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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.

## Campus order restored as BOV fields questions and protests dwindle

### Board comes face to face with students, faculty and staff



Ian R. Whiteside

**Sit and deliver:** Board of Visitors Rector Michael Powell, Secretary Suzann Matthews and Judge Charles Thomas and others defend their handling of Gene Nichol's review.

**Nick Fitzgerald**  
Executive Editor

Board of Visitors Rector Michael Powell, accompanied by seven other the board members, came to Williamsburg on February 22 to answer to staff, faculty and students in separate meetings with each group regarding the board's recent controversial decision not to renew former President Gene Nichol's contract.

The fora were held in various locations throughout the UC. The BOV faced pointed and, at times, hostile questioning from those present. A small group of protestors spent time outside the UC demonstrating with large signs, megaphones and banners.

In all the meetings, there were several common questions.

Mr. Powell specifically was questioned on his use of the word "unanimous" to describe the nonrenewal decision, the board was questioned on its commitment to diversity and other such initiatives in general as well as the role the General Assembly played in influence the board's decision on Mr. Nichol.

Mr. Powell and the other board members defended their positions and their overall handling of the situation, although Mr. Powell did offer an apology at all three meetings for any confusion or misinterpretation he felt that he had caused. He explained his use of the word "unanimous" to characterize the board's decision in great

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Jennifer Souers

## Nichol supporters vandalize buildings

**Aimee Forsythe**  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, February 16, an incident report alerted campus police that various locations throughout campus had been targeted with graffiti against the Board of Visitors, occurring just days after President Nichol's resignation.

According to Suzanne Seurattan from University Relations, the College is aware of six locations that were

**VANDALS STRIKE CAMPUS**  
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## Faculty stage strikes, teach-ins in opposition to non renewal

**Kristin Coyner & Jennifer Souers**  
Assistant News Editors

Former President Gene Nichol's sudden resignation left many faculty members searching for a way to express their views. In a very visible effort to show disapproval of the Board of Visitors' decision, many faculty members decided to cancel classes and strike, while others held classes in the Sunken Gardens at a "teach-In." Faculty from the Arts and Sciences also held their own meeting on February 14 to discuss the decision and to decide how to proceed.

At a rally held the day of the resignation, many faculty members spoke in support of Mr. Nichol and against the BOV's decision. Two faculty members in particular—Professor Leisa Meyer (History) and Professor Karin Wulf (History and American Studies)—called for a faculty strike on February 13 and February 14. They urged the strike in order to "show our solidarity" and called the resignation "terribly disheartening." Students who spoke after them also agreed to strike, mixing profanities with their other comments in support of the former president.

On Wednesday and Thursday several professors canceled classes, while other professors decided to hold class to discuss the week's events. Due to rain on February 13, there was a more subdued response with a few faculty choosing to join students in the University Center for a sit-in. A town-hall meeting held in the UC Commonwealth Auditorium that day prominently featured faculty discussing their demands of the BOV. Some professors attempted to hold class Thursday in the Sunken Gardens in a continued teach-in.

According to the Faculty Handbook, "Faculty Members should be careful not to introduce controversial matter which has no relation to their topic." Despite this warning, many William and Mary faculty chose to use their classrooms as a forum for discussion about the controversial recent events. *The Virginia Informer* has obtained a copy of an e-mail sent out to faculty by Dean of Arts and Sciences Carl Strikwerda on the afternoon of February 12. Mr. Strikwerda used this e-mail listserv as

**PROFESSORIAL DISSENT**  
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## Interim President Reveley outlines financial plan

**Aimee Forsythe**  
Staff Writer

On February 17, interim President Taylor Reveley sent an e-mail to the campus community with an update on the College's future funding in the General Assembly's 2008-2010 budget proposals. In his e-mail, he linked the memo that Vice President of Finance Sam Jones had prepared, summarizing the different aspects of the budget proposals.

Governor Tim Kaine has already released his plans for the 2008-2010

budget. What was released on February 17 were the budget recommendations by the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees. The two committees agreed with the governor's recommendations on a few matters, like increasing undergraduate financial aide by \$74,059 for the 2009 fiscal year. The issue of coverage costs for operating new buildings was also agreed upon all around. The costs of running the new buildings for the 2008-2010 period would be covered. If a new state policy plan is implemented after this period, however, future buildings' operating

costs might have to be covered within the College's base operating costs.

Mr. Kaine has also recommended a \$3.4 million cut for these same operating costs. The House and Senate committees also recommended cuts, but at \$2.5 million and \$2.7 million respectively.

The College fared much better in the capital outlay plans, in which all three plans designated \$38.1 million for the new School of Education. The

**BUDGET MEMO**  
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# Professorial Politics:

## The College's professors donate primarily to Democratic candidates and causes

**Bert Mueller**  
Staff Writer

Who are your professors donating to this presidential election? Most professors attempt to keep politics out of the classroom, but thanks to campaign finance reform, students can learn about which candidates their teachers support without asking any tough questions.

Although not many professors have contributed to presidential candidates this primary season, Professor Roland Rapoport and his wife, Patricia, were ranked as the 11<sup>th</sup> highest donors in the nation. Last year they donated the sum of \$162,700 to Democratic causes, including a \$2,300 donation, the federal maximum, to Senator Barack Obama. Professor Jayne Barnard also contributed \$900 to Senator Obama's campaign. American Studies Professor and Dean for Educational Policy Kimberly Phillips made a \$250 contribution to Senator Hillary Clinton's campaign. According to records, this was her first political donation. Professor Linda Morse also

donated to Mrs. Clinton, giving \$1,000.

On the Republican side, there were only two faculty members listed as having donated to Republican contenders. Professor John Dittrick gave \$2,750 to Republican frontrunner John McCain and Professor Mitchell Reiss gave \$2,275 to Mitt Romney to whom he was an adviser. During the 2004 election cycle, Mr. Reiss gave \$2,000 to President Bush.

Beyond the presidential race many faculty members donated to Democratic Virginia Senator Jim Webb in 2006. History Professor George Grayson donated \$1,000 to Mr. Webb. Professor Lawrence Wilkerson also gave \$250 to Mr. Webb, but also donated \$500 to Republican Chuck Hagel. Included among those who donated to George Allen were Professors Alan Meese and Roy Pearson. Mr. Meese contributed \$400 to Mr. Allen's campaign and Mr. Pearson contributed \$200.

In general, most of the College's faculty donates to Democrats over Republicans. This is not altogether

### Campus Contributions

#### Democratic

- \$2,300 to Senator Barack Obama by Professor Roland Rapoport and his wife Patricia (out of \$162,700 towards various Democratic causes)
- \$900 to Senator Obama by Professor Jayne Barnard
- \$1,000 to Senator Hillary Clinton by Professor Linda Morse
- \$250 to Senator Clinton by Professor Kimberly Phillips
- \$1,000 to Senator Jim Webb by Professor George Gayson

#### Republican

- \$2,750 to Senator John McCain by Professor John Dittrick
- \$2,275 to Governor Mitt Romney by Professor Mitchell Reiss
- \$2,000 to President George W. Bush by Professor Reiss
- \$500 to Senator Chuck Hagel by Professor Wilkerson
- \$400 to Senator George Allen by Professor Alan Meese

surprising, however. According to a survey done by Neil Gross of Harvard and Solon Simmons of George Mason University, 61% of all professors at liberal arts universities consider themselves to

be liberal. The survey also found that in 2004, 78% of all professors voted for Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

## Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor

### William & Mary scholar honored by literary society

The Baker Street Irregulars, a prestigious literary society that has included such members as President Franklin D. Roosevelt and noted author Isaac Asimov, granted membership recently to William and Mary Associate Director of Development Communications David Morrill. The group pays homage to the Sherlock Holmes series of stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and sought out Mr. Morrill, who also has a Master's in English from the College, for his established reputation in groups or publications dedicated to the "greatest detective that wasn't." Membership in the society is not granted on the basis of application, but current members of the group select new members, like Mr. Morrill, before holding their annual meeting in January.

### "Art of Surviving" display promotes sexual assault awareness

The Office of Sexual Assault Services, working in concert with the Muscarelle Museum of Art, brought to campus a traveling exhibit that features artwork and poetry by survivors of sexual violence, on display in the University Center. The exhibit has been touring the country since April, with the goal of raising public

awareness about the prevalence and scope of sexual violence, its effects on the individual as well as the community and the process of moving from victim of sexual violence to survivor. The Office of Sexual Assault Services also hopes the exhibit will help victims of sexual violence at the College feel more comfortable talking to its staff, which will be running tables throughout the length of the exhibit. The display will continue until the end of February.

### Pre-Law workshop coming up after spring break

The College's Pre-Law Advisor Professor Chris Nemacheck will be holding a session on Wednesday, March 12 in Morton 220 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

This session is aimed at juniors who plan to apply for law school admission in the fall 2008 semester as well as any student considering law school in the future.

### William and Mary faculty leads mission to South Korea

According to the Office of University Relations, Vice Provost for International Relations Mitchell Reiss led a delegation to the Republic of Korea in mid-February to report on current US-Korean relations as well as on a security partnership for the country's new president, Lee Myung-bak. Mr. Reiss, who served as director of policy and planning in the State Department under former Secretary of State Colin Powell, worked with other American and Korean foreign policy experts to put together a report that suggests continued US-

Korean security cooperation is in the best interests of both countries involved, as well as for the stability of the East Asian region.

### College to offer summer classes in Washington, D.C.

According to a release from the Office of University Relations, the College of William and Mary announced that it will offer summer classes in its Washington Office beginning this summer as a means of providing year-round opportunities for students to take classes. The program is designed to help students who reside or who are working in the D.C. area during the summer by offering difficult-to-find GER courses as well as courses that are best suited to take advantage of the area's "storied history and dynamic culture." Much like the William and Mary in Washington Program, which takes place throughout the school year, courses will be taught by College faculty. The summer program, however, does not require students to be involved in any internship, and tuition is expected to be the same as the summer sessions in Williamsburg. While the program will only offer a handful of courses—English, Philosophy and an American Studies course—in its first year, the College is looking forward to the program's growth as more students take interest. Registration for the summer program begins March 10 for all William and Mary students.

**Have any stories that you want covered in "Briefly.."? Please send press releases and other information to editor@VAInformer.com.**

## THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

Established 2005

Founders

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda J. Yasenchak

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

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# Students for Life hosts Life Issues Awareness Week

## Adoption or abortion?: SFL events tackle the question

**Michelle Ju**  
Assistant Features Editor

During the week of February 11-15 Students For Life (SFL) held Life Issues Awareness Week.

Starting with speaker Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the events are designed to tackle the abortion debate and highlight the pro-life alternative in what is one of the most controversial topics in our society today.

There were a number of goals SFL chose to accomplish in these four days. "We wanted to raise awareness that this is something people have to deal with on campus... There are local care centers in the area, and they provide pregnancy testing, baby supplies, counseling and adoption referrals," said SFL Secretary Beth Zagrobelny ('09). The group also hoped to highlight some of the staggering statistics on abortions. "There are about 3,500 abortions a day in America, but there are approximately 2 million couples waiting to adopt," Ms. Zagrobelny said.

On February 12, from 6:30 to 8:30, 350 luminaries were displayed next to the Crim Dell. "There were a lot more than we used to have. One luminary represented

10 abortions that happen in the US that day," said Ms. Zagrobelny. "As our palm cards said, we stand in solidarity with women who have been hurt and children who were killed. Abortion is a form of murder, and it also hurts women as a whole."

"When abortion rights came about, [women believed], 'we can never be equal to men when we're pregnant—because being pregnant puts us below men. It's a career disadvantage.' But being pregnant and being a mother is something that can raise women up. Securing abortion to equalize us isn't a solution," explained Ms. Zagrobelny.

Ms. Zagrobelny spoke about SFL's approach to the groups' perceived stigma against unplanned pregnancy in the nation. "We have a multi-pronged approach to the issue. On one hand, we need legislation against abortion for the institutional side. The only way some things can be changed is institutionally. Secondly is to provide support to women with children, de-stigmatize pregnancy and unwed motherhood, part of the reason why women choose to get abortions. We want to make the environment possible, emotionally and materially, to have a baby and either keep it with you at school or give it up for adoption," added Ms. Zagrobelny.

Adding to the mix of the week was a screening of *Bella* (2007) at the Kimball Theatre. The poignant indie film with the tagline, "True love goes beyond romance," tells the moving tale of a young, unmarried waitress at a restaurant who gets pregnant and is faced with the choice of getting an abortion or keeping her child. The waitress confides in the restaurant chef, who shares in her sorrow and aids her in her journey. Ms. Zagrobelny discussed the film's impact in terms of the beauty of motherhood. "The film shows how beautiful and precious life is. It's hard to put into words. There are little anecdotal things woven into the movie about life to make it seem bigger. There's something powerfully pro-life about [the film]. It's pro-life in showing life as beautiful, as a good thing."

Life Issues Awareness Week aimed to provide information, support and solace to students regarding an enduring issue. "This has been one of our better pro-life weeks. We had Dr. King on Monday. More people also asked about our luminaries. I heard more positive comments about that, and it's been a very encouraging week," concluded Ms. Zagrobelny.

## Alveda King talks about the connection between civil rights and being pro life

**Swetha Sirvaram**  
Staff Writer

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., Alveda King stood in Tidewater A at 8:00 pm on Monday, February 11, and asserted that the right to life issue is the civil rights issue of this era.

Ms. King, the niece of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the daughter of civil rights leader A.D. King, is a woman of many accomplishments. Sponsored by the Students for Life as a speaker for Life Issues Awareness Week, Ms. King has a master's degree in business management from Central Michigan University and an honorary doctorate from St. Anselm College. She has also served as a senior fellow of the Alexis de Tocqueville Institute, the coalition of African American Pastors and in the Georgia State House of Representatives and was the founder of King for America, Inc. She talked about her life experiences with her father, Dr. King's brother, as well as the two abortions she had, which launched her into a state of post-abortive stress.

"Abortion is genocide," said Ms. King, "a violent act that violates the civil rights of an innocent human being." She talked about her two abortions and her evolution from being pro choice to being pro life. She also insisted about the connection between what she considered the two civil rights issues—the issue of racial equality and now, the right to life. "If you don't see 46 chromosomes as it is," she said, "you won't see me as a human being." She asserted that life began at conception and also advocated abstinence.

Ms. King showed two clips, one dealing with the civil rights movement and the



File Photo  
**KING**


second with abortion, and led a discussion about why "one is considered civil rights and the other is not." Reminiscing about the civil rights movement, she talked about the time her father's house was bombed in Birmingham and the time when he was found mysteriously dead in the swimming pool for being one of the leading leaders of civil rights. She portrayed the rights of African Americans as analogous to the rights of unborn babies and portrayed the right to life as the civil issue of the time. "Is [the] womb a sanctuary or a tomb?" she asked. "Womb is supposed to be a sanctuary. A sanctuary is the center of sanctity." Citing the US Constitution, that originally stated that African American slaves were only 3/5 of a person and the Dred Scott Supreme Court case, which declared that African Americans are considered property, she believed that the law, as was the case in the past, did not recognize the life of what it called "the other side."

She also talked at length about the two abortions she had experienced and how they were instrumental to her conversion to pro-life. The first, she said, was involuntary

in 1973 when her doctor committed DLC, a surgery that destroyed her pregnancy without her knowledge or consent. Talking about her second abortion, she said that Planned Parenthood told her that they would help her "with the little blob of tissue." Speaking about her experience, she said that, "there's a shame and stigma, which I often feel," and that she was misinformed by Planned Parenthood about the life of the baby. Explaining how she became pro-life, Ms. King talked about how she realized her children had human lives when her soon-to-be husband talked

her out of getting another abortion. She soon "rededicated her life to Jesus," and was born again in 1983.

Speaking about opponents to the pro-life cause, she said that "it is a denial issue" and that people don't want to recognize that life begins at conception. "Life is a universal human issue," she said when asked what her reply would be to people who would consider this only a religious issue. After talking at length about abortion, Ms. King said of the pro-choice movement, "God knows we are human, but we can't keep doing what we want to do."



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## Student Assembly Senate weighs in on Nichol contract decision

Kirk Vernegaard  
Staff Writer

In the wake of former President Gene Nichol's resignation from the College, the Student Assembly gathered to discuss the processes and ramifications of the BOV's decision not to renew Mr. Nichol's contract.

In the forum, Senators Devan Barber('08) and Walter McClean('09) were the cosponsors of a bill "formally denouncing" the methods of the BOV. The bill cites legal concerns with regards to the Freedom of Information Act over whether or not the closed-door meetings held by the BOV should be considered a part of public common knowledge. Senator Matt Beato('09) commented that the "secret decision was sketchy," echoing the bill's overall sentiment for greater transparency within the BOV. The proposed bill also questions the degree to which students' statements were taken into account and calls for a forum to bring such uncertainties to light "as quickly as possible."

These comments, however, fundamentally conflict with a certain BOV member's understanding of the situation. BOV member Janet Brashear said that the issue comes down to a matter of preserving the respect for the office of the presidency of the College: "The Board of Visitors is constrained from describing in detail all of the factors it considered in its difficult decision not to renew Gene Nichol's contract," she said.

Questions over the ideological sway of the BOV were also raised. Mr. Beato stated that BOV Rector Michael Powell told him that most of the members of the BOV are politically left-leaning, thus downplaying any claims of underlying ideological tension between the board and Mr. Nichol. Senator Orlando Watson ('10), admittedly not familiar with the members

of the BOV personally, noted that while he believes the members of the BOV were genuine in their intent, "people aren't entirely objective when it comes to making decisions..."

The measure reproaching the BOV passed, with only one dissenting vote from Senator Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08).

The senate then addressed the Campus Garden Budget Bill, which would make "organically grown products available to students." The bill, according to cosponsors Senator Brittany Fallon ('11) and Senator Sarah Rojas ('10) addresses the "matter of the environmental impact of dining services on campus." The bill, which unanimously passed, provides \$1,000 of funding for long, narrow plots of land which will be gated off by Busch Fields. The plan will additionally be used as an educational tool for classes on sustainable living.

Mr. McClean raised the concern of possible health-code issues, echoing Mr. Watson's sentiment that the food might "not be that safe." Ms. Rojas, a cosponsor of this bill, downplayed these concerns by replying that the food will indeed be protected. Members of SEAC will play a pivotal role in the project.

The following meeting was far less contentious but still passed several bills. Senator Ben Brown ('11) introduced The Disambiguate Facebook Policy Act and The Reasonable Expunging of Written Warnings from Judicial Records Act. The first asks that the administration put their policy in writing on the incrimination of students via social networking websites, such as Facebook and MySpace. The other proposed a new policy for when students can get written warnings expunged from their records.

Ms. Fallon introduced the Northern Illinois Condolence Act expressing the student body's sorrow over the shooting at the university.

## SA will have airport ride service for spring break



Alec McKinley

**Higher parking fees:** A new garage will result in a slight increase for students.

Ian Kirkpatrick  
Staff Writer

The Student Assembly Executive met on Wednesday February 20, and covered a number of issues pertinent to students from the annual budget to parking costs

A full budget for next year was produced last week and could get approved before spring break, a "huge accomplishment," as described by Secretary of Finance Andrew Blasi ('10). The SA is also drafting two judicial bills that would guide administrative policy that determines whether incriminating evidence on Facebook can be used against students. A Northern Illinois condolence was also being drafted to be sent to the university's president.

The SA is trying to work with dining services to create a new 14 meal plan that would costless and not constrict students to meal time zones. SA members also mentioned that over the summer the "eau de UC tray return"—the pungent scent at the dish drop-off in the UC—may be no more; the

conveyor belt will be disassembled and cleaned. Dining services were consulted about being more eco-friendly by consuming less disposable plastic but, "they literally didn't understand what we [the SA] meant."

Despite service trips using some of the College's vans there will still be enough transportation for airport rides this spring break. Students can now sign up for this free service on the SA Web site.

Next year, the Residence Hall Association and the SA are starting a program that will take current students' unwanted possessions during move out, so that next year the class of 2012 and other students can utilize things that would otherwise go to waste.

Parking services prices will be lowered for employees who make less than \$20,000 a year and potentially raised for everyone else, to cover the costs of the new parking garage. But do not fear, students will not have to pay more than one third of the total fee raising. Also, photographs of all parking violations will be taken by parking services to more efficiently punish offenders.

*Editor's Note: Andrew Blasi is The Virginia Informer's Business Editor.*

## BUDGET MEMO: Details emerge on upcoming state budget talks and how the College will be affected by cuts

continued from page one

three plans all differ with regards to faculty salary increases. The governor proposed a 3 percent increase to take effect in July 2009, the house proposed a 2 percent raise in November 2008, and the senate a 2.5 percent increase in November 2009.

Though the college will receive \$200,000 for research in the 2009 fiscal year as allotted in the 2006-2008 budget, further research funding has not been decided. Information on the particular elements of the various plans are hoped to be found in the "half sheets" which should be released next week.

Even though budget cuts are being proposed, all three proposals have not recommended any change in tuition price for in-state undergrad students. In fact, the House states that if the tuition does not increase, it will allot an extra \$715,000 of funding for the 2009 fiscal year. All of these plans must go through the Senate and House for approval and then into conferences for compromises. Until recently, Messrs. Jones and Reveley have been in Richmond, working on funding for the college. Mr. Reveley concluded his e-mail saying he will keep campus updated as more details about the budget are released.

**A Glance at W&M Dining  
Sustainability & Community Involvement Initiatives.**

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  - \*Participates in the March of Dimes Annual Drive




**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)**

## 62 percent of College professors have considered leaving

Steven Nelson  
Staff Writer

Even before the public outcry and threats to walk out of the classroom by many professors, a survey says that nearly one in four professors may already have one foot out the door.

Every three years a comprehensive survey of the College's faculty is conducted. The recently released faculty survey, conducted in fall 2006 and presented to the Board of Visitors in their February meeting, sought faculty input on issues ranging from the balance between research and teaching to satisfaction with employment at William and Mary.

According to a February 11 press release by University Relations, this survey had a response rate higher than in previous years, with 73 percent of faculty members responding.

Of the faculty who responded, 62 percent had considered leaving William and Mary in the past two years. 80 percent would be motivated to leave if offered a better salary, 64 percent would leave if offered better facilities, 43 percent would leave if given the opportunity to work with a better institution as a whole and only 13 percent would be motivated to leave if offered better students.

Within the entire responding pool of faculty, 74.5 percent had not received a salary adjustment in the last two years, other than regular annual merit increases. Those who had reported that their increases were largely due to comparison with the salaries of other William and Mary faculty, as well as due to efforts to prevent salary compression.

While 62 percent of faculty had considered leaving, 24 percent had actually applied to another institution

in the past two years. This 24 percent is considered to be actively in the job market.

The 2003 faculty survey caused alarm in some when it was presented to the BOV in 2004. With 69 percent of faculty considering leaving and 29 percent actually applying elsewhere, then-President Timothy Sullivan told the BOV, "The William and Mary faculty report on salaries is the most sobering news I have received in the 11 years that I have served as your president," according to a University Relations press release.

Although the 2006 faculty survey shows declines in the percentages of faculty who considered leaving, due to the higher response rate the raw numbers of professors who have considered leaving has increased.

Also included in the report were

responses which suggested that male faculty tend, as a whole, to spend more time on research over teaching than female faculty.

Furthermore, data suggesting deep departmental discrepancies in satisfaction in the balance between research and teaching is apparent. According to University Relations, 53 percent of faculty were satisfied with their balance between research and teaching.

Of the undergraduate Arts and Sciences faculty, 71 percent of humanities professors were dissatisfied with their balance, as were 55 percent of social sciences faculty. The only undergraduate subset which was satisfied with their research-teaching balance was natural sciences, of which 74 percent were satisfied.

## Congressman Rob Wittman vows strong stance for veteran benefits, against earmarks

Andrew Blasi  
Business Editor

Now that Republican Congressman Rob Wittman has settled into office following the passing of Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis and a special election on December 11, 2007, his Washington, DC staff granted *The Virginia Informer* an inside look into some of his legislative priorities for the current session.

In our interview, his staff revealed that Mr. Wittman's top priorities would include strengthening the US military, enhancing veteran's benefits, taking a strong stand against illegal immigration, as well as better utilizing America's natural resources. They also spoke of his recent trip to the Middle East from January 6-11, where the Congressman visited Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan to observe the many situations currently taking place there firsthand.

In addition to these positions, *The Informer* was told that Mr. Wittman is currently taking

a strong position against Congressional earmarks and high government spending. He is also in support of President Bush's position on FISA.

In addition to these policy priorities, his staff stated they were also gearing up for another potential race during the November elections, even though a Democratic opponent has yet to emerge. The same was said with regard to the potential for a Republican primary challenger. When asked if Mr. Wittman has been well received by other members of Congress, in light of the abrupt transition, his staff had only the most positive things to say. We were also told that upon Mr. Wittman's election to office, every member of Ms. Davis's staff was invited to remain a part of his staff if they so desired. Upon completion of the interview, his staff also wanted to thank William and Mary's College Republicans for being dedicated to Mr. Wittman's election campaign last December.

## VANDALS STRIKE CAMPUS:

Police are investigating school-wide taggings

continued from page one

targeted with the graffiti including Swem, Blow Hall, Tyler and around Blair hall, the Laycock center and the Wren building. Some locations had multiple messages, totaling to ten incidents across campus. The graffiti, which appears to have been done with black spray paint and stencils, includes messages like "No More Board of Dictators!", "BOV Visit This" with an obscene gesture and "Visit This." These were found on various places like benches, stairs, columns, electrical boxes and doors.

On Monday, Acting Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler sent out an e-mail to students expressing her concern on the issue, writing, "I am disheartened -- shocked, really -- that anyone in our community would resort to such acts." She urged anyone with information on the matter to contact campus

police as there is an investigation underway.

Facilities Management began work Monday to remove the graffiti and has been successful for just about all of the ten incidents. Because of the rain on Monday, they were only able to paint the two Wren doors under the portico. Work on the other places began Tuesday. In some of the areas the paint has been more difficult to eradicate. For instance, they were careful when removing the paint from the Tyler bench as to not damage the stone. Similarly, the steps to the Wren building are made of Portland stone, and Colonial Williamsburg had to be consulted before attempting to remove the graffiti. Overall, it is estimated that the graffiti clean-up, calculated in man hours, will cost the College around \$500.

## BOV member Robert Blair resigns

Nick Fitzgerald  
Managing Editor

In an e-mail to Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen ('09) and Vice President Valerie Hopkins ('09) for distribution to the College community on February 19, Robert Blair ('68) announced his resignation from the William and Mary Board of Visitors. This decision came in

light of the board's decision not to renew former President Gene Nichol's contract. Mr. Blair stated that he was worried about an "incipient effort by some members of the Board of Visitors to pick apart President Nichol's accomplishments." Mr. Blair also added that he and other board members who supported Mr. Nichol's contract renewal "found ourselves in the minority."

## BOV TAKES QUESTIONS: Board hears public input on their review of Nichol's contract

continued from page one

detail, fully enumerating the process by which the board arrived at their controversial conclusion. He said that while there were, in fact, three board members who spoke in favor of renewing Mr. Nichol's contract—now-former BOV member Robert Blair ('68) among them—the overwhelming majority of the board was not in favor of renewal. Mr. Powell explained that, for the sake of unity and presenting the board's decision with one, strong voice, none of the 17 BOV members objected to Mr. Powell's use of the term "unanimous" to characterize the board's feelings on this issue.

The board was challenged by students and faculty throughout the day. Sociology Professor Kate Slevin, for example, called for Mr. Powell's resignation. "Right now the rector as the head of BOV has, and I'm speaking for myself and with regret, but he has compromised his legitimacy—to the point where I believe that in order to heal that, the rector has no option but to resign immediately." Fellow board members immediately rushed to the rector's defense. They reasserted that the

board was of one mind in making this decision. BOV members Barbara Ukrop also noted that "Michael Powell is one of the finest individuals I've ever known or gotten to work with in my life."

Mr. Powell and Judge Charles Thomas, along with the other board members present, staunchly defended the importance of maintaining and increasing diversity at William and Mary through, for example, the funding of the Gateway program. They emphasized that this program would not be viable unless it had sound financial footing—requiring some \$80 million, according to Mr. Powell, for long term sustainability—and to push the program forward otherwise would be irresponsible.

The board justified their nonrenewal decision by citing Mr. Nichol's poor performance as a fundraiser and executive. They did compliment him on his ability to reach out to students and faculty, as well as his overwhelming popularity, but emphasized that the job of the College's president requires a much more complex, holistic approach than many students and faculty could initially see.

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editor@VAInformer.com

# How best to toast to your 21<sup>st</sup>

**Matthew Sutton**  
Managing Editor

Twenty-one is the magic number in Blackjack, the jersey number of such sports stars as LaDainian Tomlinson and Warren Spahn, and most importantly the minimum legal drinking age in the United States. This birthday is, for many college students, the most memorable binge drinking episode of their life, excepting the rare cases of family reunions, divorce proceedings and when the Dow drops more than 400 points. Over the last several months, I have witnessed a wide range of celebrations ranging from the epic to the merely mediocre. Based on my experience with this important day, I thought I would offer some observations and maybe even some suggestions in regards to the special day.

First, I think some historical perspective is in order. The push to raise the drinking age from 18 to 21 involved an unusual cast of characters, including the College's own Chancellor Sandra Day O'Connor. Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 which was intended to pressure states to raise their drinking age to 21. If a state failed to do so, Congress would cut that state's cut of federal highway funds.

The state of South Dakota challenged this law in federal court, noting that the ironically numbered 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment (the same amendment that ended Prohibition) gave states the authority to set their own drinking age. In *South Dakota v. Dole*, the Supreme Court ruled

that the state did have the constitutional right under the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment to set its drinking age at eighteen but the federal government could condition receiving federal highway funds to states that had raised the drinking age to twenty-one. Then Justice O'Connor dissented from the Court's opinion, thereby striking a blow for both federalism and for those anxious underage drinkers.

Now let's move on to the more practical question of how to properly celebrate a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Regardless of whether the festivities take place at the bars or a private party, someone needs to watch out for the birthday boy/girl. Normally known as a "babysitter," I think a more accurate term for this role comes from our friends in Tibet, a "Sherpa." Based on my own experiences of walking people from the Leafe to Ludwell, the job entails a high level of physical fitness, like the intrepid Sherpa who famously guided Edmund Hillary to the summit of Mount Everest. A birthday Sherpa must successfully navigate the celebrant past law enforcement officers, ex-girlfriends, and people named Bruno, an unusual task not typically performed



Matthew Sutton

**Modern prohibition?** The federal government is legally able to influence states' drinking ages by withholding federal highway funds to states with drinking ages below twenty-one.

by the average babysitter.

For those hardy souls who dutifully obeyed the law until their 21<sup>st</sup>, some special considerations are in order. Elaborate "bombs" or mixed drinks are probably a poor choice to introduce the celebrant to the joys of alcohol. Try starting them with beer and then work them up to more exciting and expensive offerings. I've seen some birthdays ruined when more experience drinkers order drinks that the birthday boy/

girl can't handle, leading to shouting and general bitterness. Not good times, unless you get asked to finish their wildly expensive untouched drinks.

The old rhyme of "beer before liquor/never been sicker" and "liquor before beer/you're in the clear" is an old wives tale. Now I'm no science major but that's a fact. While it is probably wiser to start with heavier drinks and end the night with the old favorite, Bud Light, there is no harm in switching between beer and liquor. One of the more epic celebrations I had the privilege to witness took place at the Green Leafe, where the birthday boy pounded 16 drinks in about two hours. He had no problem that night switching between shots and beers, which may or may not be due to the fact that he had trained like a champ in the weeks leading up to his birthday.

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

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

## Free and fair elections? Honor Council elections subject to criticism

**Nick Hoelker**  
Opinion Editor

On February 19, the Honor Council held their annual election. Several issues have been raised since the elections have been held, however, that have questioned the legitimacy of this year's election.

In a guest editorial run in *The Flat Hat*, Cliff Dunn ('09) laid

out several reasons why he thought that the council's election this year was illegitimate. Mr. Dunn referenced the council's

“A major fear by those questioning the Council's elections is that the violation of procedures would result in a non-representative Council.”

bylaws, which state that elections must be advertised to interested students about one month in advance. Additionally, the bylaws state that potential candidates' applications are due two weeks following the final election information session.

Mr. Dunn revealed that he was personally not given notice of elections until February 4, only 15 days prior to the election. The first e-mail to a student known to *The Informer* was sent on February 1.

The first known e-mail sent by the council to a campus organization occurred on February 4.

A representative of the Honor Council told the Student Assembly Senate at its February 19 meeting that the Honor Council sent an e-mail to Acting Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler to send a notification of the

elections to the student body. However, the Honor Council did not e-mail Ms. Ambler until January 23, four days short of a month. Moreover, Ms. Ambler is not a member of the student body, nor is eligible to run for the Honor Council.

Also mentioned by Mr. Dunn was that the informational sessions were held on February 5 and 6. All potential candidates were required to attend one. According to the council's bylaws, "The Nomination Form is due two (2) weeks after the last information meeting"

Therefore, if the election were held in accordance with the honor council bylaws, the nominating forms should have been due on February 20. However, as Mr. Dunn mentioned in his editorial, this was the day following the Honor Council election.

The council, however, created an application due date of February 12, far short of the February 20 mandate. As stated in Mr. Dunn's editorial, "the Honor Council rejected forms that were turned in within half an hour of the deadline that it provided, in the interest of fairness."

The Student Assembly Senate is currently considering a bill which proposes a vote of no confidence in the election results, due to the violation of the council's bylaws.

A major fear by those questioning the council's elections is that the violation of procedures would result in a non-representative council. Although the bill pending in the Senate was presented prior to the close of elections, the election results showed members of the Honor Council who ran for re-election won, except for one individual.

### Professor Profile:

## Government Professor Rani Mullen expresses personal politics on Nichol decision

**Michael Douglass**  
Staff Writer

Professor Rani D. Mullen's office is a tiny room squeezed into a hall of tiny rooms in the basement of Morton Hall. The corridor outside can't be more than two feet wide, resulting in a string of awkward passes between students and faculty desperately trying to get out and attend meetings or maybe just run to the bathroom. Ms. Mullen doesn't seem to hold a grudge over her small office space, however, citing her colleagues as not "territorial," in direct contrast to many other political science departments. She seems pretty happy here, citing her colleagues and students as the major reasons. The lack of resources at a public university is her primary complaint.

Ms. Mullen anticipates having lots to discuss with her Southeast Asian Politics classes in the coming weeks. She believed prior to the Pakistani elections that they will be rigged and that General Parvez Musharraf would win. But she also said that if they are free and fair, expect the Pakistani People's Party to sweep, riding

a wave of sympathy after the death of its leader, Benazir Bhutto.

Ms. Mullen's politics are not just restricted to Southeast Asia, her specialty area in the government department. She canceled class this past Wednesday in light of former President Gene Nichol's resignation. "It was about making a statement," she explained. She supports Mr. Nichol's ideas, especially the idea of an open and inclusive campus. But she reserved judgment on the Board of Visitors, waiting for their upcoming remarks on Mr. Nichol's resignation.

When asked about her personal hero, she cites both the Dalai Lama and Nelson Mandela, both of whom she has met—or at least has shared space with. Ms. Mullen met the Lama when she was a child and then later, right before he received the Nobel Peace Prize. While on an internship for a German parliamentarian in 1989-1990, she attended the same party as Nelson Mandela, although she never formally met him. And if she had a chance, she would meet Mohandas Gandhi in a heartbeat.

Swemming off the deep end:

## Severance package or bribe? You decide



**Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton**  
Humor Columnists

(For those of us who attended last Friday's Q&A with the Board of Visitors, we now know exactly what was in the severance package that the board offered Gene Nichol as transitional compensation, which Mr. Nichol described

as "substantial economic incentive." When the e-mail first broke, many immediately jumped to the conclusion that the BOV was trying to bribe Mr. Nichol. Although objective reality and the general facts tell us that the package offered to Mr. Nichol was not a bribe, completely legal and well within the bounds of the BOV's actions on the matter, we are going to choose to completely ignore that and act as if BOV Rector Michael Powell tried to bribe Mr. Nichol with "hush money"—it's much sexier that way. With that in mind, this column officially begins below.)

On the heels of Gene Nichol's resignation last week, many are asking about an alleged bribe that the Board of Visitors supposedly offered Mr. Nichol and his wife. Mr. Nichol had this to say about the situation in his e-mail to campus last Tuesday: "I add only that, on Sunday, the Board of Visitors offered both my wife and me substantial economic incentives if we would agree 'not to characterize [the non-renewal decision] as based on ideological grounds' or make any other statement about my departure without their approval." Mr. Nichol said he denied the offer on principle.

BOV Rector Michael Powell vehemently denied this claim, explaining on the BOV Q&A Web site that the board "absolutely [did] not" bribe the president: "The Board proposed an initial offer on how to deal with...[transitional] issues. The President did not object to the proposal nor did he choose to offer a different view of its terms. The first response we received was to announce he was resigning immediately."

As always, the crack independent news team here at *The Informer* has the inside scoop on what exactly these "substantial economic incentives" were.

What we found out was shocking.

Here, below, are three severance packages from which Mr. Nichol could have chosen. Perhaps surprisingly, he rejected all three.

### The Beyoncé Package

- Ralph Lauren purple label shirts and ties
- Audemars Piguet watch
- Dimples in ya necktie
- Hermes briefcase
- Cartier tie clips
- Silk lined blazers
- Diamond cream facials
- VVS cuff links
- 6-star pent suites

### The Food Package

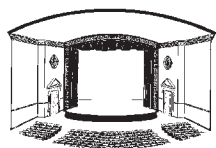
- Lifetime membership to the Krispy Kreme "Donut of the Month" club
- 100 pounds of the finest Belgian truffles
- 300 bags of Jet-Puffed marshmallows
- 15 gallons of Mrs. Butterworth's Country Style syrup
- 8 barrels of Chanello's ranch dressing

- \$50,000 Wawa gift card
- 200 boxes of Godiva "Midnight Swirl" ganache chocolates
- 30 buckets of CoolWhip whipped topping
- \$100,000 of frozen pork belly futures from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange

### The Whimsical Package

- A pony
- A five-day, four-night, all inclusive trip to Disney World, including a one-night stay in Cinderella's castle and a private breakfast with the Disney character of his choice
- The complete Beatrix Potter collection
- The Barbie Dreamhouse deluxe edition
- Fisher-Price Power Wheels version of a Cadillac Escalade
- Super Soaker Aquashock Artic Blast rifle
- Overstuffed Sylvester the Cat stuffed animal, compliments of King's Dominion theme park
- Personalized Cabbage Patch doll, with the initials "GRN" monogrammed on its nightgown

We leave it up to the reader to decide whether these were appropriate severance packages, or something more sinister. While it is somewhat surprising that Mr. Powell would incorporate aspects of Beyoncé's hit single "Upgrade U" in the severance package—diamond cream facials, 1.7 ounces of which contain actual ground diamonds and costs \$235, or a Audemars Piguet watch whose retail price runs in excess of \$700,000—we cannot claim he is guilty of bribery. He *is* guilty, though, of having impeccable taste.



## Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

### Movies

**Southland Tales (R)**  
Sat., Mar. 1  
6:30 and 9 p.m.

**There Will be Blood (R)**  
Sun., Mar. 2-Sat., Mar. 15  
6:15 and 9 p.m.

**A Promise to the Dead:  
The Exile Journey of  
Ariel Dorfman**  
Wed., Mar. 12  
7 p.m.

**The Kite Runner (PG-13)**  
Sun., Mar. 16-Sat., Mar. 22  
6:45 and 9 p.m.

**Youth Without Youth (R)**  
Fri., Mar. 21-Thurs., Mar. 27  
6:30 and 8:45 p.m.

**The Orphanage (R)**  
Fri., Mar. 28-Wed., Apr. 2  
7 and 9:10 p.m.

**The William and Mary French  
and Francophone Studies Program  
presents  
The Tournées Festival**

*All screenings are free but tickets are required*

**Paris, Je T'aime (R)**  
Sun., Mar. 16 at 7 p.m.

**Mondovino (PG-13)**  
Sun., Mar. 23 at 7 p.m.

**Les Choristes (PG-13)**  
Fri., Mar. 28 at 7 p.m.

**The Virginia Peninsula  
Jewish Film Festival**

**The Rape of Europa (Not  
rated)**  
Sat., Mar. 29 at 6:30 and 9 p.m.

*Introduction by Aaron H. DeGroft,  
director of the Muscarelle Museum of Art*  
Sun., Mar. 30 at 6:45 and 9 p.m.

## March Schedule

### Live Performances

**Mrs. Virginia United States 2008 Pageant**  
Sat., Mar. 1 at 6 p.m.

Tickets will be available the evening of the pageant  
in the Kimball Theatre Lobby:  
Adults \$30, Children under 12 \$20 (children under  
5 free)

**The Williamsburg Symphonia presents  
Subscription Concert #3**  
Tues., Mar. 4 and Wed., Mar. 5 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$42, \$30.

Advance tickets are available through the  
Williamsburg Symphonia; please call (757) 229-  
9857

**Three Jolly Coachmen**  
Fri., Mar. 7 at 8 p.m.  
All seats \$12

**Laughing Redhead Studio presents  
Clean Comedy Night Special Event  
With Sherri Shepherd**  
Sat., Mar. 8 at 6:30 and 9 p.m.  
Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 day of show

**Binn's of Williamsburg presents  
Prom Fashions 2008**  
Sat., Mar. 15 at 1 p.m.  
Adults \$10, Students (valid ID required) \$8.  
Tickets are also available through Binns, call (757)  
229-3391

# Nichol controversy spills over into cyberspace

Nick Hoelker  
Online Editor

As of the writing of this article, the William and Mary student listserv has received ten e-mails in a nine day time span relating to the administration changes at the College. This compares with an average of 10 e-mails a month sent to the listserv between August and January.

The e-mails sent since former President Gene Nichol's resignation included a statement from Mr. Nichol, a statement from Board of Visitors Rector Michael Powell, a welcome letter from interim President Taylor Reveley, an e-mail from Acting Vice President for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler regarding the recent vandalism on campus, a range of e-mails announcing the BOV's visit to the open forum on February 22 and an e-mail from

Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen ('09) informing the student body of his and Vice President Valerie Hopkins' ('09) personal opinions of Mr. Nichol's resignation.

According to Ms. Ambler, only administrators, select staff members in certain departments—including IT—and Mr. Pilchen have the ability to e-mail the student listserv. Ms. Ambler added that the purpose of the listserv is to "disseminate important campus information."

Despite this guideline, some of the e-mails may have overstepped this boundary. Mr. Nichol and, to a lesser extent, Mr. Powell, used the listserv to espouse their political differences with one another. Additionally, Mr. Pilchen ignored this rule to express the individual displeasure that he and Ms. Hopkins felt regarding the resignation and the role of the BOV.

# Managing

## PROFESSORIAL DISSEN

### decision to not renew Nichol th

continued from page one

way to expound on his own feelings regarding the resignation, calling Mr. Nichol, "a passionate advocate for the values of liberal arts education, diversity, and free inquiry... I will miss him greatly."

On indications from faculty of a strike, Mr. Strikwerda displayed no objections to an academic disruption, and rather asserted that, "All of us have to deal with our emotions and our need to share our opinions in the way that we judge best... I trust that each of you will make the appropriate decision for yourself about whether or not to hold regular classes."

Strtikwerda acknowledged his own intention to participate in the strike, noting that he would only be using his classroom for the purpose of discussion. *The Informer* has learned that the validity of administrative approval of such large scale action has been questioned by some state officials.

Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss, the College's chief academic officer, said that Mr. Nichol's resignation had to be dealt with "appropriately" by the College community and that it was "just like a death in the family."

While many students vented at multiple rallies and sit-ins throughout the week, a number of Arts and Sciences faculty chose to hold a discussion on how to proceed. Two days after Mr. Nichol's resignation, nearly 300 faculty from various departments gathered together for an emergency meeting of Arts and Sciences faculty, filling Millington 150.

Mr. Strikwerda and Margaret Saha, professor of Biology, acted as the facilitators. Ms. Saha opened the meeting by reading a letter sent to the Board of Visitors on behalf of the Arts and Sciences Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) prior to Mr. Nichol's resignation, which indicated faculty support of renewal. Some faculty were upset this letter was sent without a formal vote of approval. Philosophy Professors George Harris and Paul Davies recently reacted to the letter, saying it "deprives the minority of faculty an opportunity to engage in discussion that might change some minds. The politics of protecting the president justifies ignoring dissent."

Suspicion was cast over the use of an outside consulting firm in assessing Mr. Nichol's performance. With three faculty members acknowledging their participation—including Law Professor Alan Meese, Sociology Professor Kathleen Slevin and Mr. Strikwerda—many other faculty seemed perplexed by this use of a corporate management model.

Chemistry Professor Gary Defotis expressed his approval for the BOV's decision given that many Nichol initiatives were concurrently endorsed. Economics Professor Robert Archibald argued that, "This is the most politically left wing BOV ever. What decision was [nonrenewal] for? Leadership style."

However, the majority of faculty sentiment was not supportive of the decision. The issue of the severance package was raised at the outset having been described as "hush money from a slush fund."

Some faculty took advantage of the open forum simply as an opportunity to vent. Psychology Professor John Nezlek invoked

Biblical language asserting that contractual renewal should not come with a "table of sins to avoid." One faculty member went so far as to question the basis for legitimate recognizing new interim President W. Taylor Reveley Maureen Fitzgerald director of American Studies, asserted that the BOV testimony in Richmond had undertones of McCarthyism. "Are we governed by wealth and politics?" she asked.

Mr. Meese vocalized some support for the claim that the BOV did that prior to the decision to consult the board also addressed a pattern making, claiming that consultation. Several laughed at Mr. Meese's opinion. He quickly y

The latter portion three motions placed motion, History Pro the larger question of should be. He asserted the result of "prof education enlisting t Mr. Ely, however, members acted in go first motion put to th Michael Powell to co Board's decision to t approved unanimous

The second motion of the appointment of extent to which outsid This motion was no FAC.

The third motion confidence in the BO until after the BOV pointed out the passa discourage the BOV regarding Nichol's co

## Excerpts of select faculty e-mails

### Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Carl J. Strikwerda

I know that the news we received this morning from President Nichol about his decision [sic] to resign was deeply saddening for many of you, as it was for me. President Nichol was a passionate advocate for the values of liberal arts education, diversity, and free inquiry....

A number of faculty members have indicated that they plan to not meet classes on Wednesday and Thursday in protest of the decision of the Board of Visitors. This is a difficult time for students and faculty. All of us have to deal with our emotions and our need to share our opinions in the way that we judge best.

### Chancellor Professor of Government Clay Clemens

As one of the faculty on the Presidential search committee that helped bring Gene Nichol to William and Mary three years ago, my own feelings about events over the last day are probably not too hard to guess. At the same time, for me at least, the value of canceling class in such circumstances seems limited

### Assistant Professor of Government Rani Mullen

Our South Asian Politics class is canceled today in protest against the BOV decision to not renew President Nichol. This was not an easy decision for me, esp. given that we are behind in our lectures. But while one might have disagreements over the way in which President Nichols went about implementing some of his controversial decisions, I feel strongly about the issues he stood up for.

### Assistant Professor of Classics Georgia Irby-Massie

Just a quick note regarding the student-faculty strike called for today and tomorrow. I know that convictions run deep, and that many of you support President Nichol with all sincerity, heart, soul, and mind.... I am holding class as usual. Please be assured that my decision was made neither in support of or in condemnation of the BOV's decision. I hope to see you this afternoon.

### Class of 1938 Professor George Grayson

Perhaps you didn't get the e-mail indicating there definitely WOULD BE class today. There are few things more anti-intellectual (and irrational) than calling off classes to protest a decision about governance at an institution of higher learning. There is enough "politicization" (terrible word) of what passes for academic courses at W&M without shortchanging students by failing to teach.

## BOV skews largely Democratic

Chris Davis  
Layout Editor

Though former President Gene Nichol claimed in his resignation e-mail that the reasons for the non-renewal of his contract were ideologically based, the makeup of the Board of Visitors does not support his assertion.

All of the current members of the panel were either appointed or reappointed by Virginia's last two governors, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, both of whom are Democrats. In fact, Suzann Matthews, who spoke extensively at the forum held with students Friday, has donated substantial amounts of money to the two governors' campaigns, as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars to EMILY's List, a political action committee which lobbies to get pro-choice women elected.

Of the 17 members of the BOV, nine have histories of giving money to Democrats. Only five others have largely donated to the Republican Party.



Ian R. Whiteside

Sign of the times: Students hang pro-Nichol banners and posters at the UC sit-in on Wednesday, February 13. Some rain earlier that morning chased some 200 protestors inside.



Faculty assemble: Arts and Science faculty g



# the fallout

## T: Faculty openly oppose BOV through teach-ins, protests and strike



Ian R. Whiteside

**Teacher appreciation:** A crowd of students line up to applaud faculty walking into emergency A&S meeting on Wednesday, February 13.

the decision. He disputed the and not adequately listen, noting decision, everyone had a chance in written form. Mr. Meese ern to Mr. Nichol's decision- at it was lacking in basic faculty audibly scoffed and e for offering this contrasting chided them for doing so. of the meeting consisted of d to the floor. Before the first professor Melvin Ely addressed f what the faculty's next step ed that the week's events were sional enemies of a liberal he naïve and the enlistable." did accede that the BOV ood faith on the matter. The e floor called for BOV Rector me to campus and explain the he College. This motion was y. n was to encourage a review of the BOV members and the de input should be considered. ot passed but referred to the was to pass a vote of no V. This motion was postponed s appearance. Several faculty ge of this motion would only / from discussing the issues ntract.

On Friday, February 22, the BOV held meetings for faculty members and their questions. Coming well prepared, several professors asked questions with regards to the review process and criteria used to decide Mr. Nichol's performance. Mr. Powell said that faculty, staff and student voices were very important and part of the review process. He reiterated the sensitive nature of personnel matters, reinforcing his point by mentioning that the board also reviews professor's tenure and was sure certain faculty would not want their records made public.

Professor Robert Archibald asked the board to reinforce that Mr. Nichol's nonrenewal was not because of his message, but because of his delivery. Mr. Powell expressed the board's supreme satisfaction with Mr. Nichol's dedication to diversity and the Gateway program, but that because of a lack of fundraising, "it could collapse on our kids." In response to charges from several professors that members of the board were involved with right-wing money, blackmailing and overt influences from the state and wealthy alumni, many board members expressed their offense and repeated that there had been no outside influence in their decision. BOV member John Thomas responded, "we are here because we are independent... I dare someone to push us around - we will push back!" Ms. Slevin stated that she felt that "our community is in turmoil, because of failures in your [BOV] leadership... The rector has compromised his legitimacy. He has no option but to resign immediately." Nearly every board member present stood in response and declared their support for the Mr. Powell. Mr. Thomas said passionately, "You may never understand we are blessed to have him."

Professor George Grayson of the Government department said that after listening to the Board, he felt that the right decision was made, that students have mostly gone on with their lives without having to, "swarm the Counseling Center," and that he was satisfied with the board's response. While there was a large vocal presence from the Physics department, many other departments - including Women's Studies, American Studies, Anthropology, History and Chemistry - were also represented. It remains to be seen what the next faculty action will be; things may wait to be addressed at the March Arts and Sciences meeting.



Ian R. Whiteside

gather in Millington to discuss Nichol's resignation.

## Student protesters splinter and dissipate

Patrick Macaluso  
Staff Writer

Upon the abrupt resignation of Gene Nichol after the Board of Visitors decided to not renew his contract, a large portion of the student body erupted in anger, disbelief, and, as is often customary with college-age students, protest. The groups originally began as a unified force but have since splintered and appear to be pursuing different goals.

Student action groups were formed on the social networking site, Facebook. Groups titled "We Miss You Gene Nichol," "I Want A New BOV, Not A New President" and "Get Gene Nichol on A Daily Show" (referring to the popular comedic news program on Comedy Central) surfaced, drawing hundreds of students. Subsequently, students and faculty protested the situation by refusing to attend classes.

Other groups formed online. One of these groups is "Tribe United", whose mission is to "promote community involvement in College governance by providing a forum for concerned individuals." This group takes a different approach to the more extreme forms of action taken by individuals associate with the College; they encourage discussion and unity as a more productive way of getting their point across, rather than the actions of the unknown individuals who vandalized campus buildings with obscene graffiti. This group condemned the graffiti.

The focus of the group has changed in recent days, as the original mission statement hinted at making the College private. Meetings are still being held as the group tries to focus on a goal, because, as an umbrella group, it is having issues determining where to go next.

Another website called "Wrengate", meticulously documents the events relating to the Board of Visitors and Gene Nichol, documenting quotes, videos, pictures of various protests, demonstrations, and forums that have occurred since the Board of Visitors' decision.



Joe Luppino-Esposito

**Campus unrest:** A small group of protesters await the BOV outside the UC.

Another group, "Pursuit of," is, like "Tribe United," exists in the name of school unity, however this group takes a different approach. Unlike "Tribe United," which seems to like discussion as its mode of action, "Pursuit of" seems to favor keeping students informed, and helping them to organize and plan events to demonstrate their concerns.

"Pursuit of" consists primarily of members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Most of the visible protestors left are members of SDS and they have essentially co-opted the movement. SDS obtained the list of people who signed up at the teach-in and has attempted to organize all the protests over e-mail. Their goals, however, are not solely in regards to the BOV. The Virginia Informer has obtained an e-mail to the core membership announcing a meeting read, "Building on the momentum of Nichol's resignation to push forward student power."

All of these groups that have formed demonstrate the concerns of students over the Board of Visitor's decision not to renew former President Nichol's contract. A great number of students view Nichol as an ardent leader and promoter of diversity and students rights, and, as such, they have viewed these recent events as a stand against diversity and student rights.

## Some challenge BOV decision's legality

Stephanie Long  
News Editor

Rumors regarding lying, bribery and hush money have been spreading across campus since the Board of Visitors opted not to renew former President Gene Nichol contract two weeks ago. Some assert that the BOV acted illegally and broke Virginia's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in keeping the process for the decision private.

The section of FOIA cited is § 2.2-3711, pertaining to closed door meetings. The clause states that "no resolution, ordinance, rule, contract, regulation or motion adopted, passed or agreed to in a closed meeting shall become effective unless the public body, following the meeting, reconvenes in open meeting and takes a vote." It further states that when the board does conduct an open meeting, the content of the closed meeting "shall have its substance reasonably identified."

A "personnel" matter is the primary reason a meeting can be closed, and according to Student Assembly Senate Chairman Matt Beato ('09), "the appointment of a college president is a personnel matter." No legal action taken behind closed doors can be binding, however, until it is presented at an open meeting.

At the BOV's closed meeting no legal action was taken. The BOV decided not to renew Mr. Nichol's contract, which would have expired on its own on June 30 regardless of any BOV action.

The BOV's decision to hire former Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law W. Taylor Reveley III as an interim president does require action, and so could have been brought into question by this law. In a statement to *The Flat Hat* on Friday, Rector Michael Powell stated that "[Mr. Reveley] is president designate and the board will formally appoint him." Mr. Reveley was officially appointed on February 22. William and Mary's legal counsel also approved of this approach. Mr. Reveley was not officially president until he was formally appointed and did not officially hold that office until then. During the ten days prior to that, he was labeled "president designate."

The BOV would not have had to appoint an interim president had Mr. Nichol not resigned immediately, which, technically, is a legal breach of his contract. The BOV never expected their closed-door meeting to require any additional action to be taken, nor for it to push the limits of FOIA.

Still, critics of the BOV's approach remain. Mr. Beato said, "I think the BOV needed to be more public. If the BOV had been more open about its reasoning, we might not be having this debate on campus. Members of the BOV have said that students only know 10% of the facts about Nichol. We are customers of this university, and we deserve to know 100% of the facts, or as many as we can know by law. However, I was very encouraged by the forum on Friday and hope that BOV members continue to disclose their reasons for not renewing Nichol's contract."

## Briefly...

### Top upcoming events

**Megan Locke**  
Assist. Arts & Entertainment Editor

#### Comedian Dan Cummins March 15, 9 pm, Lodge 1

Comedian Dan Cummins will be coming to the College on March 15 at 9 pm in Lodge 1. Mr. Cummins is known for combining dark, edgy humor with hilarious stories of growing up in rural Idaho. He has appeared on *The Late Late Show* with Craig Ferguson and in Comedy Central's *Live at Gotham*, and is a popular college act with over 90 shows on campuses during 2007. Only a few weeks ago he had a half-hour special on Comedy Central. After Mr. Cummins's show there will be a def comedy jam with a student stand-up competition. Admission is free for students.

#### Early Music Ensemble March 15, 8 pm, Bruton Parish Church

The William and Mary Early Music Ensemble will be holding a concert on March 15 at 8 pm in Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg. The performance will include two trio sonatas by Handel and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, all performed on period instruments (baroque violin, baroque flute and harpsichord). This event is part of Bruton Parish Church's Candlelight Concert series, and admission is free.

# 415 Grill: A meal to remember

## "The best since becoming food critic"

**Matt Pinsker**  
Food Critic

The 415 Grill, located in the Hospitality House hotel across from Zable Stadium, is a restaurant many students are familiar with in passing. Many have frequented its bar, but very few have ever had a meal there. This is a shame, because the food at the 415 Grill is some of the best I have ever had in my life. I visited the 415 Grill during restaurant week and had a meal that I'll remember for years to come.

I entered the restaurant and was greeted by a pretty hostess who took me to my table by a window, which gave me a great view of the entrance to Zable. My table was already set and covered with clean white linen that had

been covered by white paper. There was a candle-lit lantern glowing at every table, fans placed throughout the restaurant and windows along the front that gave a great view of Richmond Road. There was a long and classy bar in the center of the restaurant that offered a large selection of drinks and had a large plasma television for thirsty sports fans. Decorations included a combination of mirrors and artwork placed on the walls. The 415 Grill had an elegant look to it, and there was contemporary music playing softly in the background.

My server was very friendly and conversed with her diners, but never lost her sense of professionalism. She had an excellent knowledge of the menu and items being served. She also brought

out each item in a timely manner, and everything was served at the perfect temperature. Bread was brought to the table, as well as a tray containing butter, olive oil and a vegetable mix to be placed on the bread. The dip—consisting of olives, artichoke, mushrooms and bell peppers—initially struck me as having a very suspicious appearance and was intentionally served cold, but it was absolutely delicious and had a very unique flavor.

For an appetizer, I ordered scallop au poivre. I received three scallops in a buttery tasting broth. They were very juicy and succulent, with just the slightest kick to them. The chicken that I had for the entrée was divine. A whole, boneless chicken breast had been cooked to perfection and topped with fresh mozzarella and a fruit-based glaze. Every bite was an explosion of flavor and I savored every bite. Creamy mashed potatoes and thinly sliced, buttery vegetable sticks came with the chicken, and both were very enjoyable. For dessert I was served a chocolate basil tart. It was thin, colorful and tasty and came with a soft blend of syrups pooled on the bottom of a plate, with whipped crème and a strawberry on the side. It was a very pleasant finish to an exquisite meal.

Including tip, this three course meal came to just \$26.50, as I had taken advantage of the Restaurant Week special. Regular entrées, such as Settlement Stew or Baked Parmesan Gemili are normally \$14.95. For appetizers, 415's menu offers \$5 cheese fries and \$8 crab fritters. There was an extensive wine menu, starting at \$4 per glass. Although this may be more than most students are willing to spend on a casual night out, if you are looking to relax over an absolutely delicious meal, I highly recommend the 415 Grill.



Blake Lucas

**A timely special:** Pinsker paid less by taking advantage of Restaurant Week discount.

## The Finer Side:

# Top six tips for surviving an important dinner



**Jennifer Souers**  
The Finer Side

Maybe you can relate to this situation: Its evening. You're all dressed up in either your cocktail dress or your business suit with the power heels. Perfect make-up, perfect hair, everything is ready to go. You arrive at the restaurant where you're meeting your date, business associate or boyfriend's parents. You make polite conversation as you wait to be seated at your table. Your hostess finally takes you to the table. And as you look down at what seems like hundreds of shiny pieces of silverware, you realize something: you have absolutely no idea what you're doing.

Well, having survived many dinners and etiquette lessons, perhaps I can help prevent this from happening to you too often—inevitably, you will, at some point, have an awkward dinner. But the following are six tips—from ordering the right food to using the right fork—that will help leave the right impression with your dinner date.

**1. Don't slurp. Ever.** It doesn't matter what you are eating, but if it is liquid in nature, don't slurp. There is nothing more unprofessional, more insulting to your company, or just plain rude and disgusting than listening to someone's slurping noises. This goes for everything from your beverage

to your soup. (This tip should be used for anytime when you're eating, really—from your dorm room to holiday dinners.)

**2. Don't order any food with heavy garlic, Caesar dressing or pasta.** Especially if you're on a romantic date or a business dinner, the last thing you want is to have offensive breath. If you can't help eating something with a strong taste, make sure you take gum or mints afterwards! With regards to pasta—if you don't know how to spin spaghetti on your fork, then don't order it. You do not want to be eating spaghetti and have noodles hanging from your mouth: this is not the most refined image!

**3. Sit up straight!** In the recent movie *The Princess Diaries* Queen Clarice ties Anne Hathaway's character to a chair with a silk scarf in order to train her to bring her fork to her mouth instead of leaning forward. Pretend you are tied to your chair. Sit up straight, do not ever leave your elbows on the table, and bring your fork or spoon to your mouth instead of leaning forward.

**4. Fork goes in the right hand.** Most people reading this are probably American. In America (as opposed to Europe) you cut your food with your fork in the left hand, knife in the right. Then transfer the fork to your right and lift to your mouth.

**5. "Start at the outside and work your way in."**

In the words of actress Kathy Bates in the movie *Titanic*, when you are faced with a never ending supply of silverware, start on the outside and work your way in. The salad fork and soup spoon (the most common extra pieces of silverware) are on the outside of the other main pieces.

**6. Bring up conversation topics of general interest.** When you're at any important dinner—whether it's with someone you know well or several people you are just getting to know—it's crucial to include everyone in the conversation. So brush up on your current events, news and anything the people you're eating with are interested and use those as topics to fall back on if the conversation falls still. And remember—avoid politics and religion!

Dinner is a show—your manners are on display and it may just be the performance of a lifetime. You only have one shot for opening night, so make it a good one! People will remember you best when your personality is combined with good manners and warm hospitality. And remember—having excellent manners is not just a reflection on you, it also tells your guest you respect them enough to be on your best behavior when out with them.

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

# Metal Club brings together fans of the genre

**Megan Locke**  
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Students who live for headbanging to loud music or those who just want to try listening to some new tunes will feel at home with the William and Mary Metal Club. The club is for everyone who is into good, hard music and those who want to learn about it as well.

The Metal Club was founded in 2001 by several residents of the German House. They went to see the bands Gwar and LOG together, and decided to form a club to “bring metal to the people and as a support group for metal heads,” according to alumnus Eric Yttri (’04). Club membership today has both diversified and expanded, with over one hundred people subscribed to the club’s listserv.

The main activities of the Metal Club take place during its weekly meetings, which are held on Mondays at 8 pm in Millington 119. Each week there is a “metalgory,” or theme. Members pick songs, usually with accompanying music videos, which fit this theme and play them at the meeting for other members to enjoy. Past metalgories have included “love songs,” “favorite guitar songs,” “foreign bands,” “female vocalists” and “favorite lyrics.” Upcoming metalgories for the rest of this semester include “iPod appreciation” and “guilty pleasures.”

At a recent meeting this semester, the metalgory for the night was “awful songs that you love.” A sampling of the music played at the meeting included Avenged Sevenfold’s “A Little Piece of Heaven,” Dragon Force’s “Operation Ground and Pound,” Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believing” and Billy Idol’s “White Wedding.”

Other activities that are an important part of Metal Club are the various concerts that the club hosts at the College. There are usually two Metal

Club concerts a year, one during the fall semester and one during the spring semester. The next upcoming concert will be April 19 at 9 pm in Lodge 1. All Metal Club concerts are free for students at the College, and non students pay \$5 at the door.

So far two bands are planning to play at the concert. The opener is Withersoul, a doom metal band that Metal Club Event Coordinator Matt Fuller (’09) describes as having “harsh vocals with soprano female voices” and “epic songs.” The other band is Immortal Avenger, a thrash metal/power metal band with a concept album about World War II British fighter pilots. One more band has yet to be announced, but it will likely be the headliner of the concert.

The upcoming concert is definitely in good hands, since this is Mr. Fuller’s fifth semester organizing a concert. Many of the bands hail from Virginia, but Mr. Fuller has also brought in bands from as far away as West Virginia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. He says that the hardest part of organizing concerts is securing the band that will be the headliner. Initially it was difficult for the club to persuade different bands to come to the College, because the founding club officers had only invited a small number of Virginian bands like Epoxy and Red Metric, and focused on music that was power metal and new metal. Now Mr. Fuller is dedicated to bringing various different kinds of bands and genres of music to the college.

“Our club is open to everything,” says Mr. Fuller. “We want to create a welcoming atmosphere and explore different kinds of bands.” Bands that have performed in Metal Club concerts over the past couple of years include the Vexed Youth, Stuck in Kaos, Monolith, Time Lord, Heretics in the Lab and Bullistic.

Byzantine has been the Metal Club’s biggest band to perform so far.

The Metal Club concerts have grown significantly more successful over the past couple of years in terms of attendance, with even high schoolers showing up to the last show in the fall. In light of this interest, the Metal Club plans to start advertising off campus this semester. Evan Batson (’09) designs the club posters and t-shirts, and Mr. Fuller praised him as “an incredible artist” who “single-handedly has made the advertising happen for concerts.”

Alex Lupp (’09) says that he joined the Metal Club because “I love to share music, and now I have a willing crowd

to torture.” On a more serious note, he says that the club has helped to expand his musical horizons and to develop an appreciation for music that had previously sounded like noise to him. Another club member, Joy Benefield (’09), said that the Metal Club offers members “a way to connect.” Club President Amy Sedivi (’09) summarizes the club as “a fun way to chill with people with similar interests.”

To learn more about the William and Mary Metal Club, visit their Facebook page at <http://wm.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2207898380> and look out for advertising for their upcoming concert in April.



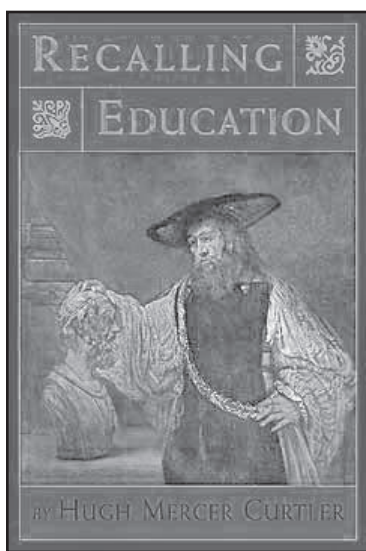
Courtesy of Metal Club

**The routine:** Meetings consist of watching music videos or planning metal concerts.

Book review:

## Curtler makes case that education is about freedom

**Jacob Hill**  
Staff Writer



generally well-presented arguments. Mr. Curtler holds throughout the book that the primary purpose of a liberal arts education is the cultivation of positive freedom. To those outside philosophy, the term may seem rather vague and require further explanation. Negative freedom comes from the idea that a person is free when he is presented with a vast array of choices, and may choose among them without being coerced. This is not to be confused with negative liberty, the idea that a person has the right not to be coerced in his context of choice, often barring the condition that he coerces someone else. Positive freedom, by contrast, is the freedom that comes from being able to make the right choices, dealing in terms with what choices

of the many may be rationally defended. This is not to be confused with positive liberty, the idea that a person has a right to make demands that others must fulfill.

To those who may not be so well versed within the language of philosophy, Mr. Curtler makes his point through an example of buying a car. On a car lot, a person has many choices of what car to buy, which constitutes his negative freedom. But if he were to choose any car at random, we might well not say that the person is free, he is confined by his ignorance and the wiles of fate as to whether or not he will pick a car suited to his ends. In order to be *truly* free, said person must also be able to make an informed choice, concerning his own needs and responsibilities, as to which car of the many he must choose. Unfortunately, Mr. Curtler remains dangerously close to Susan Wolfe in his views on positive freedom, such that he registers as a potential compatibilist, one who believes that determinism and free will are compatible; however, this point remains a minor contention and not necessarily central to Mr. Curtler’s overall argument.

Altogether, *Recalling Education* presents an exciting read to anyone interested in the philosophy of pedagogy, as well as anyone interested in seeing analytic philosophy being employed in its greatest. Anyone attempting to present an argument for higher education and its ends must contend with Mr. Curtler’s own well-made arguments.

### Recalling Education

Author: Hugh Mercer Curtler  
Pages: 210  
Publisher: ISI Books  
ISBN: 1882926558  
List Price: \$24.95

## Wind Symphony delights crowds by synchronizing music with Disney movies

**Andrew Blasi**  
Business Editor

The William and Mary Wind Symphony, under the direction of Dr. Evan Feldman, held their annual Pops Concert on February 18 and 20, where they played a selection of Disney music and video game themes.

Not only did the Wind Symphony delight the crowds with their music selection, but the band’s own Andy DeSoto compiled video clips to match the music on screen. Mixing up the entertaining Disney movies were the Video Game Championships, where players from the Video Game Tournament held earlier in the month competed live, with the Wind Symphony playing accompanying music.

The concert concluded on a high note, with Professor Christine Niehaus playing Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* which was synchronized to Disney’s “Fantasia 2000” cartoon produced to the music. The Wind Symphony’s next concert will be held in April, when they return from their spring tour to Boston.

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# Finger food

Last issue, I tried to give you all a few pointers to help you navigate the somewhat exclusive and often intimidating world of cigar smoking. In this column, we'll be tackling another one of the scarier realms of fine dining: the wonderful world of sushi. I know what you're thinking. "Scary? What's scary? I buy it in the Sex Change and go, right?" No, kids. I'm talking about real sushi, the kind that doesn't come from a plastic box. If you've ever found yourself sitting behind one of those tiny glass counters in San Francisco, or one of those giant-sized granite sushi bars in Las Vegas, you know the kind I'm talking

about. With all of those knives swinging, men shouting and strange looking sea creatures being diced up before your eyes, the whole experience can get pretty intimidating pretty quickly. After years of experience patronizing such establishments—and after a bit of training from Trevor Corson's culinary masterpiece, *The Zen of Fish*—I've learned that there is definitely a right



R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

and wrong way to enjoy the raw oceanic delights offered at your local sushi hideaway. However, once you've swallowed a couple of basic ground rules, you'll find that the world of sushi is a lot simpler than you might have guessed.

Let's begin with where to sit and how to order. If you find yourself in a restaurant with an actual sushi bar, always request a seat at the counter if there's room available. This reduces your wait time for food, allows you to interact with the often very personable chefs behind the counter and overall makes for a more fun and interesting dining experience. Once you are seated, there are three basic ways to order your sushi: a la carte, house plate, and chef's choice. A la carte is the least adventurous option. You'll be handed a paper card with the restaurant's offerings printed on it. You simply check off the items that you want with the pencil provided for you and hand it to your waiter or over the bar to your chef. House plates are a tad more interesting. Most restaurants feature two or three of these fixed assortments of popular sushi items, whose contents are listed on the menu next to their names. In ordering a house plate, you give up a little bit of control over your meal, but you've still got a pretty good idea of what's coming. Chef's choice is the most adventurous, and, in my opinion, the best choice when you go out for sushi. This option gives the chef total control over your meal, allowing him to pick the best and freshest items for you to enjoy. Whether you're an expert or a sushi virgin, surrendering to the chef's choice ensures that you receive a meal made up of the best and most interesting that the restaurant has to offer.

While ordering, you'll probably come across the three most basic types of sushi: *maki*, *nigiri* and *sashimi*. *Maki*, or sushi rolls, are usually comprised of a strip of thin, dark green seaweed called *nori*, a layer of sushi rice, and some sort of filling in the middle. In addition to this more traditional manifestation, many *maki* come made in the "inside out" style, with the



Ian R. Whiteside

**Can't go wrong:** Chef's choice is the most adventurous and best choice from the menu.

sushi rice on the outside of the roll. Popular sushi rolls include *kappa-maki*, or cucumber rolls, and *tekka-maki*, lean tuna rolls. The second major sushi category is *nigiri*, which are small, squeezed squares of sushi rice topped with finger-sized pieces of raw fish. *Nigiri* are a bit more expensive than *maki*, and are often topped with more exotic cuts of seafood. The final category is *sashimi*, which are simply playing-card sized slabs of fish, with rice sometimes served on the side.

On being confronted with any of these three types of sushi, the average American diner's instinct is to reach for his chopsticks, soy sauce and wasabi and start chowing down. We, however, are about to see the way to attack our *maki*, *nigiri* and *sashimi* the proper way. First, put down the chopsticks. With the exception of *sashimi*, which is too large and ungainly to be eaten with your hands, all sushi is finger food. Trying to use chopsticks on it, even if you have a bit of experience, will only make well-made sushi fall apart. Instead, simply pick up *maki*, or place your thumb and middle finger on either side of your *nigiri* (with your index finger resting on the top), and pop them into your mouth. When you do break out the chopsticks for your *sashimi*, make sure that you don't rub them together to remove splinters after snapping them apart. Such behavior is insulting to the restaurant, implying that their chopsticks are inferior.

"But doesn't eating with your fingers get messy," you might ask, "with all that wasabi and soy sauce and pickled ginger all over everything?" Nope. Not if you use these condiments properly. Soy sauce should be poured from the bottle into your own personal dish, not cascaded across your sushi. When the time comes, just dip your *maki* or *nigiri* into the dish (*nigiri* is always dipped rice side up) and move it quickly to your mouth. When it comes to wasabi, you usually don't need to add any at all. Most good chefs will roll a bit into their *maki* or place a dab between their *nigiri* cuts and their sushi rice. Whatever you do, don't mix your wasabi and soy sauce into that brown-green paste

that so many Americans revel in; it utterly destroys the delicate tastes of the sauce, the condiment, and the fish. If you're enjoying a sushi dish like an eel roll or dragon roll that comes with its own special sauce, neither soy sauce nor wasabi should be used. The pickled ginger that comes with your meal should never be placed on top of your sushi. It is a palate cleanser, not a condiment. When moving from one kind of sushi to another, connoisseurs chew a thin slice of this ginger to remove the taste of the last type of fish that they ate before moving on to the next.

To end with, let's talk about how good sushi should taste once it's in your mouth. Well-made *maki* should give a little snap when you chew them. This indicates that the *nori* wrapping is fresh, and not soggy from sitting too long. *Nigiri* should simply crumble in your mouth, the flavors of the loosely-packed rice and the cut of fish mixing nicely before you swallow. *Sashimi* is usually served slightly chilled. The flesh of the fish cut should be firm but not tough, unless, of course you've chosen to enjoy a cut of octopus. If your meal was well-made, be sure to tip the sushi chef behind the counter as well as your waiter. Simply slide your gratuity over the bar before you leave.

All this having been said, I do have to make one thing clear before I wrap up: for most people, sushi is an acquired taste. The only way for you to really start enjoying this unique style of cuisine is to jump in feet first and never look back. Some things might seem strange at first, but it's only through a bit of experimentation that you'll finally find a selection of sushi that fits your distinct tastes. With these dining tips in your repertoire, you're well on your way to becoming a truly savvy sushi gourmet.

*If you're interested by the topics mentioned in this column, The Virginia Informer recommends Trevor Corson's nonfiction work, The Zen of Fish: The Story of Sushi from Samuri to Supermarket, published by HarperCollins, 2007.*

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Staff Editorials:

## Pragmatism over ideology in selection of new president

When the Board of Visitors decides to begin the complex task of selecting our new executive, certain qualities should be stressed over others in the presidential search. There are certain abilities better lend themselves to executive leadership than others.

First and foremost, the importance of fundraising cannot be overstated. This is true of any institution of higher learning, but particularly for William and Mary. The reality is that our under

\$600 million endowment is certainly nothing to be excited about when compared to other institutions' endowments of our same academic caliber. This being said, we want someone who not only has demonstrated strong fundraising abilities in the past, but also is able to successfully sell the idea of William and Mary to potential donors. Someone who knows the College and its values, but also has positive ideas for keeping it moving forward in our ever changing world. Quantitatively, we urgently need to launch a new campaign that aims to double our current endowment to at least \$1 billion, as well as a general \$1 billion capital campaign to dwarf the recently and barely-completed Campaign for William and Mary. If we do not accomplish this goal in the next few years, we will no longer be able to compete with any of our peer institutions—public or private.

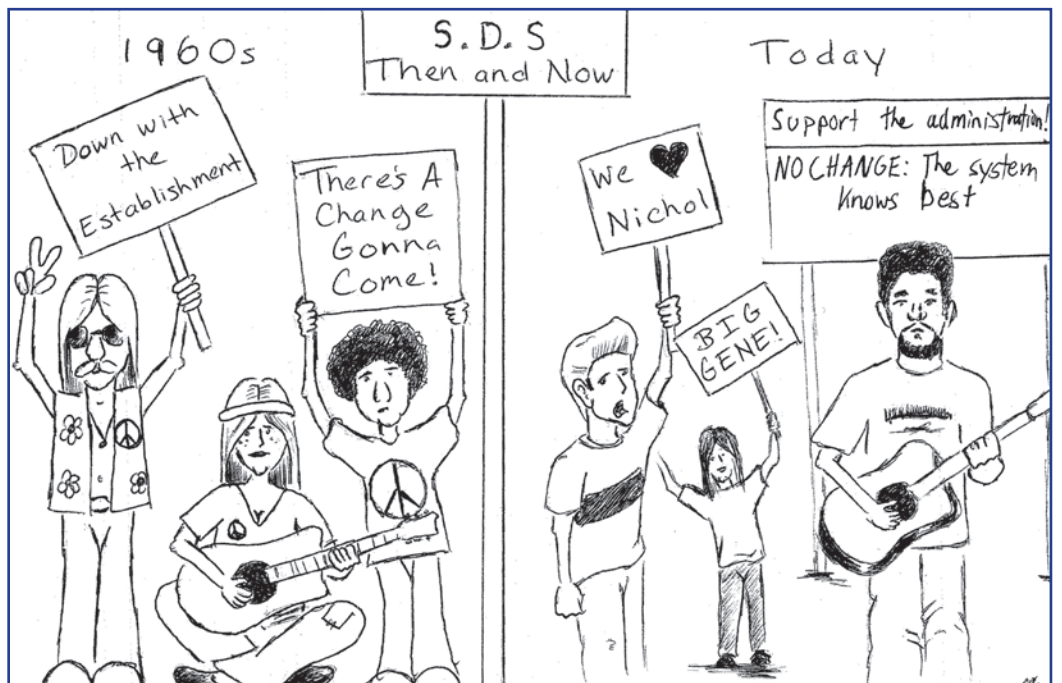
We also need a leader who can successfully bargain with the state government on behalf of the College. BOV Rector Michael Powell reiterated at the open forum last Friday that the state is not a reliable source of funds. The state provides a measly 17 percent of our operating budget, the rest coming from urgently needed private money, the real lifeblood

of our institution. Therefore, we need a president who can build a positive working relationship with the state government. We are a public school and must have constructive relationships with the bodies which provide both oversight and dollars for our institution, regardless of our president's personal politics. This is not negotiable.

Finally—and while this concept may be absolute heresy to uninformed students and faculty—the simple fact is that the College operates very much like a corporate entity.

It is a complex organization that runs not on hope or idealism but on dollars that are used to pay for buildings, utilities, electricity, wireless connections, roads, staff salaries, grounds keeping and an endless array of other details which make an institution function daily. The College demands an individual who understands this and who has, in the past, displayed superb administrative experience at the highest level. As one example, the University of Colorado is currently in the process of hiring a new chancellor. While he does not have a PhD, he was a very successful oil executive. This sort of out-of-the-box thinking by looking outside of academia is exactly what we need from the BOV and the search committee.

An alumnus or alumna as president would also be a plus. The College's values cannot be adequately represented if the president does not have any sort of emotional connection with the school and its students. And lastly, we would be remiss if we did not mention that cultivating a positive relationship with students and faculty is another important aspect of the president's job. It is not, however, his or her most important role. If a lack of connection to students is our president's biggest flaw, we think he or she would be doing pretty well.



David Clifford

## Teach or go home Faculty strike unacceptable

On the day Gene Nichol voluntarily resigned, several faculty members informed their students at various times that they would be canceling class. These faculty members were refusing to teach class and encouraging their students to be truant, to go and protest the Board of Visitors' decision not to renew Mr. Nichol's contract. They would accomplish this protest by participating in the various rallies, protests, sit-ins and teach-ins offered throughout the course of the last two weeks. Some faculty also encouraged their colleagues to cancel their own academic schedules to engage in a "faculty strike."

The sad reality is that these faculty members are doing nothing but having the collegiate equivalent of a temper tantrum. Stomping their feet and yelling will not allow them their own way. The great irony is that if we are to be truly "great and public"—in the words of the man whose ouster they are protesting—these faculty ought to demonstrate that they can effectively do their jobs even amidst emotional and professional turmoil. As tuition-paying students, we are utterly appalled by these professors' total lack of commitment to their jobs.

Students pay tens of thousands of dollars to the College so that they can be taught by our esteemed faculty. When these faculty unabashedly shirk their

duties by canceling class because of their political views, they are doing a great disservice to the College's students. They are communicating that a liberal arts education is not as important as differences in personal politics. The professors are contractually obligated to teach and, furthermore, it is illegal to engage in a strike in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

These faculty should know that by striking they are putting their jobs on the line. Some of the equally loud but more squeamish faculty, when realizing the illegality of their actions, lobbied for and succeeded in changing the term of their protest from "faculty strike" to display of "solidarity." This, in their eyes, legitimizes the fact that they are still refusing to work. If faculty members want to attend any of the protests or rallies, they are certainly free to do so on their own time, not while they are on the clock.

The Virginia Informer calls on these professors to reschedule any class time missed. If they fail to do so, we believe that these professors' pay should be docked for the hours they refused to fulfill their contractual obligation to the school. Moreover, for all non-tenured professors, we recommend that their participation in the strike be noted in their file.

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# A thank you to the silly, a warning to the dangerous

Joe Luppino-Esposito  
Editor in Chief

This editorial serves primarily as a thank you note, not to the Board of Visitors or to Should Nichol Be Renewed? or to my fellow *Informer* staffers (though all would be worthy of one). Instead, it is a thank you note to all of the so-called “campus leaders” and their simple-minded lemming followers for providing comic relief over the last two weeks, a time during which I probably should have been scared for my life.

Of all the words that came to mind about your actions (pathetic, unhinged, hysterical), the most appropriate one was “silly.” Usually reserved for pre-schoolers, the term came to redefine the way I view a large portion of the William and Mary community.

The yellow t-shirts you proudly adorned telling us that you are no longer welcome here made me want to hand out copies of the proper transfer forms. Making such an empty statement is silly, to say the least.

The student and professor strike, on the whole, was an extremely silly endeavor. On the first day, the liberal egalitarianism warmed my heart as I watched a number of random characters grab the megaphone in the Sunken Garden and spew whatever random, angry thoughts came to mind. Evidently, the more you swear, the more you really mean it.

On Wednesday, the sit-in at the UC got increasingly silly. People shouted for “demands,” which were actually coherent, polite requests—but I guess one cannot pretend to live in 1968 unless they are called “demands.” I will put aside the silliness of the fact that a little rain moved the entire show inside and will instead recognize the extremely silly idea of further relocating the sit-in, meant to disrupt order, into the UC Commonwealth, making it contained and not visible. The big rallying cry there appeared to be for piece of notebook paper with “STRIKE” scribbled on it. That’s almost as silly as rallying behind a do-nothing college president.

Thursday was silly for how quickly the flyers changed.

The events were now set to be a “teach-in” at the Sunken Garden. One flyer, filled with drawings of hearts, read, “Show some Valentine’s Day love for your professors + reclaim power over THE PEOPLE’S COLLEGE and your education!” The other one, which said “MAKE DEMANDS” was the silliest of all. I wonder how wide ranging those demands could be. “We want free soda in the vending machines!” and “We demand longer recess!” seems apropos.

And not to criticize the students disproportionately—the Arts and Sciences “emergency” faculty meeting was one of the silliest displays of them all. Assuming that most people do not know Robert’s Rules of Order, the simple principle of only speaking when you are called on still seemed beyond the comprehension of several professors. Snickering at someone you disagree with while they talk in order to drown them out is one of the most childish tactics, but it was not beyond some of the people who are paid to educate us.

Tuesday night’s candlelight vigil and farewell to Gene Nichol, although fitting, was a little silly. The man didn’t die, he cowardly quit his job. I really don’t think letters, condom-grams and flowers are really appropriate for a quitter. Furthermore, the new Facebook photo reading, “Gene Nichol’s Not Gone... If I’m Still Here!” serves as another opportunity to remind people that Mr. Nichol does not “live in all of us” like the Holy Spirit.

The regalia of protestors was also a silly sight to see. The red armbands, usually associated with Nazis, became the first symbol of “solidarity” at the sit-in. More moderately, the red armbands could just be construed as communist. This would be appropriate, as faculty strike organizers Lu Ann Homza, Karin Wulf and Leisa Meyer signed their e-mail to the Arts and Sciences faculty as “fellow-travelers.”

Luckily, most people on this campus have been far too distraught about the resignation of their dear leader to get out of hand. Of course, my criticisms are in jest; people were emotional, and sometimes things do not come out as planned. On the whole, most of the pro-Nichol / anti-BOV movement has been benign in its intent and



Ian R. Whiteside

limited in its effectiveness. In the meantime, *The Informer* will likely not spend too much time on this small cabal of malcontents, as most students will come back from spring break asking, “Gene who?”

The people whom I do legitimately fear are those I intend to put under the microscope in my final months at the College. The professors that tried to shout down *The Informer* while distributing at the UC were some of the more despicable people I encountered as of late. While most were respectful, some professors, like Bruce Campbell of Modern Languages, told us that we were “wrong” for daring to hand out copies and that it was “disrespectful.”

The head of academics at the College, Provost P. Geoff Feiss, commented that “this is a death in the family” at the town hall meeting on February 13. A day later, Northern Illinois University actually *did* have deaths on their campus.

The most outrageous of all was History Professor Lu Ann Homza’s comments that “they will come after my courses next.” Too bad Ms. Homza did not see the irony in the fact that she was saying this while on strike from teaching those courses she pretends to hold so dear. It is a travesty that professors hold their own political agenda above that of their jobs. I guess most can feel safe to do that with the protection of tenure.

I say these people are dangerous because their first inclination was to move the College to division and disruption, rather than to collectively help and try to prevent us from falling into further controversy and turmoil. If these are the people the College looks to for guidance, we will certainly fail.

## Reactions to Nichol’s resignation

Excerpts from local and national media

**Nichol’s Farewell**  
*Daily Press* Editorial Published  
February 13, 2008

But there’s more to running a state-supported college than being a charismatic champion of liberal arts or a bulldog for progressive politics. The position takes executive leadership in planning, administration, fundraising, cultivating influence on behalf of the institution. There are many puzzle pieces — students, faculty, parents, alumni, legislators, governors — and it takes considerable skill to knit them together and keep the peace. “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead” can be monumentally problematic when steering the course of a complex college community.

**William and Mary: What not to learn from a college president’s departure**  
*Washington Post* Editorial Published  
February 18, 2008

The uproar surrounding Gene R. Nichol’s abrupt departure as president of the College of William

and Mary is not unexpected, given the controversies that dogged his tenure ... There’s no question the college has been diverted from its core mission since Mr. Nichol arbitrarily decided 16 months ago to banish a historic cross from the campus chapel.

**The Cross and President**  
**Dinesh D’Souza**  
AOL News Bloggers, February 18

But many at William and Mary are saying that my high-profile debate was the single event that turned the tide against Nichol. It exposed the hollowness of his argument, and it galvanized the opposition. Ultimately it was the trustees of the college who decided that Nichol had become a liability, and they informed him this month that his contract was not going to be renewed ... I take no pleasure in Nichols’ resignation, but I am glad to see the cross restored to Wren Chapel. In an era where political correctness often triumphs over common sense, that’s no small victory.

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## Nichol unnecessarily incited College community

On Tuesday, February 12, Gene Nichol announced in an e-mail to the William and Mary community that he would be resigning as College president. While an e-mail announcing his decision was necessary, the manner in which Mr. Nichol handled the situation was entirely inappropriate.



**Nick Hoelker**  
Opinion Editor

Mr. Nichol's e-mail explained four reasons why he thought that his contract was not going to be renewed: the Wren cross, the Sex Workers' Art Show, the Gateway Program and a commitment to diversity. He further defended his actions on all of these matters. Mr. Nichol had previously given these same justifications when these controversies were unfolding. However, Board of Visitors Rector Michael Powell said that Mr. Nichol was not renewed because of his poor management style, not because of these or other political reasons. Mr. Powell was further backed up by former Board of Visitors Member Robert Blair ('68), a defender of Mr. Nichol, who agreed with Mr. Powell that the reasons for not renewing Mr. Nichol's contract were not political.

If Mr. Nichol had felt the need to further justify his actions, there are several other venues in which he could have done this. Instead of involving the whole campus community, Mr. Nichol could have sent a letter to his supporters thanking them and asking them to continue their support of his four goals. Mr. Nichol could have also published essays or memoirs at some point in the future explaining his actions. These mediums of communications would have allowed for a much smoother transition of presidential power.

By writing this e-mail, Mr. Nichol unnecessarily galvanized the College community. This has led to, for example, classes being canceled by professors and boycotted by students. Certainly this is not conducive to the "great and public" objective that Mr. Nichol so often espoused. Mr. Nichol was not ignorant of the passion of his supporters. At the rally outside the president's house on the night of the resignation, "No matter what happens," he said, "I will remember this night for as long as I live." He knew that there would be outbursts over his resignation and it appears he deliberately incited his supporters. This shows that Mr. Nichol's true priorities lie with self-aggrandizement and not actually with the health and welfare of the College.

Mr. Nichol also further split the College community by resigning immediately rather than waiting until his term expired in June. This created a power vacuum and led to an abrupt transition of power to interim President W. Taylor Reveley III. While Mr. Reveley has done an admirable job so far handling his new position in a difficult time, his role has been made needlessly difficult by Mr. Nichol's immediate resignation. If Mr. Nichol had waited until the end of the year to step down, the Board of Visitors could have begun a search for a new president or at least handed power to Mr. Reveley in less turbulent times, and it would have allowed him to prepare to take over as president rather than have Mr. Reveley be blindsided with the announcement.

Upon learning that his contract as president of the College of William and Mary would not be renewed, Mr. Nichol acted inappropriately and immaturely. By trying to paint himself as a martyr, he undermined his responsibility to the College and demonstrated that his true priorities lie with himself and not with the school.

## On the crucifixion of Gene Nichol

**Stephanie Long**  
News Editor

Yes, Gene Nichol has been crucified, but not by the Board of Visitors—who simply chose not to renew his contract, which had been a possibility since his instatement. But rather he has been crucified by himself and his supporters, who believe the mistruths of his libelous e-mail and have therefore come to view him as a martyr.

I, for one, am upset that the BOV felt the need to make this decision behind closed doors, because it had plenty of legitimate and legal ground upon which to justify nonrenewal. The role of a college president is not simply limited to setting miniscule precedents in order to further one's political agenda. But the president is supposed to be the public figurehead of the college and is responsible for making the college presentable by upholding its quality. This must be accomplished on two fronts: in the college's public image as well as its academic standards. And as disheartening as it seems to be for many of my fellow students, money is what keeps this institution at a high quality, as money is necessary to have top notch facilities and professors. This should be an even more pertinent goal at the College of William and Mary where the State of Virginia is increasingly cutting our funding each year and we depend upon private donations to finance the faculty salaries and the facilities on campus. Mr. Nichol knew what his job was and chose not to fulfill it, despite the fact that his contract was up for renewal. He continued to choose to fight small battles which had a high cost for the College in the public eye. He damaged the previously prestigious reputation of the College of William and Mary and constantly put his political agenda before his duty to maintain the quality of the school.

Because the BOV was able to keep meetings about the controversial president's career at the College private—something Mr. Nichol was never able to do, even regarding this incident—most students found this privacy unusual and have taken his public statement at face value. They have acted out just as irrationally.

It is irrational to believe everything a man who has just lost his job says about why he lost his job. Mr. Nichol's public statement, while passionate and successful in moving compassion within the hearts of many, simply cannot be considered objective. In fact, it contains numerous misleading passages which have been at the root of the student body's fury towards the BOV. First Mr. Nichol wrote, "I have made four decisions, or sets of decisions, during my tenure that have stirred ample controversy," implying that those four decisions correlate with the BOV's choice not to renew his contract, though in an interview with *The Washington Post* and at the BOV's public meeting last Friday, Rector Michael Powell cited different reasons from anything stipulated in Mr. Nichol's statement for the BOV's decision. Second, Mr. Nichol also insinuated that the BOV tried to bribe him to prevent him from giving us this information, blinding many business illiterate students (myself included) from realizing that, as Mr. Powell admitted, severance packages are customary when one loses his job—in both the corporate and academic world. Mr. Nichol, though, wrote, "Some members may have intended this as a gesture of generosity to ease my transition. But the stipulation of

mentorship made it seem like something else entirely. We, of course, rejected the offer. It would have required that I make statements I believe to be untrue and that I believe most would find non-credible." His language here paints himself as a martyr for free speech, which is perhaps why most people who buy into everything he says would be dismayed to learn that Mr. Nichol is dealing in propaganda and not fact.

It is even more irrational to act as if the words in that e-mail came from God himself. And some people have made that comparison. A professor of mine compared Mr. Nichol to the Good Shepherd, that is, Jesus Christ, and all those who opposed him to ravenous wolves trying to kill his sheep, the students. Another professor acknowledged that the student body had been impacted by Mr. Nichol's tragic fate in the same way we were impacted by September 11. Following that analogy, then, if Mr. Nichol's removal is like the death of over 3,000 innocent people, then those who wanted Mr. Nichol to be removed from the presidency of William and Mary are like the terrorists who enabled the crashing of planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

“ He continued to choose to fight small battles which had a high cost for the College in the public eye. ”

Scenarios such as these make students who don't support Mr. Nichol feel very unwelcome on this campus, in stark contrast to the professed goals of both the former president and his followers. In expressing how offended

I have been by people comparing Mr. Nichol to Christ, my fellow students have told me that I cannot let ideology enter into this debate. And yet, the sole reason students support Mr. Nichol is because of his ideologies which they feel have been persecuted. Again, the irrationality of my fellow students hits me with full force.

Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen's ('09) e-mail doesn't help, but rather illuminates the ignorance of the William and Mary student body on the matter. "Michael Powell's statement on the BOV's decision rings empty. He lauds President Nichol and claims that the decision was, 'not in any way based on ideology.' If that was true, why would the BOV feel the necessity to bribe President Nichol and his wife into silence? Attempted bribery is about as un-William and Mary as you can get. President Nichol took the principled decision in rejecting their offer. We have come to expect nothing less from him." To me it seems "un-William and Mary" for students to sacrifice their education to blindly follow a capricious old man, mimicking his example by wearing neon yellow t-shirts printed with empty threats. To me it is "un-William and Mary" to desecrate some of the school's oldest and most important buildings in an attempt to undermine those trying to lead our College out of its current state of chaos.

It was almost a year and a half ago that Mr. Nichol removed a cross from the altar of a chapel. And now, he has made every attempt to place himself back on one. As an English major, I would be more appreciative of the poetry of the event if I were not so offended as a Christian and as a student of the College of William and Mary. Over the past few weeks, I have observed the student body and the faculty substituting a false god for the true, melting the gold cross into the golden calf of Mr. Nichol's greatness. If Mr. Nichol is the messiah of the College, I fear that during his tenure the quality of our school has suffered greater damage than I realized.

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# Introducing the new president...

## Former Dean of Law School seeks to continue progress of College

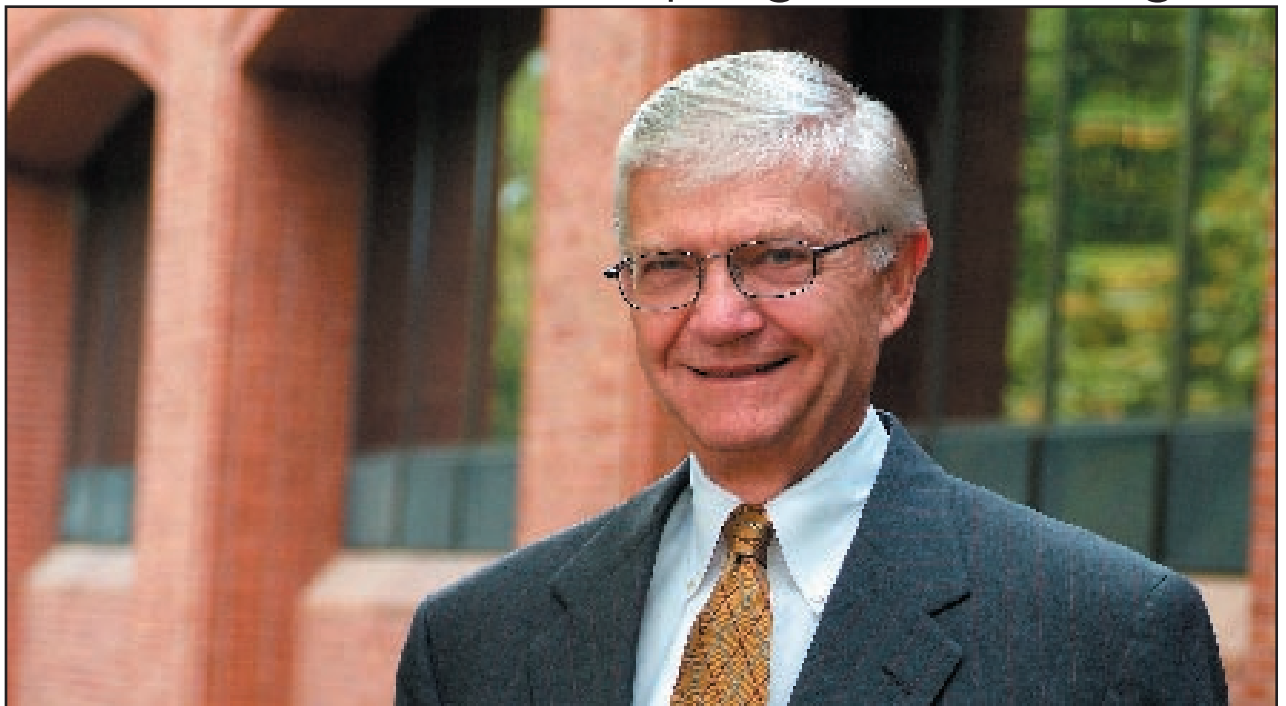
**Nick Fitzgerald**  
Executive Editor

W. Taylor Reveley III is the new president of the College of William and Mary. Although Mr. Reveley is only scheduled to act in this position for the next 12 to 18 months, in an e-mail to campus on February 12 he promised to “serve this marvelous College as best I can. Listening and learning will be crucial for me in the weeks to come. I have begun meeting with our extraordinary faculty and students, deeply committed staff, and stalwart alumni. I look forward to many more conversations in the days and weeks to come.”

Part of his service, Mr. Reveley said, is to continue “progress of the College...[in] our commitment to William and Mary as a place for students, faculty and staff of great diversity. Important also are the College’s welcome and support for students regardless of means....And William and Mary’s historic commitment to the civic involvement of its people is central to our identity. These are College values of great importance. They are also my values,” he said. This statement comes in the face of many student and faculty concerns that the new president will not have any interest in continuing the progressive posturing of former President Gene Nichol, particularly such programs as Gateway William and Mary.

Before being appointed president, Mr. Reveley had served as dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law since 1998. Before that, he worked for 28 years in the Richmond law firm Hunton & Williams, and was a partner in that firm for nine of those years. Mr. Reveley also directed Hunton & Williams’ energy and telecommunications team.

Mr. Reveley has asserted he has no interest in making his new position permanent. “I am interim, acting, temporary,” he said in a statement. “And I think that’s important for me to be the most effective in this role. I am here to help the College during this time of transition but I will be happy to return to my job at the nation’s oldest law school.”



University Relations

**No intentions to stay:** Reveley has voiced his position that he views his term as nothing but temporary.

### Reveley addresses College

**“The College’s immediate needs are continuity, healing, and renewed progress. Continuity -- we need to finish this academic year in good order. Healing -- we need to come together again in restored community, all of us, Board, faculty, student, staff, alumni, friends. And we need show new and vibrant signs of moving powerfully into the 21st century. along with you and the rest of the W&M community, I’m working hard, indeed doggedly hard, to move us in these directions. Together, I have steely confidence we’ll get there.”**

### Montpellier program forced to close due to low interest

**Aimee Forsythe**  
Staff Writer

Each summer, William and Mary faculty lead summer study abroad programs for which students apply by February 1. For the past eight years that Guru Ghosh has been the director of Global Education, he has never seen a program canceled because of low numbers. This year, however, two programs—one in Montpellier, France, and another in Morelia, Mexico—had low applicant turnout, which caused their deadlines to be extended until February 15. Even with the deadline extension, the Montpellier program was not able to get the number of applicants needed to take place this summer and was ultimately canceled.

In order to cover costs, each program needs at least ten to twelve students to go. Originally, eight applied for the Morelia program and only three for the Montpellier program. With the extension period, three more applied for the Morelia program and, therefore, it will be able to be held this summer. The Montpellier program, which has been running for close to 30 years, was not able to get enough applicants and had to be canceled for this summer. Mr. Ghosh says that they plan to offer the Montpellier program again next summer. The deadlines cannot be pushed back farther as the Reeves Center has partnerships with various universities and must make arrangements with them in order for the programs to occur.

Several possibilities might explain the low numbers. One is that financially, it may not be a possibility for students as the dollar is weak compared with the Euro,



Courtesy Nick Hoelker

**A first:** Due to the success of some programs in India and Morocco the Montpellier, France program is the first in eight years canceled due to low numbers.

and the local economy is not as strong. Mr. Ghosh points out that last year there were around 80 to 85 applicants for scholarship money, whereas the number has jumped to 120 this year. Each year, the Global Studies department has about \$120,000 to give in scholarships, \$80,000-120,000 of which usually goes to students in summer programs.

Other possibilities could be that with the growing number of programs offered, like the new South African and Morocco programs, people who may have possibly considered Montpellier or Morelia chose different programs. While numbers for some trips are low this year, overall, the center has grown with close to 280 applicants for this summer compared with 150 applicants eight years ago.

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### Drink of the Week

## B-52



Ian R. Whiteside

¼ oz Kahlua, ¼ oz Amaretto,  
¼ oz Irish Cream, ¼ oz Cointreau

**Directions:** Pour ingredients into a shot glass and serve. If you want to be fancy for that special someone, layer the liqueurs in the order listed by slowly pouring each over the back of a spoon.

**Taste:** Like an orange truffle. Goes down smooth.

**Substitutions:** The Cointreau can be replaced with triple sec, but layering may be more difficult. Do not use orange vodka as its flavor is too weak.

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