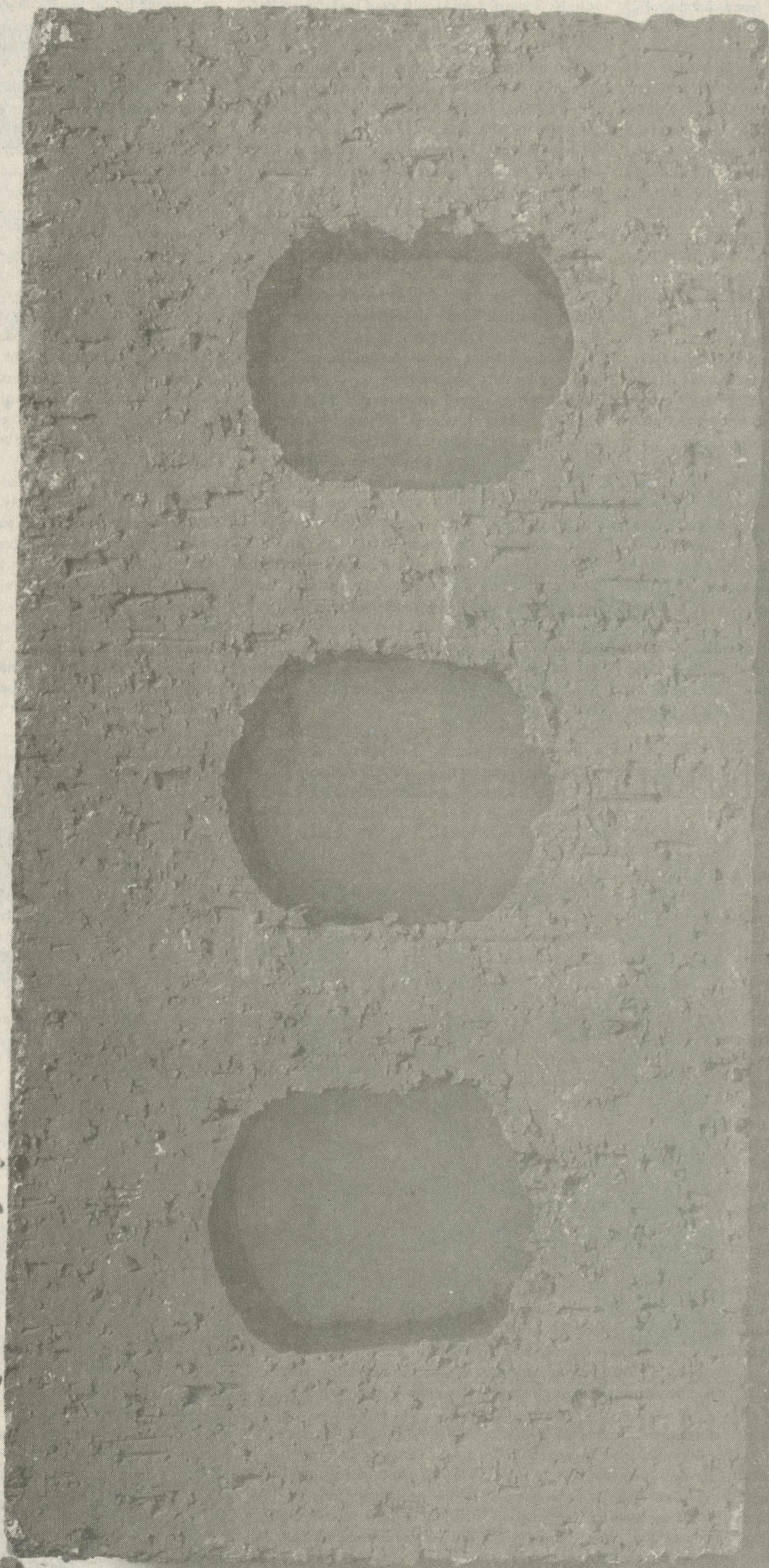
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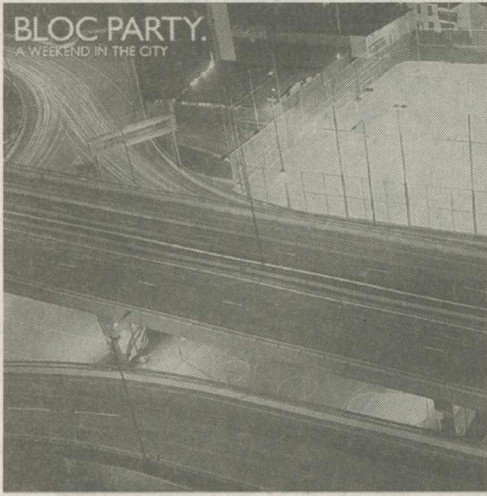
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COURTESY PHOTO • V2 UK

Bloc Party returns

By CHAS TYSON
THE FLAT HAT

Following the scintillating success of Bloc Party's 2003 album "Silent Alarm," producing another critically acclaimed record is certainly a tall order. The British indie band's latest album, "A Weekend In The City," responds to the challenge with boldness, innovation and artistry.

The post-punk revival band has matured greatly since its last album and evidently looked to the likes of Joy Division and Radiohead for inspiration. Their latest record is filled with spiky guitar riffs, ethereal background synthesizer progressions and punk and R&B inspired drum beats — all of which float behind melancholy lyrics of lead singer Kele Okereke's woes and the feelings of emptiness and insipidness he shares with British society. This record is their darkest, most experimental and most socially conscious work to date.

The album takes listeners full circle, emotionally. Beginning with feelings of depression and emptiness, it then moves to anger, frustration, vanity and boredom, and bookends the album with more depression. The record begins with "Song For Clay (Disappear Here)," a dark meditation on feelings of loneliness and lovelessness, shrouded in energetic guitar play and gloomy synthesizer backgrounds. The second track, "Hunting For Witches" shows Okereke's socially conscious side with frustrated lyrics about terrorist attacks in London, his desire to act against the violent insurgents and his anger towards "middle class" indecision. All this is sung over a catchy punk rock guitar riff with some Thom Yorke-esque bedroom electronica. "Waiting For The 7.18" addresses living with regret: Okereke pines over not taking enough risks in his past for fear of repercussions. He sings, "If I could do it again I'd make more mistakes / I'd not be so scared of falling." "The Prayer" brings a cappella, with humming and clapping, and builds into electronic dream rock very suggestive of TV On The Radio. The track "On," a song about being turned "on" by a woman who makes "his tongue loose" isn't the best on the album, but is saved by an ethereal string accompaniment.

Okereke's lyrical stylings certainly don't have the literary flair comparable to that of Yorke, but they are simple, tight and effective. Jacknife Lee's brilliant production captures the emotion of each song. Influences from his work with U2 certainly comes out in the album, though thankfully it doesn't reek of pretentious "save the world with music" bullshit. The songs are played in a variety of meters, sometimes changing within the songs, keeping the album interesting. The clever arrangement of the tracks keeps Okereke from emoting along the same lines song after song.

The record succeeds in its strange yet engrossing blend of punk rock and "Kid A" electronica. The melancholy mood of the album won't necessarily leave you hungering to visit the gloomy isle, but it makes you thankful that it produces talented indie rockers like Bloc Party who aren't afraid to push the envelop. I recommend you go to your local record store and spend a "A Weekend In The City."

Super Bowl XLI: the commercials

Our Variety Editor explains why this year's crop of ads was less than stellar.

By CHASE JOHNSON
FLAT HAT VARIETY EDITOR

Does \$2.6 million sound like a lot of money to you? It did to me, especially when I considered the things that Robin Leech might advise me to purchase if I were to come into that kind of money. You might ask, what does \$2.6 million buy you these days? For starters, you could score a five-person private jet. Or maybe you'd prefer six Lamborghinis (the Versace edition, of course) with some change for a couple hundred bottles of Cristal? Better yet, how about a 30-second advertising spot during the Super Bowl?

Okay, so maybe you can come up with a better way to spend \$2.6 million, but some of the country's biggest companies are only too willing to shell out that kind of cash for a tiny window of time during the biggest television event of the year. The mega productions they create are the blockbusters of the advertisement world, and many Americans admit that they look forward to them more than the game itself. Here is a run-down of the best and worst of this year's fare.

The first quarter of the game was sloppy on the field, and the ads weren't much better. They started off slowly with an amateur Doritos ad that went nowhere and an unremarkable ad from SalesGenie.com that apparently featured the world's best salesman. Yawn.

Sierra Mist continued their desperate attempt to make Michael Ian Black seem funny, and failed miserably, ending up with Jim Gaffigan in a very, very unflattering pair of cut-off shorts. Drink Sierra Mist and you can be a mal-adjusted guy with pale legs — sounds appealing, right?

We get our first glimpse of a move in the positive direction with the first Bud Light ad of the night. Bud Light may be shitty beer, but at least the company knows how to make a decent ad. This one addresses the age-old paradox: how in the world does paper beat rock? In the commercial, two guys square off for the last Bud Light with a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors and when confronted with paper, the "loser" chucks a rock at the "winner's" face, proving that rock is way better than paper. Deal with it.

After briefly returning to mediocrity with a FedEx "Moon Office" ad saved only by a brief audio clip of "The Final Countdown" and a "Lady and the Tramp"-inspired Snickers ad that purports that homophobia is still somehow considered funny, we finally reach a moment of true brevity. Sure, it was a CBS house ad featuring David Letterman and Oprah, but it was short, sweet and funny — quite literally the Holy Trinity of Super Bowl ads. Finally, we had an early front runner for Best in Show.

But lest we actually start enjoying the ubiquitous commercial breaks,

we immediately plunge back to GoDaddy.com's sad attempt at sex appeal. Wow, there are fake boobs everywhere — what a novel concept. It would've taken a lot to unseat this ad for worst of the night, and thankfully, nothing did.

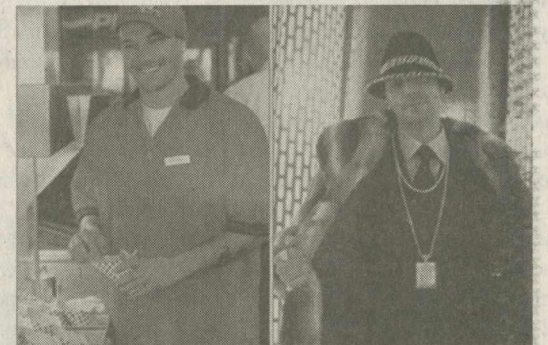
Fortunately, though, it got better. I was happy to see a feel-good story about the wannabe Budweiser Dalmatian that gets the girl in the end, followed by humorously grotesque guys who couldn't resist removing their shirts to treat a Chevy to a spontaneous carwash. Continuing with the feel-good theme, GM presented us with a vignette about an assembly line robot that loses its job for dropping a screw. The robot goes on to commit suicide, and while the room collectively sighed in relief when it turned out to be a dream, I couldn't help but feel as if nobody felt this bad for the worker who that robot replaced. Not to mention the fact that it makes light of suicide, which is never good.

As we moved on to the third quarter after a halftime show that was great for all the wrong reasons (where did that Foo Fighters song come from?), the game began to slow down, and it seemed like the ads did, too. Bud Light returned with a humorous gorilla who couldn't resist striking a pose, and Taco Bell served up an amusing spot featuring two lions arguing over rolling the "R" in "carne." Cute, but not cuddly — I liked it.

Up to the end of the third quarter, the ads had been pretty miserable, albeit with a few high spots. Then,

See ADS page B6

Super Bowl Advertising Hits



COURTESY PHOTO • NATIONWIDE INSURANCE
Nationwide's latest "life comes at you fast" commercial featured K-Fed at a fast food joint.



COURTESY PHOTO • DIAMOND FOODS
Emerald Nuts' Super Bowl spot featuring Robert Goulet proved delightfully weird.



COURTESY PHOTO • TACO BELL
Taco Bell's ad campaign finally expanded beyond talking Chihuahuas — to talking lions. Car-r-r-ne.

Hip business book misses mark

By ALEX GUILLEN
THE FLAT HAT

Business books: dry, boring, irrelevant, trumped up (pun intended). But sometimes non-business majors can choke their way through a business book; after all, "Freakonomics" was a pleasure to read. Attempting to further the movement to bring business literature to those not fluent in business-ese, "Mavericks at Work: Why the Most Original Minds in Business Win," by William C. Taylor and Polly LaBarre, claims to offer a look into success itself.

Taylor and LaBarre examine a variety of companies that use unusual and original methods that have propelled their respective businesses forward and made them leaders and innovators in their respective fields. Some are easily recognizable to the common man — Starbucks and Netflix, for example. Others are less famous but just as innovative, like clothing retailer Anthropologie and restaurant Potbelly Sandwich Works. Some are successful but rather unknown to the general public, like mining outfit Goldcorp and construction magnate DPR.

Each chapter looks at two or three "maverick" companies, revealing business strategies through interviews with

executives and inspections of company operations and procedures in an attempt to explain why the company's decidedly different approach succeeded.

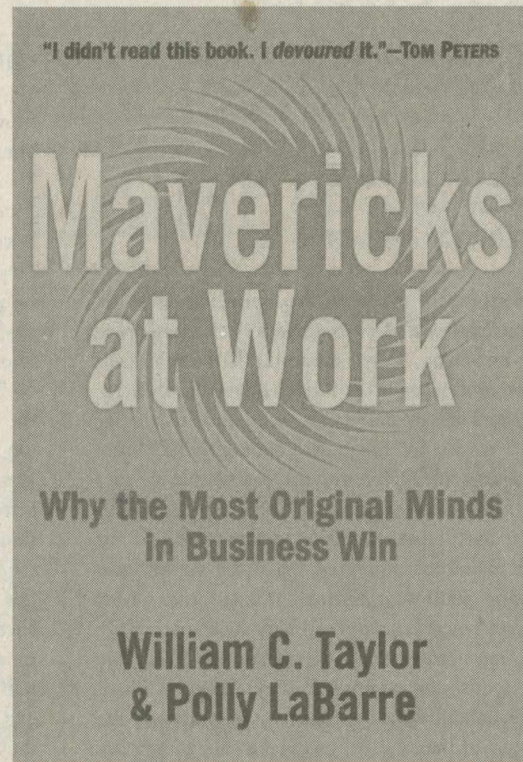
One such company was Commerce, a

authors reveal the company's strategy — hire only employees who are genuinely excited to work there so that customers have the best possible banking experience.

Newly hired employees — "part-time tellers, store managers, even vice presidents and senior executives" — all attend a day-long course to familiarize themselves with the bank's high-energy approach to company service. Not only does it serve to energize new hires but also to weed out those not service-oriented enough to survive the work environment.

One of the more fascinating and unexpected businesses examined was Cirque du Soleil, the modern circus group. Company scouts travel the globe, looking for performers in likely and unlikely places: other circuses, opera houses, sporting events and street performance groups. Many of their hires come from the athletic world. I had never thought about the business operations of a circus, but it is very interesting to learn about how they seek out unique and talented performers. Cirque then tailors the characters in the performance to match the skills and abilities of the performer — not the other way around, as is the norm.

See 'MAVERICKS' page B6



COURTESY PHOTO • WILLIAM MORROW

Horror film flails

By TED HOGEMAN
THE FLAT HAT

"The Messengers," as a movie, is more afraid of me than I am of it. It starts off well enough, with a well-built and creepy first half. Ultimately though, there's no real payoff, and the audience leaves feeling gypped. The largest problem with this film is that it's almost scary, but it always backs down before actually becoming frightening.

"The Messengers" is an excellent example of what does and doesn't work in a horror movie. Its ghostly visuals, which are unsettling and deliciously disturbing, provide for some scary new tricks. Some sequences are brilliantly filmed, like when a staircase leaps out, attacking the main character. However, most of the scares are reduced to quiet moments followed by jangling loud noises. The

See 'MESSENGERS' page B6

'Grey's Anatomy' causes one viewer acute internal pain

CRITICAL CONDITION



Alejandro Salinas

I'm just going to blurt it out: I hate "Grey's Anatomy."

I do. I can't stand the show, much less hear people talk about it.

Go ahead, call me crazy. Accuse me of being contrarian. You can even send me hate mail if you're so inclined — although I do favor the first two options. I'm not oblivious to the fact that 90 percent of this campus (of which, I'd venture to say, about 70 percent is female and 10 percent gay) is addicted to and/or obsessed with the show, so I realize this column will be received, at minimum, with some strong skepticism, if not all-out hatred. Perhaps it will even inspire a written response or a tête-à-tête with someone who casually (read: facebook stalking) runs into me on campus.

I've been harboring intense feelings of animosity towards "Grey's" for some time now. Looking back, I can even pinpoint the exact moment: more than six episodes (the train wreck) into season two of the show. See,

at the risk of being misinterpreted as one of those people who recoil from anything once it has become "too popular." I have to confess that before utterly hating the show, I did, in fact, enjoy it. When "Grey's" premiered as a midseason replacement in 2005, Meredith (Ellen Pompeo) and the rest of the intern troupe from the Seattle Grace Hospital felt like a breath of fresh air from all the "Desperate" histrionics that had taken over ABC's Sunday night programming. Sure, the voice-over narrative ploy quickly overstayed its welcome, but I was able to look past this because the show deftly gravitated somewhere between drama and comedy — always reliant on both genres yet never exploitive of either. Add a camp sensibility (can anyone forget the awfully delightful season finale that introduced Meredith — and viewers — to Addison Shepherd?) to the mix and what resulted was unbeatable television.

Then came the post-Super Bowl, two-part extravaganza — an event which, to reference

"The O.C." (another show that similarly once thrived on artifice), I would equate with "Olivergate." Grace Hospital was transformed into a war zone. Sensibilities were heightened, situations were critical (even more so than usual), and all the characters suddenly spoke only in exclamatory statements: Code Black! Christina Ricci guest-starring as an annoying Christina Ricci pretending to be a paramedic! A bomb lodged inside a patient! Meredith grabbing the bomb! Boom! Is that "pink mist" all over Meredith?!

Though hardly the first time the show employed a cataclysmic event as a narrative device to further the story, this two-part stint marked (for this critic at least) the point of no return for the show. A blunt manifestation of the show's ongoing deterioration, "Grey's" literally blew itself inside out in these episodes, exposing all its creative interstices. It became clear that the once smooth and effortless camp tone of season one was supplanted by a hysterical desperation

to be campy — and, as Susan Sontag wisely observed, intending to be campy is always harmful because true camp rests on innocence. "Grey's" wants so badly to be campy, it just keeps missing the (heart)beat.

The problem with intent is that it too often leads to forced and heavy-handed results. Look back at the first few episodes and you'll notice a steady progression in the nature of the impossible medical cases with which the interns are always confronted. Though never from the realm of the believable, the jump from mass Chlamydia outbreaks and child impalements to explosives lodged inside a human body and the accidental murder of a heart-transplant patient worth \$8 million is telling of a deliberate attempt to reach new heights of over-the-topness for over-the-topness' sake. No longer seamlessly woven as metaphors or narrative compliments to the characters' arcs, these medical cases

See 'GREY'S' page B7

Keaton's new chick flick falls flat

By BETH SUTHERLAND
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

Falling stars are always exciting to spot in the night sky. Their rarity renders them beautiful, and you can make a wish. Falling stars in Hollywood are quite different. They're awkward, disappointing and the only wish you want to make is for the movie to end. Diane Keaton ("The Family Stone") — a legend in the film industry, famous for her pant suits and portrayals of strong women — seems to have begun her slow descent. Though not the only example of this trend, Director Michael Lehmann's "Because I Said So" illustrates beautifully the fact that a big name neither carries a poor script nor compensates for stock performances. Keaton, who usually elevates chick flicks into, at least, the slightly more serious romantic comedy category, has become a one-trick pony. Movies like "The First Wives Club," "The Other Sister" and "Something's Gotta Give" succeed because of their simultaneous depth and playful quality. Keaton's characters are always the same: wealthy, dysfunctional women. Though it can become tiresome, this usually works for her. Recently, however, she has taken her characters to the extreme, playing a highly unlikely

mother in the angsty "The Family Stone" or a goofy, two-dimensional mother in "Because I Said So." She has become a caricature of a caricature: "Because I Said So" is the tragic proof of this degradation.

What looked to be a warm, worthwhile chick flick disappointed immensely. Few things frustrate a movie-goer more than when the previews get it right, but the movie misses the mark. The film also stars Mandy Moore ("American Dreamz") — who, though talented, has been doomed to star in a succession of poorly written, highly clichéd movies. The chemistry between Keaton and Moore is nonexistent. Their relationship (and the movie) hinges on exaggerated disconnectedness and slapstick stratagems. That Keaton finds herself once again playing the meddlesome mother isn't so bad — it's simply that she doesn't do it well. Her character, Daphne, is over-the-top to the extent that the viewer feels insulted that he or she should find this entertaining. Daphne conducts extensive interviews with would-be suitors for her daughter, Milly, and sets her up with Jason, the most promising option (played by Tom Everett Scott). Johnny, the musician at the bar where these interviews are conducted (Gabriel

Macht, "The Good Shepherd") also makes a point of meeting Milly. So Milly, who has thus far been a magnet for losers, ends up dating two men at once. The tension between these two possible lives proves to be the crux of the movie, with Keaton popping in and out of the plot periodically to do something obnoxious.

While this plot might have some potential, it ultimately drowns itself in a sea of complete superficiality. Lines are hackneyed, relationships that should be deep are made light of and neither heroine is particularly likable, admirable or strong. Sure, Daphne has raised her girls on her own and shares a strong bond with them, but this bond too often manifests itself in the form of four-way phone calls about sex. Everything, in fact, seems to revolve around sex, leaving behind a poor skeleton of a love story. Daphne's own romantic actualization consists of her first orgasm — not falling head-over-heels like the hero and heroine used to do back in the good old days.

Adding to the shallow quality of the plot is the cheap quality of the humor: total slapstick. The audience is supposed to get its kicks from Milly's "hyena" laugh (which, yes, includes snorting), a balloon statically clinging to a butt, a dog who likes to have his



COURTESY PHOTO • UNIVERSAL PICTURES.

Mandy Moore (LEFT) stars as Milly, who finds herself in an unexpected love triangle. [LEFT TO RIGHT] Lauren Graham, Diane Keaton and Piper Perabo star as Milly's sisters and mother.

way with the furniture, a computer that gets frozen on a pornography website, a child who likes to point out that women have "gins" and Diane Keaton's falling into cake after cake after cake (she's a caterer). "The Other Sister" this movie is not.

It can't be said with any semblance of integrity that anything really saved this movie, but a few things did ameliorate the pain it caused its viewers. The

soundtrack, for instance, was very good and made the movie fun when it would have been completely dull. As always (and it's actually getting a little tiresome), Keaton's clothes are beautiful. They're fun to look at, even if she does look exactly the same in every movie. Also, Macht's character redeems a good portion of the film. He is, quite possibly, the only genuine character in the film, exuding a warm affability that makes him

fun to watch. Macht has played secondary roles in movies like "The Good Shepherd" and "Enemy at the Gates," and always seems to play the honorable, comforting, if not very exciting, male.

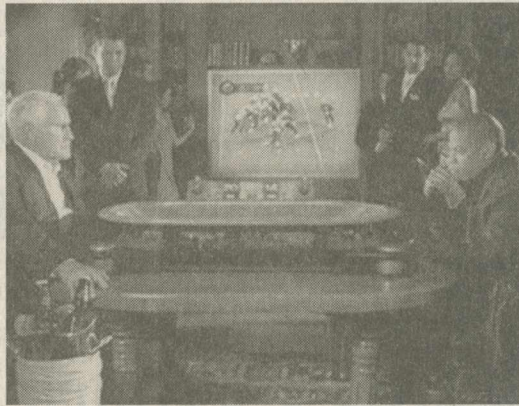
What's really a shame about "Because I Said So" is that it possessed all the ingredients for a really great romantic comedy. It would have been so very easy for the film not to have fallen so very short.

Super Bowl Advertising Misses



COURTESY PHOTO • GODADDY.COM.

GoDaddy.com submitted a number of ads that CBS refused to air because they were too racy. This one was submitted three times before being approved.



COURTESY PHOTO • ANHEUSER-BUSCH

Jay-Z and Don Shula played a hi-tech football video game — as an advertisement for Budweiser Select? The message is lost on us.

Hyped-up Super Bowl commercials disappoint despite \$2.6 million price

ADS from page B5

finally, we hit gold. First up was an **Emerald Nuts** ad featuring the magnificent Robert Goulet as some kind of office nymph with low blood sugar. In a word: hilarious. Next, **Nationwide** gave us the schadenfreude moment of the year. The insurance company's ad starts with a cringe, featuring a "rap" by notorious ex-Mr. Britney Spears, Kevin Federline. Suddenly, however, K-Fed is downgraded to fry cook along with a warning: "life comes at you fast." Well played, Nationwide. Well played.

We finally reached the fourth quarter of the game,

and clearly CBS didn't save the best for last. Other than a **Budweiser** ad that shows crabs on the beach pilfering and subsequently worshipping a cooler that happens to resemble a giant crab god (by the way, associating anything with crabs may not be the best marketing technique), all we get are a few unmemorable car ads and Jay-Z playing a football video game with Don Shula that, apparently, was for **Budweiser Select**.

The fourth quarter was more or less a complete dud. It was a fitting end to a largely unsatisfying four hours, speckled with a meager assortment of overachievers. If not for the resplendent Nationwide/K-Fed collaboration, the night might have been a complete disaster.

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'Mavericks' misses target audience

'MAVERICKS' from page B5

Unfortunately the book does not live up to its name; it explains how these maverick companies work, not why they succeed. Although they examine and explain the model for each business, the authors never delve into why that particular strategy works for the target demographic. Sure, Pixar makes excellent movies for people of any age, but why have they performed so well, and why do they have no real competitors? And for the considerable amount of space the authors use discussing Southwest Airlines, it is surprising how little time is spent analyzing why it is succeeding in a failing market. It is also questionable how the authors chose the companies they did; after all, it is fairly unbelievable that these companies are the only ones in their fields, or even at all, to employ these business techniques. Were the choices random or did the authors have some outside incentive that may have affected their decisions?

Moreover, 'Mavericks' fails to successfully captivate the reader with the sections and chapters devoted to advice. Culled from interviews with the executives from the featured companies, the parts of the book devoted to making the reader a better businessperson are tedious, unremarkable and forgettable, especially in contrast to the relatively fascinating descriptions of how these companies operate. This is a major contributing factor to the book's failure to reach a wider audience, since the advice is really only applicable to top-level executives instead of the rank-and-file readers more likely to grab the book.

There is also a crucial aspect missing from the book: where are the mavericks who failed? Surely there are dozens of failed or failing companies for each maverick featured in this book. Is there nothing to learn from the mistakes of others? Could their failed techniques work in a different time, in a different place, with different people? Nobody knows, since the authors quietly skirt around the problem.

'Mavericks at Work' provides an interesting look into the operations of some of today's most successful companies. Unfortunately, it is just not relevant to most people; many of the ideas presented seem rather ordinary, and the successes of some of these mavericks could be chalked up to luck. If you attend classes in Tyler Hall, read this book; otherwise, don't bother.

'Messengers' fails to deliver

'MESSENGERS' from page B5

movie's use of music lacks any subtlety, and almost every spooky moment is emphasized by overdramatic musical crashes. Sure, it's a common effect in horror films, but such overuse shows the filmmakers' lack of faith in their audience. Many of the movie's images, however interesting at the time, seem to lack any kind of substantial plot development, dramatically reducing their impact.

The story can be split into distinct halves, the first half being an excellent buildup, and the second being an enormous let down. Here lies the other important lesson about how (not) to make a horror movie: creepy things aren't really scary by themselves — they're scary because of how they play into the context of the story. Ultimately, "The Messengers" doesn't really come back to the more interesting seeds it plants in the first half, instead becoming a clichéd mess by the end. The few really scary moments feel like they belong in a different movie — one with better writers, who would know how to use them to their best effect.

Still, there is a much appreciated stab at character development. The two child protagonists do an amazing acting job. Evan and Théodore Turner, who play 3-year-old Ben, create a perfect portrayal of childlike wonder in the strange visions he experiences. His innocent expressions and cheerful, exploratory demeanor capture someone who doesn't understand the implications of what he does. Kristen Stewart (Panic Room), who plays

Ben's older sister, does a good job portraying the teen nobody is willing to believe. She's a convincing actress, but the writers failed to connect her major subplot to the primary thread of the movie, yet another downfall of the plot. Fans of the television series "The X-Files" will also appreciate a cameo by William Davis, the infamous cigarette smoking man. The rest of the performances are solid, if only slightly predictable.

The cinematography is strong in most scenes, successfully building a suspenseful atmosphere. There are brilliantly filmed sequences in "The Messengers," though the poor storyline hampers their effect in the end. The use of perspective between how adults and children perceive the same thing (with Ben seeing ghosts, and the adults not) reveals what this movie could and should have been. There are a few creative tricks, but throughout the movie it feels as though the directors were holding back, instead of making something truly unique.

There are times when "The Messengers" shows so much potential, and then for no reason it doesn't follow through. There are moments so tense that they're hard to sit through, but the tension is either released too soon or in a simple jolt scare that's only frightening because of the accompanying volume. It's almost as if the movie is afraid to actually scare the audience. Those who find most horror movies too intense might get a kick out of it, but overall, "The Messengers" is too tame and lacks the punch a real horror movie should have.



COURTESY PHOTO • COLUMBIA PICTURES

Talented young actors mark the few bright spots in "The Messengers." Jess, played by Kristen Stewart (RIGHT), and Bobby (Dustin Milligan) live in a world where children see ghosts.

Eighth Annual Honors Colloquium

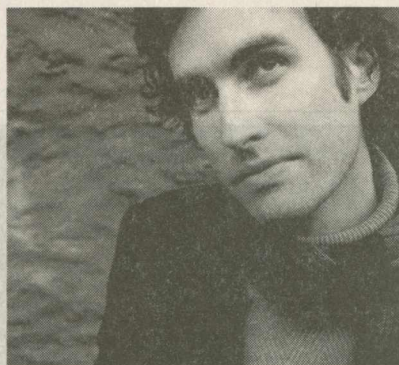
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Feb. 13, 5-6 PM, Blair 228 — English
Feb. 13, 6-7 PM, Blair 228 — IR, Public Policy
Feb. 14, 5-6 PM, Blair 228 — Sociology, Psychology
Feb. 14, 6-7 PM, Blair 228 — History
Feb. 14, 5-6 PM, Blair 229 — Mathematics

For more info and the complete schedule visit
www.wm.edu/charlescenter



Singled Out
Andrew Bird — "Heretics"
From his *Armchair Apocrypha* LP

With Sufjan Stevens making widespread "Illinois," Andrew Bird, also a multi-talented instrumentalist bent on reinventing pop, is bound to make some headway. Oh — and he's a professional whistler. Kickass.

— compiled by Conor McKay

iTunes top 10 albums

1. *Infinity On High* — Fall Out Boy
2. *Not Too Late* — Norah Jones
3. *Alright, Still* — Lily Allen
4. *A Weekend In the City* — Bloc Party
5. *Daughtry* — Daughtry
6. *Winning the Night Away* — The Shins
7. *Katharine McPhee* — Katharine McPhee
8. *Children Running Through* — Patty Griffin
9. *These Streets* — Paolo Nutini
10. *Corrine Bailey Rae* — Corinne Bailey Rae

HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP

Suri-enough, more to come

Though Tom Cruise may have played the role, now Katie Holmes feels like Ethan Hunt after giving birth: "I felt empowered, like, 'I've given birth. I did it! There's nothing I can't handle,'" Holmes said. Apparently, pregnancy was literally a piece of cake for the 28-year-old, who craved only cupcakes and experienced no morning sickness. After giving birth to daughter Suri last April, the "Dawson's Creek" sweetheart is "Definitely!" willing to have more children with her top gun husband.



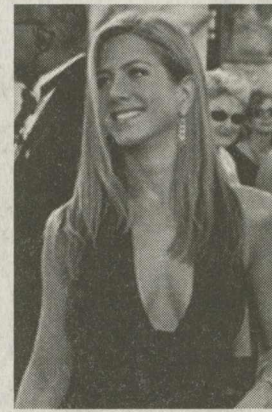
When Perry met Sally

Meg Ryan and Matthew Perry: just friends or prelude to a kiss? While Ryan was once in good company with Dennis Quaid, the two divorced in 2001 and she most recently dated Russell Crowe. Perry recently split with his 24-year-old girlfriend Lizzy Caplan. Over the holidays, the two were seen together at The Brentwood restaurant in LA. If rumors are true, perhaps the "You've Got Mail" actress will be sending a little Valentine's mail to her new friend next week.



Kimmel calls in PoPo

After being forcibly removed from "Jimmy Kimmel Live," comedian Andy Dick seems a little less than perfect. While he may have just gotten carried away with rude comments towards fellow guest Ivanka Trump, he then repeatedly rubbed the famous daughter's legs and touched her hair — actions which literally got him carried away — off stage with the help of two security guards. It was the host that finally called for help after repeatedly begging the "Just Shoot Me" star to quiet down.



Rumor has it

Though seen leaving a Beverly Hills plastic surgery office and rumored to have had a few adjustments, Aniston insists she only had a deviated septum in her nose fixed. The same doctor also fixed Cameron Diaz's deviated septum and gave Ashlee Simpson her new look. Further speculation of plastic surgeries sprung from Aniston's voluptuous appearance at the People's Choice Awards, but the star continues to break up those rumors as well.

— compiled by Megan Doyle



COURTESY PHOTO - ABC
Though it won a Golden Globe for Best Television Series - Drama, ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" isn't for everyone. It stars [CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT] Sandra Oh, Patrick Dempsey, Katherine Heigl and Ellen Pompeo.

'Grey's Anatomy' annoys

'GREY'S' from page B5

reek of exploitive shock value. On top of it all, this ridiculousness has started to extend into character situations: two proposals in the same episode? Could the writers of the show be any more desperate?

What's worse, 'Grey's' wants to have its cake and eat it too: coupled with the consciously slimy intent to shock (just to shock) is the seriousness with which the show has started to approach itself. The entire Izzie (Katherine Heigl) ordeal with Denny would have been just the right amount of over-the-topness (doctors fending for the lives of patients while dressed in prom-like gowns and attire? Genius.) had the writers and actors not taken the entire scenario and its aftermath so seriously. To date, I still cringe every time Snow Patrol's "Chasing Cars" comes on the radio, and don't even get me started on the ludicrous I'm-not-going-to-deposit-the-check episode arc. Suffice it to say that Izzie went from marginally

captivating to widely annoying in less than a split second.

I suppose you can argue that all these ridiculous scenarios make for great television and that the show has resuscitated the moribund medical drama by bringing sexy back. But, much like Justin Timberlake's tune, this sexiness already feels run into the ground. This isn't to say that 'Grey's' isn't without its fine moments — just that, as of season two, these moments were too few and far between. Fast approaching a creative crossroads (salary negotiations are supposedly already underway, another Super Bowl stint is in the works and the Isaiah Washington problem is, as of yet, unresolved) perhaps Grey's writers can find a way to refocus the scope of the show. Perhaps you (yes, you) could stop talking about the show in OMG-loud decibel levels.

Or not.

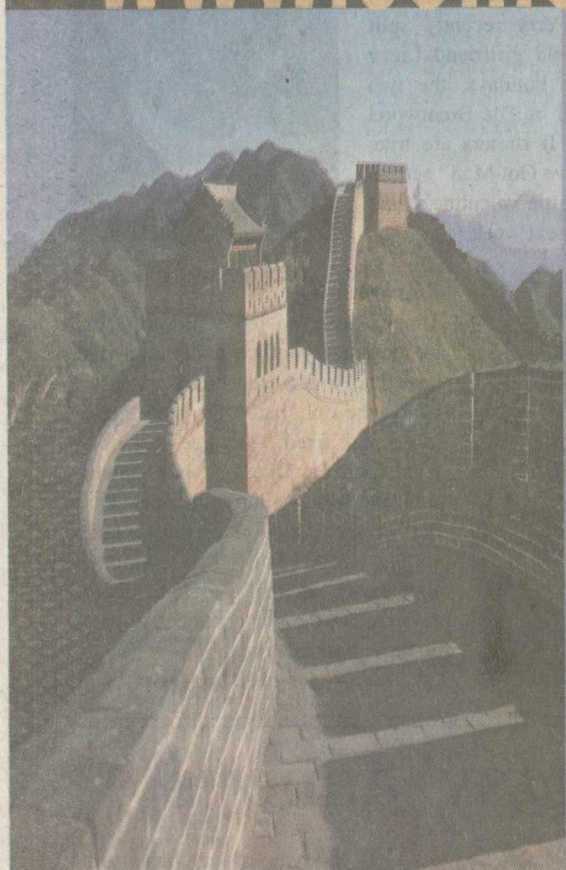
Alejandro Salinas is a senior at the College. He wishes someone had cut Izzie's LVAD wire instead.

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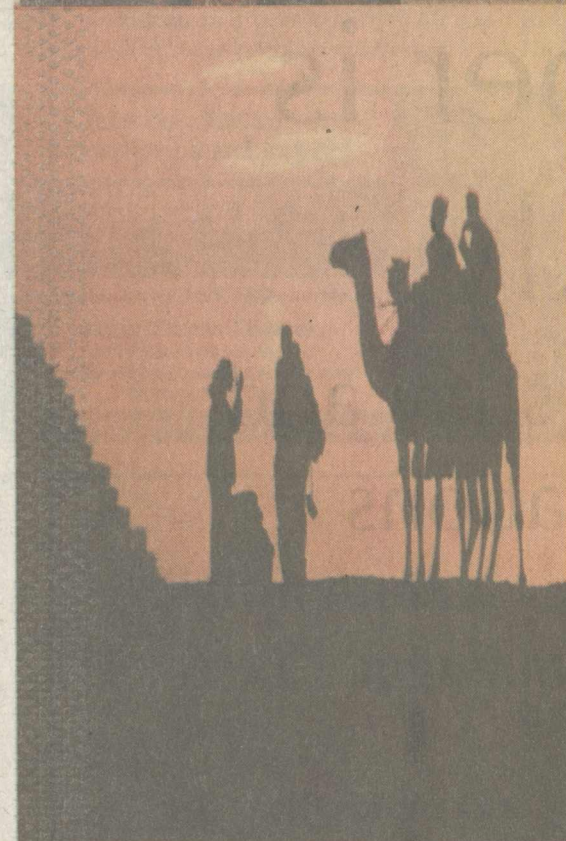
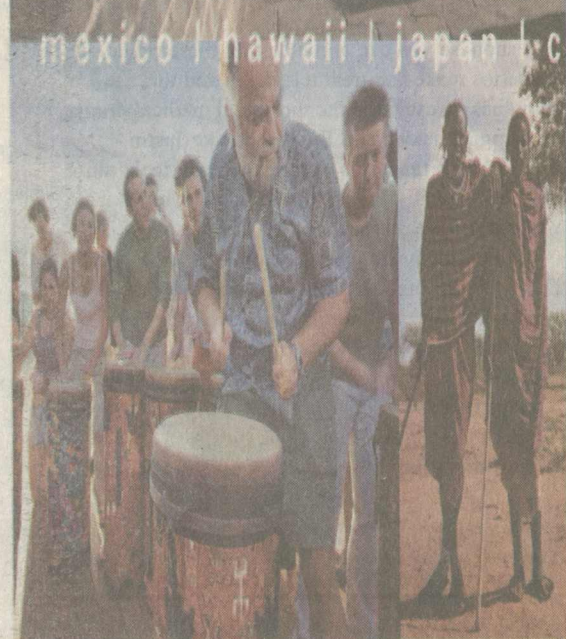


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