

Volume 3
Issue 7
January 30, 2008
Established 2005

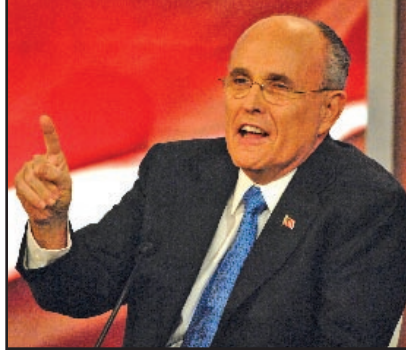
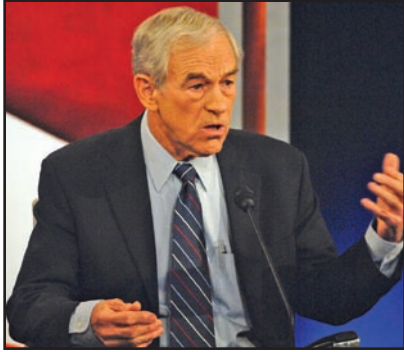
THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

www.VAInformer.com

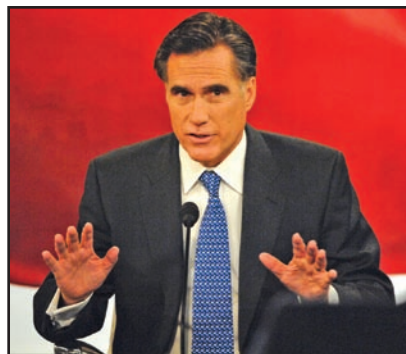
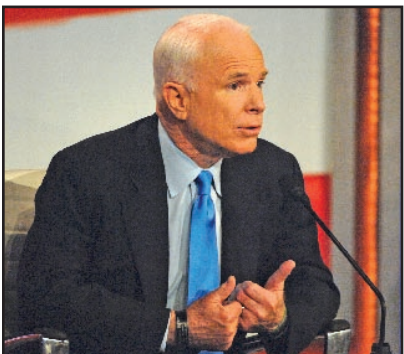
An independent publication at the College of William and Mary.

The common sense paper of record on campus.

Life on the campaign trail



Exclusive nationwide coverage of presidential race
Pages 6 and 7



Used with permission - ABC News/Facebook/WMUR

College lobbies city to deny student availability for proposed condos

Stephanie Long
News Editor

Reed Nestor, planning director for the City of Williamsburg, has complied with a request from Michael Fox, the assistant to President Gene Nichol, that the city make the condos being built on South Henry Street near the William and Mary law school owner-occupied, preventing law students and others who may desire to rent the condos from doing so.

Despite the College's previous endeavors to make the city of Williamsburg more student-friendly by recent attempts to help the student body receive more voting rights and opposing the three-person-to-a-house rule, their recent request prevents students from renting the condos, who, otherwise, might be interested. University Relations representative Brian Whitson, though, maintained that the condos would be "starting in the neighborhood of \$800,000 to \$1 million, so I'm not sure these would have been rentable or attractive to the typical student." That does not address, however, a student who would be able to rent the condos, and the purchasing price mentioned says nothing of what yearly rent for the condos would be.

Since reviewing the issue at their meeting on January 10, the city council has approved the condos as owner occupied, according to Mr. Whitson.

Now, the College is focusing on the need for the new condos to have the same appearance as William and Mary's buildings. Mr. Whitson said, "What the College and law school want to make sure is that this

development, given its proximity to the law school, which just finished an extensive renovation and expansion, is well maintained and landscaped and blends well with the harmony of that downtown district."

It is likely that this request will also be upheld, as public notice from the Williamsburg Planning Commission meeting on January 16 clarified transitional screening requirements in the William and Mary district, to keep landscaping in that area in accord with that of the College.

Funding the Sex Workers' Art Show

Behind the money and politics

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

The Sex Workers' Art Show (SWAS) has been a controversial topic on campus over the past three years. The controversy has sparked discussions in a variety of media, including newspaper columns, Facebook groups and through conversations both behind closed doors and in the proverbial public square.

Amidst the conversation, however, people on both sides seem uninformed regarding the details of how SWAS actually comes to campus to perform. There are monetary, budgetary and political considerations involved in bringing such an event to William and Mary. To understand the student-administered budget process and its politics is to have a better understanding of how and why the show has been approved for a third consecutive year.

The Board of Visitors approves all university funding, which includes the student affairs budget. Within that budget is a breakdown of student activities fees, which are mandatory. The fee is set by the student government; it was \$86 this year.

The purpose of this fee is to provide funding to nearly all the independent, student-run organizations which apply for it. There are some exceptions; no money can be approved for religious devotional or partisan political activities.

This fee is events-based, in that funds are usually not applied toward simple operating expenses. It must be used for events or projects that are one-time and specific to the message of the organization.

An organization can appeal for access to these funds through a process administered by the Student Assembly. The SA president—currently Zach Pilchen ('09)—appoints a committee which hears appeals from student organizations who have created a budget, and who then have to justify their budget request to the committee. The committee deliberates upon these requests, combines and condenses them and then delivers its complete student organization budget to the president. The president then makes final adjustments and sends it along to the Senate Finance Committee. The Finance Committee reviews the

SEX WORKERS' ART SHOW:
continued on page twelve

Student charged with embezzlement

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

William and Mary student William McClain ('08) has been indicted on a charge of felony embezzlement for allegedly stealing \$5,000 from Students Serve, a student volunteer organization that provides grants to college students interested in performing service work around the country. The group receives no money from the College.

Mr. McClain was arrested on

January 18 but posted his \$3,000 bond. A police investigation is currently underway, and, in addition to legal consequences which have yet to play out, Mr. McClain will also face potential honor and judicial violations from each respective council, both of which are run by students.

In addition to having held the post of associate director of finance for Students Serve, Mr. McClain is also the vice president of the Beta Theta Pie fraternity.

This may prove problematic for the Honor Council, as several Betas hold positions thereon. When and if an Honor Council investigation occurs, several members may be forced to recuse themselves for fear of exhibiting partiality towards Mr. McClain. Angela Perkey ('09), the founder of Students Serve, could not be reached for comment before this issue went to print. According to reports in *The Daily Press* the alleged theft was reported on January 14.

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

CONTENTS

News.....	2
Features.....	5
Arts & Entertainment.....	8
Opinion.....	10

Nawab spices up
Indian buffet
Page 8



Sadler to retire at end of semester

Vice president for student affairs embodied College administration to students

Kristin Coyner
Staff Writer

As of July 1, 2008, Vice President for Student Affairs W. Samuel Sadler ('64, M. Ed. '71) will retire from his position at the College. Mr. Sadler has held this position for the past 19 years and over the course of nearly four decades has worked in some capacity for the school administration.

In all, Mr. Sadler's affiliation with the college has spanned five college presidents. It is his role as vice president for student affairs, however, that he truly began to embody the College administration to students, especially with the advent of the Internet as a medium for his biweekly communications.

In an e-mail sent out to students on January 15, the day of the retirement announcement, President Gene Nichol remarked on the intimate and unique relationship Mr. Sadler has with the College. Mr. Nichol also encouraged students in the same e-mail to send him

letters of appreciation on behalf of Mr. Sadler, which are to be compiled into a volume upon his retirement.

In the upcoming weeks, Mr. Sadler is to be absent from the campus, resulting from surgery on an undisclosed medical problem. On January 23, Mr. Nichol sent out another e-mail to students informing them that Mr. Sadler's surgery at Duke University had gone well. There is likely to be another five weeks or so before Mr. Sadler returns to campus to finish his term.

In the meantime, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Virginia Ambler has assumed all the duties held by Mr. Sadler in running the Division for Student Affairs. Students have been directed to her regarding any issues in Mr. Sadler's absence.

There are a number of vice president positions in the College's administration, six in total, all of which are subordinate to Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss. Mr. Feiss is the chief academic and financial officer

at the school and reports directly to the president.

The vice president of student affairs oversees all issues pertaining to the management of the Division of Student Affairs. According to the Web site for student affairs, responsibilities include "general student counseling, multicultural students, services for disabled and commuting students, student rights and responsibilities, organizations and activities, student government, the judicial system, the University Centers, student residences, student health and counseling needs." The vice president for student affairs often acts as the chief mediator between the administration and the entire student body.

Also announced in Mr. Nichol's January 15 e-mail was the formation of a committee for the purpose of selecting a replacement. Chancellor Professor of Government Clay Clemens was noted to have accepted the position of chairing

this committee which will choose Mr. Sadler's successor.

Mr. Nichol stated that "I've asked him [Mr. Clemens] and the students, faculty, staff, and alumni who will comprise his committee to recommend a candidate to me who could be in place by July 1." When contacted, however, Mr. Clemens seemed unable to comment on who exactly these students, faculty, staff and alumni are, and whom Mr. Nichol purported to have contacted. Clemens stated that "at this point I can not honestly answer... as the committee is still being set up."

Mr. Clemens also failed to comment on a question regarding the necessity of a committee for Mr. Sadler's replacement, as it is regarded that Ms. Ambler is likely to receive the position regardless as shown from her current and past experiences filling in for her boss. To this, Mr. Clemens simply stated that "Ginger Ambler is acting vice president during the time of Sam Sadler's medical leave."



File Photo
SADLER

Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor

Republican Rob Wittman wins for Congress

In a special election held in December 2007, Rob Wittman (R) defeated Phil Forgit (D) to become the representative to the US Congress for the first district of Virginia of which the College is a part. The seat was vacated when longtime Congresswoman JoAnn Davis (R) passed away after a difficult battle with cancer.



Wittman for Congress
WITTMAN

Kiplinger's ranks College no. 4 in "best value"

According to the latest college rankings released in *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine*, the College is fourth in the publication's annual "100 Best Values in Public Colleges." The list examines several factors, including available need-based scholarships, costs and quality of education to determine which schools in the country qualify as the "best value in public education." The College has consistently scored highly on the list, being named third best value last year, and fourth best value the year before, according to University Relations. Out

of all schools in Virginia, only the University of Virginia ranked higher than the College on this year's listings.

Board of Visitors to meet prior to Charter Day ceremonies

The College's Board of Visitor will be holding one of their regularly-scheduled meetings during the days leading up to this year's Charter Day celebrations. During the meeting, it is expected that the members of the Board will discuss Gene Nichol's tenure as President of the College, although it is not known whether or not the BOV will make a final decision on what course of action to take regarding his contract. As of press time, no information had been received on other topics the Board of Visitors hopes to cover.

William & Mary Receives \$1.5 million for environmental policy programs

The Andrew Mellon Foundation, which gives grants to educational institutions based on "core areas" such as conservation, the performing arts and information technology research, awarded the College's Environmental Science and Policy Program \$1.5 million in order to establish a Center for Geo-spatial Analysis (CGA) as well as to create a post-doctorate program in environmental science. The creation of the CGA is one of the first in the country for an institution of the College's size, and access to this center will benefit research in all disciplines, according to Carl Strikwerda,

dean of arts and sciences. The post-doctorate program will have similar benefits in giving scholars with new PhDs the chance to engage in research. The grant stipulates that the College must raise \$1.6 million on its own to help pay for the new programs, which will come from private donors who "are eager to see their resources support the role the College can play in our collective understanding of environmental concerns," according to University Relations.

James Comey ('82) to speak at Charter Day ceremony



University Relations
COMEY

Former US Deputy Attorney General James Comey ('82) will be the speaker at the College's Charter Day ceremony, which will mark the 315th anniversary of the handing down of the Royal Charter which originally established the College of William and Mary. He was chosen because he, in the words of President Gene Nichol, "exemplifies our cherished ideal of the citizen-lawyer." Mr. Comey graduated with a double-major in chemistry and religion in 1982, and embarked on a legal career that took him to New York, where he served as the US attorney before being named the deputy attorney general in 2003. He will be given an honorary doctor of laws degree at the ceremony, his second such degree since earning his first JD at the University of Chicago in 1985.

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

Established 2005

Founders

Joe Luppino-Esposito & Amanda Yasenchak

January 30, 2008
Volume 3 Issue 7

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

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

Editorial Board

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

Mission Statement

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

Online Editor, Nick Hoelker

Photography/Graphics Staff

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

Copy Staff

Virginia Lynn Butler • Amber L. Forehand • Annie Hughes
Kelsey Powell • Sara Roux • Beth Zagrobelsky

Layout Staff

Chris Davis, **Design Editor**
Mike Crump • Sam McVane • Kelsey Powell
Rachel Rudebusch

Business Staff

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

Contributors

Adam Boltik • Kristin Coyner • Mike Crump • Aimee Forsythe
Jacob Hill • Michelle Ju • John R. Kennedy • Ian A. Kirkpatrick
Boris Kiselev • Megan Locke • Sarah Nadler • Matt Pinsker • Joe Pirro
Rachel Rudebusch • Swetha Sirvaram • Jennifer Souers • Ilsa Tinkelman

Logo Committee to choose new mascot

More information is released about why replacement for feathers was not chosen

Chris Davis

Layout Editor

Preparing to embark on what has been called the “next great adventure” by Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler, the Logo Committee—which came under fire last semester for unveiling what most students considered to be a poorly devised, substandard and altogether uninspiring logo—will soon fulfill the other charge given it by President Nichol: to decide on a school mascot.

Headed by Athletics Director Terry Driscoll, the committee wants to include the entire student body in its decision to maximize the number of people satisfied with the final product.

“People need to feel they have input,

which is why we need to first implement a process to get the mascot chosen,” Mr. Driscoll said. “We want the mascot to reflect what most people want.”

According to alumni representative Nancy Matthews ('76), the committee said “yes and yes again” last semester when deciding whether they wanted to pursue choosing a mascot. They plan to hold their first meeting regarding the mascot in the coming weeks.

The impending search comes a few months after the release of the new school logo designed by the committee, which, not to be confused with the athletics logo, only sought to update the official College logo. The committee avoided creating a replacement for the feathers, since changing the school's

nickname—the “Tribe”—was not an option and because adding another feather-like symbol, a quill, for example, could have put the athletes' postseason hopes in jeopardy with the NCAA.

Instead, the committee decided to highlight the non-controversial aspect of the old logo.

“The ampersand distinguished us from other schools, so we concentrated on that and the letters with our new logo,” Ms. Matthews said.

If all goes according to plan, the new logo will be ready for use the first of July and will be seen on players' uniforms next year. The mascot will follow shortly.



University Relations

A slight revamping: The new logo emphasizes the distinct ampersand.

Kaine makes reduction in College budget permanent

College expected to “lose ground relative to peer institutions”

Kristin Coyner

Staff Writer

This past December, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine (D) released his administration's proposed 2008-2010 biennial budget for the state. In Virginia, the General Assembly adopts a two year budget each evenly numbered year. In the present budget proposal, there are a number of pertinent changes which, if approved, would greatly affect the future of the College.

Significantly, Mr. Kaine's budgetary request calls for a continuation of the \$3 million reduction in spending that the College implemented last year for the current budget period spanning up to June 30, 2008. This initial spending reduction was enacted in response to a \$641 million shortfall in the state's general fund, and represented some 6.25% of state funding to the College. The cut was announced this past fall in conjunction with similar measures taken across the state toward spending reductions totaling some \$300 million. This permanent \$3 million reduction in the school's base budget may be partially offset by an accompanying \$559,000 in general funds applied toward school operations. In effect, funding for the school would be reduced by about \$2.5 million over 2008-2010.

Additionally, the salaries for faculty and staff are not proposed to increase until fiscal year 2009-2010, and at that time by a rate of 3%. The administration has expressed some angst about the ability of the school to remain competitive, as during this time other institutions of higher learning will be increasing faculty pay each year. In a memo sent shortly after the proposal was announced, Vice President for Finance

Samuel Jones asserted that “faculty salaries nationally will increase by 3.2 percent annually over this period; the College would expect to lose ground relative to its peer institutions.”

Mr. Kaine has also proposed a \$1.65 billion bond package for higher education across the state. If this is approved, it would fund close to \$100 million in capital projects for the College. These include full funding for constructing the new school of education, support for the planning and building of Phase III of the Integrated Science Center (ISC), outfitting the ISC with equipment and furnishings as well as general funding for maintenance and renovation projects.

This General Obligation Bond must first be passed by the Virginia General Assembly and then put to general referendum this upcoming election day. Other four-year institutions in Virginia would receive funding similar to that of William and Mary, with UVA proposed to receive \$115.5 million and Virginia Tech \$117.9 million.

Other key elements of the governor's budget include an increase in financial aid and support for new school facilities to come on-line, specifically the new Integrated Science Building. The

Virginia Institute of Marine Science would also adjust to a permanent budget reduction, totaling approximately \$1 million. An approved General Obligation Bond would allocate \$5.4 million for capital projects at VIMS.

It remains to be seen whether the General Assembly will approve the General Obligation Bond which would then be placed to referendum in the general election. Ultimately, approval of this bond measure would entail that the state accumulate more debt, of which there is some concern over the ability to repay. Undoubtedly, however, all of the governor's budget proposal will undergo scrutiny, if not change in the state legislature. Many elected officials have expressed concern over the proposals for hundreds of millions of dollars in new spending which have been proposed to be paid for through use of the Commonwealth's savings account and transportation funds.

TLSC targets intimidation in College workplace

Steven Nelson

Features Editor

The Tidewater Labor Support Committee (TLSC) hosted an event aimed at increasing awareness of intimidation in the workplace on Thursday, January 24.

The well attended program featured a showing of the film *At the river I stand*, which documents the Memphis sanitation workers' strike in 1968, during which Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated.

Following the film, which highlighted the sanitation workers' hard-won victory, a local union organizer spoke.

The local organizer lamented that she had no workers who were willing to come address the group, saying they were afraid to lose their jobs if they spoke out.

The organizer, herself a former employee at the College, listed various past incidents which have not and cannot be addressed without collective bargaining at the College. Grievances range from unjustified firings, to preferential treatment by managers, to inflexible treatment of sick employees.

The TLSC has been petitioning President Gene Nichol to sign right to organize paperwork for the College's employees for some time. In the state of Virginia the right to collectively bargain with employers is not recognized.

Also addressed at the event were concerns that of the 200 or so “temp” workers employed by William and Mary are being paid below what is said to be the College's self-imposed minimum wage of \$9.00 an hour.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE
TO LIVE NEXT YEAR?



WHY NOT COLLEGE HOUSING!
ROOM SELECTION 2008

*The \$200 Non-refundable Room
Reservation Deposit for the 2008-2009
Academic Year is now being accepted.
Deposits are due by 5:00pm on Friday,
February 22, 2008.*

Pay at the Cashiers Window,
Blow Hall (8:00a.m.—5:00p.m.)
Cash, check or money orders only.

Live in CW

Are you a rising senior interested in living in
Colonial Williamsburg during the 2008-2009 academic year?
Applications are due Friday, February 8, 2008 in
Residence Life, Campus Center 212. For more
information go to
www.wm.edu/reslife/residenceHalls/cwhouse.php



Senate begins 2008 session



Alec McKinley

I'm Just a Bill: Bills discussed by the SA Senate in their 2008 opening meeting include the "Protect the Freedom of Speech Act," "Closing the Gun Show Loophole Act" and "The Student Input on Gene Nichol Referendum Act."

Swetha Sivaram
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, January 22, the Senate held its first meeting of the semester. Several bills were discussed at the meeting, including the "Protect the Freedom of Speech Act" which was up for a veto override vote. This bill would reprimand students who vandalized and picked up multiple copies of student newspapers after a number of vandalism incidents were reported by *The Flat Hat* and *The Virginia Informer*. The bill was intended as a reminder to students to not destroy or take many copies of campus publications, which may result in a disciplinary hearing and even a police report. Senators debated whether this reminder was necessary or was patronizing to the students. Senator Walter

McClellan ('09) commented that "I pretty much think it is a dead issue. It's been delayed so long that we can drop it." Some pointed out that the newspapers did not have any new incidents of vandalism yet, while others cautioned that the school year is just beginning. The bill did not pass; although the vote was 10-7 in favor. In order for the Senate to override President Pilchen's veto, 75 percent of present senators would have needed to vote in favor.

"Steer Clear," a student organization dedicated to reducing drunk driving, made a presentation to regain funding for the program, which has since been discontinued. The costs include salaries for the drivers, who will be paid \$8 per hour. In all, the request is for \$1,842 dollars.

The "Closing the Gun Show Loophole Act" was passed 15-0-1 by the Senate. This bill, proposed by Senators Devan Barber ('08),

Michael Douglass ('11) and Brittany Fallon ('11) is intended to persuade the General Assembly to close the loophole that would allow the sale of firearms without background checks. Senators arguing for the bill cited the easy accessibility of background checks. The bill was voted down in the General Assembly the next day.

The last and the most controversial bill was the "The Student Input on Gene Nichol (S.I.G.N.) Referendum Act," a set of propositions that reflected opinion and student input on Gene Nichol, worded as neutrally as possible. It was hotly debated as to whether the bill was in the province of the Student Assembly, and whether the Student Assembly should be as neutral as possible. The referendum vote passed 15-0, with one abstention.

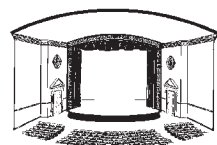
SA Executive opens for spring semester

Goals include 'spring service day' and voter registration efforts

Sarah Nadler
Staff Writer

With Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen ('09) at SCUBA class, Vice President Valerie Hopkins ('09) ran the January 22 executive meeting, the first of the new semester. The meeting was dominated by a report from Secretary of Student Life Liz Thomas ('09). Ms. Thomas has been active in planning a school-wide spring service day involving more than 75 local agencies. A full presentation on the service day was scheduled for the next meeting. Diversity Secretary Nimish Shukula ('08) shared plans for a forum on diversity and the annual Mosaic festival. The members of the cabinet were also enthusiastic about efforts in voter registration. Currently, 78 students are registering student voters and over 350 students have been registered to vote as a direct result of a \$15,000 program encouraging student registration in which recruiters are paid \$10 per voter.

Multiple secretaries complained of not being able to get in touch with their departments, that members have not been showing up to meetings and some meetings have failed to be scheduled. Chief of Staff David Husband ('09) confronted the situation and closed the meeting by saying, "It seems that some of you have well articulated missions, and others not. You need to look back to your comprehensive plan and see what you need to accomplish."



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Movies

Love in the Time of Cholera (R)
Wed., Jan. 30 - Fri., Feb. 1
6:30 and 9 p.m.

Wristcutters: A Love Story (R)
Wed., Jan. 30 - Wed., Feb. 6
7 and 8:45 p.m.

Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (R)
Sun., Feb. 3 - Fri., Feb. 8
6:45 and 9 p.m.

Bella (PG-13)
Fri., Feb. 8 - Wed., Feb. 13
7 and 8:45 p.m.

I'm Not There (R)
Sun., Feb. 10 - Thurs., Feb. 21
6:30 and 9 p.m.

Starting Out in the Evening (PG-13)
Mon., Feb. 18 - Sun., Feb. 24
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

War/Dance (PG-13)
Mon., Feb. 25 - Fri., Feb. 29
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

Southland Tales (R)
Mon., Feb. 25 - Sat., Mar. 1
6:30 and 9 p.m.

When the Movies Come to Town!
75 Years at the Williamsburg/Kimball Theatre - a festival of movie history

Thurs., Feb. 14 - Sun., Feb. 17

All screenings are free, but tickets are required

Feb. 14
Roman Holiday 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 15
The Shootist 3 p.m.
King Kong 6:30 p.m.
Rocky Horror Picture Show 10:30 p.m.

Feb. 16
Kids at the Movies and in the Movies
- clips and cartoons 10:30-11:30 a.m.
In the Heat of the Night 3:30 p.m.
Gone with the Wind 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 17
The Godfather 1:30 p.m.

February Schedule

Live Performances

The College of William and Mary's Botetourt Chamber Singers Gala Concert
Sat., Feb. 2 at 8 p.m.
All seats \$15

The Williamsburg Symphonia's Family Concert
Sun., Feb. 3 at 1:30 and 3 p.m.
All seats \$10

WTYD - Tide Radio's Skookum Music Series Dar Williams in Concert
Thurs., Feb. 7 at 8 p.m.
All seats \$30

Laughing Redhead Studio presents Clean Comedy Night
Featuring Bob Smiley and Mikey McClain
Sat., Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m.
\$12 in advance, \$15 day of show

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation presents An Evening With the Presidents: The Role of the Executive and the Bill of Rights
Sun., Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.
General admission \$12, Children under 6 \$5

The Kimball Theatre presents Xiayin Wang in Concert
Fri., Feb. 22 at 8 p.m.
General admission \$20, Seniors/Students \$18

Downloading the legal way: Ruckus offers free online music service for students

Megan Locke

Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Last spring, a dozen William and Mary students received letters threatening lawsuits from the Recording Industry Association of America. All were accused of illegally downloading music.

In light of these events, the Student Assembly began work on ensuring that students at the College have affordable legal options for downloading music and other types of entertainment. In December 2007, SA President Zach Pilchen sent out an e-mail notifying students that the College had finalized a partnership with Ruckus, an ad-supported digital entertainment service that offers free music and video downloads to college students.

William and Mary students can register with their William and Mary e-mail addresses at www.ruckus.com to begin using the service.

According to Chris Utah, director of subscriber acquisitions for Ruckus, the company is “the only online music discovery service that provides free downloads to college students.”

Unlike other online music providers that only offer free previews of songs and charge up to \$150 per year for subscription services, Ruckus allows students to download over three million different songs from both popular and indie music artists at no cost after registering at the site. The Ruckus Web site states that all downloads are “100% legal, virus-free and spyware-free.” Ruckus also recently added a free video download service for subscribers with



music videos, TV shows and films.

SA Senator Walter McClean ('09), chair of the Senate finance committee, has played a key role in bringing a Ruckus server to the campus and in promoting the service to students.

At first, Mr. McClean talked with SA members and many other students about their experiences with downloading music. After determining that Ruckus would be a valuable and useful service for students at the College, he contacted representatives from both Ruckus and the College's Information Technology department. Mr. McClean then facilitated communication between both sides in order for a contract to be worked out.

For the past few months, Mr. McClean has been actively working with Ruckus to publicize the service through Facebook, school-wide e-mails, and CSU flyers. Mr. Utah says that before promotional activities began in December 2007, there was not a single Ruckus user at the College. Now there are over 3,500 William and Mary subscribers on Ruckus, or about 47% of the College's total population. As of January 21, 2008, students at the College have downloaded a total of 894,357 songs from Ruckus.

Although Ruckus is actually open to any US college student with a valid .edu e-mail address, Mr. McClean says that William and Mary's partnership with Ruckus is beneficial because it includes a special server on campus that “increases download speed and reliability for William and Mary students.” This new internal server moves the substantial downloading by the College's

students on Ruckus to the campus's internal network, thus improving Internet speed for both Ruckus users and non-users on campus.

Mr. Utah believes that Ruckus is a good service for college students because “students don't generally have the money to pay for a new album or song just to see if they will like it, and with all of the legal action that the recording industry has been taking against college students, they are moving away from P2P and other illegal means of downloading.” Students can play the music they download through Ruckus on their computer, and for an optional fee of .79 to .99 cents per track, they can transfer the music to some MP3 players or burn their tracks to CDs. At the moment, Ruckus downloads are incompatible with Apple's iPods.

In the upcoming year, Ruckus plans to fix incompatibility issues with Macs.

More TV shows and full length movies will be added to the video download service. A new feature called “Match and Snatch” will be beta-tested at the College and four other schools affiliated with Ruckus. This feature will let Ruckus users view music recommendations and find members with similar musical preferences based on the music they have downloaded. Ruckus also continues to heavily promote its networking features through its “My Ruckus Music” application for Facebook. Ruckus users can post their top-ten lists, recently played tracks, and most played tracks on their profile, and check out their friends' favorite tracks as well.

Mr. McClean remains committed to promoting Ruckus at the College. “If we can push a service that means unlimited free music, and reduces the likelihood of William and Mary students being sued for thousands of dollars, I think it is someone's responsibility to encourage it,” he said.

Not just business as usual... BBA Director Chris Adkins chats with *The Informer*

Nick Fitzgerald

Executive Editor

Christopher P. Adkins is the director of the Bachelor's of Business Administration (BBA) program at the William and Mary Mason School of Business. He graduated from the College in 1995 with a double major in both philosophy and religion. He is also a 2001 graduate of Boston University, where he received an MA in philosophy.

“I was hired here as the assistant director of accounting programs, over both the masters of accounting and undergrad accounting programs. I applied right at the last minute—no accounting experience—but I looked at the job description, and it really doesn't have anything to do with accounting other than managing a budget. It's mostly student affairs, and it really parlayed my background of being in higher ed. They wanted someone who could do admissions, work with faculty, do advising and someone who had some understanding of technology and how to leverage that. I gave a presentation and they really liked it.”

At that time, Howard Busbee was the director of the business program. According to Mr. Adkins, he wanted to form a position solely for undergraduate and masters of accounting student advising. “He had someone else in mind, but ended up giving the position to me. I became the assistant director of student advising, and then associate director, and then, when Howard Busbee left, they made me director.”

In addition to providing administrative direction for the Mason School, Mr. Adkins teaches BUAD 300, a course entitled “Business Perspectives and Applications.” The class is primarily an examination of business ethics, and is part of the so-called “foundations” semester that all first-semester undergraduate business students must take as part of their starting core curriculum. “I love teaching [BUAD 300],” said Mr. Adkins, “I get to really know the

students both in the classroom and outside. I think it's tough to be an effective director without having the classroom experience. I am in the unique position that I get to teach every business major. I want to make the school of business feel more like William

and Mary, in the sense that the faculty-student connections were as strong as they could be—and to make sure that people could develop not just one side of themselves, but talents in multiple areas.”

Mr. Adkins also said that his degrees in philosophy—and, currently, his coursework in a PhD in education—have really shaped his teaching style in the ethics course. “I finished my coursework this year, I've not tried to rush through it. I wanted to do research and use my opportunities in the school of business to master thinking about new ways to teach business ethics—more of an education approach than a business approach,” he said. “One common theme for me, I'm curious as to how people think, the variety of ways that people understand the world, and ultimately how that derives the choices they make. I'm trying to make [BUAD 300] an integrative, connect-the-dots experience—building on each success. It's very unique, and you don't see many people in that sort of position where they are both teaching and administrating. I'm the only director in the business school who teaches a regular course, as I understand it.”

Mr. Adkins is also a music lover and self-taught musician.


He plays the harmonica and the guitar, and played in bands all throughout his college years. “I made several CDs with a band called River, mostly William and Mary guys. We used to play at venues in Richmond, DC and Charlottesville. I play mostly guitar

now.” He has also dabbled in zen flute and accordion.

Mr. Adkins has been married for nine years. He and his wife live in Williamsburg and have three boys, ages seven, five and three months.



University Relations
ADKINS



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

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

**Oven-Baked
Subs**

**Fresh-baked
NY Style pizza**

**Wi-Fi
available**

**We accept
W&M Express**

110 South Henry Street (757) 476-8999

The Informer covers '08 presidential campaign

From exclusive, insider coverage of the New Hampshire primary to a schoolhouse in Florida to the cold streets of



Matt Beato



Matt Beato

On the spot: Informer reporter Nick Hoelker asks tough questions to Rep. Tom Tancredo (top) and Sen. Lindsay Graham (bottom). Mr. Tancredo was a candidate for president but has since dropped out of the race.

Check out more exclusive photos online at www.VAInformer.com

A behind the scenes look at the campaigns in the "spin room"

Nick Hoelker
Opinion and Online Editor

On January 5, I had the opportunity to attend—as a full member of the press corps, representing *The Informer*—the joint-party presidential debate held in Manchester, NH, at St. Anselm College. The debate was sponsored by ABC News, Facebook and WMUR, and, of course, the who's who of the journalism world was ready and waiting. Walking into the press filing room, I was overwhelmed to see so many prominent journalists there. Reporters from all major newspapers, TV stations, magazines and political blogs were there. I sat between reporters from the *Detroit Free Press* and *Baltimore Sun* and watched them instant message other reporters through AIM and GTalk. I was also surprised to see that *The Virginia Informer* was the only campus newspaper at the debate outside of *The Saint Anselm Crier*.

Most of the journalists were watching the debate and chatting with other reporters fairly intensely, but they let out collective chuckles when Governor Mike Huckabee (R-AR) or Senator John McCain (R-AZ) chastised former Governor Mitt Romney (R-MA) for flip flopping.

After each debate, I went with the other journalists to the spin room where representatives from each campaign stood around and let reporters berate them with questions. It was quite a circus as the journalists were screaming over each other to try to get themselves heard. Amidst the craziness, I still managed to ask a few questions of: Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CA), representing Mr. Romney; Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), for Mr. McCain; former Rep. David Bonior (D-MI) and Democratic political operative Joe Trippi, both for former Senator John Edwards (D-NC); Bay Buchanan, brother of Pat Buchanan, for Mr. Romney; as well as presidential candidate Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), who was the

only candidate to enter the spin room. Governor Deval Patrick (D-MA), supporting Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), and Elizabeth Edwards, wife of Mr. Edwards, were escorted out of the room right before I had a chance to talk to them.

I asked Mr. Paul a question about whether or not he thought it was appropriate for the Wren cross to be displayed publicly. He answered that it shouldn't be a decision of the federal government, and added that he did not find the cross' original display to be a violation of the First Amendment.

Additionally, I asked Mr. Trippi—an advisor to Mr. Edwards, who also managed Howard Dean's presidential campaign in 2004—why the enthusiasm and youth vote that supported Mr. Dean in 2004 was going towards Mr. Obama this election. Mr. Trippi did not seem to believe this and proceeded to yell at me, citing obscure straw polls which depicted Mr. Edwards as doing well among younger voters.

I asked Mr. Graham (a former prisoner of war) about his stance on torture. Mr. Graham told me that opposes the government using "Inquisition methods" and that the United States should not stoop to the levels of our enemies.

I also asked Mr. Tancredo—as well as Ms. Buchanan—about his decision to endorse Mr. Romney. Mr. Tancredo explained that when he decided to drop out of the presidential race, he and Mr. Romney had an hour-long meeting discussing immigration. Apparently Mr. Romney's responses satisfied Mr. Tancredo, who then decided to endorse Mr. Romney for president.

Another fun part of the spin room was having other journalists come up to me to ask of which state Patrick was governor and who Lindsey Graham.

Overall, attending the debate was a great experience and it was very exciting to be surrounded by so many important media figures and politicians.

Chaos in the streets of Manchester

Steven Nelson
Features Editor

Following a long day of campaigning, some Republican volunteers watched the January 6 Fox News debate. A fair number of Ron Paul supporters did not, preferring to take to the streets of the then-media and -political epicenter of the nation, Manchester, New Hampshire, in protest.



Matt Beato

Disorderly conduct: Leading up to the primary, the streets of Manchester, NH, were crowded with demonstrators.

Protesters would soon learn that a restaurant, on the very intersection of the protest, was hosting Fox News pollster Frank Luntz's focus group, which was responding live to the debate which excluded Mr. Paul.

Within sight of Mr. Luntz and the camera crew, the increasingly excited protesters repeatedly chanted into the windows: "Tell us what to think Frank!" and "Ron Paul Revolution—legalize the Constitution."

Not long after the focus group's location was identified, so too was Fox anchor Sean Hannity, who had stopped by to thank the group's participants. As he left the restaurant, protesters reacted with cries of "there he is!" and "get him!"

The chaos which ensued would be captured on film and replayed on various cable news outlets.

Mr. Hannity, attempting a hasty return to his hotel, a few minutes' walk away, was pursued by an angry mob of 50 to 100 Paul supporters. Mob participants demanded that he attend mass, grant interviews and some even picked up snow from the ground and threw it in his direction.

I ran into Mr. Luntz the next evening as he was having a drink at the bar of the Radisson hotel with Newsweek columnist Jonathan Alter. I approached Mr. Luntz and inquired as to the reasoning behind the

seeming absence of mention to Ron Paul in his focus groups.

Mr. Luntz—an affable, though much criticized, figure—reacted surprisingly; he willingly continued the conversation, mentioning that he had no decision-making role in the Fox debate participants, and stating that he had, in fact, wanted to give some airtime to Paul supporters the night before.

Mr. Luntz shared his intention to allow Paul protestors, who were rallying outside of his focus group's location, ten minutes of airtime to express their viewpoints, in a plea to end their disruptive chanting.

The plan changed when a megaphone was put up to one window, causing substantive disruption to filming. The megaphone, unbeknownst to Mr. Luntz, was wielded not by a Ron Paul supporter, but by a man wearing a boot on his head: Republican presidential candidate Vermin Supreme, who would go on to crash John McCain's victory party.

Mr. Luntz furthermore expressed his opinion that Paul supporters were responsible for "shooting themselves in the foot" by sending Fox thousands of emails a day regarding Ron Paul. Mr. Luntz changed topics when asked whether he considered thousands of e-mails indicative of substantial support.

ntial kickoff mpshire debates f Manchester



Matt Beato



Matt Beato

Daring to ask: Though his exchange with candidate Rep. Ron Paul (top) went well, Nick Hoelker found a question to John Edwards' campaign manager Joe Trippi to be more confrontational than he had intended.



From outside the "revolution" looking in

Matthew Beato
Guest Contributor

I don't really fit in to any defined political category, so it was quite an experience stepping into the front lines of the so-called "Ron Paul Revolution" when I went up to New Hampshire for this month's primaries.

Most of the mainstream media dismisses Mr. Paul as a fringe candidate; not so with our volunteer group. For starters, the housing was arranged by Operation Live Free or Die; this was a PAC set up by Vijay Boyapati, an engineer who quit his cushy job at Google to move to New Hampshire and volunteer full time for Mr. Paul. Mr. Boyapati was more than happy to provide us housing. It's worth noting that no other campaign which I looked into provided us free housing.

Mr. Paul's supporters are an eclectic, die-hard group. In our housing, Nick Hoelker and I met virtually every type of person, to an 80-year-old retired businessman, to two 32-year-old married parents who homeschool their children, to a 42-year-old man who had run for Congress, to a 25-year-old real estate agent, to a preacher who gave a long evangelistic lecture to Nick about the meaning of Christianity. The group ranged from atheist to born-again Christian, from long haired hippie to three-piece suit businessman and from pre-teenager to senior citizen.

While Mr. Paul's supporters were diverse in many aspects, there were a few similarities. The group was overwhelmingly male, educated and white, something which is a well-documented phenomena among Paul supporters. Second, the group was united in its belief in libertarian ideology. The group (although not necessarily Nick and I) was united in their beliefs against the Iraq War, against the Federal Reserve, against the IRS, UN, Department of Education and most other elements of the federal bureaucracy. There were some areas of disagreement—abortion and immigration, for example—but few seemed to prevent those from uniting on behalf of Mr. Paul.



Steven Nelson

Footsoldier of the revolution: Matt Beato tries to blend in with the Ron Paul crowd.

His campaigners did many of the same things that other campaigns did, including phone banking, sign waving and canvassing. But Mr. Paul's campaigners also did things that no other Republicans would do, including massive, spontaneous protests. Spontaneity was the name of the game the entire week—there was little to no direction from a central source. This had its advantages, but it oftentimes left people sitting around with no idea what to do. Still, the idea of not centralizing power fits perfectly in with Mr. Paul's libertarian message.

I was interviewed by an Internet TV network on primary day, and was asked for whom I would vote in the Virginia primary. I said I still wasn't 100% sure, which shocked the interviewer. "I thought all Paul supporters were die-hards!" he exclaimed.

However, few others in the Paul campaign seemed to share my view. Indeed, even as Mr. Paul finished a disappointing fifth in New Hampshire, few of his supporters seemed to care. As Nick and I left New Hampshire, we realized it wasn't necessarily about Mr. Paul himself—it was about libertarian principles, which Mr. Paul's die-hard supporters will ensure live on well beyond this election.

Giuliani pushes big proposals in the Sunshine State



Andrew B. Blasi

The view from Florida: Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani proposed a major tax cut.

Andrew B. Blasi
Business Editor

On January 11, *The Virginia Informer* was granted an inside look into one of former Mayor Rudy Giuliani's campaign stops in Florida. Visiting a municipal charter school in Coral Springs, FL, Mr. Giuliani unveiled several large initiatives, hoping to capture support for the state's primary which took place on January 29. These proposals included a new voucher system for America's schools, a major reform of the federal tax code and a stronger foreign policy stance towards nations who harbor terrorism, including Pakistan.

Mr. Giuliani's proposed voucher system is a reflection of his strong belief in school choice, and, taking advantage of his presence within a charter school, was the largest theme of his discussion. Mr. Giuliani stated, "This charter school is a model example of how school choice can

produce great results for so many students who would otherwise receive a poorer quality of education." Upon completing his discussion of education reform, the mayor revealed a new tax proposal that he dubbed "the largest tax cut in American history that would put trillions of dollars back in the pockets of Americans." Along with this plan, Mr. Giuliani unveiled a 1040 "Fast Form" which would allow Americans to file all of their federal taxes on one page.

Mr. Giuliani finished his discussion by talking about the dangers that Islamic fundamentalism poses to the United States, as well as the great responsibility of the federal government to protect the American people. Following this discussion, the mayor fielded several questions from members of the audience concerning such topics as immigration, US foreign policy and the proposed National Catastrophic Fund, all of which are very important subjects to Floridians.

In what was perhaps the most poignant event during the campaign stop, Mr. Giuliani decided to field his final question from a handicapped charter school student who wanted to know where he stood on the subject of stem cell research. Responding to the girl's question, Mr. Giuliani stated that he believed it was an important area that the federal government should support so long as it does not involve the destruction of embryonic stem cells. Breaking down into tears, the girl responded, "This is such an important issue that affects real people...its not just politics...but real people." Without hesitation, Mr. Giuliani and his wife moved offstage to hug the student and assure her that they were going to do whatever they could to help her and fund the research of medical cures.

Swarmed with photographers and cameras, this interaction was the final component before Mr. Giuliani exited the school.

The College's top upcoming events, in brief

Michelle Ju
Staff Writer

B.J. Novak Stand Up February 1, 8 pm, PBK Hall

On Friday, February 1 at 8 pm, UCAB presents **BJ Novak**, a stand-up comedian, actor and supervising writer and producer of NBC's *The Office* at Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall. Recognized for his roles as a temp on *The Office* and for improvisational cameos on MTV's prank celebrity show *Punk'd*, BJ is a quirky, off-beat comic hit with real writing chops, and was recently named one of *Variety's* "Ten Comics to Watch." Student tickets are \$10 if purchased in advance and \$12 on the day of the show.



NBC/Mitchell Haaseb

Botetourt Chamber Singers February 2, 8 pm, Kimball Theatre

The **Botetourt Chamber Singers** (or "Bots," as they are affectionately known), will be giving their gala performance at the Kimball Theatre on Saturday, February 2, at 8 pm. To get tickets, call the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation at 1-800-HISTORY, and for a preview, visit the group online at <http://www.wm.edu/so/botetoursingers/music.html>.

Charter Day Concert February 9, 9 pm, UC Chesapeake

Indie rock band **MAE** is set to perform on Charter Day, Saturday, February 9 at 9 pm in the UC Chesapeake. Currently on tour with Anberlin, Motion City Soundtrack and Metro Station, the Virginia Beach-native quintet is known for their complex musicianship and



Courtesy MAE

beautifully written, riveting tracks. Tickets cost \$5 with a student ID and are \$15 for the public.

Delicious Indian Food... for the first time in my life!

Matt Pinkster
Food Critic

I had often heard a lot of positive buzz about an Indian restaurant called Nawab next to Big Lots on Monticello Road. Friends of mine had been raving about their lunch buffet, so I decided to see if it was any good.

Upon entering, I was surprised to see just how elegantly the place had been decorated. The tables were all covered with clean white linens, a beautiful mural of the Taj Mahal graced the rear wall, and the restaurant was softly lit by hanging chandeliers. Classical Indian music (not that new Bollywood junk) was playing softly in the background.

A polite and well dressed waiter took me to my table, from whence I proceeded to go to check out their buffet. With two double sided units (one hot and one cold), their buffet is much smaller than the Mongolian barbeque, a popular Chinese buffet next to K-Mart, but the food still looked very appetizing. I returned to the table after filling up a good sized plate, and proceeded to try some of everything. The chicken and beef dishes were all very delicious, and were served at just the right temperatures. Nor did the food have that fried and greasy feeling Chinese food often has. Whole chunks of meat were used, rather than the skimpy shredded bits that one finds elsewhere. Also, none of the food was over salted, as happens when our cafeterias on campus try to serve ethnic foods. All of the dishes mixed very well with rice on my plate, and although many of the dishes looked similar in appearance, they each had their



Matt Pinkster

Nawab satisfies: Both the selection and service satisfied Pinkster.

own distinct and very delicious flavor.

There were plenty of dishes with meat, but there were just as many, if not more, vegetarian dishes available, making this a great site for vegans and vegetarians. What I may have enjoyed the most was the Indian flat bread, which complimented all of the hot dishes. Many of my friends who have lived in Asia have complained that you cannot get descent flatbread in Williamsburg; I highly recommend that they try Nawab's to see whether it holds up to the kind they are used to.

The cold buffet unit included two types of house salads, mixed freshly sliced fruits and a couple of homemade sauces, as well as the desserts. My only complaint

was the lack of dessert options available. The wait staff did a good job of clearing my dishes promptly and keeping my water glass filled. If you're not a buffet person, Nawab also has an a la carte menu, but unless you're interested in their mixed drinks I can't imagine why you'd even bother opening it.

I have never cared for Indian food before, but I enjoyed my meal immensely and highly recommend Nawab for almost any occasion. The buffet price of \$9.85 did seem a little high for lunch, but the quality made it worth it. I left feeling very good about my health, something one can rarely claim when walking out of an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Students cultivate their need for speed reading

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

Daniel Byler, a junior and a Government and Economics major at the College, decided before he came to William and Mary that he wanted to become a more efficient reader. Knowing that he was going to be short on time with varsity swimming, he taught himself Evelyn Wood's speed reading technique using a book by Peter Kump. The book proved successful for him, and so last spring he decided to teach a pilot course here at William and Mary to see if it would help other students as well. He recruited twenty-five people he knew, and, at the end of last spring, everyone had doubled their reading speed with an average improvement rate of 400%.

After the success of his pilot class, Mr. Byler taught another speed reading

class last fall, expanding the program to include 100 students. Again, like his spring class, it was extremely successful; every student's reading rate doubled at least, and, again, with an average improvement rate of 400%. To test students' reading rate, students read for two minutes from reading material of their choice, reading at a comfortable rate to see how far they got. Students were also asked to recall facts from their two minute read to measure their recall ability.

The club is taught by Mr. Byler, who is assisted by four TAs, all of whom were students in his first class last spring. There are ten to 11 weekly classes in a semester where drills are taught and practiced. Students practice these drills on their own and fill out sheets that are then processed by TAs to determine students' progress. The course teaches six different ways to

read, from which students can then choose to use to facilitate their own reading.

To participate in the club, there is a \$25 flat fee that covers overhead costs and pays the TAs. Mr. Byler, however, teaches the class completely for free. He also has integrated a commitment fee system into the club. After the first few classes, if one decides to commit to the class, he can pay \$40 dollars, five of which he will get back for every class he attends. After attending eight classes, one would receive the full \$40 back. However, if one misses a class, \$5 goes directly to the Rita Walsh Literacy Fund.

While there was a waiting list for the class last semester, there is still room available in this semester's class. Mr. Byler notes that this may be the last semester that the class is taught. The club is open to all William and Mary students. If interested, contact Daniel Byler.

Are all the post-holiday sales really worth it?

If December is the month of holiday shopping, then January is definitely the month of holiday sales. This time of year, it seems that every store is having their holiday clearance, New Year blowout, or semi-annual sale. Are these sales really good opportunities, or are they simply ways for stores to clear out seasonal merchandise no one else wanted in order to increase their profits? In truth, it's a little of both.

There is no denying the fact that retail sales were down in December 2007, due to a combination of economic factors. Retailers have reported sales slumping anywhere from 5 to 10% from previous years during the holiday season. For this reason, post-holiday sales become very important as companies try to make up for their losses with attractive clearances and discounts. So what does this mean for the consumer? More merchandise, better selections and bigger discounts.

Post-season sales are an excellent time to redeem those gift cards you might have gotten over the holidays. With clothing and other big items marked down, that certificate will go a lot farther than they will later on in the year, and unlike holiday sales (which usually look picked over) 2008's post-holiday sales have more products from which to choose, so finding the right size or color should not be as difficult.



Jennifer Souers
The Finer Side

This is also a great time to do necessary mid-year shopping. If you can wait through the holiday season to get those sweaters to stay warm, or those binders to stay organized, you can end up saving yourself a lot of money on items you would have purchased anyway!

Sales are also a great time to stock up on gifts or decorations for next holiday season. If you need new Christmas lights, holiday cards or gift wrap, and have the space to store them, you won't find better

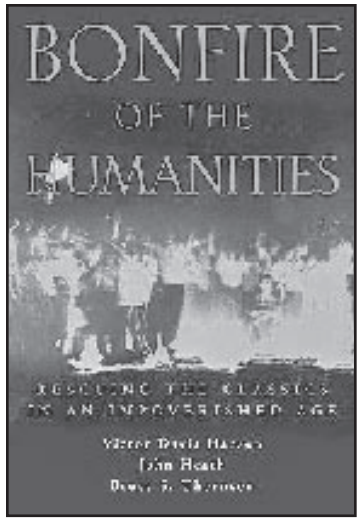
deals than you will over the next few weeks. A word of caution when buying gifts for people, though: be careful with any cosmetic-related or clothing purchases. Cosmetics have expiration dates and may go bad by next December, and clothing styles will change quite a bit in the coming year.

Also, be careful when making returns during these sales. Know your state and store return policies; many have time limits, receipt or condition of item requirements, while others may have 100% guarantees. If you do not have the receipt for an item now on sale, be prepared to only be refunded the sale price.

Post-holiday sales are a great resource, but they have to be shopped wisely. Understand that you may be limited in selection, so try to get to sales early to avoid being disappointed. But don't worry if you end up missing out—there will be more sales in summer!

Book Review: Classical philology to the rescue

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer



Ian R. Whiteside

Humanities departments across the United States suffer from a continuing degradation brought about by sham fads such as multiculturalism, feminism and deconstructionism, as well as utilitarian right-wingers who seek to change universities into job training centers. This premise guides

the essays written in *Bonfire of the Humanities*, written by Victor Hanson, John Heath and Bruce Thornton.

According to the authors, professors today spend too much time worrying about publishing and career advancement and too little time in educating students and helping them advance as complete persons, the goal of a liberal arts education. The influence of Allan Bloom

can be felt throughout the work, as well as his mentor, Leo Strauss. The authors persuasively argue about the merits of traditional philology and its influence on Western culture and significance to modern students. However, in doing so, they tend also to downplay the contribution of Jewish culture and religion, often stressing Mr. Strauss's view that Athens and Jerusalem represent two antipodes and pillars for Western society, with little chance at ultimate reconciliation.

The authors propose a solution the current crisis in the humanities, consequences of which include declining student participation and declining student quality. Their solution hinges on the idea of a populist academia, calling for more active participation on the part of the citizenry on the goings on of universities. While recognizing several difficulties and potential drawbacks to this position, they nonetheless believe it will help against the entrenched elites now wrecking the university.

While the authors' allegiances to traditional philology and scholarship, as well as the desire to increase faculty participation in the education of students, remain commendable elements of their own work and their desire for the future of the university as an institution, they nonetheless fall prey to errors best characterized by the logical fallacy of false dichotomy; they disparage anything labeled "theory" and "elitism." In reading the book, a picture is drawn of an either-or situation characterized

by French philosophy emanating from Derrida and the French feminists and the traditional philology of the authors. Furthermore, they tend to focus on the personal character and operations of modern professors, and touch marginally—though, when they do, effectively—on the philosophies guiding them. While good scholarship has been done refuting New Age philosophies and exposing their inner contradictions, the authors expect too much familiarity on the part of the reader with these philosophies. Understandably, the authors wish to build a populist movement, which is often characterized more by pointing at the personal failings of one's enemies, and how this influences their comings and goings, but this same movement can also alienate those who might otherwise prove intellectual allies.

Altogether, *Bonfire of the Humanities* is an enjoyable read, especially for anyone interested in the state of education in the university today.

Bonfire of the Humanities

Authors: Victor Hanson, John Heath and Bruce Thornton
Pages: 373
Publisher: ISI Books
ISBN: 1882926544
List Price: \$24.95

Nooks and Crannies of William & Mary

Throwing down the gauntlet

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Have you ever been called a liar? A bastard? A whore? How did that insult make you feel? Maybe you were able to laugh it off, but it's more likely that you got angry or upset. For a few seconds, you might even have wanted to kill the person who insulted you, to vindicate yourself and watch your detractor die in a pool of blood at your feet. This sounds like just a sick fantasy to most of us today, but two hundred years ago the practice of dueling led to several young men at this very College losing their lives in defense of their honor. William and Mary administrators attempted to crack down on this dangerous practice throughout the early 1800s, but popular sentiment was against them and their efforts to punish those who involved themselves in duels often met with outrage from the student body at large.

In the South of the early 19th century, duels were often highly romanticized affairs. The idea of meeting at dawn on the field of honor to defend one's reputation held a good deal of nostalgic charm, as evidenced by a sketch made in the notebook of Mary F. Southall, which depicts a duel that was fought at the College of William and Mary between two students named Ballard and Beakwith on January 18, 1857. Mary's crude drawings of the contestants, pistols in hand, are ringed by girlish doodles and scribbled-in flowers. What the picture in Mary's notebook leaves out, however, are the very real dangers that Ballard, Beakwith and others like them faced when they decided to participate in a duels on campus. Most obvious of these, perhaps, is the possibility of serious injury, which often led to death, as it did for a William and Mary matriculate named Chapman in April of 1803. In addition to loss of life, one also risked a loss of livelihood when one participated in a duel; both Breckenridge, Chapman's killer, and the two seconds involved in the fight were forced to "abscond" from the College in order to avoid immediate expulsion. Three other students who were party to a duel in March of 1809 were not so lucky: they were personally expelled by

then-College president Bishop James Madison.

Interestingly, such expulsions did not always meet with universal approval, for many in Williamsburg believed that it was a man's right to defend his honor by combat and found it repulsive for the College to expel students for acting in an "upright" and "gentlemanly" fashion. This tension between social custom and College policy led to an event that *The College of William and Mary: A History* calls "the outbreak of 1802." The affair began when William and Mary expelled a pair of students for fighting a duel over a disagreement, something that was, and had always been, a "gross violation of the rules of the College." According to an article that appeared in *The New York Evening Post*, upon hearing of their classmates' fate a large group of matriculates "assembled, went to the [the College chapel], broke and destroyed all the windows, cut down the pulpit, tore out all the leaves of the bible, and gave them to the wind—from thence, they proceeded to the house of Judge [St. George] Tucker...professor of law in the university, broke all his windows, pelted his house," and "abused him." Following this incident, the article states, "The College of William and Mary, at Williamsburg [was] completely broken up, and the system of education there...entirely discontinued."

However, the behavior of the rioting students did not intimidate President Madison. He stood his ground on the issue of dueling and stated, just a few months after the outbreak of 1802 that "no one [would] be permitted to remain [at William and Mary] one hour after he [had] evinced a spirit of insubordination." This tough stance on the issue led many students to think twice about challenging one another, although duels did continue to take place on campus well into the mid-1800s.

Looking back into our College's history, it is incredible to observe that once, long ago, William and Mary students rioted in favor of shootings on campus. Stories like these, though shocking, serve as reminders of just how truly ancient our College is and of how many changes she has seen in her more than three centuries of existence.

Walking Art

About three months ago, in November, I made myself into a walking work of art: I dyed my hair a nice, bright shade of blue. I didn't really have a reason for doing it. I just thought it would be cool.

My private act of artistic expression led to a public backlash, the magnitude of which I could never have anticipated.

I mean, sure, I expected a few stares, maybe even a jibe or two from strangers who passed me on the street. What I did not expect was that every time I went out in a public I would be treated so strangely that I would have to stop and ask myself, "Did that really just happen?!" At first, I was shocked by what people would say and do, and when the shock wore off, I found that I was slightly offended. It was only after a few weeks' time that finally I figured everything out: by making myself into a walking work of art, I had given people permission to treat me as such, to interact with me just as they would with a mute statue in an art gallery. I was no longer R.C. Rasmus, private citizen; I had become an object, an artwork: *Boy with Blue Hair*.

Kids were the worst. Young kids especially. Some of them would just look at me from their perches in the fronts of shopping carts or on top of high chairs in restaurants and say, "Blue!" Often, they would point as well. Older kids would stage whisper to their parents such charming phrases as, "Look Mom! That guy has blue hair! Look at it!" or "Daddy, his hair is blue. Do you see it Daddy?" or, in Switzerland, "Mutti! Sein Haarren sind blau!" I think that my trip to see *Enchanted* was the worst. You could feel the little murmurs following me as I crossed the theater with my jujubes: "Mama...blue...look...Mama...see?...blue...blue...blue..."

Even stranger than these munchkins' compulsion to point out the obvious were their parents' reactions to their weird little declarations. "Oh yes, dear," said one mother as her daughter pointed frantically to me from the checkout line next to mine in the grocery store,

stopping to smile at me before she continued. "It's very festive, isn't it?" "Oooh, what a smart little girl you are," said another as I passed her and her daughter in the Campus Center, "that is blue! Yes, it is!" Never did these people say, "Honey, it's not polite to stare," or "Don't shout, Junior." Nope, they just fixed me with a goofy stare and shouted at me as loudly as their excited progeny did.

Weirder still were the unprovoked comments I would get from total strangers. "Oh look," said a perfectly sane-looking man at BWI as he checked my face against my passport, "a blueberry." Others were less creative. Everyone from Williamsburg City librarians to police officers to gas station attendants has looked me straight in the eye and said, without a trace of humor, "Ahem. You have blue hair." At first, I didn't know what to say to these people, for clearly they expected a response from me. Most often, I would just smile and say, "Yes, I do," though I can't tell you how many times I wanted to just look at them strangely and say, "No, I don't," or, even better, whip my hands up to my head and scream, "Oh my God! What's happened to me! What have you done?!" I've kept myself in check so far.

Geriatrics were my favorites. Surprisingly, their unsolicited comments were overwhelmingly heartwarming. With hair as white as snow, they would look at my azure curls and say, "Well that looks marvelous! Maybe I should do mine like that." Even when they didn't express the desire to copy me, seniors would stop me on the sidewalk to say, "That sure is neat," and "That's such a pretty color. Did you do it yourself?"

In the end, I guess I have only myself to blame. I put myself out there as something to be looked at and commented upon, and look and comment people did. It wasn't always pleasant, but it was always entertaining and, after all, there were some benefits. "Look Dad!" said one kid, who couldn't have been more than five, "A super-man!" Ah. Maybe it was worth it.



R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

Staff Editorial:

Looking towards the post-Sadler era

W. Samuel Sadler, the longtime College bureaucrat, has decided to retire after 41 years of service to the College. We commend Mr. Sadler on his long record of service at the school, although we might raise an eyebrow at some of the more sycophantic coverage surrounding his retirement. We have had our differences with Mr. Sadler over the last three years, but we wish him well in retirement.



File Photo

SADLER

Clay Clemens, a Government professor and alumnus of the College, has been named to head a committee charged with finding Mr. Sadler's replacement. The early money in the race to succeed Mr. Sadler is on Virginia "Ginger" Ambler. She has served as Mr. Sadler's deputy and has temporarily filled his position during his recent surgery. Ms. Ambler is also an alumna of William and Mary. Some other dark horse candidates for the job include Mark Constantine, currently the assistant vice president for student affairs, and Dean of Students Patricia Volp.

The new vice president for student affairs will have big shoes to fill. Mr. Sadler has become an institution unto himself, so defining the role of his position in the future may be very difficult. He is the only person who has ever held this vice presidency, as the job was created for him in 1989.

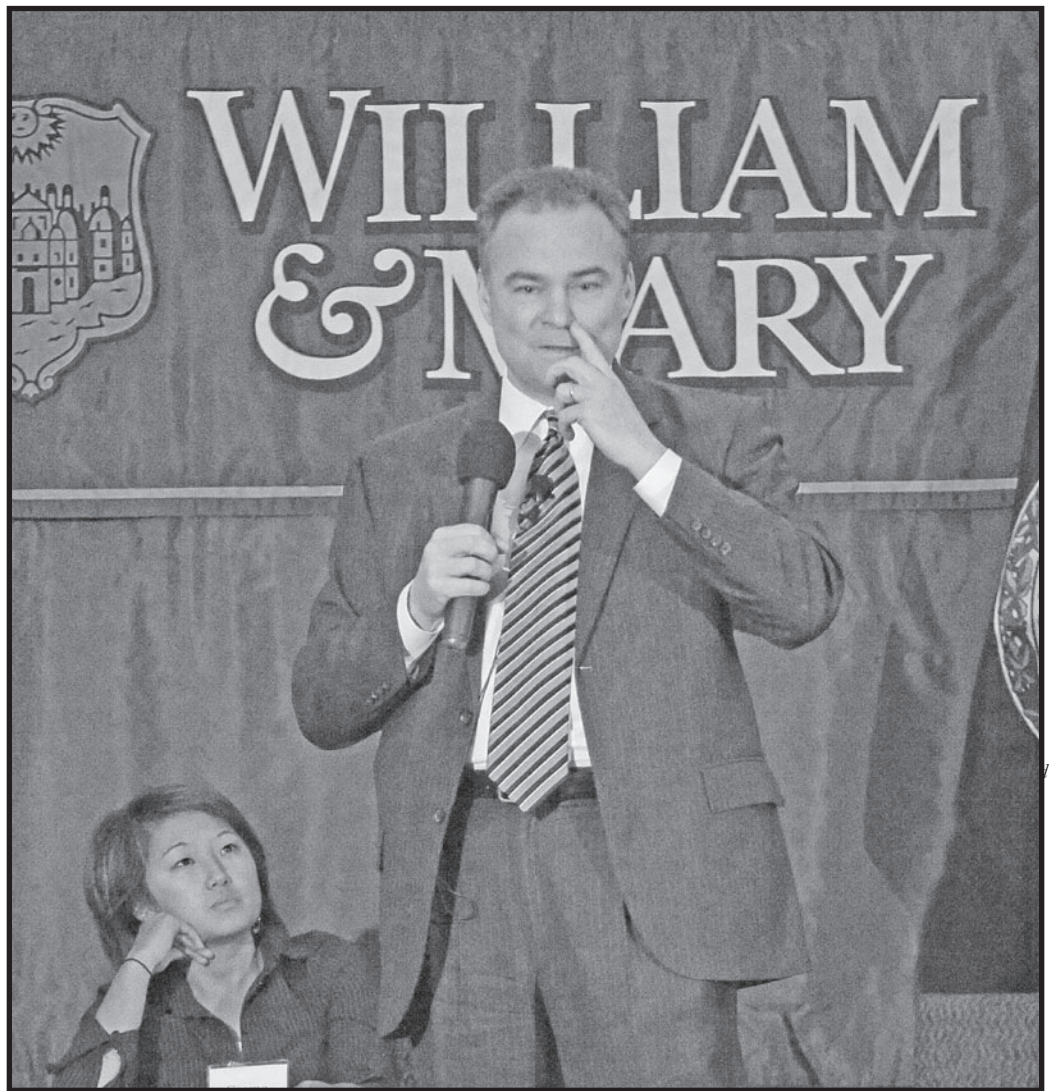
More specifically, the new vice president for student affairs will have to cope with and handle

issues such as: a less-than-desirable financial situation (a 6.25% cut this year might only be the beginning); a continued drop in the rankings of the College; building and maintaining Tribe pride; managing student outrage and unrest regarding our new logo, and lack of a mascot; and, most importantly, providing an open, transparent line of communication between the administration and the student body (something that students perceived Mr. Sadler had accomplished). Anyone

not up to the task of fulfilling these charges should not receive serious consideration from Mr. Clemens or his committee.

We also call on the committee to cast a wide net in searching for Mr. Sadler's replacement. The best candidate may come from an unexpected corner of our campus community, or even from without. Fresh blood and new ideas are always preferable to the entrenched, static mentality of some of our current administrators.

There are significant challenges ahead for the College, and the recent transition of responsibility for day-to-day operations from the president to the provost will demand that Mr. Sadler's successor maintain a close relationship with the student body. We welcome the idea that the vice president will be actively involved in making all of these necessary requirements for a good vice president into practical realities.



Facing budget cuts, Governor Kaine must dig for gold

Photo, unaltered (seriously, we actually caught him picking his nose) by Ian R. Whiteside

Staff Editorial:

Covering nationwide issues for local impact

Why we covered the presidential race in this issue

Although *The Informer* typically refrains from covering national news pieces, we decided to seize on a unique opportunity this issue. We sent correspondents to New Hampshire as fully accredited members of the press corps for the presidential debates held there on January 5. Another one of our staffers went to Florida, another important primary state, to cover a Rudy Giuliani speech.

This is not the first time our reporters have covered national events; just last issue, *Informer* reporter Steven Nelson became a full member of the White House Press Corp and covered a speech made by President Bush in Maryland. Rest assured, though, this foray into national politics will not distract us from our typical focus of covering campus politics and local news and affairs, which has been a hallmark of our hard-hitting coverage since our inception in 2005.

Also, the 2008 presidential race is now starting to heat up. On a campus where the concepts of service and civic engagement are the hot-button issues, we call on our fellow students to be active in our nation's political process. This involves, first, informing themselves through a variety of media about the different presidential candidates and their stances on issues; how quickly we forget that the citizen has a civil and moral obligation to educate himself, properly, *before* making a decision at the voting booth.

Political activism is also a strong

weapon, which, when correctly wielded, can lead to very positive results at the polls. Activism on the part of students is particularly heartening, as it displays a desire to become educated, involved and impactful in a process totally dismissed by so many in our age demographic.

We also encourage students to become involved in local politics as well. In May, three seats on the Williamsburg City Council will be up for grabs, and now that students can be legally registered to vote—after the gross abuse of power displayed by former Williamsburg Registrar Dave Andrews finally came to an end—they will be able to have a strong impact on city politics. We urge students to exercise their Constitutional right and register to vote in the local Williamsburg election this May.

As this very political year begins to intensify, we encourage all students at the College to engage one another in a civilized, educated dialogue about the candidates running for president and the future of our nation. For the politicians on campus, this year represents an exciting time that comes around perhaps far too rarely; and for those students who do not care for politics, or have not engaged themselves in the issue thus far, they should take this opportunity to become knowledgeable about the candidates and their positions.

Remember: if you don't vote, you can't complain.

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

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

**Love us? Hate us?
Please send letters to the editor.
editor@vainformer.com**

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

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

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

Informer Sponsor
Mr. Richard Beard

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

The Collegiate Network
The Patrick Henry Center
The Leadership Institute

**If you would like to support *The Virginia Informer*,
please contact us at editor@vainformer.com.**

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

Aspects of Sadler's run at College remain dubious

As reported in this issue of *The Informer*, Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler has announced that he intends to resign at the conclusion of this school year.

Mr. Sadler has spent 41 years at the College as a student and administrator. His dedication and loyalty to the College is admirable and is to be commended, and his folksy e-mails will be missed by everyone. *The Informer* would also like to wish Mr. Sadler the best of health in wake of his recent operation.

With that being said, Mr. Sadler's retirement creates a vacancy for the vice president of student affairs, and, with it, an important opportunity to shape the position. Despite being extremely popular among students, Mr. Sadler has failed to support student-friendly causes in spite of his student-friendly job title.

In President Nichol's e-mail announcing Sadler's retirement, Mr. Nichol referenced that Mr. Sadler "literally wrote the Student Handbook," yet this handbook includes many ambiguities by using phrases such as "included, but not limited to," which gives the administration broad power to interpret the Student Code of Conduct. For example, the dean of students' office had interpreted the "failure to comply" rule in the handbook as trumping a student's Fifth Amendment right to legally protect himself from self-incrimination.

The handbook clearly states that this is *not* actually the case, as it violates the United States Constitution. It took Mr. Sadler two years to rectify this.

The handbook also mandates that students accused of breaking the Code of Conduct can only see *copies* of evidence that the administration has against them, and cannot receive a hard copy.



Nick Hoelker
Opinion Editor

Mr. Sadler has also overruled the guidelines of his own handbook, by stacking the Judicial Council with his own selections rather than those of the Student Assembly.

The office of vice president for student affairs also possesses a tremendous amount of power over students as it can sign, or designate someone else to sign, a document analogous to a warrant to allow searches of student rooms. The position also has the power to see any computer data, include personal e-mails sent through the William and Mary server.

Also, Mr. Sadler was a member of the highly unpopular Alcohol Task Force, which makes it much harder to have a party where alcohol is served. As a result, fraternities and other groups have been forced to hold underground, unregistered parties, and, furthermore, forces drinking into dorm rooms of upperclass, fraternity males. It also strongly decreases the likelihood of incidents being reported to a hospital or the William and Mary police department.

He also chaired the Logo Committee, which, as reported in this issue of *The Informer*, has experienced a great backlash from the student body due to its seemingly uncreative and unoriginal new logo. Additionally, Mr. Sadler only selected two current students serve on the committee.

When this paper, which is entirely run by students, attempted to contact Mr. Sadler for an interview earlier in the year regarding the bias reporting system, Mr. Sadler and his two secretaries resorted to childish stall tactics for almost a month, before finally declaring in a somewhat rude e-mail that he would not agree to meet with the representative of our paper.

Lastly, in 2003-2004, after the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity—Mr. Sadler's fraternity while he was as a student—got in trouble for returning housing forms late, Mr. Sadler—according to a Pi Lambda Phi alumnus—promised that he would not let the fraternity lose their house. Nevertheless, he made the ultimate decision for the fraternity to lose their house and sent a letter to Pi Lambda Phi alumni chiding the current fraternity brothers.

I call on Clay Clemens and the rest of the committee to consider these shortcomings in selecting the new vice president for student affairs, and appoint a more student-friendly administrator to replace Mr. Sadler.

Got capital? Both the College and our president could use some

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

Last weekend, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine came to visit William and Mary to discuss the benefits of participation in "civic engagement"—ie, service and mission trips, and participation in service organizations—sharing, among other things, personal anecdotes and a few of his own experiences with President Gene Nichol and a crowd of about 150 people.

Aside from the fact that Mr. Kaine belittled William and Mary's president for his weight—"the father of the family... was about as big as Gene Nichol, he had not missed a lot of meals"—another aspect of Mr. Kaine's trip to Williamsburg I found to be particularly amusing was that it was juxtaposed ever-so-nicely with the news of the now-official 6.25% budget cut the College will receive this year from Richmond.

In past issues, *The Informer* has called on the William and Mary administration to cut its wasteful spending on so many of our needless programs and initiatives: \$7,000, for example, on a new logo that neither "elicit[s] pride among members of the community" nor "evoke[s] positive

feelings," as it was called to do on March 28, 2007, when the committee first formed; over \$200,000 annually for a man who writes e-mails and pushes paper for a living, not to mention the annual salaries of his two very necessary secretaries; and, of course, the untold cost of Mr. Nichol's feel-good, although ultimately impractical, Gateway program, one of the main focuses in his quest to make William and Mary "both great and public."

Although I was not yet a matriculate at the College during President Emeritus Timothy Sullivan's tenure here, it can be said—factually speaking, and in comparison with Mr. Nichol—that Mr. Sullivan began taking steps to make the College more financially independent from—rather than, seemingly, Mr. Nichol's desire to make us more reliant upon—the state government. For example, Mr. Sullivan was instrumental in promoting the Charter Initiative with UVA and Virginia Tech, which allowed greater flexibility for the participating institutions in a number of areas, including employment practices and, in general, securing greater financial

independence from Richmond.

Conversely, over the past 30 months, Mr. Nichol has done more to alienate alumni—valuable not only for their private, available money, but also their academic and cultural contributions that have left their own mark on our storied institution—than any other president in recent history.

This, paired with the reality that Mr. Nichol's political capital is completely spent due to poor handling of several controversial issues over the past two years, means he no longer has the ability to bargain effectively for the College in the halls of the General Assembly.

As a result, Mr. Nichol has forced the College into a financial corner in which it does not belong. And while it is true that Mr. Nichol and his "colleagues... will be in Richmond often" this semester—and that the majority of the student body loves our president to a degree that would make even a lemming stop and think—it is nothing more than a waste of gas, emanating not only from Mr. Nichol's mouth, but also from his Jeep Grand Cherokee (15 mpg city, 20 highway) the College provides him, free of charge.

Had Mr. Nichol spent less time angering wealthy alumni and other potential donors, we would not be feeling the pinch of the latest Virginia budget numbers as strongly as we are now. The stark reality is that Mr. Nichol's concept of "great and public"—a highly centralized, governmental institution run completely by taxpayer dollars—is not, at present, financially realistic.

We should focus, presently, on taking care of the students currently attending the College, our faculty—who should be rewarded for their intelligence and hard work with competitive salaries—and on measures for green sustainability, which will save the College millions in the long run.

Let it be known: I am requesting that Mr. Nichol trade in his Cherokee for a Prius. How's that for cutting costs?

In business, it's all about the bottom line or the financial reality. The College's bottom line is this: in a time of monetary strain, and with a politically ineffective president, we need focused, common sense spending that will keep our institution afloat—that is, until we find a new captain who can better help to steer us into less turbulent fiscal waters.

Get The Virginia Informer delivered to your door!

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

We report what others dare not print!

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

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

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone Number: (optional) _____ E-mail Address: (optional) _____

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

SEX WORKERS' ART SHOW:

continued from page one
 president's budget, makes changes and then notifies each student group of its allocated dollar amount for that year; oftentimes, it is not the full amount the group originally requested. The groups have a week to formally appeal the decision. After that, the budget goes to the Senate floor for approval.

The vice president for student affairs then approves the budget, and the Board of Visitors then approves the bottom line. Neither the vice president for student affairs nor the BOV have ever modified or challenged a Student Assembly budget.

Last year, SWAS received \$750 from the regular student activities fee budget, which the BOV approved.

Groups can also submit requests for additional funding for specific events, as the Lambda Alliance and other groups did for SWAS. The request is processed through the Office of Student Activities. The SA president, or one of his representatives, reviews the requests, gives recommendations and ultimately approves or denies the requests.

This year's SWAS request for additional funding stated that the entirety of the show would cost \$3,000—\$1,200 more than last year's request—and, consequently, would require an additional \$1,450 in addition to the \$750 already approved last year, for a total of \$2,200. In order to fill the \$800 deficit, the group plans to charge \$2 admission. Last year, the event was free, and the UC Commonwealth was filled to capacity. Approximately 300 people had to be turned away from seeing the show.

The SA president-approved additional events funding request then goes on to the Senate Finance Committee for review. If a request is deemed questionable, a vote is taken to move the request onto the floor of the Senate for full consideration. A request approved by the SA president can only be denied with the consent of the majority of the Senate and Senate Finance Committee.

At this year's Senate Finance Committee meeting on SWAS, the vote was 5-1 to keep the appropriations request as-is. Votes such as these rarely get sent to the Senate floor.

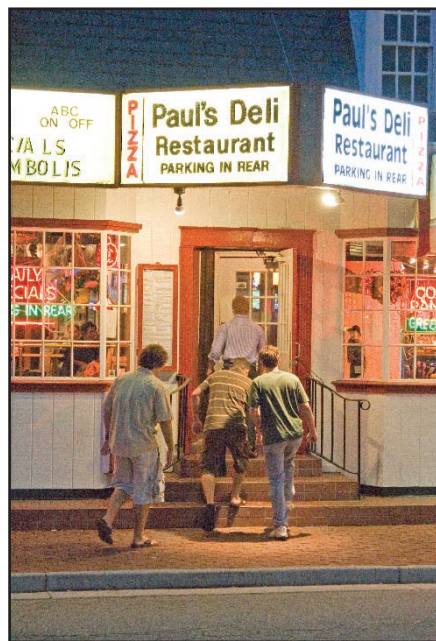
The Student Assembly's finance code states that "the Student Assembly shall appropriate monies to fund activities that comply with guidelines set forth in this section, irrespective of the viewpoint of the organization, and in accordance with the statement of Rights and Responsibilities found in the most current addition of the College of William and Mary's Student Handbook."

This line was quoted in a January 18 e-mail to campus sent by Mr. Pilchen, who also stated that "our rules demand that we review each request fairly, and maintain viewpoint neutrality when appropriating money. This philosophy is vital to sustaining a diversity of events on campus that both celebrates and challenges a wide variety of viewpoints."

Additionally, SWAS has proved to be an issue which threatens the tenure of Gene Nichol, the College's embattled president. Last year, coming off of the Wren cross controversy, Mr. Nichol said this about SWAS: "I don't like this kind of show and I don't like having it here....But it's not the practice and province of universities to censor or cancel performances because they are controversial." For many, this begs comparison to the Wren cross, which Mr. Nichol removed from the chapel in 2006 because he considered it offensive to non-Christians on campus.

Furthermore, last summer, Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler asked the Student Assembly to essentially write out Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Mark Constantine from the mid-year budgeting process. Up until that point, the SA finance secretary and Mr. Constantine would make mid-year funding decisions together.

This has raised questions as to the motivation for the change in budget policy. Mr. Nichol's contract expires this year. Given the amount of criticism Mr. Nichol received from a large group of donors and alumni over allowing SWAS to perform, this policy change has been seen as an attempt by the administration to minimize political fallout, particularly in light of the Wren cross controversy of 2006, especially in a year when his job is very much on the line.



File Photos

Drink up: The three most popular student drinking establishments in Williamsburg attract different crowds.

A new look at the delis

Matthew Sutton
 Managing Editor

Drinking at William and Mary has a rich and historic tradition, from Thomas Jefferson quaffing pints of ale in the Raleigh Tavern to the typical freshman shotgunning beers in the Dupont suite bathrooms. Now, some naysayers might claim that a lot has changed since our most famous student—the most important of which being the raising of the drinking age from approximately seven to 21—but never let us forget that Mr. Jefferson was a revolutionary, which should be a comforting thought for the underage drinkers at our beloved College.

Over the last semester, I've sampled a wide variety of beers, but have purposely neglected the fine drinking establishments of Williamsburg. Well, no more. I find that the delis are a peculiar animal, especially for us with friends at large state schools. At those schools, the bar scene is a prominent part of campus life, producing events like pub crawls and other kinds of generalized debauchery.

The Green Leafe, Paul's, the College Delly and Mamma Mia's are the four standards of the deli scene—although I don't know anything about Mamma Mia's, and I'm afraid to ask anyone about it.

The Green Leafe, owned and operated by Glenn Gormley, is the most popular deli in Williamsburg. It attracts a mixed crowd of professors, townies and the vast majority of the student body. Boasting an unparalleled number and variety of beers on draft, the Leafe offers a great drinking atmosphere, but only if you brave the crowds and are

able to snag a good table on Friday and Saturday nights.

Paul's is a happy medium between the upscale Leafe and the gritty College Delly. The food at Paul's is also cheaper than that at the Leafe. Plus, you can always openly play quarters, which cannot be said about the Leafe.

The College Delly is the quintessentially blue-collar bar of Williamsburg. Not to take any shots at the beloved Green Leafe or Paul's, College seems to attract a more down-to-earth crowd. Now, if you had been reading *The Flat Hat* over the last year, you might have gotten the impression that College had been sold and turned into a Starbucks. Then again, if you're reading *The Flat Hat* you might have more problems than simple misinformation—but all that aside, College is emphatically *not* closed and *not* a Starbucks, much to the dismay of all of those wannabe baristas. The recently announced Mug Night at the College Delly, beginning Thursdays at 9 pm, will definitely provide some welcome competition and an invitation for those students who have largely stuck to Paul's and the Leafe.

For my next review, I've decided to sample and review the highly acclaimed Fat Bastard ale in honor of our beloved President Nichol. Until then, enjoy those delis.

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 students to please drink responsibly and in accordance with all university, state and federal laws.

2008 RECYCLE MANIA TOURNAMENT

Join the RecycleMania

January 27 - April 5, 2008

Over 375 colleges and universities across the U.S. are competing in the RecycleMania competition.

Drop it in the BIN... Help W&M WIN!!

For more info go to www.recyclemania.com