

Volume 3  
Issue 10  
March 26, 2008  
Established 2005

# THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

www.VAInformer.com

An independent publication at the College of William and Mary.  
*The common sense paper of record on campus.*

## Hopkins and Pilchen win big



Joe Luppino-Esposito

**Jubilation, part 2:** Zach Pilchen and Valerie Hopkins found themselves at the top of the Student Assembly for a second year after defeating challengers Adam Rosen and Emily Nuñez 70% to 25%.

### Incumbents rule the day as few offices are contested

| 2009   | 2010  | 2011   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>President</b><br>Kevin Dua  | <b>President</b><br>Ali Snell   | <b>President</b><br>Jazmine Piña   |
| <b>Senators</b><br>Matt Beato<br>Walter McClean<br>Caroline Mullis<br>Matt Pinsker | <b>Senators</b><br>Ross Gillingham<br>Sarah Rojas<br>Steven Nelson<br>Ryan Eickel | <b>Senators</b><br>Michael Douglass<br>Brittany Fallon<br>Ben Brown<br>Mike Tsidulko |
| <b>VP Advocacy</b><br>Kristin Slawter  | <b>VP Advocacy</b><br>Laura Nelson  | <b>VP Advocacy</b><br>Sarah Oweremohle   |
| <b>VP Social Affairs</b><br>Samantha Fien-Helfman                                  | <b>VP Social Affairs</b><br>Alyssa Wallace  | <b>VP Social Affairs</b><br>Julia Riesenbergl  |
| <b>Treasurer</b><br>Cliff Dunn   | <b>Treasurer</b><br>Andrew Noll   | <b>Treasurer</b><br>William Brannon  |
| <b>Secretary</b><br>Chris Illardo  | <b>Secretary</b><br>Jessica Taubman   | <b>Secretary</b><br>Chrissy Scott  |

## Veterans Society ceremony honors true service to country

### Student veterans remembered

Aimee Forsythe  
Staff Writer

On March 18 the Veterans Society of William and Mary sponsored "A Moment of Remembrance and Recognition of Service" in the Sunken Garden.

It was moderated by John Miller, a coast guard reservist and English instructor at the college. Mr. Miller opened by explaining the mission of the service, to remember and honor those who have fought and sacrificed for our country whose "names do not adorn buildings." The service specifically honored and recognized Jeff Webb and Danny Morris. Mr. Miller outlined a brief history of the College's involvement in military service highlighting the Revolutionary War, Civil War and World War II. Mr. Miller then had William and Mary veterans stand and introduce themselves, including David Esteves, Leonid Godunov, Anthony Guzman, Bruce Pollock, Alex Wright and Lance Zaal. Mr. Miller then went on to introduce Jane Honeycutt, who lost her fiancé, Mr. Webb in combat

**STUDENT VETERANS HONORED**  
continued on page fifteen

## Beato ('09) looks to bring students into the fold with city council run

Kristin Coyner  
Staff Writer

Matt Beato ('09), former chair of the Student Assembly, has decided to attempt to link the college community with that of greater Williamsburg by running for City Council.

Mr. Beato had already made history this past November, becoming the first William and Mary student elected to a Williamsburg city office as one of two Colonial Soil & Water Board representatives.

Originally, this was a position which Mr. Beato did not seek out. In having only one candidate on the ballot for two board slots, voter write-ins resulted in Mr. Beato tying with both a fellow student and Comedy Central celebrity Stephen Colbert. Nevertheless, he agreed to serve on the board and has done so for the past several months.

This lack of voter choice which elevated Mr. Beato to office now serves as partial motivation for his pursuit of even greater elected office. On March 5, Mr. Beato declared his candidacy for Williamsburg City Council by issuing a press release, stating, "I am running because we need someone on Council who can bring the city together to address the issues of all Williamsburg."

A total of six candidates are running for three open seats on the Williamsburg City Council. The May 6 election will pit two incumbents, Vice Mayor of Williamsburg and Chairman of the William and Mary Economics department Clyde Haulman and Councilman Paul Freiling, against four challengers. In addition to Mr. Beato, former Williamsburg Mayor Gil Granger, Williamsburg Planning Commissioner Judy Knudson and community leader Terence Wehle are all vying for a spot on the council.

This competitive field has not dampened Mr. Beato's outlook on the race. Rather, the candidate seems very upbeat and optimistic over the prospect of



Joe Luppino-Esposito

**The candidate:** Beato discusses his positions on council issues.

electoral victory. In 2006, then-student David Sievers ('07) ran for Williamsburg City Council and lost his race by 154 votes. Mr. Beato pointed out, "There are a lot more students registered to vote in Williamsburg now, almost ten times the number as in 2006. I can gain both a high portion of David's voters and newly registered students to win." Presently, students comprise about 14 percent of registered Williamsburg voters, numbering close to 1,000 individuals.

Moreover, the percentage of student voters in the 2007 General Assembly elections closely mirrored the percentage of resident voters. Mr. Beato hopes that with the choice of a student on the ballot, student turnout will greatly increase in his favor.

Mr. Beato may have a difficult time with outside

**BEATO FOR CITY COUNCIL**  
continued on page fifteen

Want to get every issue of *The Informer* in the mail?  
E-mail editor@vainformer.com with your name and address, and we will send you an order form and your first issue **FREE!**

**CONTENTS**

- News..... 2
- Features..... 8
- Arts & Culture..... 12
- Opinion..... 17

Inside W&M's a capella scene  
**Page 11**





# SA Senate calls for student voice

## Senators pass referenda including "Save a Professor" Act, among others that were voted on the March 20 ballot

**Swetha Sivarem**  
Staff Writer

The Senate passed several referenda in the two sessions on March 11 and March 18. On March 18 the Student Assembly rejected the "Serving Williamsburg Act" and passed the "Big Ideas Act," both acts sponsored by Senator Walter McClean ('09). It also passed the "Save a Professor" referendum and "Graduate Students' Senatorial Referendum Act" sponsored by Senator Joe Luppino-Esposito('08) and David Bules (J.D. '08).

The Senate swore in Senator Matt Pinsker ('09) and chose a new chairman of the Student Assembly Senate, Mr. McClean, in light of the departure from the senate of former Chair Matt Beato ('09), who resigned to focus on his campaign for city council. Mr. McClean was approved after he gave a speech promising to "push issues like community service" and promised to reach out to graduate students.

Mr. Luppino-Esposito was nominated and elected as an elections commissioner to replace Senator Matt Skibiak ('08) who was removed from the commission by President Zach Pilchen ('09). Mr. Pilchen said he acted in response to the appearance of a lack of impartiality following Mr. Skibiak's public endorsement, sent over the Senate list serv, of Valerie Hopkins ('09) and Mr. Pilchen for SA president and vice president.

The "Serving Williamsburg Act" created a Williamsburg Service Fund whose purpose it is to "improve greater Williamsburg community by helping fund student dinner service projects." It was sent back to committee and criticized on the basis of two reasons. First, Mr. Luppino-Esposito stated that "what is appropriate for service" was questionable and the definition of service was not clear cut. Others questioned whether it is the responsibility of the Senate to fund service projects in the Williamsburg community. "In terms of spending student's money, I don't think it's our responsibility to do so," stated Senator Ray Ciabatonni ('10). Senator Alex Kyrios ('09) added that, "I feel like this effort is a blunderous step backwards," and expressed skepticism about the improvement it would bring to student relationship with the city.

The "Senatorial Referendum Act" placed a referendum before the graduate student body on the method of electing graduate students to the Senate directly or to continue appointing them. The earlier version of this bill, the "Graduate Student Voting Rights Act," was criticized by graduate representatives as being too vague but with modification was passed unanimously by the Senate.

The "Big Ideas Act" offered \$10 gift cards as incentive to elicit suggestions and ideas for programs or events from the student body that are eventually used.

# Young Americans for Freedom to host several political commentators

**Stephanie Long**  
Staff Writer

William and Mary Young Americans for Freedom will be hosting three upcoming speakers in the next month. Bay Buchanan, former treasurer of the United States and presidential campaign manager for Tom Tancredo, will be speaking at 6:00 p.m in the UC Commonwealth on March 31.

Serge Trifkovic is an expert on Balkan politics who has spoken out against militant Islam. He will be taking part in the national Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week, speaking on April 8 at 8 p.m in Small 113. Islamo-Fascism Awareness Week is the creation of the David Horowitz Freedom Center.

Chris Simcox of the Minutemen Civil Defense Corps is a vocal opponent of illegal immigration. He will be speaking on April 22 at 8 p.m. The scheduled room is to be announced.

John Kennedy('08) is the organizer of the series and commented that he "look[s] forward to hearing them speak about issues that are rarely broached on our liberal campus. William and Mary needs a shot of right wing rhetoric to awake it from its left wing slumber."

# Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor

## Laundry room "E-suds" system to be installed during summer

"E-suds," a computerized laundry service which helps alert students to open washers and dryers, will be installed in all campus laundry rooms sometime in early June, according to the Student Assembly. The system will then be tested by students attending the summer session at the College, and should be fully online by fall 2008. The E-suds program links students to their respective laundry rooms, and offers alerts when a person's laundry is done, when washers or dryers are available for use and even allows students to pay laundry costs direct from their dorm rooms.

## Virginia Senator honored with Andrews Fellowship

Republican US Senator John Warner of Virginia was recently named the recipient of the 2008 Andrews Fellowship, an award given yearly by the College to bring notable journalists, politicians and academics to campus to interact with students and faculty. The fellowship, in its eighth year, is named for Virginia State Senator Hunter Andrews, a William and Mary

alumnus. Mr. Warner was chosen as his "career of public service holds extraordinary lessons in citizenship for us all," according to interim President W. Taylor Reveley III. As a part of the fellowship, Mr. Warner will be meeting with faculty and students at a town-hall-style meeting on April 4.

## Mini-medical school comes to William & Mary

Local physicians will educate members of the Williamsburg community about general health and medicine topics in a mini-medical school lecture series at the College to take place Wednesdays in April. The program will include discussion of brain, heart and women's health. Since the first "mini-medical school" at the University of Colorado ten years ago, these education programs have become a popular source of health information to the general public. Mini-medical schools have spread to universities across the country with the encouragement of the National Institutes of Health. This is the first time the programming has been offered at William and Mary.

## College hosts national service-learning conference

As part of a national focus on service to the community as a part of higher education, a panel comprising student, faculty and staff leaders in civic engagement and service-learning came to William

and Mary to discuss various aspects of current and future service efforts. Including members of the White House Domestic Policy Council, the conference focused on how students at American universities have become a generation of "service junkies," concerned about duty and informed citizenship and discussed methods on how to promote a similar dedication to "civic engagement" in campuses across the United States.

### The Informer apologizes for the following errors in our Feb. 27, 2008 Issue:

The article on page two titled "Professorial Politics," it is not clear that the \$400 Professor Alan Meese contributed to former Senator George Allen's campaign was in 2000 and not in 2006. Professor Ronald Rapoport was incorrectly identified as Roland Rapoport. Professor George Grayson is a Government department professor, not a History professor, as the article incorrectly indicated.

On page 16, the Drink of the Week was written by Ian R. Whiteside.

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

## THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

Established 2005

Founders

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

March 26, 2008

Volume 3 Issue 10

The Virginia Informer  
CSU 7056, P.O. Box 8793  
Williamsburg, VA 23186  
editor@vainformer.com  
www.VAInformer.com

### Editorial Board

Joe Luppino-Esposito, **Editor in Chief**  
Matthew Sutton, **Managing Editor**  
Nick Fitzgerald, **Executive Editor**  
Stephanie Long, **News Editor**  
Steven Nelson, **Features Editor**  
R.C. Rasmus, **Arts & Culture Editor**  
Nick Hoelker, **Opinion Editor**

### Mission Statement

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

**Online Editor, Nick Hoelker**

**Photography/Graphics Staff**

Ian R. Whiteside, **Photography Editor**  
David Clifford • Nicole Leger • Blake Lucas  
Alex McKinley • Kristine Mosuela • Long Vinh

**Copy Staff**

Virginia Lynn Butler • Amber L. Forehand • Annie Hughes  
Sara Roux • Beth Zagrobely

**Layout Staff**

Chris Davis, **Design Editor**  
Mary Bellini • Sam McVane

**Business Staff**

Andrew B. Blasi Jr., **Business Editor**

**Contributors**

Mary Bellini • Adam Boltik • Kristin Coyner • Aimee Forsythe  
Alex Guiliano • Jacob Hill • Michelle Ju • John R. Kennedy  
Ian A. Kirkpatrick • Boris Kiselev • Megan Locke • Patrick Macaluso  
Bert Mueller • Charlie Murray • Sarah Nadler • Chris Ours  
Matt Pinsker • Violette Robinet • Swetha Sivaram • Jennifer Souers  
Ilsa Tinkelman • Kirk Vernegaard

The Virginia Informer is produced by students at the College of William and Mary. The opinions expressed in articles, photos, cartoons, or ads are those of the writer(s) or sponsor(s). This paper is produced for the benefit of students at the College and is available at no cost for members of the greater Williamsburg community. However, copies should be taken only if they are meant to be read and enjoyed. In the event an individual or group prevents these copies from being enjoyed by others, the cost to that individual or group will be \$15 per copy. Letters to the editor are welcome and can be submitted via e-mail or mail.



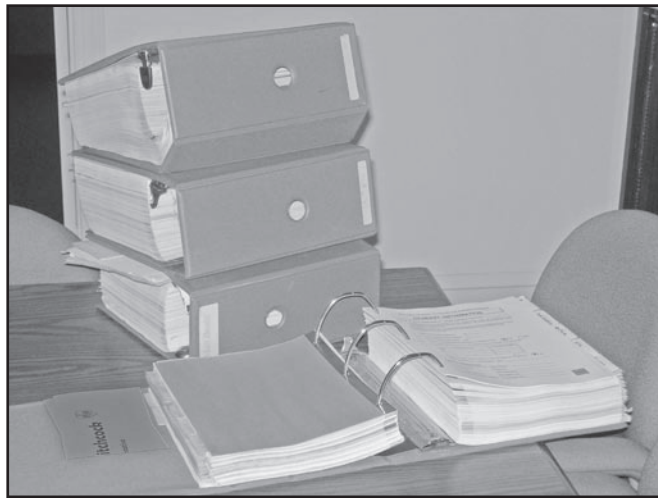
# SA cuts budget of law school, increases UCAB funding

**Stephanie Long**  
News Editor

Every year the Student Assembly's Executive Finance Committee often disappoints student organizations by granting only a portion of their proposed budgets, but this year law students fought what they considered to be an unfair distribution of student fees.

"The law school got \$21,000 this year whereas they got \$23,000 last year," Senator Walter McClean ('09) explained. This budget cut was deemed unacceptable by the Student Bar Association President Sarah Fulton (JD '08), and she and fellow law students attempt to appeal the finance committee's decision and even attempted to amend the decision once it went to the Senate for approval.

Reasoning for notable cuts in funding such as this, as well as reasoning for the increasing of student fees to pay for these activities from \$86 last year to \$88 this year, are due to increases for funding of other organizations. The one that stands out most is UCAB, which received the full amount of its requested funding, as per the campaign promise of SA President Zach Pilchen. UCAB received \$124,550 this year. Last year UCAB requested only \$109,450 and received \$101,550. In comparison to last year this year, UCAB requested another \$10,000 to fund concerts, another \$2000 to fund speakers, another \$3000 to fund



Joe Luppino-Esposito

**Point of contention:** SA members disagree over budget cuts for the Law School and increases for UCAB.

comedians and another \$100 to fund homecoming.

Cutting the budget of the law school this year seemed odd considering it formed eight new student groups this year, Ms. Fulton said. "Even if we were given the exact same[amount of money] as last year, the proportion would be smaller."

Reasons provided from the finance committee and the SA for cutting funding were that they did not want to fund activities which made a profit or which were for academic credit. Furthermore, the law school receives funding for its publications from the Publications Council. Ms. Fulton, though, asserted that, "To cut our social

funding because we publish more seems misguided."

Mr. McClean asserted that "overall, I feel many senators rejected this argument as it relied heavily on a biased breakdown of what law school representatives said they benefited from. They said, for example, that grad student do not gain any benefit from UCAB events and should not be paying indirectly for them."

Two amendments were on the floor of the Senate: one which proposed cutting UCAB's budget to help fund the law school, the other proposed taking money from the Class of 2009's budget. Ms. Fulton clarified that she doesn't disapprove of UCAB but rather understood that, "on its face, UCAB got a \$9,000 increase. As we were desperate to find adequate funding for the 33 groups requesting funds at the law school, I had hoped that UCAB could operate at a smaller increase so that the 33 groups could split \$1,000 or \$2,000."

She explained that there had been "misinformation" regarding the nature of law school requests as well as the

process for appeals and amendments. "[We] were told to find the money in the existing budget. I was later informed that it was not necessary to target a group so that was frustrating as it made us look as though we were attacking a beloved group," Ms. Fulton explained.

Both amendments failed, and Ms. Fulton was unable to salvage \$2,000 for the law school, but she is not disheartened for next year. "I think that we made steps in the meeting that will make this budget process smoother for the law school in the future," she said, "so that everyone involved is able to have their questions regarding groups needs answered, rather than guessing."

## The SA Budget

- IR club got \$4,000 of their requested \$12,100
- \$124,550—Full Funding for UCAB
- Total Budget: \$589,571
- Student Activities Fee: \$88
- Passed by Senate: March 4
- President Pilchen signed and approved on March 11

# Hopkins lays out plan at Lodge 1 debate

**Nick Hoelker**  
Opinion Editor

On March 17, the Student Assembly executive ticket faced off in a debate held in Lodge 1 at 7:00 p.m. Presidential candidate and current Vice-President Valerie Hopkins ('09) and vice presidential candidate and current President Zach Pilchen ('09) squared off in a debate against challengers Adam Rosen ('09) and Emily Nuñez ('09).

The debate was organized by Elections Commission Chairwoman Jennifer Souers ('10) and moderated by Government Professor Clay Clemens.

In his opening statement, Mr. Rosen argued that the current Pilchen-Hopkins administration was characterized by inaction and ineffectiveness, asserting that only 30 percent of last year's campaign promises had been met, a statement later found by the SA Elections Commission to be slanderous. Mr. Pilchen countered this as inaccurate, noting that many issues from the 2007 election are still being worked on, such as overturning the three-person-to-a-house rule. Mr. Pilchen claimed that overturning this rule was also being worked on through administrative efforts to increase student voter registration.

Mr. Clemens' first question covered campaign themes. Mr. Rosen explained that the Rosen-Nuñez campaign slogan, "Your Ideas, Your Voice, Campus United," represents a hope to make the SA executive more responsive to students. Ms. Hopkins stated that the Pilchen-Hopkins campaign theme was once again "Your Student Assembly." She cited several accomplishments in the past year, such as hosting the Board of Visitors forum and efforts to register student voters. Mr. Pilchen added that all questions submitted to the SA Web site are answered quickly and that no students have ever come to SA office hours in the past.

The next question pertained to Town-Gown relations. In her response, Ms. Hopkins once again stressed the importance of the voter registration drive. Mr. Rosen claimed to have been in contact with prominent government officials in Richmond on this issue.

Mr. Clemens then proceeded to inquire about how each ticket would work toward greater student participation on campus-wide issues, such as the stated budget cuts and the presidential search committee. Mr. Rosen promised to employ a diverse cabinet and listed what he believed to be desirable qualities for a

new president. He declined to state how a Rosen-Nuñez administration would involve students in the presidential search committee. Mr. Pilchen said that he created dialogue between the administration and the SA once the budget cuts were announced. Ms. Hopkins added that she and Mr. Pilchen have been researching the previous conduct of presidential search committees.

The vice-presidential candidates answered the next question about what their role would be in the administration.

Mr. Pilchen contended that he was uniquely qualified to preside over the Senate as a former senator and, further, claimed to have working relationships with many current senators. In response, Ms. Nuñez stressed the diversity of the Rosen-Nuñez ticket, as she is a Republican while her running mate is a Democrat. Mr. Rosen interrupted Ms. Nuñez twice during her answer.

Mr. Clemens then asked the candidates to address the issue of sexual assault. Mr. Rosen proposed doubling current sexual assault prevention programs, One in Four and Every Two Minutes. He also criticized aspects of the Hopkins-Pilchen plan, claiming to have consulted with One in Four's creator, Dr. John Foubert. Mr. Pilchen stressed the campaign's stance on coeducational sexual assault prevention, which Ms. Hopkins said was a pilot program. Mr. Rosen said that in commenting on the Hopkins-Pilchen plan Dr. Foubert remarked, "they had no idea what you're talking about and it's dangerous."

The presidential candidates also fielded a question on possible academic improvements for the school. Ms. Hopkins pointed to efforts on behalf of herself and Mr. Pilchen to post course syllabi online and to allow freshman and sophomores to take pass/fail courses. She stressed that these changes can often be slow. Mr. Rosen suggested adding one-credit prep courses for grad school exams, as 60% of graduating William and Mary students attend graduate school.

The next question related to the candidates' ideas on making the campus more environmentally friendly.



Alec McKinley

**Candidate face-off:** Rosen and Nuñez took on Hopkins and Pilchen.

Mr. Rosen stressed smaller-scale ideas, such as recycling solo cups and placing trash cans in every dorm room to prevent students from using recycling bins for trash. Mr. Pilchen, an Environmental Studies major, stressed the need to shrink the College's energy bill, which is currently at \$12 million and increasing by \$1 million each year. Mr. Rosen countered that "recycling solo cups shouldn't be beneath anyone."

Mr. Clemens concluded his portion of the debate by asking each ticket to address enhancing SA transparency. Ms. Hopkins stated that the Pilchen-Hopkins administration replaced the Internal Affairs Committee with an outreach committee and had worked with Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler in finding qualified students for undersecretary roles. Ms. Hopkins further added that the SA Web site has been made more efficient at answering student questions. Mr. Rosen suggested broadcasting Senate meetings on TV and podcasting them on iTunes. He also stated that a Rosen-Nuñez administration would maintain weekly office hours at the Daily Grind and promised to keep the Senate Web site more up-to-date. Ms. Hopkins added that the Senate meetings are presently open to the public.

Afterwards, debate watchers questioned the candidates. Questions on the candidates' work with the administration, sexual assault, electing law school senators, increasing credits for the school's ROTC program, and uniting the campus with campus police were all posed.



# President of FIRE discusses free speech rights on campus

**Andrew Blasi**  
Business Editor



Courtesy of FIRE  
**LUKIANOFF**

Greg Lukianoff, president of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), presented a lecture to students at the end of February on free speech issues.

Sponsored by the William and Mary Student Assembly, College Republicans and Young Democrats, this event covered free speech in the context of many recent events at the college. Introduced by Braum Katz, a student and Student Assembly undersecretary for free speech issues, Mr. Lukianoff opened his presentation by stating that free speech is more than a just a legal concept, it is also a moral right. He also stated that freedom of speech requires a large degree of toughness not only on the part of those delivering a message, but also on the part of those receiving it.

After a brief discussion of the fundamental components of freedom of speech, Mr. Lukianoff proceeded to put them into the context of recent events at William and Mary. On the Sex Worker's Art Show, he stated that because the event did not cross the line of obscenity, there were no legal grounds in which to restrict it. Mr. Lukianoff then discussed the recent incidents of newspaper theft of freely distributed publications at the College, stating, "nothing scares FIRE more than to see something like this happen...it is both a violation of free speech as well as a crime." He also stated that "no legal rationale exists for prohibiting the distributing of publications on college campuses."

Nearing the end of the lecture, Mr. Lukianoff also stated that oftentimes "viewpoint neutrality" in student activity funding is often misconstrued to mean that events must lack any viewpoint to receive funding. He explained that it is actually the exact opposite: instead, those appropriating the funding must remain neutral from favoring any viewpoint. He concluded by stating that while the College has made a great deal of progress, William and Mary still remains a red-lighted university with FIRE because of several policies in its code which prevent students from enjoying full and unhindered freedom of speech.

## FIRE gives College "red light"

**Joe Luppino-Esposito**  
Editor in Chief

Stop right there: you attend a "red light" university.

The Foundation of Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) has put the College of William and Mary on its list of "red light" universities for being prohibitive of free speech. The group's president, Greg Lukianoff, came to campus to discuss this and other issues of free speech on campus.

"A red light university maintains at least one policy that both clearly and substantially restricts free speech—clearly meaning the restriction is obvious on the face of the policy, and substantially meaning the amount of speech restricted is broad," said FIRE Director of Legal and Public Advocacy Samantha Harris. There are three policies in particular that FIRE cites as being problematic.

A "computing resources" policy prohibits "transmitting unsolicited messages which contain profane language or which pander to bigotry, sexism or other forms of discrimination." The vague nature of the policy is what FIRE finds most disturbing. "Who decides what speech 'panders to bigotry' or 'sexism'?" Ms. Harris asked. "This could easily be interpreted to encompass a lot of core political speech—at the heart of what the First Amendment protects—such as arguments against affirmative action, illegal immigration and the like."

Ms. Harris also points out that even offensive speech is protected. "Most obnoxious and offensive forms of expression—such as, for example, sexist jokes—are still constitutionally protected unless they rise to the level of true harassment, that is, unless they are so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that they genuinely interfere with someone's ability to get his or her education," Ms. Harris wrote in an e-mail.

The "Protections Against Discrimination" put out by the Office of Equal Opportunity contain an overbroad definition of harassment, according to FIRE. The policy on harassment includes incidents such as "a member of the community hang[ing] signs or pictures that are insulting, demeaning or threatening to a particular racial, ethnic or gender group." Ms. Harris worries that this policy could be used to silence organizations that wish to put forth an idea relating to race, ethnicity or gender if someone could construe it as an insult. She cites a case of the College Republicans at Central Washington University that nearly lost university funding for posting fliers that read, "Why Illegal Immigration is Ruining America." FIRE intervened in the case and the university backed off the policy.

FIRE also takes issue with the Student Handbook's policy regarding public postings. One condition that must be met is that the posting "must conform to acceptable community standards" but no where in the policy is the standard defined.

## Is democracy flawed? Lecturer discusses voting problems in American elections

**Violette Robinet**  
Staff Writer

The word "democracy" comes from the two Greek words "demos" (people) and "krateo" (rule) and means "the rule of the people." It is the commonly accepted form of government we have here in the United States, and is looked at positively. But what if someone told you our system were flawed? This is what the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law argues.

The center, which fights to strengthen America's voting systems, asserts that "voting rights and election integrity depend upon sound administration in thousands of jurisdictions."

The William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law on Tuesday, March 18, hosted Myrna Perez from the counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice, who gave a lecture titled "New voter suppression strategies: 2008 and Beyond." Right away, Ms. Perez emphasized the importance of every individual vote and the center's fight to strengthen America's voting systems. She used the example of the "537 votes that mattered in Florida," referring to the 2000 presidential election controversy.

Ms. Perez, who works in the democracy program of the Brennan Center, drew the students' attention to five "pernicious and invisible threats to electoral participation."

The first of these "quiet" threats, which Ms. Perez discussed at length, is the

exclusion of people who are criminally convicted. "I don't think people realize that there are 5.3 million Americans in this country who cannot vote because they have some sort of felony conviction." She added, "Even more astonishing, 4 million of those are outside of prison. They are living and working in the community, paying taxes." She went on to give examples of the different ways in which disenfranchisement currently works in the country: laws vary from no disenfranchisement at all in the states of Maine and Vermont, in which citizens can vote from prison, to permanent disenfranchisement in the states of Tennessee and Virginia, where people convicted for a felony lose their right to vote for life.

Another alleged threat listed by Ms. Perez was ID requirements and proofs of citizenship. According to the Brennan Center attorney, as many as 21 million people, or 11 percent of the voting age population, have no valid government photo ID. Also, "if you lose your citizenship papers, it can take up to \$200 and as long as a year to replace them. If there is an election in between, you're out of luck."

Ms. Perez identified inaccurate purges from the voter rolls as the third danger facing US citizens. She explained, "It is not that purging voters per se is bad. Purges are needed to remove from the voter rolls the people that have moved, that have deceased or that are ineligible for whatever reason they're ineligible. But what is bad is that

there are very haphazard rules—if you can call them rules—for how they do it."

The fourth threat Ms. Perez cited was barriers to getting on the voter rolls. She cited the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002, which was meant to be a safeguard for eligible voters who are not listed on the voter registration list. However, Ms. Perez said there are some very common errors in the matching process: misspellings, married names, punctuation or hyphenated names, transposed field, etc.

The last threat that Ms. Perez reported was voter registration restrictions. Ms. Perez again used the example of Florida, which implemented \$250 fines per late applications and \$5,000 for each form that was not submitted. These onerous prescriptions made it "too risky" for some non-profits, for instance the League of Women Voters, to continue registering people.

At the end of her lecture, the Brennan Center Counsel urged the law students to get involved against all of these new barriers to voting, because of the huge consequences they can have.

"Imagine what that does to a family where the head of the household can not vote. When the children are not learning about participating in the process, the statistics very much suggest that they actually don't vote themselves," Ms. Perez said. "The impact that it has is more profound than just the individual person who was disenfranchised. People are starting to recognize that we need to rethink this."

**Like what  
you see?**

**JOIN US.**

**Informer  
meetings  
are every  
Monday  
7:30 p.m.  
Blair 201**

# Columnist quits *Gazette* due to censorship of Nichol criticism

## “Curmudgen” fires back at publisher and responds to fans’ letters

Michelle Ju  
Staff Writer

Fuming mad, outraged and exasperated would be the words that describe Cecil Johnson, former veteran editorial writer of *The Virginia Gazette* who led a column called “The Curmudgeon.” Following his indignant resignation from the paper in December of 2007, the newspaper industry and his faithful following of readers have been up in arms. Heralded as “the lone voice of conservative reason” and “the voice of [conservative] political correctness,” according to supporter Bob Warren, Cecil Johnson has left his typewriter at *The Gazette*.

So what led to his bitter end at *The Gazette*? Mr. Johnson’s reasons for retiring are extensive. He claims that the newspaper shunned any further commentary and criticism on former William and Mary President Gene Nichol. During his previous six years as a columnist, Mr. Johnson had faced continual censorship—entire passages being omitted, axed and doctored in order to adhere to *The Gazette*’s political philosophy. His greatest fury stems from William C. O’Donovan, editor and publisher of the newspaper of 40 years, who he claims to be “a far out liberal.”

Though Williamsburg is a relatively conservative community, Mr. Johnson argues that the confines of the mayor’s office and campus are not, to which he believes Mr. O’Donovan caters. “[O’Donovan] strives

to show a ‘face’ to the community. He is a puppet publisher,” stated Mr. Johnson. “O’Donovan and *The Virginia Gazette* use their front page to editorialize—the columnists are mouthpieces of the publisher. This is just the reality. When he censored me, he told me to my face that [they] rewrite all the stories they put in.”

The final straw occurred last year as Mr. Johnson wrote prolific criticisms against the Nichol administration. “I was told, ‘No more columns on Nichol, and that means you.’ I was effectively stymied in the free expression of thought.” Mr. Johnson’s response to the ultimatum of censorship resulted in a hefty verbal battle with his publisher. He

quit after writing for six years and boasted, “never missing a deadline, I quit, too, because of old age and not being able to handle the stress of working under the ‘Heinrich Hemor’ or the ‘O’Donovan propagandist.’”

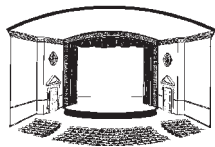
As a World War II veteran who served in both the army and the navy, Mr. Johnson developed a compulsion to write “column after column” in hopes to see his own country prosper. He is a celebrated scholar—a former biological science professor at UC Berkeley, a political talk show host in California, a regular journalist for *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* and a valued contributor to a nationwide slew of scholarly publications.

Among Mr. Johnson’s characteristics as an

“irascible” voice of conservative reason, he ultimately distinguished himself as staunch defender of scholarship and political fairness in the liberal backdrop of undergraduate universities. As a spokesperson for conservative political correctness, he advocates for the rights of professors who conceal their political backgrounds in order to secure their tenures, while remaining skeptical of illegitimate affirmative action in undergraduate admissions.

Mr. Johnson’s witnessing of riots on university campuses in the late 1960s and 70s ultimately shaped his stigma against extreme leftist liberalism on university campuses. “I saw anarchy on campus. I believe in freedom of speech of the anarchists, but they do not believe in the freedom of speech of those who differ from them and shout them down. The left is the new fascists,” he said. Thus, Mr. Johnson remains uncompromising in defending uncensored, political diversity among college campuses: “I believe campuses should have free speech until they start burning down buildings and trapping professors.”

He vows never to go back to the newspaper, despite growing demands for his return. He has endured enough insults against his career and has decided to gracefully bow out of the battle against censorship. “I was the only conservative columnist and I had quite a following. I’m a fighter and a counter-puncher and a puncher, and I’m not going to stand for ‘I did it for nothing.’ It’s an insult to a writer for \$25 an article. *The Gazette* needs competition. A new paper,” said a solemn Mr. Johnson. “What I’ve done for my entire life is fight for losing causes.”



## Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

### Live Performances

#### Festival of Fools

Tues., Apr. 1 at 7 p.m.  
Adults \$15, Students \$7.50

#### The College of William and Mary’s Improvisational Theatre

Fri., Apr. 4 at 8 p.m.  
Adults \$10, Students \$5

*The William and Mary Music Department presents*

#### Feirefiz: A Multiarts Retelling of the Parzival Story

Sat., Apr. 5 at 7:30 p.m.  
General admission \$15, Students \$10

*Laughing Redhead Studio presents*

#### Clean Comedy Night

Featuring Leland Klassen  
Sat., Apr. 12 at 7:30 p.m.  
\$12 in advance, \$15 Day of show

*The William and Mary Music Department presents*

#### The Jazz Ensemble and The Jazz Combo in Concert

Wed., Apr. 16 at 8 p.m.  
General admission \$8, Seniors/Students \$5

## April Schedule

### Movies

#### The Orphanage (R)

Fri., Mar. 28-Wed., Apr. 2  
7 and 9:10 p.m.  
Mar. 28-Apr. 1 screening room (35 seats)

#### Persepolis (PG-13)

Wed., Apr. 2-Fri., Apr. 11  
6, 7:45 and 9:30 p.m.  
Apr. 2-10 screening room (35 seats)

#### Bamako Not rated

Sun., Apr. 6 at 7 p.m.

#### Indigenes (R)

Sun., Apr. 13 at 7 p.m.

#### The Savages (R)

Sat., Apr. 12-Sun., Apr. 20  
6:30 and 8:45 p.m.  
Apr. 12-14, 16-18 screening room (35 seats)

#### The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (PG-13)

Fri., Apr. 18-Wed., Apr. 23  
6:45 and 9 p.m.  
Apr. 19-22 screening room (35 seats)

#### 4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days Not rated

Tues., Apr. 22-Sun., Apr. 27  
6:30 and 8:30 p.m.  
Apr. 23-25, 27 screening room (35 seats)

#### Beaufort Not rated

Fri., Apr. 25-Wed., Apr. 30  
6:15 and 8:45 p.m.  
Apr. 26, 28-29 screening room (35 seats)

**WANTED:** Students who want to make an **IMPACT** on campus  
Meetings on Mondays, 7:30pm in Blair 201



## Feiss speaks out about Nichol's resignation, likens to "death in the family"

**Kristin Coyner**

Staff Writer

Over one month has now elapsed since former President Gene Nichol's abrupt resignation from the College. In the wake of that decision, much rhetoric and action was employed by both faculty and administrators within the College to demonstrate their disapproval of the Board of Visitors' decision not to renew Mr. Nichol's contract, which prompted his resignation.

Administrative participation was headed by Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss, the College's chief academic officer. Mr. Feiss serves as second in command to the president on matters pertaining to the functioning of the college. The provost's capacity as chief academic and budget officer makes Mr. Feiss responsible for upholding the integrity of classroom operations, among other things.

At a February 13 town-hall meeting, held the day after Mr. Nichol's resignation, Mr. Feiss said, "This hurts so badly because we *are* a community. This hurts so much because it's a death in the family."

In an interview with *The Virginia Informer*, Mr. Feiss discussed, among other things, the appropriateness of this comment. "I was trying to express the profound shock of what was perceived," he said.

He also contended that his speaking at this meeting did not constitute participation in the protest events surrounding Nichol's resignation: "I didn't participate—I was obliged to be there as I was invited. I speak

at a number of college events." Mr. Feiss, however, is known as a markedly reserved administrator, who does not appear or speak at the majority of College functions.

Mr. Feiss' own statements at the meeting also seem to belie his contention that he merely spoke at the event out of perfunctory obligation. At the same town hall meeting, Mr. Feiss said, "As an old lefty, this makes me feel pretty good." He went on to explain now that, "I shouldn't have said that. [Interim President W. Taylor Reveley] supports this [protest]. ... He shares the same values we share, he cares about the same things we care about."

Furthermore, faculty at the same event overtly acknowledged the purpose of the gathering. History Professor Leisa Meyers stated, "It has been made clear to us that the Commonwealth has informed the College administration of rules concerning work stoppages that if two or three state employees collude on work stoppage they can be terminated immediately...so perhaps we are not going to use one 'S-word' but, perhaps, another 'S-word' we could speak and you could speak it with me: solidarity."

In concluding her remarks, Ms. Meyers said, "The other 'S-word' we can't speak, but we can show it," and held up a small handwritten sign with the words "STRIKE" emblazoned across. This was met with much applause by attending faculty and students.

Mr. Feiss asserted that these acts simply represented a "teachable moment" in

which some faculty simply chose not to teach. He also seemed unaware of the Commonwealth's reminders to the administration on work stoppages. Mr. Feiss claimed that refusing to teach resulted in "one communication complaint from a parent."

On the Commonwealth's specific governance, Mr. Feiss stated, "The Virginia code is silent on faculty choosing not to teach. It does forbid faculty from striking. Each department has its own rules on teaching with a great deal of independence...The faculty handbook is not germane to that level."

In the eyes of some faculty, however, the failure to teach did constitute a strike. Mr. Feiss seemed unaware of the overt intentions of some faculty, such as Ms. Meyers: "I talked to deans and department heads and was persuaded in every instance that the faculty were teaching in fundamental ways...It was a traumatic moment in the history of the College."

In terms of a future president-provost operating model, Mr. Feiss stated, "We are still working that through. In the upcoming months President Reveley will figure out how to operate through conversations with Rector [Michael] Powell."

Questioned specifically on the appropriateness of adding a chief operating officer for the College, as was suggested by the BOV and

subsequently rejected by Mr. Nichol, Mr. Feiss seemed uncertain: "I am not widely excited about doing it or being it. Over my five years as provost the administration has worked well and I have not felt the need for additional management."

Mr. Feiss acknowledged, however, that this potential addition, as are so many other future college changes, is dependent upon discussions between the BOV and a new president. "It is hard to say which operation models will work because they are not people-proof. These operation levels are complicated," he said.

### Nichols leave for UNC professorships

**Stephanie Long**

Staff Writer

Former President Gene Nichol and his wife, Professor Glenn George, have secured jobs as tenured faculty at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill for next year.

The couple has a history with UNC-CH. Mr. Nichol was dean of the law school from 1999 to 2005, and Ms. George was also a member of the faculty during this period.

Prior to Mr. Nichol's resignation as William and Mary president, rumors circulated that UNC-CH had wanted him to become the school's chancellor. There is no official word about the current status of that offer.

## Federalist Society brings noted French Supreme Court attorney

**Violette Robinet**

Staff Writer

In a lecture co-sponsored by the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies on March 11, French Supreme Court Attorney François-Henri Briard spoke about the history and future of the French courts at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

He began by talking about the historical tie between France and America. "My compatriots came here in 1781 to help you to be free and we do not forget that we owe our freedom to so many Americans who died for our continent and our country," said Mr. Briard.

Mr. Briard discussed the three supreme courts that the French judicial system has, describing the differences and historical development of each. The first supreme court is the *Cour de Cassation* founded in 1790, the same year the US Supreme Court first met on the principle of equality under the law. Its creation put an end to the system under the Ancient Regime. "The *Cour de Cassation* is there to interpret the law and to have one case law." Mr. Briard belongs to the body of 60 attorneys appointed for life by the attorney general, and represents companies and individuals before the Supreme courts.

The second French supreme court is the *Conseil d'Etat*, founded by Napoleon in 1799. It is the supreme judge on administrative matters as well as advising and preparing government work. It thus has to look at every bill, law and regulation.

The *Conseil Constitutionnel*, the third court, was founded in 1958 by Charles de Gaulle. This constitutional court is in charge of checking the compatibility of the law with the Constitution. According to Mr. Briard, before Mr. de Gaulle became president, no one considered the issue of the primacy of the Constitution over the law.

Mr. Briard then discussed some of the important differences between the American and French judicial systems, notably case law. "French courts may change their opinion whenever they want. We may have a different opinion than we had two years ago." He admits that instability in the law alters the business environment. "It's extremely difficult to advise your client when you don't know what the case law will be tomorrow."

There is also instability in the French constitution itself. There have been 16 different constitutions since the Revolution in 1789. The current constitution only dates back to 1958. Mr. Briard joked about the high turnover of constitutions: "There is a joke about an American lawyer entering a French library in Paris. He asks: 'Do you have a constitution?' The librarian says: 'No, I'm sorry, we do not sell periodicals.'"

Although French courts are progressively losing their supremacy on some issues, Mr. Briard thinks that the European Union law helps clarify the French law. The instability in the law is improving thanks to the EU law, especially the principle of *sécurité juridique*, or judicial security, which protects citizens against inconsistencies in the law. Mr. Briard called for an increase of the influence of the EU supreme courts—the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg—in the future. He added that it would be a mistake to think that the rejection of the EU constitution meant the end of Europe.

Mr. Briard finished his lecture showing a painting of the 20th century French artist Robert Delaunay. Mr. Briard saw the harmony between different colors in the painting as a symbol of Franco-American relationships, two countries whose differences can mix perfectly together.

## Reveley holds student forum

**Steven Nelson**

Staff Writer

President of the Student Assembly Zach Pilchen ('09) introduced to students interim President of the College and former Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law W. Taylor Reveley III at an informal town hall meeting on February 27 in the UC's Commonwealth auditorium.

Outgoing Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler, back from his operation, made a few brief remarks, noting that he felt very comfortable with Mr. Reveley's leadership and that he is "a man who gets things done."

"The law school that he inherited was nowhere near the law school now," said Mr. Sadler, who continued to note Mr. Reveley's impressive resume, including having clerked for Supreme Court Justice William Brennan and served as a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and as a trustee of Princeton University, where he was once a classmate of Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss.

Mr. Pilchen asked the first question of the night, inquiring as to the priorities of the interim president. Mr. Reveley listed a few, most notably re-knitting the fabric of the community and achieving "quick, really impressive progress in the next few months."

Mr. Reveley went on to address the rift that emerged following former President Gene Nichol's departure, saying that the vast majority of alumni are not alienated from the institution and that wounds will heal themselves through either the passage of time or through outreach efforts on the part of college leadership.

One inquisitor asked Mr. Reveley if he intended to help with next semester's freshman move-in day. He said he would, joking that he would likely not be quite as up to the task as Mr. Nichol when it came to carrying boxes. He said that he has made it a point to reach out to students and has doubled the number of lunches he is

holding with students for the remainder of the semester and that he will attempt to be visible on campus. Mr. Reveley quipped, "ask law students if I like students."

Two law students spoke from the audience, offering glowing reviews and telling students not to worry. One shared how the then-dean instituted an "open-door" policy, which compelled law professors to leave their doors open whenever they were in the office.

In response to a question, Mr. Reveley also acknowledged the value of campus staff, saying, "staff matters enormously." He pledged to "do as much as we can for them financially," while conceding that the College has limited resources.

Dan Souleles ('08) asked about the potential of altering the Board of Visitors' composition to give a greater voice to students and alumni. Mr. Reveley responded that such an alteration would be difficult, as the board's composition is a construct of state law. He said that there is leeway in adding more non-voting members, but that re-constituting the board is unlikely.

Noelle Francois ('10) asked about efforts to regenerate pride in William and Mary. Mr. Reveley reiterated that the passage of time tends to heal division and that the College is "a superb university [whose] teaching speaks very powerfully and will speak powerfully at William and Mary and beyond William and Mary." He concluded that "this school will pretty soon be back where it was."

Mr. Reveley also mentioned the need to rehabilitate William and Mary's reputation in the academic community, saying that some fear the College has been taken over by a small group of influential individuals or being forced into a unifocused "corporate model" of governance. Mr. Reveley attempted to calm fears, stating that "being taken over by a corporate model is no more likely than our being taken over by a right wing junta."



## Panel discusses diversity at "315 Year Endeavor"

Jennifer Souers  
Staff Writer

William and Mary continued the discussion about diversity and its role at the College during its seminar on February 28 entitled "315 Year Endeavor: The State of Diversity at the College of William and Mary."

Sponsored by UCAB in conjunction with other organizations, the forum drew attendees and participants from many facets of the College community. Justin Reid ('09), the president of the William and Mary chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, introduced moderator Ashley Schuler ('09), the mayor of Williamsburg, Jeanne Zeidler and President W. Taylor Reveley. Mr. Reveley began the discussion by remarking how this is a "time of change" at William and Mary and how we need to have "cultural dexterity."

The panelists for the evening's discussion included Board of Visitors members Kathy Hornsby and John Charles Thomas, Professors Terry Meyers and Tamara Sonn and Alumni Cassandra Newby-Alexander and Hulon Willis, Jr., the son of the College's first black alumnus.

Answering questions from both the moderator and the audience, panelists focused on their own definitions of diversity, as well as their experiences both in the world and at William and Mary. Ms. Newby-Alexander described how some faculty at the College did not embrace her because of her race when she first began teaching. She later discussed William and Mary's historical ties to abolition and its 20<sup>th</sup> century opposition to integration,

and the importance of the student voice for encouraging diversity: "The reality was [that] people at William and Mary in the 1960s and 1970s were not open to segregation...students pushed for change... and now the students have stopped caring and advocating; they have forgotten their job." BOV member John Charles Thomas, the first African-American on the Virginia Supreme Court, told how he had seen Virginia change and how people are now learning from each other.

In the second part of the discussion, panelists discussed what needed to be continued at William and Mary to continue diversity. Ms. Sonn talked about the importance of religious diversity, as well as culture. She then described how many of her students do not know what a "liberal arts" education is supposed to entail. She personally believed that a liberal arts education meant being exposed to all ways of life, in addition to taking courses in different academic subjects. In what she called the "slavery of ignorance," Ms. Sonn told of how those who are free have the right to make choices. Diversity was the only way to make those different options knowable, in her opinion.

The last question given by the moderator dealt with civil discourse and creating a safe environment, which is an especially important topic given the recent events on campus. Ms. Newby-Alexander responded by saying that diversity on a college campus is extremely important since "the minority of the population finish college, [which automatically] prepares you for leadership... to be a citizen of the world you have to know someone different than you."

## Scholar on race Jared Taylor questions the ideal of diversity as a "strength"

### Over 150 students and faculty attend controversial speech

Andrew Blasi  
Business Editor

On March 13, Jared Taylor, a self-described "race realist," came to William and Mary in an open forum to discuss his views on why diversity is not an inherent strength and why it should not be forcibly imposed.

Sponsored by *The Remnant*, a student run-publication, Mr. Taylor opened the forum by stating that "diversity is the source of more conflict around the world than practically anything else." He proceeded to cite numerous historic and modern examples as well as case studies demonstrating this assertion.

"There is less trust in more diverse communities," and that "people are happier when working in a homogeneous environment," he said. He discussed one study at length that showed the more diverse a country, the more violent its populace was. In his view, this study showed that "nearly all border changes in recent history have been a result of efforts to make a nation less diverse."

Before taking questions from the large audience, Mr. Taylor talked briefly about a possible solution to the "problems of diversity." He believed that society should stop acknowledging diversity as a

strength but rather see it as a weakness. With this understanding, the United States should make major changes to its current immigration policies.

The audience of over 150 students and faculty, many of whom were clearly opposed to Mr. Taylor's beliefs, remained civil. Some questioned his motives for holding his beliefs and asked if he felt as though his race was superior to others'. Others, including the Dean of Admissions Henry Broaddus, asked how Mr. Taylor could dismiss studies and other research that had shown diversity to be a strength. One student even asked Mr. Taylor to explain how the very diverse audience he was addressing at William and Mary was even possible if his beliefs were correct.

In an interview with *The Informer*, John Kennedy, a student from *The Remnant*, presented his reaction to the forum upon its conclusion. He stated, "I don't agree with Taylor on everything, but I do believe that diversity is a weakness in societies. I think it was plainly proven by Mr. Taylor as well as the studies that he cited." Mr. Kennedy also said, "This is a very unpopular view, which is why Taylor faced such adversity during his talk. Nonetheless, he defended his views without becoming frustrated."

## Students struggle to define diversity at Mosaic House event

Chris Ours  
Staff Writer

The Mosaic House hosted a discussion on March 18 entitled "What Constitutes Diversity?" The event was moderated by Professor Christy Burns of the English department.

The discussion covered several topics in a stream of consciousness forum, which lacked any formal speakers. Discussion began by addressing the complexities associated with defining diversity. Unable to be pinned down by race, gender, sexuality or religion, diversity was said to arrive through a most-reduced form: differences. These differences in perception were said to be based on life experience as defined by circumstances we control, by those we are born into and by historical precedent.

Applying this definition, the group discussed the presidential campaign of Barack Obama. Specifically, the presidential candidate's response to comments made by Rev. Jeremiah Wright was addressed. Rev. Wright is an African American minister who was Mr. Obama's pastor and has recently received coverage for controversial comments made on the

issue of race.

The group also spoke about a March 13 campus lecture by Jared Taylor, who argued for the benefits of maintaining a homogeneous society. Students said that they found the lecture enriching their own views in favor of diversity.

The gathering then addressed the struggle between stability and change in a society. Within the William and Mary campus, most agreed that they highly regarded tradition, while progressive movements often drive the school in the opposite direction of those traditions.

Finally, a concern over former President Gene Nichol's resignation was introduced. The primary concern was the loss of an administrator who participants saw as dedicated to embracing all views and a collective diversity at the College. The group expressed hope for a continued regard of the importance of diversity in the College's future.

Mosaic House is a residence program aimed at providing a supportive atmosphere for expanding cross-cultural understanding and allowing for intellectual exchange regarding diversity. Mosaic House plans to host another forum beginning with a movie showing on April 8 in Tucker Hall 102.

WE LIVE FREE.

In the classroom, at work, interning, eating, studying, walking, speaking. SPEAKING OUT.

Witness the unjust or the unfair? Tell us now.

The Patrick Henry Center

Contact Ashley Amidon at amidonPHC@aol.com or 703.691.2301



# Running “Dead to Red”

Informer staffer studying abroad runs in what will be one of the most unforgettable events of his life

Alex Mayer  
Staff Writer

When making the decision to study abroad, one naturally makes the assumption that he or she will have some pretty unique and memorable experiences during their time outside the United States. This is especially true for those that study in non-European countries.

I thought I had prepared myself for such adventures when I arrived for my semester in Amman, Jordan. For those unfamiliar with the Middle East, Jordan is something of a rarity – a stable, secure, pro-Western constitutional monarchy surrounded by a sea of dangerous or hostile states. The list of Jordan’s neighbors consists almost entirely of nations associated with news headlines and images of car bombings, assassinations, war and terrorism: Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Far from the stereotype of the Middle East, Jordan is remarkable for how rarely it makes the Western press headlines. Under the young, popular King Abdullah II, Jordan has friendly relations with the United States, and is overseeing a country that is booming with development. The capital, Amman, is remarkable for how Westernized and safe a city it is – you can find McDonalds, Burger King, and KFC on every corner and a strong police presence makes petty crime, theft and violence virtually nonexistent.

After a few weeks in Amman, the fact that I would not – as my family feared – be dodging bullets and rockets on a daily basis became apparent. But not to worry – I found a different kind of adventure.

Near the end of our weeklong program orientation in January, we learned about a team marathon being held in Jordan known as the “Dead to Red.” As the name implied, this race stretched from the shores of the Dead Sea south to the city of Aqaba, which sits at very top of the Red Sea. A 242-kilometer (115 mile), 24-hour affair, the Dead to Red captured the imagination and enthusiasm of my fellow American students, who excitedly organized two teams of 10

to participate. For those that hate math as much as I do, I’ll helpfully note that that averages out to around 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) per person.

To this day, I’m not sure how I was persuaded to do this. Although I consider myself fairly athletic, I was clearly in no shape to run 25 kilometers. In fact, I have *never* run more than six miles in a 24-hour period – and I did that in high school after a grueling summer of training for varsity soccer. Nevertheless, I did get a subscription to a local fitness center in a feeble attempt to get into some semblance of shape.

It wasn’t enough.

The race started Thursday, February 21, at 3:30 pm, to be concluded at the same time the next day. The idea was for each runner to run some pre-determined distance, with the rest of the team following behind in a bus and runners switching off once they had run their leg, the relay format meaning that there was always someone from your team running at all times. As for our teams, we had decided to run 5k segments, meaning that each person would run five times during the course of the race.

That was the idea, anyway. As is frequently the case in the Middle East, the most carefully organized plans often amount to very little, and such was the case this time. Our Jordanian bus drivers seemed unable to understand the basic concept of the race, and despite frequent attempts to correct their driving habits, they insisted on driving random distances in between each leg (not the carefully measured 5k that we had been hoping for) making the length of each leg entirely unpredictable.

On the upside, the views were absolutely spectacular, and the thought struck me as I ran that I would most likely never exercise against a more beautiful backdrop. I ran the



Alex Mayer

**New personal record:** Though Mayer had never run more than six miles at once before, the race required he run over fifteen. The scenery, including sparkling waters and rocky mountains, helped keep him going.

first leg during the day, with the sparkling water of the Dead Sea to my right and rocky mountains to my left. During the night runs, the sky overhead was lit with thousands of twinkling stars and a moon that gave the serene desert landscape a surreal glow.

As for my physical fitness level, I was, as I said, highly unprepared. I knew it would be challenging, but I completely underestimated the toll the race would take on my body. After the first leg, I felt fine. Following the second leg, I was beginning to get sore. By the end of the third leg, my muscles were screaming in agony. As I ran the fourth leg, I noticed that a sort of numbness had enveloped my entire body. It probably didn’t help that stretching before and after each leg was somewhat problematic under these circumstances.

Due to the disintegration of our best-laid plans, I ended up running *six* legs instead of five. For the last 50 kilometers, any semblance of structure or order had

collapsed – those that could still run, did. I was one of those people. I also only managed to get about two hours of sleep during the entire experience.

At the end, we all got out of the buses and crossed the finish line together. We were the last team to arrive in Aqaba, finishing with a time of 23 hours, 15 minutes – just in time. But at that point, we didn’t care – we were so happy and proud just to have finished. It’s hard to describe how much pain I was in at that point, but I can honestly say I have never been more exhausted in my entire life. I promptly collapsed into bed at our hotel and enjoyed the most glorious night’s sleep I have ever had.

Was it “fun?” That’s probably not the best word to describe it. Would I do it again? I can safely say that I would not. But am I glad I did it? Absolutely. In the end, it was one of the most challenging, crazy, amazing, and ultimately unforgettable experiences of my life.

## Swimming off the deep end



Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton  
Humor Columnists

### Beato '08: Join the Revolution

Yes, that’s right folks. One of William and Mary’s own students is running for the august position of Williamsburg city councilman. These five benevolent dictators control everything in our

city, from the regulating the price of Busch Light at Wawa to the number of students that the slum lords of Williamsburg can pack into our city’s growing number of Hoovervilles—current limit, three.

This shadowy organization—protected by illegal, blackwater security contractors—are facing the first real challenge in their cryogenically extended lifespans, which began during the presidency of James Monroe. An insurgent student candidate has risen from the slovenly student masses, promising revolution. Borrowing equally from Huey Long’s “Every Man a King” economic program to Barack “Barry” Obama’s “Audacity of Hope” rhetoric, Mr. Beato is striving to achieve what no student with a life outside of SA politics has done before.

While his Web site is currently under construction, someone on his campaign staff has leaked us some possible platform positions that the councilman-hopeful is currently mulling over. We will not

## Beato mania

bore you with the complete list of details, but the following are three salient themes that Mr. Beato could take advantage of in order to launch himself into a position of fame and fortune:

### Matt Beato: Post-Partisan

Tired of the polarized America that we currently live in? Only Matt Beato has the potential to unite us all behind his vision of frolicking wood nymphs and, of course, unicorns. While in the Student Assembly, he has worked with a number of people with a range of political affiliations, everyone from our current President Zach Pilchen (’09) and Vice President Valerie Hopkins (’09)—dangerous socialists—to Senator Joe Luppino-Esposito (’08)—right-wing nutjob—and the more milktoast flexcar enthusiasts Brad Potter (’08) and Brett Phillips (’08).

At the local level, Mr. Beato has recently been endorsed by the Williamsburg Republican and Democratic Parties, the surprisingly thriving Williamsburg Federalist, Anti-Federalist and Whig Parties, Vladimir Putin, Raul Castro, Ron Paul, the ghost of Calvin Coolidge and failed Democratic vice presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro.

### Matt Beato: Experienced and ready to lead on Day 1

Beginning his political career as fourth grade treasurer, Mr. Beato experienced a rapid rise in the world of politics, mimicking that of now-former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer—without the unfortunate baggage of an \$80,000 prostitution bill, but very much with an uncanny resemblance to a delightful Muppet.

Due to his chronic insomnia, Mr. Beato pledges that he will be ready to answer the 3 am phone call in case the Russians decide to attack. And if they don’t, he’ll call YOU at 3 am to tell you so.

Finally, Mr. Beato pledges that by the end of his first 100 days in office, he will have banned gay marriage in Williamsburg, raise taxes on Williamsburg residents making over \$4 million a year and will commit the city of Williamsburg to mandatory carbon emission cuts vis-à-vis the Kyoto Protocol. He is confident that this will restore Williamsburg’s damaged image and relationship with our foreign allies.

### A Tested Patriot: The Matt Beato Story

Mr. Beato has spent six and a half years in a Meridian Coffeehouse-themed prison camp, whose tortures included Safe Zone training, listening to the hits of [insert hipster-dooft band here] on constant repeat and being force-fed chai lattes. Because of this traumatizing personal experience, Mr. Beato feels compelled to tell his personal story not only in print—Living Audacity: The Hope of My Fathers, \$49.99, Amazon.com—but also through the Lifetime TV miniseries adaptation, which will star Michael Keaton as a young Matt Beato and Burt Reynolds as his mentor, Mark Constantine.

Matt Beato ’08: Students of the World, Unite!

Editor’s Note: This piece has not been endorsed by Beato for City Council or any of its affiliates, sponsors, or the candidate himself. It is purely satirical in nature and should not be taken as an actual representation of the candidate’s views, positions or endorsements.



# Students unsatisfied with Charles Center

**Megan Locke**

Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Charles Center serves as a resource for students at William and Mary seeking scholarships, funding for undergraduate research projects and other prestigious academic awards. However, there have been student complaints that the center does not do enough to help those who apply for these awards.

The Charles Center operates the College's James Monroe scholar and Sharpe scholar programs, awards the full-ride Murray scholarships and gives out approximately 35 summer research grants per year. It also provides support for students seeking national scholarships. Often a nomination from the College, arranged through the Charles Center, is necessary for students who wish to win a national scholarship.

Student complaints have surfaced regarding the selection process for rising sophomore Monroe scholars, particularly in regards to the apparent lack of transparency for the process. About 80 Monroe scholars are selected from an entering freshman class, and about 55 rising sophomores are later selected as additional Monroe scholars from the same class. Monroe scholars receive summer research grants and may attend special seminars among other honors. The rising sophomores who are nominated for the Monroe program must submit an application including their research grant proposal, and the selection for rising sophomore Monroe scholars includes consideration of the effectiveness of their proposal.

A student, who wishes to remain anonymous due to fear that complaints about his experience could jeopardize any further efforts on their part to obtain scholarships through the Charles Center, asserts that the process was not explained well. The student was told that their Monroe scholar application was denied because the proposal was too large in scope. However, he was advised to design the proposal in this way by a faculty advisor. The Monroe scholar believes that there is no check to poor advising for rising sophomore Monroe applicants, and that those who have advisors unfamiliar with the Monroe program's requirements are at a disadvantage in the application process.

"When I asked if there were any additional guidelines when I applied for the Monroe program, I was not given any further advice," says the student. "The Charles Center staff need to be friendly, open, and eager to help students, and instead I felt that they were curt and unprofessional."

However, Pam Kennedy ('10), who was an entering freshman Monroe scholar, says she was generally pleased with the Charles Center staff when she submitted her proposal for a summer research project. "The Charles Center shouldn't have to bend over backwards to help students," said Ms. Kennedy. "There is only so much money they can give. In the real business world, they won't help you write your proposals."

Joel Schwartz, director of the Charles Center, says that there are few student complaints about the Monroe program. In his opinion, the basic mission of the Charles Center is to do "nice things for small numbers of people." He believes that there is an incredibly elaborate

support system for students, but that it should be up to the student to make their proposal successful. "Faculty advisors are given the same instructions as students for the Monroe program," he said.

Furthermore, Mr. Schwartz believes that the current Monroe program allows more students the opportunity to attain this honor. In the past, all Monroe Scholars were admitted as entering freshman. It was only four years ago that the Charles Center began dividing Monroe scholar awards between entering freshman and rising sophomores who demonstrate academic excellence during their freshman year. "This gives some students a second chance if they are late bloomers," said Mr. Schwartz.

Students who have been through the rising sophomore Monroe application process, including Robert Staubs ('09) and Ray Ciabattoni ('10), do have opinions about how the process can be improved for their fellow peers. Mr. Staubs has no general complaints about the program, but does feel that it could be a disadvantage if a student's advisor has not helped students through the process before. "Some advisors are more prepared for helping Monroe applicants than others, especially advisors who are professors in the biology or psychology department," he said. Mr. Staubs believes that the Charles Center could possibly send advisors a letter outlining the key points they are looking for in a student's proposal.

Mr. Ciabattoni believes that an informational session for students interested in applying for research grants, Monroe and otherwise, would be extremely useful. "Everyone would then have equal footing in the application process," he said.

There have also been complaints about the Charles Center's assistance to students applying for national scholarships. Another student who wishes to remain anonymous said that he was unfairly denied a chance to interview before a panel of faculty who would grant him the necessary College nomination. He says that the Charles Center denied his requests to meet with them to ask questions, and that he was only allowed to meet with a peer scholarship advisor. He says that the student advisor provided some help, but could not answer all of his questions. The student is frustrated that he spent many hours preparing his application but was denied even the chance to be interviewed for nomination because his application was deemed to be lacking. He believes this is unfair because he specifically asked for help with the application and did not receive it, and he charges the Charles Center with playing favorites in the application process.

Mr. Schwartz stressed that all decisions about national scholarships are made by faculty committees, even the decisions about whether to allow a student to interview for a nomination or not. "If the committee decides that a student's application is not competitive, they don't want to waste the student's time with an interview," Mr. Schwartz says. "It is common to be rejected for these scholarships, and they involve a very rigorous process."

Mr. Schwartz believes that any student complaints about the Charles Center, which he asserts have been few, should be taken in light of the fact the Charles Center is a "service industry. We help able, impressive students accomplish great things, and we take this very seriously."

## Professor Profile

# Beloved Gov't prof. shares insights

**Bert Mueller**

Staff Writer

Professor Lawrence Evans is somewhat of a legend in the government department, at least to those who take his classes. Students enjoy his command of material in lectures, his swagger and his dry sense of humor. According to RateMyProfessor.com, "Evans is exactly what you would think a college professor should be. He is very passionate about what he teaches, although at times way too academic in his thinking." On the Web site he also has a hotness total of four. We recently had the chance to conduct an e-mail interview with Mr. Evans to find out more about this popular professor.



Ian R. Whiteside

**EVANS**

*The Virginia Informer:* As a government professor, do you frequently get asked about your political opinions?

Larry Evans: Yes, all the time by students. I never answer. In my view, it isn't appropriate for faculty to insert their ideological views into their classes. So I try to sprinkle around ridicule toward both political parties. They both certainly deserve it.

VAI: What's your opinion on anchor babies? Do they pose a serious or moderate threat?

LE: I personally despise anchor babies. We should punish them by making them and their families stay in the US and attend our public elementary schools.

VAI: What's the worst thing about teaching government?

LE: There is nothing bad about teaching government. It is the most important of all academic disciplines.

VAI: ...And the best thing?

LE: Most of our students eventually decide that they don't want to be attorneys.

VAI: According to some students, you are quite cynical. Just how cynical are you?

LE: I think that we all need to be realistic about the motivations of political elites and the relatively low levels of information out there in the electorate.

VAI: And a quick follow up: what's funnier than a dead baby?

LE: *The Virginia Informer.*

VAI: Do you prefer a bicameral or tricameral legislature?

LE: Both are preferable to unicameral.

VAI: What was the most embarrassing thing you did at college?

LE: I haven't checked to be sure, but I believe that I was the only student at the University of Michigan during fall 1976 to fail introductory French. I didn't attend class all semester and tried learn all the material the night before the final. At the beginning of the exam, instead of handing out a written test, the professor just read the questions out loud to us. I had no idea what any of those words actually sounded like. The professor actually expected us to know French in a French class. Outrageous!

## The cost of going green



**Andrew B. Blasi, Jr.**

Business Editor

On March 20, students not only voted for a number of Student Assembly candidates, but a number of referenda as well. One, in particular, passed overwhelmingly with over 85 percent of the vote, and has received a significant amount of attention. This was the proposed enactment of student "green" fees. The movement in favor of this referendum has been led by the students of GreeningWM.com. The group hopes "that the College of William and Mary will become a leader in institutional sustainability."

The recently passed proposal asks the Board of Visitors to charge students an additional \$15 per semester to purchase renewable energy and fund energy efficient products on campus. According to statistics provided by the group's Web site, the fee would raise \$225,000 annually. This figure presumes 7,500 students will be paying the fee each semester, even though 6,700 students pay student activity fees during any

given semester. If instituted, the fee would be substantially higher than many of William and Mary's peer institutions that currently have a green fee, which include the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (\$4/semester) and the University of Virginia (\$7/semester). Even though these two institutions have a significantly higher number of students than William and Mary, they raise an annual amount of \$142,000 and \$187,000 respectively.

Allocation and oversight of the funds raised by the fee will be coordinated by a new campus-wide committee of 15 students, faculty and administrators. Proposed projects for the new fund include creating an Office of Sustainability, installing of electricity and energy meters on major buildings, LED lighting system, occupancy sensors and individual student sustainability projects.

Some students outside of the movement have suggested that such a measure may not go far enough to make William and Mary more environmentally friendly, while others have suggested that such an additional fee may only add to soaring student costs that are sure to result from this year's state budget cuts.



# Erin go beer? Ireland's best for St. Pat's Day

**Matthew Sutton**  
Managing Editor

The dreary month of March is, for many college students, defined by the celebration of its seventeenth day. Originally a small and pious festival intended to honor the holy Irish missionary and saint, Patrick, his feast day has now been transformed into a 24 hour bacchanalia not seen since the days of Caligula and Nero, or—for those lacking an education in the classics—the latest shoot of *Girls Gone Wild*.

Let us also note the incongruity of celebrating the chief holiday of Ireland and its Catholic faith at the staid and Protestant institution of William and Mary. Despite former President Gene Nichol's efforts to make the school more "welcoming" and diverse, he did nothing to eradicate the shameful anti-Irish and anti-Catholic legacy of King "Stinking Billy" William and his shrewish wife, Mary. From the University Center to the Wren Building, I am constantly assaulted by their grim visage and oppressive presence.

Mr. Nichol's unctuous toadying to their successor, Queen Elizabeth II—mirrored by an unpleasantly large segment of the student body—is the most recent evidence of this College's oldest prejudice. To avoid turning this column into a preview of my upcoming doctoral dissertation on the British in Ireland, tentatively titled, "400 years of Oppression: Brits Go Home," I think we can all agree with the immortal words of Paul McCartney, "Give Ireland back to the Irish."

But on to a more happy subject, beer. Ireland, the nation of such geniuses as Joyce, Beckett, Yeats and countless others, has also given the world an impressive selection of quality beers. Even though St. Patrick's Day will be over by the time you will read this column, these fine Irish brews can be enjoyed all year round.

## Guinness Stout

For those of you fortunate enough to visit Dublin, don't miss the journey to the famed St. James Gate, the birthplace of the old standard, Guinness Stout. There Guinness has established an interactive and fascinating brewery tour that walks you through the production of Ireland's most popular export. The tour concludes at the Gravity Bar atop the visitor's center, which provides a free glass of Guinness and a great view of the Dublin skyline.

As one of my friends have noted about the famous stout, "After I drink a Guinness, I feel like I've eaten a whole loaf of bread." While there is more than a grain of truth in this statement, Guinness does offer a unique taste to the average American palate. With its thick, creamy head, and hints of roasted barley, Guinness offers a heavy, complex and bitter flavor that can be off-putting to the novice drinker. Still it's an Irish standard, despite being something of an acquired taste.

## Harp

Harp is another product of the Guinness family and its smooth taste is much easier for beginners to handle.

It pours to a crisp, golden body, and has a refreshing floral taste. Harp has a light, quickly dissipating head and has a mildly hoppy flavor. This accessible starter should be a staple of everyone's St. Patrick's Day.

## Smithwick's

My own personal favorite among Irish beers is this Irish red ale, hailing from County Kilkenny. Smithwick's—pronounced "Smitticks"—is conveniently offered on draft at the Green Leafe, and pours a striking ruby red color with a medium white head. Very drinkable, it has a sweet malt taste

with some caramel flavoring and lacks bitterness. This is the stuff of a perfect six or twelve pack.

To conclude this appreciation of St. Patrick's Day, let me quote the words of a famous Irish ballad, "So fill to me the parting glass and goodnight and joy be to you all."

In accordance with the regulations set forth by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Cheers, *Salute!*, *L'Chaim* and *Sláinte* to you (legal) imbibers at the College.

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



Matthew Sutton

**Available nearby:** The Green Leafe offers both Guinness and Smithwick's on tap.

## Drink of the Week Banshee



Ian R. Whiteside

**Ian Whiteside**  
Photography Editor

### Banshee

1oz Crème de Cacao  
1oz Banana Liqueur  
3oz Whole Milk

**Directions:** Pour ingredients into mixing glass filled with ice. Stir to combine and chill. Strain into a glass over one to two ice cubes and serve.

**Substitutions:** For a sweeter drink, use crème de banana in place of the banana liqueur

**Notes:** In purchasing the ingredients for this drink, stay away from the cheap liqueurs (less than \$10 per liter). It's not that they taste bad... They just don't taste like much to start with.

# College visas to Cuba revoked

## Tensions with country bear negative consequences for students

**Michelle Ju**  
Assistant Features Editor

**D**emand to study in exotic Cuba has been detained, unbeknownst to many anxious College students interested in pursuing Spanish studies. Within the past 40 years, the United States' relations with Cuba have been marked by tensions resulting from its embargo imposed on the country and the passage of laws that greatly restrict interaction between United States citizens and the Cuban government. Until recently, former President Bill Clinton's choice to expand "people-to-people contacts and direct passenger flights to Cuba" has been somewhat promising in encouraging US-Cuba relations.

Though traveling to Cuba from the United States has required immense paperwork to obtain the proper license, the Department of the Treasury had created a license specified for United States universities to apply for, which, if granted, permitted study programs in Cuba. The College of William and Mary was one of the first recognized colleges to send students to Cuba through the license for educational travel, granted by the Department of State Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

The license was valid from April 2, 2000 to February 15, 2006, until the College's most recent request for renewal was denied. Manager of the Reves Center for International Studies Karen Dolan stated, "There are a lot of William and Mary students and faculty who would like to travel to Cuba for research, and we will be the first in line to renew our license if the OFAC policies change."

In planning for the study abroad programs in Cuba, Hispanic Studies and Film Studies Professor Ann Marie Stock mentored a series of undergraduates who carried out research projects in Cuba. She also designed and directed several study programs for "Lifelong Learners," continuing education students interested in learning about Cuba. These programs were tailored for older students interested in Cuban culture, Cuba's economy and US-Cuban relations. Ms.

Stock was also instrumental in obtaining the College's Cuba license in past years.

"Cuba is the Spanish-speaking country that we have the least direct contact with because of tense US-Cuba relations. We have not had open travel for more than 40 years. Our lack of contact with one another has generated lots of misconceptions. [Due to the] bulk of research, it's the place where I had most expertise in and was eager to share it," stated Ms. Stock.

Various speculations on reasons behind the US government's decision to end research travels to Cuba include Bush's low Florida vote in the reelection, as well as United States' embargo against Cuba, which may explain the United States' reluctance to send students there. The ended opportunity to explore Cuban culture has been a loss for many. "This is a lost opportunity for students who wanted to do first-hand research. I have a student who's doing a thesis on Hemingway's works, many of which were written in Cuba, and he's unable to do that," added Ms. Stock.

**R**egardless, the Hispanic Studies department remains optimistic for the overwhelming amount of students interested in traveling to Spanish-speaking countries. "We have students going to virtually all Spanish-speaking countries—and the College offers various kinds of programs in Argentina, Mexico, Spain, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. Our students are traveling all over the Spanish-speaking world and having productive learning experiences."

Cuba's progression as a reforming Communist country has been a promising venture for United States citizens, which begs to be taken into consideration by the OFAC. "There have been tremendous changes in Cuba in the past 15 years. I would anticipate that those will continue. The US policy has remained fairly static over the past 15 years since the breakup of the Soviet Union," said Ms. Stock.

[www.VAInformer.com](http://www.VAInformer.com)  
All the news that's fit to go online.



# Hear the thunder of our chorus

**Chris Ours**  
Staff Writer

It is difficult to walk around campus at night and not hear the sound of an *a cappella* group rehearsing. Every Wednesday night at 10 p.m., the harmony created by voice alone is heard and has become affectionately known as Wren 10. William and Mary is renowned for its numerous and eclectic *a cappella* groups. They consist of five female groups, three all-male groups and three mixed groups. Within these groups, a tight social atmosphere is created and great friendly competition drives them to perfection.

The Accidentals are one of the older all female groups, founded in 1992. Their repertoire consists of a mix from pop to jazz, including an ever popular “Ten Things I Hate about You” medley. When you see them on stage or in the Wren portico, the black-bottom / white-top and elegant red scarf is a sure give-away. On most accounts, the Accidentals are among the more attractive of the *a cappella* groups. They are a highly social group and have been given the nickname “Accis.”

The Intonations have been at the College since 1991 and claim to be the first women’s *a cappella* group on campus. Their repertoire originated in R&B, but it has grown to include pop, oldies and even country. They can be

recognized by the simple black dress accented with a lavender ribbon, or, on more informal concerts, by black shift jeans and the same purple ribbon. They will be performing at the Delta Omicron Showcase April 7 at the Lake Matoka Amphitheater. They consider the Stairwells, an all-male group, to be their “brother group.” The two groups will be performing a duet at their upcoming Wren 10.

Passing Notes is the newest *a cappella* group on campus. The group was born out of a gaggle of Barrett-dwelling freshmen. They, like the Intonations, sing a wide variety of music, such as Linger the Cranberries and Jewel’s Hands. Pink is the hot color for this group, but you can spot their recognizable t-shirts that simply read PN across them. Their logo is a recognizable silhouette of a woman wearing a dress and tie.

“ Within these groups, a tight social atmosphere is created, and great friendly competition drives them to perfection.”

Reveille gets their name from one of their jazzy songs “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” but they are popular among crowds for “Make Me Lose Control.” Reveille was founded as an octet aimed at off-setting the then-male dominated *a cappella* scene. This group enjoys the jazz, oldies and pop genre. Their uniform is a variety of outfits mostly consisting of black and white attire.

Common Ground is the women’s Christian group founded in 1995. They commonly perform in local churches,



Courtesy of Jacob Kuperstock

**Easygoing:** The all-male group, The Stairwells are the most informal of the groups.

including Williamsburg Presbyterian Church and St. Bede’s. They also recently had a joint concert with Feet of Grace, a Christian dance group. Their mission is to use God-given talent to be “dedicated to praising the Lord through song and fellowship.”

One Accord is the campus’s men’s Christian group. They perform largely in churches signing hymns and praise music. They describe their motivation by quoting the Bible saying, “you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”

The Stairwells are a 17 year old all-male group. The most informal of all of the groups, they tend to be easygoing and laid back. Their music ranges from recent popular hits to Marvin Gaye’s “Let’s Get It On” to Nelly’s “Where the Party At?” This group is known for providing the party scene of *a cappella* groups off in a house off of Jamestown Road. They often pair with the Intonations in both social and musical areas.

The Gentlemen of the College are what some would call the heartthrobs of the *a cappella* world at the College—others would argue the Stairwells hold this position—and are the longest running all-male group. Dressed in style complete with khaki pants, shirt, blazer and the ever unique ties, they a sure to please audiences. They are extremely popular and their end of the year concerts nearly fill Phi Beta Kappa Hall. They are often seen paired with their sister group, the Accidentals.

The Christopher Wren Singers are a mixed group and have been around since 1987. They began as the College Singers, but, overtime, the name was changed to the Sir Christopher Wren Singers and, later, they dropped the “sir.”

Today you’ll often hear them referred to as the Christopher Wrens. They have a formal presence and can often be seen performing in tuxes and simple elegant dresses. They enjoy performing madrigal and renaissance music as well as a variety of ballads. Their classic style creates a smoother sound and makes use of the intricacies of harmonic *a cappella*.

The Cleftomaniacs are an eight year old mixed group. They perform largely recent music of the 90s and today. Crowd favorites include “Can You Feel the Love Tonight?” and “Collide.”

While they have recently changed their uniform, they currently are seen wearing khaki pants and a rainbow of different solid shirts. They are a popular choice to perform at a variety of college events.

DoubleTake is a mixed group founded in 1993.

They originally specialized in jazz but have expanded to include popular radio songs of today and a selection of golden oldies. Their uniform consists of an all black base with striking red accents of all kinds, including belts, jewelry and suspenders. They also include a large amount of choreography in their performances. While each *a cappella* group finds their niche, DoubleTake arguably has some of the most talented singers on campus. They are a goofy bunch full of action and song.

## Remaining Wren 10 Schedule

- March 26: Passing Notes
- April 2: The Intonations and The Stairwells
- April 9: Christopher Wren Singers and DoubleTake
- April 16: Common Ground
- April 23: Cleftomaniacs



Courtesy of One Accord

**Typical arena:** One Accord commonly performs in local churches.



Courtesy of Christina Hoffman

**A capella primo:** The Intonations prove to be a... noteworthy ensemble.



Courtesy of Ashley Whitehead

**Passing Notes:** The group is the newest on campus.



## Briefly...

### Top upcoming events

**Megan Locke**

Assist. Arts & Entertainment Editor

#### **Bling: A Planet Rock**

The documentary *Bling: A Planet Rock* will be shown in the UC Commonwealth on March 27 at 7 pm. The film follows rappers like Kanye West and Jadakiss as they travel to Sierra Leone to learn the grim truth about the diamonds that play such a large role in their hip-hop image. Director Raquel Cepeda will hold a talk before the movie and answer questions. This event is free.

#### **An evening with Jonathan Safran Foer**

Popular author Jonathan Safran Foer will give a talk titled "When Jews Laugh at Things That Aren't Funny" on March 28 at 8 pm in PBK Hall. Mr. Foer has written the critically acclaimed novels *Everything is Illuminated* and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. His books will be on sale after the talk, and there will be reception for the first 100 guests. This event is free and is sponsored by UCAB.

#### **Othello**

Shakespeare in the Dark presents *Othello* from March 28-30 in the UC Commonwealth. This classic tragedy features themes of jealousy, deception and racial tension. The shows on March 28 and 30 will start at 7:30 pm, and the show on March 29 will start at 1 pm. Tickets are \$4.

#### **Upcoming UCAB concerts**

The alternative hip hop band Gym Class Heroes will be performing at Lake Matoaka Amphitheater on April 2 at 7 pm. Tyga, I am the Avalanche and Kidz in the Hall will be the opening acts for the show. Student tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 on the day of the show. The concert for the crunk rap duo the Ying Yang Twins has been rescheduled to April 19 at 8 pm at Lake Matoaka. Student tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 on the day of the show. Combined student discount tickets for the Gym Class Heroes and the Ying Yang Twins shows are \$15 and will be available until March 28 from the PBK box office.

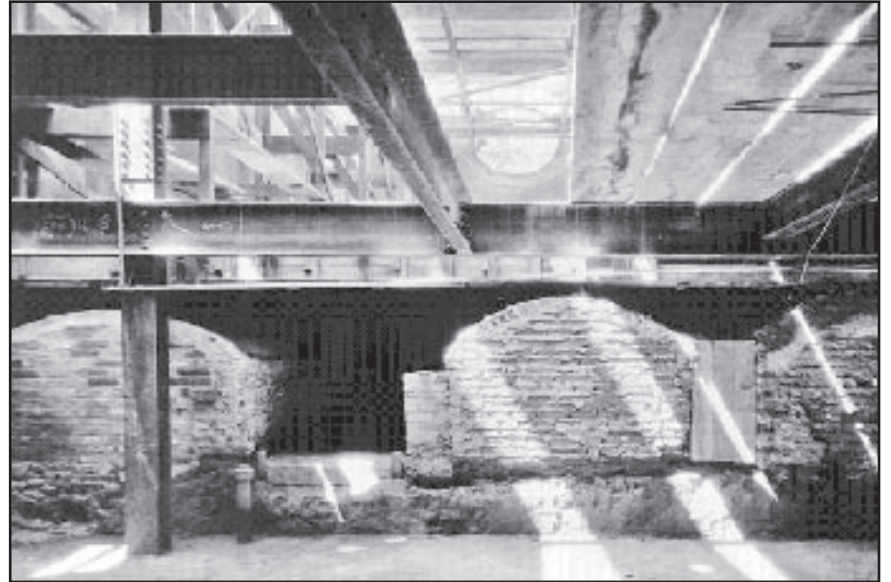
## Nooks and Crannies of William & Mary Secret passages, stolen coffins and chicken bones

**R.C. Rasmus**

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Many of William and Mary's most famous personages have left something of themselves behind at the College. Thomas Jefferson left us with the nation's oldest honor code, Earl Gregg Swem left behind a painstakingly assembled collection of books and manuscripts that rivals those held by the most prestigious universities in the world and Benjamin Stoddard Ewell left behind the College herself, saving our alma mater from being smashed under the heels of the Yankees that burned her to the ground during the War Between the States. However, there are a select few who left a more integral piece of themselves at the College: their mortal remains. In all, more than two dozen people are laid to rest on the grounds of William and Mary, and about half of these sleep beneath the floors of the Wren Building, in the Chapel's burial vaults. This subterranean area, drenched as it is in mystery and mystique, has held a special draw for students at the College, and has been the site of some of the most strange and sordid events to ever have taken place at William and Mary.

The vaults themselves are not as grand as one might imagine. They measure about nine feet long, with ceilings raised five feet off the ground. This requires any visitors to the crypt to crawl about on their hands and knees if they wish to explore the underground space. This fact has made the identification of those interred in the vaults a major challenge. Attempts to use X-ray imaging to discover the truth have been inconclusive, although historians are reasonably confident about the identities of a few of the crypt's occupants. Norborne Berkley, Baron Botetourt, is one of these. The popular governor was a member of the College's Board of Visitors and donated to William and Mary its first collegiate medals. Sir John Randolph, who, according to *The Alumni Gazette*, was the only American ever to be knighted by the British crown, is another. Sir John was elected as the College's representative to the House of Burgesses, but left America after the start of the Revolution. His body was returned to Virginia at his



Colonial Williamsburg's Digital History Center Archive

**The Wren Crypt:** More than two dozen people are buried across campus, half of which can be found beneath the floors of the Wren Building.

request after he died abroad in London, and his wife, Lady Susan Randolph, was later laid to rest beside him. Their sons, Peyton Randolph—president of the First Continental Congress—and John Randolph, are also interred in the crypt, along with Peyton's wife, Betty. Bishop James Madison, president of the College, and his wife, Sarah Tate Madison, also rest in the vaults, along with Judges William and Robert Nelson; Robert was a chancellor of the College. The final confirmed inhabitant of the crypt is College President Thomas Roderick Dew, who died while on his honeymoon in France and was originally buried in Montmartre cemetery before later being moved back home to William and Mary. Many believe that several other people's remains, including those of one or more students, may lie in the vaults, but as of 1992, no further occupants have been positively identified.

Over the years, the thought of all these corpses rotting peacefully away beneath the floors of the Wren has proved irresistible to both College students and outsiders. John Tyler, for instance, the tenth president of the United States, admitted to prying up the floorboards of the chapel in order to get a look into the crypt. Later, in September of 1862, Yankees from the 5<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment invaded the crypt and vandalized the remains of those who slept in it in a search for valuables. Lord Botetourt's silver coffin plate was among the articles stolen, and was not returned

until 1889, when a jeweler in New York who had bought the piece for scrap sent it back to William and Mary. Because of the fact that the crypt was also once accessible via the underground system of steam tunnels that lie beneath the grounds of the College's Old Campus, students have also been guilty of disturbing the sleep of those who lie in the vaults. *The Virginia Cavalcade* reported in 1969 that student visitors to the crypt had strewn remains all over the small space, and in 1970, *The Flat Hat* claimed that a coffin, which may have contained the body of Chancellor Robert Nelson, had been stolen from its place beneath the chapel. Later, according to *The Gazette*, *The Flat Hat* ran a story about a bag of bones that were left on the Wren steps with a note stating that they were the purloined remains of Lord Botetourt. Upon inspection, however, they were determined to be not the earthly remains of the Colonial governor, but, simply, those of a chicken.

Like the 17<sup>th</sup> century underground escape tunnel that once ran through the burial vaults and out to Lake Matoaka (possibly in case of attacks on the student body by Native Americans), the Wren crypt is, today, kept tightly sealed. Access from the steam tunnels is no longer possible, and no reports of vandalism have surfaced since the late 1970s. Apart from occasional pokes and prods by historical researchers, the occupants of the vaults have, in recent years, been allowed, finally, to slumber away the centuries in peace.

## The Finer Side:

# What your wardrobe says about you

It is a topic of great debate. Or at least it seems that way when you're standing in front of your closet at 8 a.m. What to wear? What is the message that you want to send to people? What statement do you want to make today? This column is the first in a two part series: I will cover what to wear around campus in this issue, and what to wear to an interview in the next.



**Jennifer Souers**  
The Finer Side

Whether you realize it or not, your clothes make a statement. It is important that you are sending the message you intend when you get dressed. Of course, there are the people who will say "People should care about my personality, not my wardrobe," and that's very true. But even so, you come into contact with many people during the day, and most of those people do not know you at all. First impressions are important: you only get one chance to make them. How you dress automatically sends a message about

who you are and what you care about to the person you meet. The person who quipped "appearance is everything" kind of had it right.

So what are the keys for dressing appropriately around campus? Most importantly: sweats and pajamas are hereby off limits. College students are notorious for rolling out of bed and going to class in pajamas. I'm here to tell you: don't ever do that again! There is nothing more disrespectful to your professor and fellow classmates than wearing your PJs to class. Your cute penguin flannels are screaming "I don't respect you enough to put on real clothes, and your class is not a priority." That will not help your participation grade! And even for the professors who really know you and like you: wearing real clothes helps reinforce in their mind that you are a serious student.

Dress up for class every now and then. Professors notice the students who look nice. It distinguishes you from the random guy next to you in the t-shirt and jeans. Girls, don't be afraid of a little makeup.

Mascara and lip gloss never hurt anyone, and concealer is there for a reason! A few other tips: if the jeans don't fit, don't wear them. It does not matter what you paid for them, if you have flubber hanging over the tops of them, no one will notice the label. Wear clothes that are concealing, not revealing. I once had a friend tell me that if girls knew what guys thought when they wore tight, low-cut clothing, they would never dress poorly again. Leave something to the imagination. It's much more flattering.

Simple things make a difference. But the most important thing is that you realize the message you are sending to the people with which you interact. Do not be so selfish to think that your clothes are only about you, or that others should not care about what you wear. Be considerate to your friends, professors, complete strangers, and yourself.

**NEXT ISSUE:** What to wear to an interview.

If you have any questions or comments for Jennifer, email her at [editor@VAInformer.com](mailto:editor@VAInformer.com)!



# Spectacular food to be had at Spectator's

**Matt Pinsker**

Food Critic

Spectators is a locally owned and operated restaurant which should be of interest to students. It is a family sports bar with the defining feature of a speaker at every table, which can be turned to one of the several large televisions around the restaurant. There is sports paraphernalia all over the place: pictures, flags, jerseys and some Tribe gear. Spectators pays tribute to no sport in particular, but has something from soccer, football, baseball, golf and even NASCAR. It boasts a baseball wallpaper mural covering a very large side section. At every table there are about 25 sports trivia cards which will keep one occupied.

The menu was organized like a sports game-day routine. Instead of appetizers, they have pre-game warm-ups such as the \$6.50 chicken strips, and for the 1<sup>st</sup> Inning there is grilled chicken salad \$6.95. I ordered the chicken strips and did not have to wait long for them to come out. About 10 hot, juicy and crisp strips came in a basket with cold honey mustard sauce. It was a very large portion which would be great to share with a group, and could even be an entire meal for one person. These were the perfect appetizer to crunch on while I waited for my burger.

For an entree I tried the 100 Yard Dash Burger (\$6.99), one of their signature items. You can tell a lot about a restaurant by how well they can do the basic and standard foods. A very good looking burger came out on a hot and toasted bun. It was symmetrical and thick, and had been grilled (rather than greasy frying), and came with a thick tomato slice. It was juicy and absolutely delicious. These people know how to make a good, old fashioned American hamburger. My burger came with French fries which were very fresh and crisp. Not only was the food good, but the service was excellent. The server promptly brought out all of my food while it was still hot and kept my water glass full.

Besides good food, Spectators has an exquisite bar



Blake Lucas

**The basics:** The locally owned sports bar serves up a mean burger.

which should appeal to William and Mary students. It has a very large drink selection and three televisions to choose from, not to mention a darts game to the side.

Overall, I had an excellent experience at this reasonably-priced and enjoyable sports bar.

# McEwan creates enduring work of imagination

## Novel about power of words features eloquent and poetic descriptions

**Michael Cohen**

Staff Writer

Critic and intellectual Irving Howe said of the imagination that it is "not something apart and hermetic, not a way of leaving reality behind; it is a way of engaging reality." With his masterful talent for the art of the novel, Ian McEwan has created an enduring work of the imagination with *Atonement*, a novel concerned, on some level, with the limits of writing and imagination itself.

*Atonement* opens in 1930s England with Briony Tallis, an observant, self-important girl of thirteen with grandiose literary pretensions and an overwhelming desire to know and control. The first part of the novel moves slowly, shifting from character to character as the Tallis household absorbs three cousins from the city. The pivotal moment occurs however when Briony sees her older sister Cecilia sharing an intimate moment

with Robbie Turner, Cecilia's longtime friend and eventual lover.

It is Briony's tragic interpretation of this event that defines much of *Atonement* and furnishes the sin for which she must somehow repent. The rest of the novel takes the reader into the eyes of Robbie as he experiences, in grotesque vividness, the evacuation from Dunkirk, and then back to Briony's times as a nurse.

A novel about the power of words ought to have good writing, and one of the greatest pleasures of *Atonement* lies in its descriptions: Eloquent and poetic, whether the subject is the English countryside of the chaos of war-torn France, they add marvelously to the visual dimension of the novel. Any author can shake a thesaurus over a book, but Mr. McEwan knows exactly how to use his words so that they impact the reader with all the necessary grace and force.

This same attention to detail extends to his characters and their complex amalgam of motives, desires and history. Mr. McEwan goes further than "getting inside their head," for he manages to recreate a world not merely plausible but utterly convincing. His technical detail, about the war for instance, is unsparing and well researched.

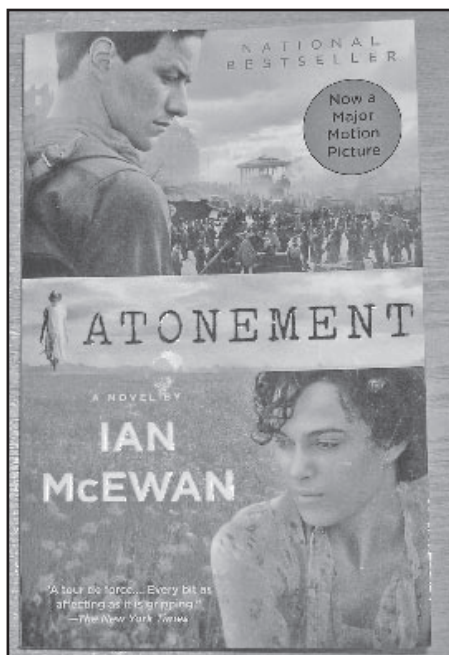
The novel is full of darker sides to human nature, but it is not resolutely pessimistic in its outlook. Some wounds cannot be healed by time or righted by the proper words, but compassion, love and justice are not necessarily in vain; at their best they are able to accomplish something in the face of death and tragedy.

All of these are admirable qualities, but it is the

overpowering ability of this novel to affect and move the conscience of the reader that I find most admirable. The climactic scenes in the Tallis household and the chaos of the evacuation from Dunkirk are almost palpably emotional. Perhaps it is his realism or mastery of the novel form, but one cannot help but be moved by his characters' predicaments.

Language is powerful, and *Atonement* at the very least is a testament to that

fact, but it is to Mr. McEwan's credit that he does not believe in the infinite or absolute power of words. The novel's closing reveals a 70-plus Briony suffering slowly from mini-strokes that will gradually destroy her ability to use language, and she wonders how far writing can go in the quest for self-absolution. Wonder we must, not only about Briony's poignant question, but on the sheer, splendid mastery exhibited in *Atonement*.



### Atonement

**Author:** Ian McEwan  
**Pages:** 496  
**Publisher:** Anchor  
**ISBN:** 0307388840  
**List Price:** \$7.99



**1 block from campus in  
Merchant's Square**

**Great for College events- Fraternities,  
Sororities and School groups**

**Oven-Baked  
Subs**

**Fresh-baked  
NY Style pizza**

**Wi-Fi  
available**

**We accept  
W&M Express**

110 South Henry Street (757) 476-8999



## Two for the price of one



**R.C. Rasmus**

Arts & Culture Editor

And the sad thing is, they're often right. For some baffling reason, many, many people simply don't take advantage of these alternate audio tracks when they purchase a new movie. Dear readers, I hope you're not one of these people,

"Why are we recording this thing? No one's going to listen to it..." I can't tell you how many times I've heard this phrase repeated by an actor or writer or director while listening to a DVD commentary. And the sad thing is, they're often right. For some baffling reason, many, many people simply don't take advantage of these alternate audio tracks when they purchase a new movie. Dear readers, I hope you're not one of these people,

because if you are, you're seriously losing out. You're not getting the full amount of bang for your buck. You're only watching half a movie. Skeptical? Well, let me convince you.

When I ask people why they neglect DVD commentaries, the answer I get most often is, "Oh, I don't know. They're boring. I just want to watch the movie." This answer might be legitimate...if you had the IQ and attention span of an 8 year old. However, if you're a real film lover, and even if you're only a fan of the few flicks that you choose to purchase on DVD, a movie's commentary is a treasure trove of fascinating information. On the most basic level, you find out fun

making the movies that we love so much, the hours of rehearsal that it took for the characters in *Clerks II* to snap off their acid lines, the time and subtlety that it took to make CGI characters like Gollum and Nemo come alive onscreen and the huge amount of money that it took to assemble Meryl Streep's wardrobe in *The Devil Wears Prada*. These are things that the average movie-goer takes for granted when they simply absorb a flick on its own, but hearing and learning about them from the people that made these feats possible opens up a whole new dimension of awe and respect for the Hollywood wizards that draw that tears, laughter and screams from us in the darkened theaters.

Apart from this educational dimension, a lot of DVD commentaries are just plain fun to listen to. Cast tracks like the ones prepared for *Ocean's Eleven*, *Cannibal! The Musical* and the live-action *Scooby Doo* movie give the viewer the opportunity to listen to celebrities getting drunk, talking about their favorite moments and cursing at each other. Entertaining? I should say so. Other commentaries offer additional insight into storylines and characters that you thought you knew, as occurs on the tracks accompanying *Saved!*, *American Psycho* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Still others are fun just because the commentators have beautiful voices. If you ever need to relax after a rough day, try listening to the honeyed tones of Kiera Knightly on the commentary for *Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl*, the husky whisper of Jack Nicholson on *Something's Gotta Give* or the trills of Julian Fellowes on *Gosford Park*.

Whether you decide to listen in because of your love for film, your curiosity about a particular flick or your desire to be lulled to sleep, do yourself a favor and start exploring the incredible commentaries on those DVDs you have at home. Trust me on this one...you'll thank me later.



Alec McKinley

**True movie fan:** Anyone looking to get full value out of their DVDs must check out the commentaries for a better understanding and appreciation of the film.

little tidbits that can greatly enhance your appreciation of a particular movie. For instance, did you know that tiny little skulls show up in Gaston's eyes just before he meets his doom in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*? Or that the makers of *Shaun of the Dead* deliberately changed several lines in their film to avoid confusing American viewers? Or that the swords that Deadly Little Miho uses in *Sin City* are the same ones that the Bride wields in *Kill Bill, Vols. 1 & 2*? You would know this and more if you had watched these films' commentaries. In addition, you come to appreciate all of the work that goes into

## There Will Be Blood is Paul Thomas Anderson's Sistine Chapel

**Patrick Macaluso**  
Staff Writer

Based on the novel *Oil* by Upton Sinclair, Paul Thomas Anderson's masterpiece *There Will Be Blood* follows the life of oil man Daniel Plainview,

played by Daniel Day-Lewis, and his business pursuits over the course of the early 20th century. The story follows his life over the course of two decades, concentrating on his wealth and relations with those around him, including his son and the charismatic

preacher Eli Sunday, played by Paul Dano.

Without spoiling the incredibly simple plot of the film, I want to give an idea of what this film does for the viewer. The most underlying theme in this film was greed. How much of

greedy Plainview. The highlight of the nearly three-hour-long film is the last scene, where the incredible chemistry between Messrs. Day-Lewis and Dano explodes on screen. While Mr. Day-Lewis easily earned his Oscar, I find it shameful that Mr. Dano wasn't recognized this year with a Best Supporting Actor nomination; his work was explosive, real and inspiring.

The film itself is should be a definite awe for film students and those who appreciate the actual art of filmmaking. Paul Thomas Anderson created a masterpiece down to every detail. Obviously, he did his homework in reproducing the visuals of the time period. The costumes, scenery, the way people talked, props and virtually everything else that might overt your eyes from Mr. Day-Lewis was done so meticulously that one might think he is actually in the setting. All of this moves along very well with the plot, and the obvious visual motif, the oil, complements the underlying theme of the film. The entire composition, from beginning to end, was absolutely breathtaking, and I would not be surprised if some years down the line critics and scholars begin likening the composition of this film to that of *Citizen Kane*; let me be one of the firsts!

I am very hard to please, and I have been known to be a harsh grader with films, so please take note this rare occurrence: This film has pleased me on so many levels. For this, I give it a solid A.

your own humanity are you willing to sacrifice to get exactly what you want, exactly when you want it? Daniel Day-Lewis, arguably one of the most brilliant actors in the industry, radiates every aspect of greed imaginable through his character and effectively makes the audience empathize with many of his actions. One of his actions in pursuing his interests involves joining an evangelical church in order to placate the religious community of the town he plans to drill. The preacher of the church, Eli Sunday, is also revealed to be equally as greedy. Mr. Dano gives an explosive performance as the charismatic preacher, whose character seems easily less human from the beginning than the obviously

### A Glance at W&M Dining Initiatives.

#### DID YOU KNOW ...

Just 4 You and Fresh & Healthy pages are available on our dining website offering nutritional menus, information and links

W&M Dining actively participates with campus vegetarian groups to develop menus and specific menu items

We Co-sponsor "Love Your Body Week" with CARES

We serve over 40,000 meals per week

We proudly provide zero trans fat oil and biodegradable service ware, vegetarian/vegan options and select organic foods. We also offer an all campus Fair Trade, Shade grown and Organic Coffee Program

We recycle our cooking oil into bio diesel fuel

W&M Dining has recycled over 15,900 lbs of our cardboard, cans & bottles since January

For more information on these factoids or additional information on Dining Services, please visit our web site at [www.wm.edu/dining](http://www.wm.edu/dining)

[www.VAInformer.com](http://www.VAInformer.com)  
All the news that's fit to go online.





Aimee Forsythe

**A memorable tribute:** For the second year in a row, the Veterans Society of William and Mary honored the student soldiers of Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as soldiers of past wars. This year a special tribute was done in memory of Jeff Webb and Danny Morris at the Sunken Garden.

# STUDENT VETERANS HONORED:

## President Reveley makes special appearance to salute student soldiers at ceremony

continued from page one

Ms. Honeycutt began by describing her late fiancé as one who “loved life” and “understood it more than anyone I’ve met.” She told one story that, to her, really summed up Mr. Webb as a person. When Mr. Webb was a sophomore in college, a homeless man asked him for cigarette. He bought the man a whole pack and listened to his story. The man, a drug addict, had been thrown out of his house by his wife, and all the man wanted to do was go home. Later when Mr. Webb was telling Ms. Honeycutt his reasons for joining the Marines, he explained that the homeless man was a Vietnam veteran, and Mr. Webb felt that if the man had shouldered the responsibility, then it was only fair and right that Mr. Webb should too. Ms. Honeycutt described Mr. Webb as a hero and concluded with a quote that she felt perfectly depicted her late fiancé. Quoting Bob Dylan, she said, “I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom.”

Kristina Surface spoke about her friend, Mr. Morris, who was killed in Iraq. Mr. Morris

had decided his senior of high school that he wanted to be a Marine. Ms. Surface remembers being skeptical because he was small, but recalled Mr. Morris’s determination to become a Marine, including working out for a year to build up his physique. Ms. Surface remembered his unselfish reasoning behind joining: “I want to join because if am deployed to Iraq, then someone’s daddy can come home.” Ms. Surface recounted how the last act Mr. Morris did before he died on February 14, 2007, was to send his mother flowers. Mr. Morris was a hero, and Ms. Surface wanted the William and Mary community to understand and remember that the men and women fighting in Iraq are heroes.

President Taylor Reveley, also in attendance, made a few remarks after Ms. Surface, thanking those veterans there saying he was “grateful to those who have served and are serving.” Mr. Miller concluded the service expressing his gratitude to those serving and to the friends and family of veterans. This is the second year the service has been held, and the Veterans Society hopes to hold an event next November for Veterans’ Day.

# BEATO FOR CITY COUNCIL:

## Student candidate garners widespread attention with nearly 1,000 students registered

continued from page one

exposure in the short time left before the May election, however. In 2006, Mr. Sievers chose to drop out for a semester to run for council, investing considerable time and energy. While Mr. Beato did not take the semester off, he did resign from his position as chairman of the Student Assembly. He explained that his candidacy does not require dropping out: “No one else has to leave their job to run for city council. My job is essentially being a student.”

There are a number of initiatives which, if elected, Mr. Beato hopes to advocate for students, residents and the general community. In particular, he claimed that “the council simply cannot tackle many critical issues facing students unless there is student representation.”

The current “three-person-to-a-house”—also know as the “brothel”—occupancy law is one student issue that Mr. Beato hopes to move the council to tackle effectively. He said, “My connections to the College are already present to begin immediately working on this issue.” In summer 2006, Mr. Beato was actually evicted from his rental apartment due to this ordinance.

“It is a matter of common sense. Fixes to this issue are out there and I hope to talk to both sides in order to come up with a creative solution,” Mr. Beato stated. He tentatively advocated raising the number of occupants allowed in some off-campus dwellings, while limiting the number of cars permitted at these residences.

Mr. Beato also hopes to work toward a more student-friendly business atmosphere within Williamsburg. He explained, “There is a reason that Wawa is the only business in the area that is open at midnight—this is a council decision.”

Mr. Beato contends that many important resident issues also cannot be adequately addressed without student representation on city council. One issue he cited is transportation reform with specific reference to restructuring the Williamsburg city bus system. Presently, the operation works through a hub and spoke system, where each bus returns to a main hub every hour and remains there until another bus arrives. This often causes many delays and, as such, a decline in bus ridership. “All members on council own a car for transportation. I have lived here every summer between the school year and have been dependent on the system for transportation,” Mr. Beato added.

He hopes that through advocating for these sorts of community-wide issues, his support can widen to include average residents, saying, “I can bridge the perception of a typical college student.”

Holding elected office and participating in student government leadership has afforded Mr. Beato the opportunity to build a strong connection to the city, one that he views as comparable to that of any resident. He also envisions his future plans as reflecting a sustained commitment to Williamsburg, as he plans to apply to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

If elected on May 6, Mr. Beato also hopes to implement reforms on council operations as well. Presently, council meetings take place monthly at 2 p.m. In an effort to push for greater transparency and attendance, Mr. Beato hopes to reschedule these meetings to a later time. Additionally, Mr. Beato wants to work toward televising meeting discussions of closed sessions, as all other parts are broadcasted.

Overall, in looking at the race, Mr. Beato stated, “I didn’t just wake up and think that it would be a good idea to run. I am uniquely qualified among others to hold a council position.”

The last date to register to vote in the council elections is April 7.

## Get The Virginia Informer delivered to your door!

The Virginia Informer is the **NEWEST** news publication on campus and *The Informer* is the **ONLY** completely independent student newspaper of the College of William and Mary.

**Please, let us send you each of our exciting issues for 2007-2008 for only \$30.**

To order a subscription, please fill out this form and mail with payment to: The Virginia Informer  
CSU 7056 PO Box 8793  
Williamsburg, VA 23186

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to The Virginia Informer. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us at editor@VAInformer.com



# FEE SUMMER SEMINARS '08



☀️ TUITION IS FREE.  
ROOM AND BOARD IS \$450.  
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE  
FOR QUALIFIED STUDENTS.

## CHANGING THE CLIMATE OF IDEAS—ONE MIND AT A TIME.

This summer marks the 46th consecutive year of seminars at The Foundation for Economic Education. We invite you to be a part of this great tradition.

### ☀️ FREEDOM UNIVERSITY

1st Session: June 16–20  
2nd Session: July 28–August 1

An interdisciplinary, comprehensive overview of the workings of a free society. The "Austrian" approach to economic theory—Mises, Hayek, Kirzner, Rothbard—will be emphasized in this introductory seminar.

### ☀️ HISTORY AND LIBERTY

June 23–27

A week-long intellectual feast centered on the battle between liberty and power throughout history. Topics will include the American Founding, Civil War, and Great Depression.

### ☀️ APPLYING LIBERTY IN TODAY'S WORLD

July 7–11

A seminar on the hottest public-policy issues from the perspective of the freedom philosophy. Topics will include immigration, globalization, energy, medicine, and peace.

### ☀️ YOUNG SCHOLARS COLLOQUIUM: FRONTIERS OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

July 14–18

An advanced seminar for FEE alumni, advanced undergraduates, and graduate students on cutting-edge ideas in the case for a free society. Fresh thinking in economics, political theory, and law will be the topic of faculty lectures and student paper presentations.

### ☀️ AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS

August 3–8

Designed for advanced students of Austrian economics, this seminar delves into the fundamentals and implications of the economic approach pioneered by Menger, Böhm-Bawerk, Mises, and Hayek. The latest work by the newest generation of Austrian scholars will be explored.

### ☀️ CONTACT US: PROGRAMS AND SEMINARS FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION

30 South Broadway  
Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533

SEND QUESTIONS  
OR COMMENTS TO:  
seminars@fee.org

BY PHONE: (914) 591-7230



APPLY  
ONLINE!  
[www.fee.org](http://www.fee.org)



Staff Editorial:

# Students reassert voice through student candidate

## Beato hopes to change the city status quo

Right now, the students of the College are at a very rare time and place in terms of the Williamsburg political scene. Until very recently, students have been denied their right to the franchise by corrupt city politicians—but now, given a reinvigorated and refreshed political climate in Williamsburg, William and Mary student Matt Beato ('09) has decided to throw his hat in the ring in the upcoming Williamsburg City Council election.

Mr. Beato is attempting to achieve what no student has done before—campaign for and successfully win a seat on the Williamsburg City Council. David Sievers ('07) ran for a seat on the council back in 2006, but, unfortunately, fell about 150 shorts of winning a seat. During Mr. Sievers' run, only a few dozen students were registered to vote—and he still came very close to winning. Now, in the middle of Mr. Beato's campaign, over 1,000 students have been registered to vote in the city of Williamsburg—a fact that severely bolsters the viability of his campaign.

While this endeavor is commendable on its own—and Mr. Beato should be given hearty best wishes towards his ongoing campaign—the level of political relevance and importance Mr. Beato's campaign generates for students cannot be overstated. Students of the College should be out in droves registering to vote, and encouraging their friends to do the same. An opportunity like this—a realistic win for a student city council candidate—is truly within students' grasp. But why is this important?

First and foremost, students at the College will have the opportunity to elect a candidate who will actually represent them on a body so out of touch with the concerns of the largest demographic of Williamsburg's population. Secondly, as students of the College—and, by default, as Williamsburg residents—we are governed by laws over which we have no democratic control. The notorious "brothel law," strict noise

ordinance enforcement as well as a glaring lack of student friendly businesses in Williamsburg all indicate the actions, or inactions, of a city council wholly disinterested in dealing with student-relevant issues. Thirdly, the successful ascension of a student to the Williamsburg City Council will set a precedent—one that the current city council incumbents are scared of, and rightly so—of the concept of a more permanent student seat on the council. If Mr. Beato runs and wins, he will serve out his three year term; if he decides to run for reelection, his chances of winning are high providing he does an adequate job. If he decides not to run, he will undoubtedly seek out, coach and assist another qualified, ambitious student to take his place. This will create a historically unprecedented and politically unheard-of reality of a student seat on the Williamsburg City Council—one member in five who will be able to, ideally, adequately represent the concerns of students at the College of William and Mary.

These factors combined make for a truly historic time for students in Williamsburg, and this concept should be made plain for our campus community generally, especially for those who are not always up on local politics. While the purpose of this editorial is not to endorse Mr. Beato's candidacy for Williamsburg City Council, the editorial board of *The Informer* realizes and understands the importance of a student in his position. Our publication has always taken a pro-student position on voting rights, and a student's candidacy in this upcoming election is just one example of how student involvement in local politics can be manifested.

We sincerely urge students in Williamsburg to register to vote in the May 6 city council election, and wish Mr. Beato the best of luck. If successful, Mr. Beato could begin the process of changing the face of Williamsburg city politics for the better. It is of the utmost importance that this understanding is not lost on our student body.



David Clifford

Staff Editorial:

## Reveley off to a good start

As interim President Taylor Reveley finishes settling in to his new position as chief executive of the college, *The Informer* has learned a great deal about his goals and aspirations for William and Mary. His fervent emphasis on the need for a stronger financial position and greater alumni outreach is cause for celebration. Furthermore, his corresponding interest in many current student issues, including the recently passed green fees referendum, demonstrates a fresh balance that the College has lacked for some time.

What is perhaps the most compelling example of Mr. Reveley's positive performance thus far was the recent reinstatement of 2% faculty raises for the upcoming academic year. This accomplishment was a direct result of his actions in Richmond, a city he knows quite well, and lobbying of the state legislature. While this is a promising start, the College still faces significant financial challenges in securing the necessary capital outlay funding for projects such as the new School of Education. In light of his recent success, we are confident that Mr. Reveley will continue to successfully

perform this vital responsibility that was previously ignored.

We also applaud Mr. Reveley's stated goal of possibly expanding the number of out-of-state students at William and Mary. This change would provide much needed funds with a substantially higher tuition pool that could be used to recruit and retain our talented faculty, improve campus facilities, and strength our financial aid programs. By reaching some of the most talented students from across the country we can increase our national reputation and expand our geographic diversity.

The students and faculty of the college should be proud of the actions taken and attention afforded thus far by Mr. Reveley. His performance has not been indicative of a man upon whom the presidency was unexpectedly bestowed amid great controversy, but rather as a good leader and steadfast executive. We urge the Board of Visitors to look at the actions recently taken by Mr. Reveley and his emphasis on many important issues as a model example in selecting the next chief executive of our treasured university.

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

*The Informer* is an independent publication and does not receive any public funding, unlike other publications at William and Mary.

We would like to especially recognize some of our private supporters.

**Informer Sponsor**  
Mr. Richard Beard

**Friends of *The Informer***  
Mr. Robert Beck - Mr. Alberto Chalmeta - Mr. John Gleic  
Mr. Lance Kyle - Mr. Sanford Whitwell

**The Collegiate Network**  
**The Patrick Henry Center**  
**The Leadership Institute**

If you would like to support *The Virginia Informer*,  
please contact us at [editor@vainformer.com](mailto:editor@vainformer.com).

*The Virginia Informer* is a nonpartisan group, with pending 501(c)3 tax status.

*The Virginia Informer* is produced by students at the College of William and Mary. The opinions expressed in articles, photos, cartoons, or ads are those of the writer(s) or sponsor(s). The College is not responsible for the content of *The Virginia Informer*.

This paper is produced for the benefit of students at the College and is available at no cost for members of the greater Williamsburg community. However, copies should be taken only if they are meant to be read and enjoyed. In the event an individual or group prevents these copies from being enjoyed by others, the cost to that individual or group will be \$15 per copy.



# William & Mary must renew commitment to free speech and alter policies

**Braum Katz**  
Gust Columnist

At William and Mary, we are proud of the distinctions that we receive. We have been called a Public Ivy, a “Top 50” school by *US News & World Report*, and are among *BusinessWeek*’s “Elite Eight” public university business programs. There is one distinction, however, that our college has received for which it ought to be ashamed.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), a First Amendment watchdog group, ranks the official policies of universities based on how consistent they are with the principles of the United States Constitution. Depending on how friendly a university is to free speech, it can be ranked green (very friendly), yellow (moderately friendly) or red (patently unfriendly). The College of William and Mary is ranked red, meaning that our university “has at least one policy that both clearly and substantially restricts freedom of speech. A ‘clear’ restriction is one that unambiguously infringes on what is or should be protected expression.” For the College that produced Thomas Jefferson, the great advocate of civil liberties, this is totally unacceptable.

Why did our revered College receive this dishonor? The answer is found in the school’s repressive policy governing speech on campus. Contained within the University’s Protection Against Discrimination policy is a provision prohibiting, among other things, the hanging of “signs or pictures that are insulting, demeaning or threatening to a particular racial, ethnic or gender group.” This clause begs the question of what expressions are considered “insulting” or “demeaning”—and who makes that determination. Not only has the Supreme Court unwaveringly upheld that the majority of expressions that could be considered “insulting” or “demeaning” are, in fact, constitutionally protected, but in some instances political satire depends on just such images. It is not far-fetched to imagine a scenario where a

satirical picture depicting Hillary Clinton or Ann Coulter might appear “insulting” or “demeaning” to women. What about political cartoons that attack the soundness of affirmative action? Yes, these images may be in bad taste, but, the fact remains, they are unquestionably protected by the First Amendment. As a public university, the College of William and Mary is obligated in all instances to adhere to the United States Constitution. In the instance of this provision, the College is clearly acting in a way contrary to our inalienable freedoms. In a free and equal society, the most vital political speech is oftentimes the most “inappropriate” in the eyes of the established order, as it shakes the foundations of the status quo.

The ambiguity and overreach of William and Mary’s restriction on “signs or pictures that are insulting” or “demeaning” render the provision constitutionally unsound. Laws and regulations are considered overreaching if, in restricting unprotected speech, they simultaneously restrict constitutionally protected speech. Regulations are unconstitutionally vague when they lack clear standards and are open to arbitrary interpretation. Administrative bans on “insulting” or “demeaning” speech could certainly be applied legitimately to prevent that small amount of expression that meets the exacting legal definition of “harassment.” Zealous administrators, however, could easily abuse the clause to punish constitutionally protected speech, thus rendering the provision overreaching and vague. Overreaching and vague restrictions against expressions considered “inappropriate” have a chilling effect on free speech, as students, fearing punitive action, may avoid speaking.

Don’t get me wrong. I want to protect our students from harassment as much as legally possible. Harassment, however, is an exacting legal term. According to American law, simply being insulted or demeaned does not constitute harassment.

Furthermore, bigotry and sexism cannot be combated by merely silencing the opposition. I loathe bigotry and will fight for its destruction. The only civil, American way to do this, however, is to combat deplorable speech with contrary speech.

William and Mary’s speech code is an affront to the maturity of college students and a display of overweening paternalism. Instead of treating college students as responsible, mature and free-thinking adults, the William and Mary administration has enacted an authoritarian speech code to protect students from themselves and their peers. Administrators apparently feel as though they need to act *in loco parentis* (in place of parents), an antiquated principle that egregiously insults the intelligence of young adults. What exactly do our administrators fear? While I am certain that the administration’s intentions are pure in this matter, the fact that they denigrate college students, legal adults, to the level of hypersensitive beings incapable of having our core beliefs challenged is what is truly “insulting and demeaning.”

William and Mary rightfully boasts of its commitment to civic responsibility. In our democracy, civic responsibility entails rebuffing attacks on our Constitution. In many instances, this requires tolerating unpopular and controversial speech and condemning attempts to censor ideas outside of the mainstream.

I implore the students of William and Mary to challenge the administration to treat them like citizens of a free and open democracy. As the academic nexus of our society, colleges ought to embrace America’s commitment to the free marketplace of ideas. In the next weeks, a group of concerned students will be formally challenging the unconstitutional policies of our university. I invite each and every concerned student to join in this cause.

## The truth about Derby Days

**Kirk Vernegaard**  
Staff Writer

Sigma Chi fraternity’s week-long philanthropy is known as Derby Days, and benefits Children’s Miracle Network. Unfortunately, it has been greeted with considerable controversy this year thanks to the Inter-Sorority Council’s (ISC) Sigma Chi Derby Days Task Force (ISCSCDDTF). This committee has been an obnoxious burden to Sigma Chi’s philanthropy, which has been accused of being demeaning or degrading to women in general, and sorority women in particular.

Derby Days consists of contests for sorority women, such as banner-making, lip-syncing and performing a skit. All contests are judged solely on quality, creativity, participation and use of theme; this year’s theme is “Derby Days of Dublin.”

It is a ludicrous idea for the ISC to create a task force to address vague concerns about a philanthropy benefiting children. For sorority

women to think that these events are misogynistic or degrading is bizarre given the list of harmless activities. Quite aware of contemporary women’s issues, I can say with firm confidence that young adult women can make their own choices in a philanthropic atmosphere and do not need a task force telling them to agree to a reformation of Derby Days.

There have also been complaints about the judging in the past. I will concede that there is a dimension of personal bias. Devising entirely objective grading metrics for such a competition would be unrealistic, as Social Chair John Lee (’10) notes, “brothers are friends with members of all different sororities, so of course there is going to be issues with subjectivity with regards to the grading rubric.” Losing an event at

Derby Days is not a big deal, and to vent petty concerns reflects more specifically on the individual rather than on the philanthropy in which they are participating. Sigma Chi, however, has agreed to include more impartial judging parameters this year as non-brothers will now serve on the judging panels. A scoreboard will also be provided clearly detailing point totals.

Sigma Chi has, in the name of compromise, also decided to meet other task force recommendations. This year, for instance, the lip sync and skit will be held in the UC. This accomplishes nothing besides minimally increasing transparency of the event at the expense of the fraternity’s control of their own philanthropy. Most of the other recommendations just make the

events less fun for all participants. Additionally, it opens up the possibly for uninvited people to attend.

Sigma Chi’s Derby Days is one of the biggest fraternity philanthropies in the United States. At other schools, it makes Campus Golf look like a middle school bake sale. From a simple Google search, I can see that our school has been the only one to make such a big deal out of it. Being a self-governing organization, the idea that Sigma Chi should have to follow bureaucratic recommendations from anybody but the College and our national headquarters is just annoying and elucidates issues that need to be resolved within the Greek community. The mindset of the task force has been domineering, insultingly parental and somewhat creepy. Why not bulldoze the units down while we are at it.

This year’s Derby Days, despite the controversy, was a great success.

Editor’s Note: The author is a member of Sigma Chi but does not speak for the fraternity as a whole.

## Love us? Hate us?

Please send letters to the editor.  
editor@vainformer.com



## Gateway program falls short of goals



**Nick Hoelker**  
Opinion Editor

In light of former President Gene Nichol's resignation last month, much attention has been turned to what many considered the hallmark of Mr. Nichol's

legacy—the Gateway program.

The Gateway program allows low-income, in-state students whose families make below \$40,000 to attend College either for free or at a heavily subsidized rate.

While I am strongly in favor of helping fully qualified students attend William and Mary who otherwise could not afford an education here, the Gateway program is severely flawed.

The goal of any entering student should not be just to attend William and Mary but to succeed and thrive here. The Gateway program provides no incentive to do so. By guaranteeing a full or nearly full scholarship through four years of College, the Gateway program does not encourage those students receiving scholarships to be successful at William and Mary. The program should necessarily include a scheme that encourages success among its participants.

I urge the administration to revamp the Gateway program to maintain a minimum GPA to continue receiving Gateway funding. This could also be done on a sliding scale. For example, if a student receives below a 2.0 GPA, they should have their Gateway funding removed. If a student receives above a 3.0 GPA, they should continue to receive full funding. If their GPA falls between a 2.0 and 3.0 then they should have their funding docked in proportion to their GPA. For example, if they receive a 2.65 GPA, they should receive 65 percent of the full scholarship.

Some may not believe that academic standards are a problem with Gateway students, as the College has claimed that the academic results of the program's participants are comparable to those of other students. Curiously, however, the College has failed to release the results of Gateway students' performance. This raises serious questions on whether or not this actually true.

Implementing changes to the program such as the one described above would also help to rectify the school's recent financial woes. By devoting less money to these expensive scholarships and forcing underachievers to pay for some of their own tuition, William and Mary could recoup much needed resources.

While the Gateway program is well-intentioned, and there should be a mechanism in place to ensure that qualified, underprivileged students are able to attend William and Mary, this particular structure is in need of alteration.

# Introducing...

## The new editors of *The Informer* for 2008-2009

**Editor in Chief:**  
Andrew Blasi ('10)

Editor in Chief of VA Informer Online: Nick Fitzgerald ('09)

Managing Editor: Alex Mayer ('09)

Executive Editor: Jon San ('09)

News Editor: Steven Nelson ('10)

Features Editor: Michelle Ju ('09)

Arts and Culture Editor: Megan Locke ('10)

Opinion Editor: Kristin Coyner ('09)

Copy Chief: R.C. Rasmus ('09)

Business Manager: Jennifer Souers ('10)

Design Editor: Sam McVane ('11)

Photography/Graphics Editor: Alec McKinley ('10)

With a growing staff of nearly 60 active students, *The Informer* has been and will continue to be proud to offer you the very best in collegiate journalism during the upcoming year.



**WHY POOR COUNTRIES FIND OUR SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING HARD TO SWALLOW.**

For the projected cost of Kyoto in just the year 2010, the biggest health problem facing mankind could be fixed. We could provide clean drinking water and sanitation for every person in the world. Permanently.

Currently one billion people in the world use unsafe sources of drinking water. As a result of this contaminated water and lack of basic sanitation, 4,500 children die each day.

Worrying about deaths from Technological advancement

is the key to controlling environmental pollution. And it takes wealth to make those advancements. If saving lives is our goal, we must advocate policies that will help developing countries prosper.

If you value human dignity as much as the environment, visit our website. Find valuable educational materials and connect with sound economic thinkers. Together, we can turn environmental concern into effective, moral action.

**ACTON INSTITUTE**  
Connecting good intentions with sound economics.  
WWW.ACTON.ORG/IMPACT



# President Reveley chats with *The Informer*

**Nick Fitzgerald**  
Executive Editor

College President W. Taylor Reveley III was able to participate in an e-mail interview with *The Informer*. Here is what he had to say.

*The Virginia Informer*: What do you think is the most important lesson that we, as a community, can learn from the events that unfolded during the two weeks leading up to spring break? Is there anything that you think we've learned from this that the College's president or the BOV should remain cognizant of during future transitions?

Taylor Reveley: I'm sure there are many lessons to be learned in the aftermath of February 12. Let me mention three: first, in a community as close-knit as William and Mary's, there must be strong ties of trust and affection among the various parts of the College if it is to retain its focus and keep advancing. Second, when these crucial ties of trust and affection are put at risk by the need to make an extremely difficult and controversial decision, process matters. The more transparent and inclusive our process for arriving at such a decision, the more likely it is to be understood and accepted. Third, the search for a president able to lead the College well into the 21st century needs to be as transparent and inclusive as realistic, because this is the way William and Mary stays together best.

VAI: In the past you have talked about your commitment to programs like Gateway and diversity in general. Can you further explain what you meant when you said that "these are your values?"

WTR: Programs like Gateway help

high school seniors of significant academic strength whose families can not pay for college and who may not have thought seriously about sending their children to college in the first place, particularly a selective one. Identifying these high school seniors and providing them with an excellent undergraduate education helps ensure that they will contribute to society to the full extent of their abilities. This is good for the students, their families, and the country. [Also,] to be productive in the 21st century (in particular, to have the capacity to lead effectively), we must be able to work with people often quite different from ourselves. The differences can be legion, whether rooted in age, gender, sexual orientation, degree of material wealth, race, tribe or ethnic group, language, religion or lack of religion, national origin or regional allegiance, the extent of physical beauty, health, and IQ or whatever. In addition to being able to compete in the global community, people are happier when they know how to engage myriad differences with sympathetic understanding, celebrating those differences that enhance the human experience while fighting the prejudice so destructive of the human experience. What better place to begin seriously to engage diversity than in school?

VAI: In what ways do you think your leadership style will differ from President Nichol's?



File Photo

## REVELEY

WTR: No comparisons, but let me sketch some aspects of my approach to leadership. A capacity to work doggedly and an ability to set goals and keep moving toward them have been important. So has a basic optimism about other people's motivations and about institutions' capacities to make progress (I am not prone to see demons under every bed or to avoid risk at all costs). A powerful interest in surrounding myself with good lieutenants and then delegating to them generously have been crucial. The ability most days to think clearly and express myself effectively have also mattered. So has a willingness to admit error and make mid course corrections.

VAI: How do you believe that your experiences as an attorney in private practice might help to inform or direct some of your actions as the College's president?

WTR: During tight budget times, there is more emphasis in a law firm on finding new sources of revenue. It's also clear in a law firm that clients are not yours as a matter of course and that they will not linger if you fail to serve them well. These perspectives are useful in any institution, not just for-profit ones.

VAI: You've already sent out a few e-mails informing the College community about the work you've been doing in Richmond with the General Assembly.

What are some of your other plans to build up the College and its reputation, eg, raise our *US News & World Report* rankings, improve alumni relations, and, perhaps, to patch things up with the state legislature?

WTR: Judging by the gracious and supportive way in which people in the General Assembly have greeted me as the interim president of William and Mary, there seems to be a lot of respect and good will for the College in Richmond. In light of rapacious demands on state resources, however, it isn't likely that the Commonwealth can support the College—or any other institution of higher education—adequately in the years to come. We must increasingly fend for ourselves if William and Mary is to remain great. Thus, continuing to build a private financial base for the College is vital. We must also constantly ask ourselves how we can do even better at our academic mission, since teaching, research and learning are what we have traditionally done so well. William and Mary's reputation hinges on success in these academic spheres and on this success's impact on our capacity to attract superb people to the university, whether students, faculty or staff. Another of our great comparative advantages lies in the area of civic engagement. For centuries, the College has supplied leaders for the larger good. We continue to do this to an extraordinary degree. This does distinguish us from most other universities. In short, building our private financial base, enhancing our already powerful academic prowess, and making even greater inroads into the sphere of civic engagement would serve us well, including in the rankings.

**WANTED:**

**All students who want to join an award-winning staff and want to help out with the following:**

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

**Meetings on Mondays, 7:30 pm in Blair 201**

**The joys of spring**

**Global cooling:** Rita's Italian Ice on Monticello Avenue offers students and community members free Italian ice on the first day of spring each year. Rita's traditional giveaway brings out hundreds of people to enjoy the first cool treat of the season.

*Nick Hoelker*