

Volume 3  
Issue 6  
December 6, 2007  
Established 2005

# THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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



Stephen Salpukas, University Relations

**A final salute:** The College's Club Fencing Team pays its last tribute to teammate and friend, Ben Gutenberg.

## Freshman Ben Gutenberg passes away from injuries suffered in crash

### Car accident had also claimed life of coach

Steven Nelson  
Assistant News Editor

Freshman Ben Gutenberg died Tuesday, November 27, succumbing to injuries suffered in a car accident on November 10. The accident also claimed the life of fencing coach Pete Conomikes, who had been on the College's fencing staff since 1972.

Mr. Gutenberg's outlook was originally optimistic, but during a period of over two weeks spent at Virginia Commonwealth University's Richmond Medical Center, the prognosis worsened as he did not recover from a coma.

College President Gene Nichol sent a message to students on the afternoon of November 27, entitled "Heartbreaking News," through which the College community was made aware of the death.

"As our fencers have taught in recent days, the College, at its core, embodies a defining commitment to one another. We'll call on that powerfully in the days and weeks ahead," said Mr. Nichol.

Teammate Walter McClean ('09) said of the news, "Ben's passing was especially saddening after initial reports that he would make a strong recovery....I will always remember him as one of the hardest-working fencers and his amazingly kind personality."

A memorial service was held for Mr. Gutenberg on November 29 in the Wren Chapel.

# W&M's top salaries go to admins

## Top five salaries



File Photo

**President  
Gene R.  
Nichol**

**\$339,172**



University Relations

**Law Dean  
Taylor  
Reveley**

**\$319,000**



File Photo

**Provost  
Geoff  
Feiss**

**\$287,500**



University Relations

**Business  
Dean  
Larry Pulley**

**\$272,075**



University Relations

**VP of  
Development  
Sean Pieri**

**\$240,000**

## At the College, it pays to be a bureaucrat

Steven Nelson  
Assistant News Editor

The Virginia Informer has obtained copies of faculty, administration and other staff salaries from the College via a Freedom of Information Act request. While salaries may not be common knowledge, they yield some interesting insight into where the College places its priorities.

Not surprisingly, William and Mary President Gene Nichol is the College's highest paid employee, earning nearly \$340,000. Second to Mr. Nichol is Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law and John S. Bryan Professor W.T. Reveley, who earns around \$320,000 a year.

Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss, who operates the

College in co-operation with the Mr. Nichol, earns \$288,000 annually. Mr. Feiss has nine associate and vice provosts, and a special assistant, who earn a total of \$1,218,900 per year.

According to Mr. Feiss, "President Nichol is less interested in direct engagement in routine day to day operational matters, and has probably asked me to help him with more than his predecessor did." Also, he said the duties of the provost include "conven[ing] the cabinet, including all vice presidents and senior level administrators, who meet every week and conduct all of the operational functions on a day to day basis."

**COLLEGE SALARIES**  
continued on page nine

## Not always "Clean Gene"

### Nichol implicated in campaign finances controversy in '96

Matthew Sutton  
Managing Editor

President Gene Nichol is currently facing scrutiny for his knowledge of revoked \$12 million donation from alumnus James McGlothlin, an incident that evokes an earlier episode in Mr. Nichol's past. When he was running for a Senate seat in Colorado, he became embroiled in a scandal that involved taped phone calls, letters to federal regulators and political attack ads.

In 1996, Mr. Nichol, who had been serving as the dean of the law school at the University of Colorado, was running in the Colorado Democratic Senate primary against Tom Strickland. Running an insurgent campaign, Mr. Nichol portrayed his political goals as a reaction against special interests groups and lobbyists and a wish to return to the populist democracy of America's past.

One incident soon tarnished his reputation as "Clean Gene." Judith Albino, the former president of the University of Colorado at Boulder, accused Mr. Nichol of "blackmail." She had taped a phone call in which Mr. Nichol asked her to donate to her campaign and illegally backdate the check, in an effort to circumvent federal elections campaign laws. Ms. Albino released the tape of their conversation and wrote a letter to the Federal Election Commission in July of 1996. This scandal quickly became an issue in the primary campaign. Mr. Nichol acknowledged that he asked her to backdate her contribution but claimed that he never threatened her.

Ms. Albino told *The Rocky Mountain News*: "Gene Nichol has shown me more than once that he is capable of doing whatever is necessary to promote Gene Nichol."

Mr. Nichol and Ms. Albino had had a troubled relationship, dating back to a decision to select Ms. Albino over Mr. Nichol for the job of UC-Boulder's president. Mr. Nichol later played a leading role in the so-called "deans revolt," an orchestrated campaign against Ms. Albino, which ultimately led to her resignation in 1995. He had called Ms. Albino because his campaign had discovered Mr. Strickland was planning to run an attack ad citing Mr. Nichol's role in the "deans revolt."

The Federal Elections Commission ultimately found no criminal actions had occurred as a result of the incident, but only because Ms. Albino never actually made the backdated contribution. If, in fact, she had made this contribution—and Mr. Nichol had subsequently reported the donation on his campaign finance reports—he could have faced criminal charges for his deception.

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Informer reporter joins  
White House press corps  
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# Dr. Ali Ansari talks about realities of US and Iranian relations

Alex Mayer  
Opinion Editor

Dr. Ali Ansari, professor of modern history and director of the Institute for Iranian Studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, was invited to give a lecture at William and Mary following his appearance at the World Forum on Democracy.

William and Mary students' strong interest in Iranian affairs was clear from the attendance as Mr. Ansari spoke in Washington 201 in front of a packed crowd. Attendees included not only students at the College but also a considerable number of residents of the Williamsburg community.

Mr. Ansari was introduced as an expert on Iranian affairs and US-Iranian relations as well as a scholar who has done considerable research into the personality of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Mr. Ansari gave a brief lecture summarizing the history of the relationship between Iran and the United States, and comparing how people from each country view the other. Blaming both sides for the general ill will that now exists between the two governments, Mr. Ansari told the audience that each nation's citizens feel betrayed by the other—the Iranians because of the CIA's involvement in deposing former Iranian president Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953 and installing the Shah, and the Americans because of the 1979 hostage crisis at the US embassy in Tehran.

Fielding questions from the audience, Mr. Ansari explained that it is understandable that so many American observers find Mr. Ahmadinejad's behavior confusing, since the Iranian president has a habit of contradicting himself regularly in his public statements. This apparent inconsistency, however, does not bother Mr. Ahmadinejad, who views himself as "possessing special charisma," and therefore does not feel the need to explain himself to anyone. Mr. Ansari outlined four ways in which Mr. Ahmadinejad maintains power, including maintaining a perception of an international crisis and threat against the Iranian people, bribing the public with oil revenues, and basing his rule on a "higher power," while playing to people's emotions and faith rather than logic.

Explaining Mr. Ahmadinejad's controversial statement about the apparent absence of homosexuals in Iran, Mr. Ansari told his audience that the Iranian president's response was actually quite easily understood. According to Mr. Ansari, Mr. Ahmadinejad simply found himself stuck responding to a question he did not want to answer—the question of rights of minorities and women in Iran—and therefore he told the most outrageous lie possible, assuming that everyone would know it was a lie, wink and laugh with him about it and move on. The point, Mr. Ansari explained, was for the audience to laugh with him—which explains Mr. Ahmadinejad's look of unease when he realized the audience might actually be laughing at him.

Concerning Iran's foreign policy, Mr.

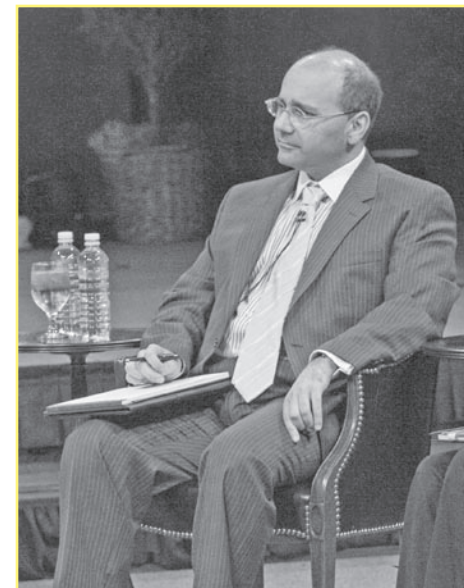
Ansari explained that Iran's policy on Israel is influenced by anti-Semitism, but he asserted that these sentiments are not as widespread in Iran as some people believe. With regard to Iraq, Mr. Ansari believes that Iran's policy is to support a stable Shi'i government, but to prevent the global perception that the Americans have "succeeded" in any way. According to Mr. Ansari, a debate is raging within the Iranian government as to whether they should let the US "fix" Iraq and take the heat for its current problems, or act decisively (through direct support for insurgents) to force US troops to leave immediately. In the end, Mr. Ansari firmly told his audience that one certainty is that Iran will never allow another military threat to arise out of Iraq.

On the topic of Iran's quest to obtain nuclear technology, Mr. Ansari predicted that if Iran were to acquire nuclear weapons, they would be used to obtain "prestige and power," and to allow Iran to pursue a "more aggressive stance" in their foreign policy, but he did not believe they would rush to actually use such weapons or give them to terrorist groups. Mr. Ansari said that, in Mr. Ahmadinejad's mind, "domestic hegemony is the only goal." In Mr. Ansari's opinion, the Iranian people would suffer the most from Mr. Ahmadinejad's rule.

According to Mr. Ansari, the most important factor in determining the future of Iran is the country's increasingly troublesome economic situation. Even though Iran is making billions of dollars

from oil revenues, Iranians are forced to endure ever-worsening rationing of gasoline in their own country. This is due to the fact that Mr. Ahmadinejad has largely spent Iran's oil profits on bribes to buy domestic political support instead of investing it in growing the economy. If the situation does not improve, Mr. Ansari predicted that serious political changes could be expected in Iran as a result.

Moving forward, Mr. Ansari told his audience that "although it's not going to be all tea and cupcakes," the US can engage Iran in the future, especially once



Ian R. Whiteside

**World Forum:** Dr. Ali Ansari, director of the Institute for Iranian studies, shared information about current US and Iranian relations with William and Mary students.

## Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor

### College Celebrates "World AIDS Day"

As part of a global effort to increase awareness on HIV and AIDS, the College of William and Mary teamed up with campus organizations to plan activities and events to participate in "World AIDS Day," which was December 1. During the week, the Student Health Center offered free, anonymous AIDS testing, and the campus group Activism in the Fight Against AIDS (AFYA) manned a table in the University Center handing out information regarding the disease, which slowly destroys the body's ability to maintain its immune system. As part of the program, the Muscarelle Museum had two panels from the famous AIDS Quilt on display throughout the week; the quilt is made up of a series of panels that honor those that lost their lives due, in part, to the disease.

### Students, Faculty Victims of Solicitation Scam

According to the William and Mary Police Department, an organization calling itself the "Newport News Police Pipes and Drums" has been phoning members of the campus community, claiming to solicit donations on behalf of the Newport News Police. Campus police reports that the organization is, in fact, registered as a non-profit with the Internal Revenue Service, but that instructions to "leave a check with the William and Mary Police Office" are part of a scam. The calls are currently being investigated; students and faculty that are called should notify the WMPD at once.

### Work to Continue on Business School During Break, Ukrop Way Closed

Starting with the first week in December, and continuing until students return for the spring semester, Ukrop Way (formerly Campus Drive) will be closed between Jamestown Road and the parking

garage as workers install utility lines for the new home of the Mason School of Business. While most of the construction work will be done during winter break, the road closing may interfere with those trying to get around campus during the exam period. According to the Department of University Relations, the road will re-open for traffic on January 11.

### Colonial Williamsburg Fife and Drum Corps celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Colonial Williamsburg Fife and Drum corps will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. More than 200 current and former members will march down Duke of Gloucester Street in a Fourth of July parade next summer. The group also announces a new college scholarship program, which will award \$2,000 to two individual high school participants. The winners are expected to be announced in January.

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Established 2005

December 6, 2007  
Volume 3 Issue 6

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

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

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## Republicans in General Assembly say they hope to minimize cuts to higher ed

**Joe Luppino-Esposito**

Editor in Chief

Despite a reduction in the initially announced cutbacks, the College will still find itself approximately \$1 million short of meeting the 6.25% cut imposed by the state of Virginia when the next semester begins.

Vice President of Finance Sam Jones said that state budget cuts, originally set at 7.5%, were reduced to 6.25%, which translated into \$3 million for the College. "Of the \$3 million we have identified approximately two-thirds of the savings and expect to get the balance primarily through the hiring freeze," Mr. Jones said.

In Richmond, some Republican lawmakers are hoping for even lower cuts to higher education. "With the \$170 million in unspent agency balances

now known to lawmakers, the General Assembly will be looking very carefully at the disproportionate spending cuts that Governor Kaine has made in higher education with an eye toward being more responsible and mitigating their magnitude where possible," said G. Paul Nardo, chief of staff to House Speaker William J. Howell.

"When he announced the \$641 million budget shortfall and the \$300 million in spending cuts, the governor said the only way to make up the difference was either 'going to be using the state's Rainy Day Fund ... or it's going to be more cuts.' The existence of the \$170 million in unspent dollars belies this false choice. Moreover, many lawmakers in both parties and in both chambers do not believe it would be prudent to reduce state support for our colleges and universities, while, at the same time, creating a

new pre-K program as gubernatorial candidate Tim Kaine promised in 2005. This would be tantamount to raising tuition on middle-class Virginians in order to launch a new initiative," said Mr. Nardo.

Even if those reductions do not come through, Mr. Jones does not anticipate students will be directly affected by any new fees or restructuring of the tuition.

Mr. Jones stated that the next step the College is looking towards is how to handle what may be long-term base reductions of the College's budget from the state. "The next significant event is the December 17 release of the Governor's budget recommendations for the 2008-10 biennium. State revenues continue to fall short of current projections so his budget may very well continue some or all of the budget reductions imposed across state government this year," he said.

## Nichol in e-mail controversy again

### E-mails between president and former Sen. John Edwards sent in 2005

**Jon San**

Features Editor

President Nichol has once again found himself in the center of an e-mail controversy, now with national political implications. During his time as the dean of the law school at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Mr. Nichol received an e-mail from the political advisor of presidential hopeful and former North Carolina Democratic Senator John Edwards that has now been protected by the university. This is similar to a claim that was made by the William and Mary administration

last month when Freedom of Information Act requests were made regarding the e-mail between President Emeritus Timothy J. Sullivan and Mr. Nichol regarding the revocation of a \$12 million by alumnus James McGlothlin ('62).

According to *The Daily Tar Heel*, Mr. Nichol received an e-mail from Miles Lackey in January of 1995 on behalf of Mr. Edwards (who would, shortly thereafter, be appointed as a faculty member of the law school) that contained Mr. Edwards' "ticket wishlist"—the names of people for whom Mr. Edwards wanted to obtain tickets to UNC athletic events.

Although faculty do receive a 10 percent discount on men's football and basketball tickets, they do not receive them as any sort of compensation.

In March 2007, the Associated Press asked for the disclosure of this e-mail as well as other e-mails between Messrs. Nichol and Edwards. UNC released the majority of the correspondences but refused to disclose the one involving the "ticket wishlist."

UNC claimed the e-mail "was confidential personnel information that was exempt from the N.C. Public Records Law."

## Leaving door unlocked results in disciplinary action

**Steven Nelson**

Assistant News Editor



University Relations  
**GILBERT**

According to a sophomore at the College, leaving your door unlocked can cost you.

The student, who has asked not to be named, received a phone call early one morning about a month ago informing him he was late to a meeting with Director of Judicial Affairs Dean Gilbert.

Mr. Gilbert soon thereafter informed the student that he had violated college policy and a roommate contract: he had left his dorm room unlocked and had left the room unattended.

The student, caught off guard and unable to recall whether he had, in fact, left his room unlocked on the date in question, confessed to the allegation.

As a result, a judicial warning will remain on his record until the time his senior year, during which time it will be seen by those viewing his transcript, including prospective employers and internship programs.

Mr. Gilbert, replying to an *Informer* inquiry into the case, mentioned that roommate contracts which contain explicit mention of particular issues, such as locking the door, can be used in adjudicating such cases.

"When the choice to leave a room unlocked affects the other roommate or other members of the community, the [Judicial] code provides the other student a means to address the violation of rights," said Mr. Gilbert.

Even though the sanction may seem more severe than the crime, the charge is likely to stick as the student has not filed an appeal.

The student has, furthermore, been slapped with with an ultimatum due to a subsequent instance of his door being unlocked, this time while he was awake inside the room. He is now being confronted with a forced choice between moving out of his room, two weeks prior to the semester's end, and convincing his roommate to rescind the allegation.

Students who are in similar situations are advised to contact Student Legal Services, a free source of advice for legal and judicial affairs. A recent change in the judicial code enables students to seek law student and SLS representation in judicial proceedings.

## New logo to have undetectable change, according to member of committee

### Plans on creating mascot for W&M athletics remain to be seen, but member is hopeful

**Nick Fitzgerald**

Executive Editor

"Some people might not even detect a change" in the College's new athletic logo, *The Virginia Informer* has learned.

Local Williamsburg resident and logo committee member Nancy Matthews, in an interview with *The Informer*, when asked about the current status of the logo, stated that it was "not a major change" from the previous W and M affixed with two green and gold feathers. The College's previous logo was deemed "hostile and abusive" to Native Americans by the NCAA and was subsequently banned.

After declining to pursue legal action as some other universities in the same situation opted to, President Gene Nichol appointed Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler as chairman of the new William and Mary logo committee. The committee was tasked with the determination, creation, and implementation of a new logo for the William and Mary Tribe last fall. Since then, the committee has remained conspicuously silent and has not publicly revealed any progress whatsoever on this search for a new logo.

The committee was apparently set to unveil a new logo at Homecoming 2007, but, as reported by *The Virginia Gazette*, the committee recognized that they had failed to trademark their new logo proposal. If the College had failed to do so, they would have forfeited their right to license merchandise on which the new logo could be affixed.

"Just anyone on the street could have printed it out had we released the logo without all the proper licensing in order," said Ms. Matthews.

Consequently, the logo was not revealed at Homecoming and, presumably, no one but those on the committee have any idea of what the proposed logo looks like.

Ms. Matthews also expressed her excitement for continuing to work for the committee as she believes they will also undertake the task of naming a mascot. However, Ms. Matthews says she has not been in contact with the committee leadership as to when, and if, those meetings would be taking place.

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# SA allocates \$15,000 for voter registration

**Sarah Nadler**  
Staff Writer

The November 28 meeting led to the passage of three bill crucial to student participation and involvement both on and off campus.

The Williamsburg Civic Engagement Act, introduced by Senators Walter McClean ('09), Matt Beato ('09) and Devan Barber ('08), earmarked \$15,000 of Student Assembly funds to support voter registration efforts on campus. This bill was designed to incentivize student voter registration by paying students \$10 for each other student they register. It is important to note that no Student Assembly members can participate in this work, and information regarding where to sign up to register voters is not yet available. The Senate debated about this bill for quite some time, as the bill was never voted on in committee, and the financial committee never got a say in the large amount of money being allocated. It seemed as though this controversial bill

was going to be sent back to committee until SA President Zach Pilchen proclaimed, "This is our top priority [...] the stars are aligned. Pass this tonight and we can move on."

Mr. Pilchen claimed the "threat of May," or threat of students controlling the May election, is already starting to affect Williamsburg's legislative agenda. He feels that although \$15,000 may seem like a lot of money, in the grand



**Get out the vote:** SA President Zach Pilchen said the bill was a "top priority" for the Senate.

scheme, securing enough student votes in the election will "cement our place in the town," and start combating the abusive landlords, three person rule and harsh police that make town-gown relations so strained. After Mr. Pilchen's heartfelt address to the Senate, most doubts concerning this bill were waived; the bill passed 11-3-1.

Senator Caroline Mullis ('09) proposed the Campus Composting

Act II. This bill, which appropriated \$550 for the purchase of a 180 gallon compost tumbler, was proposed in hope helping make the campus more environmentally sound. The compost tumbler was meant to replace the previously purchased compost tumbler which was stolen last year. This made some senators hesitant to repurchase the tumbler for fear of it being stolen or vandalized. Nevertheless, the bill passed 12-2-4. According to Ms. Mullis, "Dining services and landscaping are really excited about it. Now that many more groups are involved the tumbler will be very accessible and useful."

The Interest Rollover Act was also presented by Mr. McClean to request the interest gained on the student Consolidated Reserve Account, although currently the College receives 5 % interest from the Consolidated Reserve Fund and puts it toward the general fund for the university. The bill passed unanimously and requests will be made at the upcoming Board of Visitors meeting to start enacting this bill.

## Pilchen finishes active first semester as SA president

**Sarah Nadler**  
Staff Writer

Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen ('09) prefaced his November 28 cabinet meeting by saying, "This is going to be really quick." This brief meeting recapped the success of Thanksgiving airplane rides, worked out the logistical details of distributing final exam care packages and discussed the need for cabinet budgets to be turned in as soon as possible. As for commentating on the November 27 Senate meeting

where debate and committee procedure almost prevented \$15,000 from being allocated for voter registration, Senate Chairman Matt Beato ('09) stated the problems "were all procedural, we were an embarrassment." The cabinet, previously very involved in registering voters, was very excited to hear voter registration will be taken to a new level with the passing of the "Williamsburg Civic Engagement Act." Mr. Pilchen looks ready to head into winter break, after completing his first semester as SA president.

## Williamsburg to have new Congressman Dec. 11 W&M grad among candidates

**Steven Nelson**  
Assistant News Editor

Before the end of William and Mary's fall semester, "America's first district" will have a new Congressman. The special election deciding the late Jo Ann Davis' replacement will take place on December 11.

Student voters, numbering into the hundreds, will likely be a strong force in this election. With a majority of the College's students self-identifying as liberal on Facebook, Democrat Phillip Forgit ('89) may be given a boost in this heavily Republican district.

Mr. Forgit, an Iraq war veteran as well as a Williamsburg resident, is challenging Republican Delegate Rob Wittman of Westmoreland County.

Mr. Wittman narrowly defeated Paul Jost ('76) at the Republican nominating convention on November 10. Mr. Jost lead in all but one round of voting, and was likely defeated following the

endorsement of Mr. Wittman by two other top contenders, including Ms. Davis' widower Chuck Davis.

College Republicans Chair Stephen Salvato ('10) said of Mr. Wittman, "[he] has over 20 years of experience in local and state politics. Wittman has displayed outstanding leadership and has fought for those issues most important to the average working family in Virginia: lower taxes, economic development, fiscal responsibility."

Mr. Salvato acknowledged, "I have a great deal of respect for Forgit, specifically his service to our country in Iraq. I also think it is neat that he is a Williamsburg native. [However], I also believe Forgit lacks the necessary experience to be the best congressman." Mr. Forgit has never held elective office.

William and Mary Young Democrats' campaign coordinator Ross Gillingham ('10) remains fairly optimistic about Mr. Forgit's chances,



Wittman for Congress  
**WITTMAN**



Forgit for Congress  
**FORGIT**

## SA Senator pushing to add coffee machines to dorms

**Chris Davis**  
Staff Writer

New legislation proposed in the Student Assembly could result in coffee-dispensing vending machines being added to dormitories across campus. "When coffee will be most desired, going all the way to Wawa just isn't worth it," said SA Senator Alex Kyrios ('09), who proposed the idea. "You can wake up 15 minutes before class, roll out of bed, grab a coffee, and be on your way to class. Simply put, this plan would give students more options and more flexibility."

The machines, like the ones already located in Mews Café at Swem and Jones Hall, would dispense not only regular coffee into the container of your choice, but also cappuccinos, hot chocolate and tea.

SA President Zach Pilchen ('09) and Secretary of Student Life Liz Thomas ('09) have expressed concern about the cost of the machines, but Mr. Kyrios is confident that the school would make money on them.

"Vending machines, by their very nature, more than pay for themselves over time. There will always be a demand for coffee," said Mr. Kyrios.

Also, it would not be necessary to hire any additional personnel to maintain the machines. The

Auxiliary Services that run the current vending machines would simply pick up the new coffee machines as part of their job.

"Instead of canned drinks or bags of chips, it would be coffee grounds replaced in the machines."

It is yet to be seen whether the rest of the Senate shares Mr. Kyrios' enthusiastic feelings for the machines.

*Editor's Note: Alex Kyrios is the Copy Chief of The Virginia Informer.*



**Procrastinator's dream:** Proposal would make prospect of pulling an all-nighter more attractive.

as he has "a great record of service in both teaching and in the military: he won both the bronze star and teacher of the year award." Mr. Gillingham continued, "[Forgit] is a good fit for district, he represents its values, and he is an energetic campaigner."

Whether Mr. Forgit is able to win in a district that Ms. Davis carried in last year's election with 64% of the vote remains to be seen.

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# Bias Response changes in response to criticism

Nick Fitzgerald  
Executive Editor

The William and Mary Web site on diversity ([www.wm.edu/diversity](http://www.wm.edu/diversity)), with its included bias reporting system, has been recently given a drastic overhaul by the College administration. The system, until the revamp, had recently come under harsh criticism and scrutiny from law professors, bloggers and national student free-speech advocacy groups like the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE).

Before the revamp, the system was known officially as the "bias reporting system" Web site, whose name has now been changed to the "bias incident reporting" site. This specific change in language signals a distinct possibility that the administration is responding to the criticisms of the original version of the site, which encouraged and allowed students to anonymously report others who displayed alleged acts of bias or harassment. This type of system has been labeled "Orwellian" in nature by national bloggers, and, in a November 1 press release, *The Virginia Informer* reported that William and Mary Lee Professor of Law William Van Alstyne had this to say about the original system: "These politically-'skewed' codes of conduct are seriously misguided (and, I think, frankly embarrassing to universities which endlessly contrive to

take the 'correct' stance on all sorts of matters...)"

The original bias reporting system Web site stated that the College would not tolerate hateful or biased speech from its students and faculty, an idea detractors say is at odds with the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. The new, revised Web site, rather than offering an explanation of "bias" offers one of a "bias incident," and further stresses the fact that "the Reporting System does not create a new category of prohibited behavior or a new process for members of the College community to be sanctioned. Any report will be handled in accordance with existing staff, student, and faculty policies and procedures." This disclaimer was not previously present on the system's Web site.

Also made clear in the revamped version of the Web site is an outline of the "process" by which bias incidents can be reported and overviewed, who analyzes them and how they are dealt with. This process and the infrastructure behind it was touched on in a somewhat vague, cursory fashion in the original version of the site. Additionally, those wishing to report "bias incidents" (rather than originally being able to report, simply, "bias") may no longer do so anonymously and must give their name, log in using a William and Mary ID and give a detailed description of the incident and who was involved.

# Busted advises about how to deal with police

Mike Crump  
Staff Writer

For students outraged by the William and Mary police department, *Busted: the Citizen's Guide to Surviving Police Encounters* shows that there are ways to resist their influence, even if the administration will not take action against them.

SSDP (Students for a Sensible Drug Policy) offered a free presentation last Thursday night in Lodge 1. Students were shown *Busted*, a short informative film produced by the American Civil Liberties Union as part of their Flex Your Rights campaign. Through this film, the ACLU hoped to inform citizens of their rights and reassess the power balance between police forces and individuals.

The video focused primarily on asserting 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights, which forbid unreasonable search and seizure, preventing self-incrimination and the right to council.

Through several scenes replayed with characters first forgetting their rights and then asserting them, *Busted* informed viewers about the best tactics for dealing with police and how to avoid unnecessary incrimination, all the while staying within the boundaries of the law.

One thing *Busted* elaborated on was the tendency of police to trick or bully private citizens into waiving their rights. One such tactic was by using the phrase, "If you have nothing to hide, you'll be fine if I take a look inside [a car, house, dorm room, etc]." In situations such as this, if

consent is given, police have full authority to search and seize. In response to this, the film recommended not consenting to searches ever, unless a warrant is present. Even if officers threaten to bring in canine teams to search for any sort of contraband, implying serious destruction to property, it remains the citizen's right to refuse a search without a warrant.

Another major point within the presentation was the police tactic of bargaining. A relatively unknown fact is that police are allowed to lie if they suspect illegal activity is taking place. Officers then, according to *Busted*, will often try to get citizens to give up more information than necessary, under the false promise of "getting off easily."

Between segments, SSDP members held trivia quizzes for students to compete for candy prizes. Along with testing retention of valuable information from the movie, they used these opportunities to offer helpful insight and details not included in the presentation, such as the fact that drug checkpoints were deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and so modern signs saying "Drug Checkpoint Ahead" are only used as a trap to gauge driver reactions. At the end of the evening, a raffle was held for free SSDP t-shirts.

"It was informative," said Sampson Coe ('11), "I learned that I could have avoided my alcohol charge from homecoming weekend and saved fifty bucks on a pointless alcoholEDU class."

# "Inside North Korea" provides revealing look at reclusive country

Nick Hoelker  
Online Editor

On November 28, Americans for Informed Democracy (AID) presented "Inside North Korea," a National Geographic documentary about the reclusive country.

Before the movie, AID member Joella Adams ('08), who visited the country while working in South Korea, shared pictures and stories of her trip across the border at the Demilitarized Zone.

The movie was made by Lisa Ling, an American journalist who received permission to enter the country by documenting Dr. Nui, a Nepalese eye doctor. North Korea allowed Dr. Nui to enter the country in order to give 1,000 eye surgeries to blind North Koreans.

From the time they left Nepal, the film crew was

followed by six "minders" who told Ms. Ling what was and was not allowed to be filmed. At one point, a minder threatened to expel Ms. Ling from the country for filming a statue of Kim Jong-Il.

One powerful scene in the movie occurred when they visited the apartment of a woman who was set to receive eye surgery from Dr. Nui. The apartment was decorated with photos of Kim Jong-Il and his father, Kim Il-Sung. All of the woman's family members bowed whenever they walked past one of the photos. The family's young daughter also did a song and dance routine which praised the "Supreme Leader" of North Korea and wished harm to the United States.

The end of the film showed the results of the surgeries. After every patient had their sight restored, they groveled before tapestries of Kim Jong-Il and Kim Il-

Sung, thanking them from restoring their sight. As each patient praised the "Supreme Leaders," those still waiting to have their sight restored cheered loudly.

"Inside North Korea" also interviewed a South Korean student who was a North Korean soldier before attempting a risky escape through the Demilitarized Zone. While crossing the border, the soldier's friend, who was escaping with him, was killed by an electric fence. When Ms. Ling asked him what happened to his family, the student said, "I don't want to talk about it." The film implied that the family was sent to a work camp, a number of which exist throughout North Korea, the largest of which is estimated to be able to hold 50,000 people.

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# Law professor talks about enforcing environmental law

Co-author of *Defending the Environment* discusses causes of and ways to stop global warming

**Kristen Coyner**  
Staff Writer

Every year, the William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law hosts a lecture designed to recognize the achievements of senior law school faculty. The St. George Tucker Lecture Series was established in 1996 and since then has served to give notice to the College community of the work done by distinguished law professors. On November 29, the 2007 recipient, Linda A. Malone, presented a lecture entitled “Enforcing International Environmental Law through Domestic Mechanisms in the United States: Civil Society Initiatives against Global Warming.”

Ms. Malone joined the faculty of the William and Mary law school in 1988 and presently serves as the Marshall-Wythe foundation professor of law and director of the human rights and national security law program. She holds membership with a variety of environmental groups, including the Environmental Commission of the World Conservation Union and the Review Board of the Land Use and Environmental Law Review. Additionally, Ms. Malone has either authored or co-authored 12 books on the issues of environmental law, international law and human rights. Ms. Malone also served as a delegate to the seminal 1992 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro.

This lecture series was largely attended by William and Mary law school students and faculty. Ms. Malone noted at the outset of her lecture how she had just arrived from the National Environmental Trust forum on projected impact of climate change in Virginia, which was also held at the College on the same day. She described coming from the forum as “depressing,” a word which she used periodically throughout her speech with respect to her perceptions on the position of the environment.

The first part of Ms. Malone’s speech touched on the development of her environmental work through the

1995 publication of the book *Defending the Environment: Civil Society Strategies to Enforce International Environmental Law*. She, along with co-author Scott Pasternack, sought to use this book as a medium for outlining the various strategies of nongovernmental environmental action.

In her speech, Ms. Malone sought to place the rubric of the book in the more specific context of the global warming debate. She discussed the variety of ways that civil society, the part of society separate from the federal government or business, has used different mechanisms in the alleged hope of stopping global warming. Many of the mechanisms discussed were legal in nature, including domestic, Supreme Court, and finance litigation, both in the past and ongoing. Ms. Malone pointed to an overall current trend in the litigation, saying that “states are defendants here suing private industry where government is not going after the polluters.” She further suggested that the next frontier might include tort litigation between private parties on this issue.

Ms. Malone then went on to cover some non-litigation methods presently used in the attempt to curb what some perceive as human-attributable global warming. On this, she discussed both national and international efforts. Internationally, the work of non-governmental organizations and UNESCO was mentioned, such as the drive to preserve World Heritage sites thought to be at risk from climate change. She also pointed out several regional, multi-state and local efforts being made with the similar goal of reducing assumed man-made global warming. Special attention was paid to the efforts of certain states within the US, particularly that of California, which has recently set the goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions 25% by the year 2020.

Legislative proposals of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress aimed at addressing climate change were also reviewed briefly. Ms. Malone noted many of the current proposed bills—giving special attention to the bill co-sponsored by Virginia’s

Senator John Warner, the America’s Climate Security Act (ACSA)—which have yet to be passed.

Toward the later part of her speech, Ms. Malone presented an overview of the some of the sources which claim that global warming is man-made and the cause of an urgent threat. To that end, she discussed the language of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which recently stated in a February 2, 2007 report that human activity was “very likely” to be the cause of rising temperatures. Ms. Malone also mentioned the November 17, 2007 follow-up synthesis report of the IPCC, stating that it was “extremely alarming... Things in there will set you back. It looks very disturbing.” In mentioning this report, Ms. Malone made the only suggestion throughout her presentation that her audience read the information independently and draw their own conclusions.

The question was raised as to whether the tide of public opinion has turned on this issue yet. Statistics showing that most Americans regard global warming to be a serious issue that the federal government should address were shown along with another poll which showed that the vast majority of Americans are unwilling to make changes in their own lives to ameliorate a perceived problem which their own sentiment identifies. Indeed, Ms. Malone’s own actions have underscored this dichotomy of perception and true action. At the beginning of her speech she jokingly showed a photograph of herself next to a large Jeep Commando which she was given to drive at a conference and did so for three days under the auspices of understanding, “Why would anyone drive a thing like this?”

In the final minutes of her presentation, the floor was opened up to questions which students posed in response to many of the issues raised throughout the lecture. Ultimately, Ms. Malone sought to give a picture of “civil society to the rescue” on the issues pertaining to climate change.

## Former Pakistani Ambassador discusses the crisis in Pakistan, politics and terrorism

**Michelle Ju**  
Staff Writer

On Friday, November 30, the International Relations Club and SASA invited former Pakistani Ambassador Touqir Hussain to the College to discuss the rising political tensions in Pakistan, US-Pakistan relations and the current War on Terror.

Mr. Hussain, a former senior Pakistani diplomat, has served as ambassador to Spain, Brazil and Japan. Mr. Hussain returned to the United States in 2003, joining the ranks of George Washington University scholars as a research fellow, and is currently teaching at Georgetown University and the University of Virginia.

Mr. Hussain addressed the current instability of Pakistan, the Taliban insurgency, Al-Qaeda influences and the politics within Pakistan. Though Pakistan

prides itself on its remarkable history of peaceful transition and ongoing cooperation with the United States during crises such as 9/11, the recently growing threat of Taliban insurgency has threatened its relations with the United States. Plagued by dependence on its army, the Islamists who threaten Pakistan, growing support for the Taliban and unsteady ties with the United States, Pakistan remains unstable.

In defense of Pakistan as both a US ally and a potential target of the problem, Mr. Hussain claimed that radicals in Pakistan had become opposed to the United States and Pakistani governments and were determined to de-stabilize joint efforts to prevent the Taliban from taking power. He argued that it was unwise for the US to label its fight against terrorism as a “war,” which ultimately causes the entanglement of other issues and could potentially lead to the endangerment of

Islamic culture as a whole.

“The Iraq war did more to arouse suspicions than anything else.” Mr. Hussain asserted, “The US found one reason after another [to raise suspicions]. Once the administration loses credibility, it’s a free-for-all—people start to develop conspiracy theories.” The growing threat strengthened the extremists’ cause. “People are not prepared to look at things rationally or objectively. If you’re under attack, it is human nature to defend, whether they are right or wrong,” he explained. In addition to the paranoia of terrorism, Mr. Hussain blamed the US’ self-centered policy, one that focused on its own interests.

Coincidentally, the demise of democracy remains an ominous threat today. “Democracy is not just synonymous to elections and free press. You can have these and still not be democratic.” Mr. Hussain continued,

“[Democracy has been] hijacked by those who are militarily powerful. If democracy gives power to people who already privileged, dominant, it’s not democracy.” He asserted that democracy should be the “empowerment of people,” and criticized the corrupt inefficiency of politicians who wield talk of democracy for support, which “ends the day they’re in power.”

“Pakistan has developed resilience and strength for survival,” Mr. Hussain said. “Terrorism will remain for many years to come. The US needs to revise its policies as a staying power and [must involve] support of the people.” Mr. Hussain also talked about the need for the United States to reinvent its alliances and international policy and, generally, is in need of an image overhaul. With the right policies, “the US can change its image overnight,” he said.

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# America's next top college president



**Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton**  
Humor Columnists

Now that even the oracle which gives *The Flat Hat* its news stories has turned its back on our beleaguered president, it's time to start tossing around ideas for possible replacements to William and Mary's executive.

Of course, because we here at *The Virginia Informer* pride ourselves on our ability to assess based on objective metrics and other generally accepted business jargon, we will be using the so-called "SWOT" (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis so familiar to students and faculty of the Mason School

of Business—what did you expect, for us to toke up, put on our Best of Phish album and talk about how we wish it would all just go away? If that's what you are looking for in a presidential search committee, look up Sam Sadler at his new office over at the Meridian coffee house.

So after five minutes of last-minute Googling before going to print, we have determined our Final Four for William and Mary's next president.

## His Royal Highness Prince Henry "Harry" of Wales

### Strengths

- Reconnects William and Mary with its British roots.
- His grandmother thought it was a "jolly good" idea.
- One of the most accessible presidents in recent William and Mary history, including holding open office hours at the Green Leaf.

### Weaknesses

- Has a penchant for dressing up as a Nazi on special occasions, which may ruffle feathers at Hillel and AEPi.
- Harry's appointment to the office could outrage the large, vocal minority of Irish students on campus.

### Opportunities

- Can return William and Mary to more pointless British royal frumpery and trumpery.
- Could attract large number of British students to William and Mary, providing further justification for a mandatory, comprehensive dental insurance package.

### Threats

- Prince Charles, or any other horse-faced British royal.
- His age and lack of experience rivals only that of Barack "Barry" Obama.

## New England Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick

### Strengths

- He is a workaholic, and demands perfection from all around him.
- Will cut all underperforming "fluffy" departments—you know who you are.

### Weaknesses

- Constantly scowling.
- Reports to Board of Visitors meetings dressed in a Patriots hooded sweatshirt and sweatpants.
- Not exactly "student friendly."

### Opportunities

- Will bring Tribe football to its first 12-0 season.
- Will diversify hoodie selection at the bookstore and campus shop.

### Threats

- In-state students (who, it can only be assumed, are Redskins fans) stage revolt after Belichick requires Patriots' 52-7 victory over Skins played at Screen on the Green.
- Campus-wide video surveillance.

## Former US President Bill "Slick Willy" Clinton

### Strengths

- He can "feel our pain."
- Has no problem working closely with female administrators.
- Can attract heavy foreign investment to William and Mary, including from the coffers of campaign contributor Norman Hsu. (And you thought Jim McGlothlin was bad.)

### Weaknesses

- The McDonald's / Dunkin' Donuts drive-thru window is suddenly backed up every morning.
- Has no problem working closely with female administrators.

### Opportunities

- Required, president-approved sorority wet t-shirt contests every Friday.
- Restructuring of Honor Code, requiring more precise definitions of "is" and "sexual relations."

### Threats

- Hillary Clinton.
- Chelsea Clinton.
- Socks the cat.

## Celebrity and Pop Culture Icon Justin Timberlake

### Strengths

- Our Homecoming concert will be off the hizzy.
- We can display the "hottest state school" banner every single day of the year.
- The popularity of Wren 10 a cappella events would be at an all time high.

### Weaknesses

- After the stink of last year's Sex Workers' Art Show, what would campus conservatives think of his FutureSex / LoveSounds?
- He's *too* hot?

### Opportunities

- Appointment of Vice President for Student-Thug Affairs Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson.
- Perfect chance to bring sexy back, William and Mary style.

### Threats

- Britney Spears wandering around Old Campus shouting Justin's name at 3 am, pounding on the Brafferton doors.
- What goes around comes around.

## Obscure classes stand out in spring of 2008

**Boris Kiselev & Ilsa Tinkelman**  
Staff Writers

Do you feel like your classes next semester are unappealing? Do you have a passion for sex, prostitution or JRR Tolkien? Well, you're in luck, because a number of professors here at William and Mary had your specific interests in mind when they formulated some of the course offerings for next semester.

Though a majority of the classes at the College are those that are fairly standard across all schools, it is the specific, in-depth courses that highlight the strengths of our university's professors and faculty. Consider "Thoroughly Modern Manhood," studying "Hypermasculinity and the Fin-de-Siecle Consciousness" (AMST 350)? Some classes seem strange simply because they combine two superficially different subjects, such as "Sound Think: Music, Beauty, and Philosophy" (PHIL 306). In fact, this Tuesday / Thursday seminar looks at a question we all have had at one time or another, namely, why are people so innately attracted to music, and where does our ability to create and appreciate music come from? Also

consider "Narcissism in Literature," a combination of Psychology and English. Taught by Professor Mary Melfi, this introductory English course considers the Narcissistic Personality Type—self absorbed, lacking in empathy and egotistical—and its source and significance in famous literary works. Finally, where else can you take a class named after a song by Madonna? "Material Girls: Women, Money, Sex, and Marriage" (ENGL 150W), "analyzes the economics of female sexuality in literary and popular culture" by studying prostitution and the exchange of sex for worldly wealth.

There are actually a number of classes here at William and Mary that consider prostitution. Besides "Material Girls" there is "Love and Prostitution in Medieval Spain" and "Love, Adultery, and Prostitution in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Literature."

Ever read German detective fiction from the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Well, you can spend an entire semester getting to know that genre better (GRMN 417). You can even take a seminar devoted wholly to *Lord of the Rings* author JRR Tolkien (ENGL 150W).

## Career Center helps students find internships

**Aimee Forsythe**  
Staff Writer

Looking for a summer internship and not sure where to begin? The Career Center offers a variety of listservs and databases of internship possibilities and alumni contacts that you might find useful.

Trasi Watson, assistant director and internship coordinator at the Career Center, first suggests that students subscribe to the Career Center's primary listserv (link on their website). These weekly emails list jobs, internships, and scholarships that the Career Center receives from employers and alumni. What makes this listserv unique is that employers who specifically ask for William and Mary students will only have their internships listed through the Career Center and not on other internship databases shared with other schools.

Watson also recommends that students sign up for the University Career Action Network (UCAN) (link on their website), an internship database that is shared between William and Mary and 18 other reputable schools like Harvard, Princeton, and University of San Francisco. What is useful about this database is that students can see internship postings in other parts of the country that otherwise may not

have been sent to William and Mary.

Other resources include eRecruiting which lists job and internship opportunities. While this database usually contains more business type listings, it also includes an alumni mentor database. Alumni volunteer to be apart of the database in which they supply information on ways they can help students. Also listed on eRecruiting are the local businesses who participate in the Local Internship Program, a semester long program sponsored by the Career Center. This program allows students to apply for and have local, unpaid internships during a semester with the expectation of working about 7-10 hours a week and time off during the college breaks.

The Career Center website also features an externship database of William and Mary alumni who have offered externships to W&M students. On the database students can look up, by state or field, externships for breaks.

Ms. Watson recommends beginning your summer internship search now seeing as many positions have deadlines in late December. Potential interns must also have a presentable resume and an understanding of how to write a cover letter. The Career Center can assist you when writing these documents.



# President Bush gives World AIDS Day address

## Informer reporter in White House press corps for event

**Steven Nelson**  
Assistant News Editor

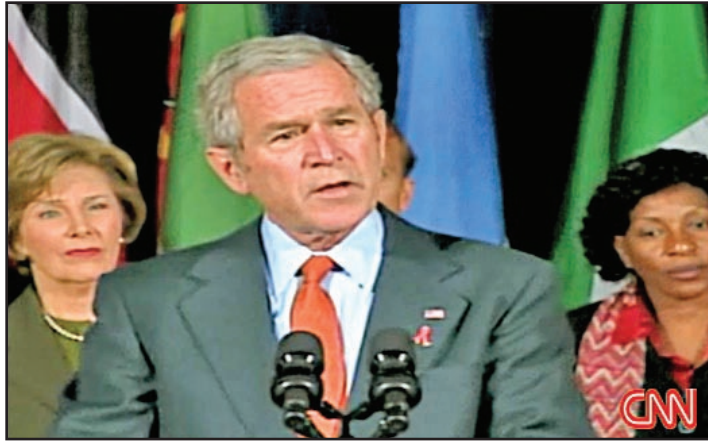
On Friday, November 30, President George W. Bush visited Calvary United Methodist Church in Maryland to re-state his intention of increasing American funding for the global fight against AIDS.

*The Virginia Informer* was able to place this reporter in the White House press pool, which comprised approximately 20 other journalists.

The White House chose Calvary as the locale for Mr. Bush's World AIDS Day address to highlight the church's volunteer work with the Children of Zion Village in Namibia's Caprivi region, a home for children left behind by AIDS.

Prior to addressing the press, Mr. Bush met for an hour with a small group that has been active in the AIDS crisis in Africa.

The forum included US AIDS



**Bush speaks:** President Bush recently vowed a renewed effort in the fight against AIDS.

ambassador Mark Dybul, members of World Relief and Catholic Charities, African activists, four volunteers associated with Children of Zion and Children of Zion founder Rebecca Mink, who was unexpectedly in the country. The meeting's focus was almost exclusively on

shared her experiences caring for 55 children. Mr. Bush was also made aware that there remain four to five thousand uncared-for orphans in the region.

At one point in the discussion, Mr. Bush appeared so moved as to wipe a tear from his eye.

Christian-based relief work.

The president asked participants to share their experiences with AIDS in the region. "It was not a structured meeting, the president asked us to share what was on our hearts," says Dennis Yocum, the pastor hosting the event.

Rebecca Mink

He asked Rev. Yocum to close the group in prayer. He then addressed the press, with panel members and an assortment of African flags assembled behind the presidential podium.

Religious overtones were unmistakably present in the president's statement. Mr. Bush extolled the work of faith-based groups in which Americans have been active, and asked for God's blessings on the loved ones that AIDS victims have left behind.

The president expressed his desire for the United States to increase funding for AIDS relief overseas from \$15 billion to \$30 billion, over six years. He also commented that the "ABC's: Abstinence, Be faithful, use Condoms" need to be promoted thoroughly.

Mr. Bush plans to tour Southern Africa early next year, to emphasize the United States' commitment to assisting in the AIDS epidemic.

# Beers fit for a badger

**Matthew Sutton**  
Managing Editor

In honor of the resurgence of Brett Favre and the Packers, it's time to explore the wide range of tasty beers from the Midwest, specifically from the great state of Wisconsin. Now I know that knowledge of America's heartland is extremely limited on this campus, as the flow of information at William and Mary is dominated by arrogant "coasties," but it's time for the snobby parochialism to end.

Let's examine a couple of relevant facts. Whether you drink Budweiser (from St. Louis) or Miller (from Milwaukee), you're sipping a little bit of greatness from the Midwest. Pabst Blue Ribbon (also a Milwaukee original) is another tried and true favorite with origins in the heartland of America.

Without the Midwest there wouldn't be great Americans like Hugh Hefner (Illinois), Neil Armstrong (Ohio), Henry Ford (Michigan), Larry Bird (Indiana) and John Wayne (Iowa). For a quick introduction to the distinctive slang of the heartland, know that it's pop, not soda, gym shoes and not sneakers and, as Kanye West would say, "you know what the Midwest is? Young and restless."

As a native Chicagoan, I'm partial to a Chicago-area microbrewery Goose Island and its aptly named 312 (Chicago's area code, for all you coasties), which is a refreshing urban wheat beer. As a Cubs fan, how could I forget the always smooth taste of a classic Old Style, the official beer of Wrigley Field. Another favorite not available in Williamsburg is Bell's Brewery, located in Michigan, which offers a great variety of brews.

Today it's time to meet the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company, headquartered in proud Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Known affectionately as "Leinies", the

Leinenkugel family has carefully brewed its beers since 1867. Only two are widely available for purchase in Williamsburg, the Sunset Wheat and Honey Weiss, both of which are excellent introductions to the Midwest.

To rate these brews, I've devised a new scoring system after many hours of study and experimentation in Rogers basement, with the help of a slightly eccentric chemistry professor.



**Milwaukee's best?:** Two quality Midwest brews are far superior.

### Sunset Wheat

The Sunset Wheat pours a light cloudy yellow with a thin head which quickly dissipates. It has a strong, fruity aroma, and the first sip reveals an interesting and distinctive orange flavor, with a bold aftertaste. Personally, I did not find the aftertaste overwhelming, but it was certainly strong and may be considered a bit much for some drinkers; it should remind you of Bucky Badger, the loveable mascot of University of Wisconsin-Madison. Sunset Wheat is a classic light brew and has feel-good summer-time vibe.

**7 out of 10 badgers**

### Honey Weiss

With a distinctive yellow bottle, the Honey Weiss offers another refreshing taste of Wisconsin. It pours a golden yellow, with a short lived light head. Lacking a distinctive smell like its cousin, Honey Weiss has a light and smooth taste which finishes clean. With honey overtones, Honey Weiss is a very drinkable—although somewhat uninspiring—and truly mellow beer.

**5 out of 10 badgers**

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

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

## Wes Edwards' Drink of the Week

### The High Octane 190

Kick: 5/5

Taste: 5/5

Where to buy: Everclear - Outside of Virginia

Slushees: 7-11, Wawa

I've been held to some pretty high standards for the Drink of the Week the past few issues, and many have bashed my "lame" drinks. Well, the High Octane 190 should really quiet my critics. All jokes aside, this is the granddaddy of all previous drinks; the true Baron of Blackout Beverages. As *The Informer's* drink correspondent, I spent Thanksgiving break in Las Vegas sampling the myriad of fine drinks Sin City has to offer.

For those of you who have a chance to visit the great alcohol oasis out west, the Ghostbar and the night club Rain have fantastic bars that offer a multitude of near-lethal drinks. However, the High Octane 190 was by far the most effective, and most delicious, of the offerings. Imagine a slushee of your flavor choice—now imagine dropping four shots of Everclear into said beverage. With no loss in taste, that is the definition of a High Octane 190. Enjoy, dear readers, and please—apologize to your liver in advance.

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

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Where you not only learn what FOIA means, but it becomes your best friend.

Join us next semester and you will find that sunshine is the best disinfectant.



# COLLEGE SALARIES: FOIA data illustrates disparity between faculty and administrator salaries

continued from page one

## Salaries of top 10 most popular professors

1. Constance Pilkington, Psychology **\$79,100**
  2. Clyde Haulman, Economics chair **\$118,000**
  3. John Nezelek, Psychology **\$102,100**
  4. Paul Heideman, Biology **\$82,500**
  5. Larry Ventis, Psychology **\$97,400**
  6. Georgia Irby-Massie, Classics **\$50,400**
  6. Michael Tierney, Government **\$69,500**
  8. Debbie Noonan, Computer Science **\$51,300**
  9. Clay Clemens, Government **\$96,950**
  10. Robert Pike, Chemistry **\$83,300**
- (Rankings from Ratemyprofessor.com)

## Highest Paid College Employees

1. Gene Nichol, President **\$339,172**
2. W. Taylor Reveley, Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law **\$319,300**
3. P. Geoffrey Feiss, Provost **\$287,500**
4. Lawrence Pulley, Dean of the Mason School of Business **\$272,075**
5. Sean Pieri, VP for Development **\$240,000**
6. Dennis Manos, Vice Provost **\$210,600**
7. W. Samuel Sadler, VP for Student Affairs **\$205,000**
8. Lynda Butler, Vice Dean of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law **\$200,700**
9. Carl Strikwerda, Dean of Arts and Sciences **\$192,900**
9. John Wells, Director of VIMS, Dean **\$192,900**
9. Virginia McLaughlin, Dean of the School of Education **\$192,900**



University Relations

**Dir. of Univ. Relations**  
**Mike Connelly**  
**\$123,500**



University Relations

**Multicultural Affairs Dir.**  
**Chon Glover**  
**\$83,800**



University Relations

**VP of Student Affairs**  
**Sam Sadler**  
**\$205,000**

Mr. Feiss is also the final decision maker when it comes to tenure and promotion of faculty, serves as chair of the budget committee, oversees all academic deans, professional schools, admissions, financial aid, the libraries, Information Technology and all research on campus.

Vice President for Student Affairs W. Samuel Sadler earns \$205,000 annually. Associate Vice President Munford earns \$141,000 and Associate Vice President Dillman earns \$145,600.

Mr. Sadler's three most visible deputies—Dean and Director of Judicial Affairs Gilbert, Residence Life Director Deb Boykin and Mark Constantine—earn a combined \$225,000.

The president also has a substantial staff of direct subordinates. Two assistants, Michael J. Fox and Jackson Sasser, earn \$135,200 and \$88,400, respectively. Executive Assistant to the President Cynthia Brauer earns \$59,800, and additional assistant Fanchon Glover earns \$83,800. Salary information for three other assistants was not provided.

Dean of Admissions Henry Broaddus, who heads a team charged with attracting applicants and selecting who will be accepted from over 10,000 applications, makes \$81,000; three assistants earn a total of \$121,000.

Football coach Jim Laycock earns nearly as much as four undergrad admissions personnel

combined, raking in \$176,000 per year.

Dean of Arts and Sciences Carl Strikwerda, who oversees the College's various academic departments, earns \$192,000. Dean of Students Volp earns around \$100,000.

Few professors earn into the triple digits. Many assistant and associate professors earn less than \$50,000. Several professors obtain additional funds through family contributions and through titles which acknowledge their commitment to the College.

The highest paid undergraduate professors include Professor Richard S. Price of the Anthropology Department, who earns \$187,000. Following Mr. Price are: Charles R. Johnson of Math, \$178,000; Melvin P. Ely of History, \$175,000; Don E. Campbell of Economics, \$161,500; David Lutzer of Math, \$157,000; and James L. Axtell of History, \$155,200.

**Please go to [VAInformer.com](http://VAInformer.com) to get the complete list of faculty and administrator salaries.**



University Relations

**Asst. VP**  
**Mark Constantine**  
**\$83,800**

## Biology Department

- Lizabeth Allison \$79,800
- Eric Bradley \$119,800
- Gregory Capelli \$77,200
- Martha Case \$69,000
- Randy Chambers \$87,200
- Daniel Cristol \$84,300
- Eric Engstrom \$64,200
- Norman Fashing \$100,600
- Mark Forsyth \$66,400
- William Funk \$64,000
- George Gilchrist \$68,100
- John Griffin \$70,000
- Ashley Haines \$50,000
- Paul Heideman (c) \$82,500
- Oliver Kerscher \$64,000
- Meagan McNulty \$40,000
- Julian Pittman \$39,000
- Margaret Saha \$85,700
- Diane Shakes \$71,600
- John Swaddle \$79,800
- Stewart Ware \$110,200
- Matthew Wawersik \$64,200
- Patty Zwollo \$68,000

## Notable Salaries

### Office of Multicultural Affairs

Assistant to the President/Dir. of OMA Fanchon Glover \$83,800  
Assistant Director Vernon Hurte \$51,700

### Res Life

Assistant Vice President and Dir. of Residence Life Deb Boykin \$86,850  
Associate Director Allison Wildridge \$61,000  
Associate Director Katrina Pawvluk \$57,200  
Director of Housing Operations Chris Durden \$58,100

### University Relations

Director of University Relations Michael Connolly \$123,500  
Director of News Services Brian Whitson \$75,000  
Director of News Marketing Suzanne Seurattan \$50,000  
Director of Research Communications Joseph M. McClain \$63,600  
Editor, The William and Mary News David Williard \$62,400

### President's Office

Executive Assistant to the President Cynthia A. Brauer \$59,800  
Assistant to the President/Secretary to the BOV Michael J. Fox \$135,200  
Assistant to the President Jackson N. Sasser, Jr. \$88,400

**Want to know more salaries?**

**Go online!**  
**VAInformer.com**

## Tuition increase hits home at William and Mary

With an expected cut in Virginia education funding next year as a result of state budget shortfalls, many have wondered how these missing dollars will be made up; perhaps the most obvious would be another increase in tuition rates. Given the likelihood of this occurrence, *The Informer* felt it necessary to explore the current trends of Virginia's public university tuition and room and board fees. Among the smaller universities in the state, William and Mary was the most expensive for in-state residents for the entire 07-08 academic year at \$9,164, followed closely by UVA at \$8,690 over

the same time period. For out-of-state residents, the situation was reversed with UVA coming in first at \$27,940 and William and Mary coming in a close second at \$26,725. Old Dominion University is the least expensive for in-state students this year, costing an average of \$5,900, and Christopher Newport University is the least expensive for out-of-state students, costing \$14,150. Most of Virginia's public universities had their in-state tuition rates in the range of \$6,000-



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

\$7,000 and their out-of-state tuition rates in the range of \$16,000-\$19,000. Surprisingly, room and board fees varied much more significantly than tuition rates amongst the state's universities. George Mason University had the highest rate for 07-08, at \$12,960, while Virginia Tech had the lowest, at \$6,236. William and Mary's room and board charges this year amounted to an average of \$7,385.

Furthermore, the average tuition increase amongst the state's four-year

institutions between 06-07 and 07-08 amounted to 6.4%. This is slightly less than the 7.1% tuition increase William and Mary students incurred this year but significantly less than the 8.6% tuition increase UVA students incurred this year (the highest in the state). Norfolk State University students incurred the lowest tuition increase in Virginia at 4.7%. It is worth noting that all of these percentages are significantly higher than both state and national inflation. The information compiled in this article was obtained directly from university Web sites.



## Put a little swing in your step at an upcoming dance

### Swing Club offers chance to relieve stress with relatively free dance style

Ilsa Tinkelman  
Staff Writer

With the fall 2007 semester coming quickly to a close, students all across



Courtesy Swing Club

**The allure:** Swing dancers love the form of dance because they can move freely.

campus are feeling the stress of rapidly approaching due dates and final exams. Many students could consider looking to find a release in a classic stress-relieving activity with a twist... literally.

The William and Mary Swing Club offers such an opportunity. The organization holds beginner lessons from 7 pm to 8 pm each Tuesday night with student instructors Chris Woolley and Juliana Glassco. The lesson is followed by a half hour of social dancing where dancers at any level can practice their skills, learn new tricks and meet new people. What is so alluring about this particular pastime? Swing Club President Brian Paljug says that swing dancing is "very accessible, easy to teach" and "quickly learned," as well as "different and fun." Unlike more formal styles, such as ballroom dancing, swing dancing allows participants to combine moves freely with very few rules and lots of rhythm. The club also offers intermediate classes for dancers with more experience, held after this social affair and taught by Mr. Paljug and Audrey Anderson.

In addition to holding weekly lessons, the club also hosts dances here at the College, travels to swing dance events around the state and spreads the word about workshops for dancers at every

level of expertise. This past semester there were several extremely successful events, including a Halloween dance to which those invited attended dressed in costume, a holiday-themed semi-formal and a dance held at Retro's Diner on Prince George's Street, where vintage dress was encouraged. All these events are low cost (sometimes free for members) and open to everyone, so why not take a night off from your academic pursuits and enjoy good music and a good time with the Swing Dance Club?



Courtesy Swing Club

**Lots of opportunities:** The Swing Club meets once a week and also holds special events from time to time, including a Halloween dance and holiday-themed semi-formal dance.

#### Upcoming Dates

Dec. 5 - Dance at Lodge 1

Dec. 15 - Snowball Holiday Dance at Shall We Dance Studio in Virginia Beach

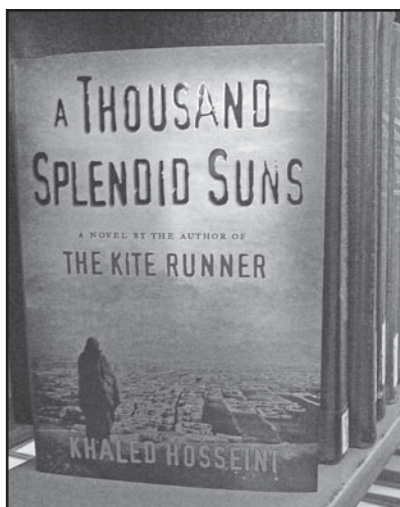
## A Thousand Splendid Suns offers further testament to Hosseini's excellent storytelling

Swetha Sirvaram  
Staff Writer

Khalid Hosseini's *New York Times* best-selling book, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, centers on the Afghan civil war, but mostly it is about the lives of ordinary women, their dreams, and the crushing realities of life in war-torn Afghanistan. It is about how they labor under the twin weight of customs and men "whose accusing finger always finds a woman."

Mr. Hosseini's book deals with the tragic lives of two women, Layla and Maryam. Maryam is the illegitimate daughter of Jalil Khan, and her entire life is defined by her being a "harami," an illegitimate child. At fifteen years old she is married off to the middle-aged Rasheed from Kabul, whose bulging eyes and stout figure reflect the terrible life that awaits Maryam. Marriage proves to be no blessing for Maryam, as Rasheed takes every opportunity to restrict her horizons, and continually shows contempt towards her because of her inability to bear children. Rasheed later takes in and marries the teenage Layla, drawing Maryam's contempt—but soon an unlikely friendship arises between them.

Unlike Maryam, Layla is beautiful and privileged. Her high cheekbones, green eyes and blond hair make her peers treat her as a "pari," angel, and she has a mother who dotes on her and an educated father who never allows her to forget her boundless potential. Layla falls in love with her neighbor Tariq, a crippled boy, but loses him when he leaves for Pakistan. Pregnant and concerned about the safety and legitimacy of her child, Layla marries the much older Rasheed and slowly becomes friends with the sullen Maryam. Just like Saleem Sinai in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight Children*, Layla's life serves as a parallel to the history of Afghanistan, from its turn to a Communist republic, to the invasion of the Soviet Union, to the Mujahideen, the Taliban and finally to the US invasion of the country. Her children are the legacies and possibilities



Alex McKinley

**Strong personalities:** The characters, ranging from the malicious Rasheed to the beautiful Layla, make for a beautiful story.

that Afghanistan inherits; one, a dream towards a progressive state and society, and the other a reminder of its violent and restrictive past. Layla soon becomes Maryam's steadfast companion and, through her children, Maryam herself finds the courage to face both the repressive policies of the Taliban and Rasheed's terrifying violence.

Unlike the author's previous work, *The Kite Runner*, Mr. Hosseini's new book uses a larger Farsi vocabulary, lending his story a more authentic atmosphere. Also, while *The Kite Runner* is a rather basic romantic story, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a political story that masquerades as a story about love. The plot and pacing are precise, and although the middle section, which is told from Layla's perspective, at first appears incongruous, later sections steadily become deeper and longer,

slowly pulling the reader into Mr. Hosseini's tale. Characters flit in and out of focus, and the setting of major scenes in Kabul relentlessly emphasizes how the external destruction of civil war affects the day-to-day lives of Afghani women.

As always, Mr. Hosseini's storytelling is par excellence and his story itself is heart-stopping. The characters, despite the fact that some of them have stereotypical characteristics seemingly plucked right out of a Bollywood movie (the ever-suffering Maryam, the malicious Rasheed, the beautiful Layla), become more and more real as the story progresses. Each chapter is a page-turner and the fates of both Layla and Maryam are quite captivating. With this beautiful and heart-wrenching story, Mr. Hosseini proves his mettle as one of the finest Middle Eastern writers working in the English language today.

#### A Thousand Splendid Suns

**Author:** Khaled Hosseini  
**Pages:** 384  
**Publisher:** Riverhead  
**ISBN:** 1594489505  
**List Price:** \$25.95

## W&M senior organizes poetry contest

R.C. Rasmus  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Aileen Judd ('08) is not a published author—yet. However, this Classical Studies and English double major will have a book with her name on it in the near future. As part of her internship with The Business Scribe, a local independent publisher, Ms. Judd is currently holding a poetry contest for young adults aged 16-24, and will publish the top 100 pieces in a book tentatively titled *Young Poets*.

"The credit for this idea goes entirely to Hal Gieseking," the creator and sole member of The Business Scribe, said Ms. Judd. "I just submitted some of my poetry as a writing sample, and he suggested we create a book of my poetry. Later we decided to make a book of poetry by other students instead. I was a bit relieved, because I don't write that much poetry outside of class," she laughed.

Ms. Judd will serve as editor for the collection and choose the 100 poems to be published along with fellow college students, while the top ten poems will be chosen by a panel of judges. *Young Poets*, to be released in March of 2008, will also include a photo essay on England's Lake District, which inspired poets including Wordsworth and Ruskin, and famous poems by poets who wrote when they were young.

A percentage of the book's proceeds will be donated to Virginia Tech in honor of the students who died there during last April's massacre. In fact, the book will first be published on the Internet as a free, downloadable PDF file, with a suggestion that those who enjoyed it contribute directly to Virginia Tech through a donate button. Readers will also later be able to purchase a copy of the book from lulu.com.

Those interested in entering the poetry contest should send works of 400 words or less to poetryoflife@gmail.com, and visit the Web site for more rules at [www.virginiahospitalitysuite.com/poetryoflife.htm](http://www.virginiahospitalitysuite.com/poetryoflife.htm). Alternatively, students can join the Facebook group title "Poetry of Life- Help the Hokies." The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2008.



## Nooks and Crannies of William & Mary A Dead Tradition: Duc Week

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Since high school, most students at the College have been taught to be wary of hazing. Nowadays, even the most innocent of initiations is suspect and carried out in secret, lest the school administration catch wind and set the judicial counsel on the trail. However, just a few short decades ago William and Mary's administration was in full support of a tradition whose sole purpose was the mortification of as many first-year students as possible. Those freshmen who had broken one or more "Duc Rules" were brought before a court, tried and sentenced to suffer various indignities at the hands of their fellow matriculates. The time-honored ritual of "Duc Week," dead now these forty or fifty years, once caused frightened first-years to walk tremblingly to a theatre of public humiliation as both upperclassmen and College staffers looked on.

At this point, you might be asking yourself, "So what is a Duc?" Well, back in William and Mary's early days, the College accepted several young men whose education was not quite on par with their peers'. The school handed such students over to the official College Usher, who proctored several introductory classes to help these slower undergraduates catch up to their classmates in the regular College classes. Such young men were called "Ducs" because of their enrollment in these introductory classes. Before long, the label came to be used as a moniker for every first-year student and later, when William and Mary went co-ed, the term "Ducess" was also adopted to refer to first-year ladies.

Beginning in the early 1900s (the first mention of a Duc at William and Mary comes in a 1919 article in *The Flat Hat*), new students at the College were called together in assembly on their very first day at school and given a copy of the laws that would come to regiment their first social year in Williamsburg. Some of these "Duc Rules" included a stipulation that all freshman had to wear the distinctive "Duc Cap," a small, round beanie in the school colors, at all times except on Sundays; that they could not speak to ladies until after 4:00 pm on weekdays; that they must carry matches on their person at all times for the convenience of the upperclassmen; that they must attend all sporting events and meetings of the student body; and that they must walk only on campus sidewalks and never cut across the grass, among other things. In addition, there was the tradition of "Duc Week," during which even more absurd rules were put into effect; in 1924, for instance, Ducesses were required to wear odd shoes one day, no makeup on another and walk backwards when passing the Brafferton on a third. At the end of their freshman year, the now-seasoned first-years would attend an event called the "Duc Rally," at which their Duc Caps were thrown into a bonfire to symbolize their maturation into upperclassmen or, as the Duc Rules called them, "Old Men."

Those who failed to follow the Duc Rules were subjected to trials in front of what was variously called "The Supreme Court," "The Freshman Tribunal" and "The Most Exalted Grand High Tribunal." Upperclassmen were encouraged to report offending first-years (officially called "Gross Ducs") to the tribunal and attend the court session that judged and sentenced the delinquents. The tribunal's annual session was an enormously popular campus event,



Aileen Judd

**Faculty-led hazing:** Only a few decades ago, the College administration was in favor of making freshmen follow a list of absurd "Duc Rules."

with upperclassmen often standing in line for hours to get good seats. Held first in the Wren Chapel and later in PBK Hall, the session was conducted rather formally, with seniors acting as presiding judges, bailiffs, prosecutors and defense attorneys (though the defense often switched sides in the middle of the event and began prosecuting their "clients"). Those freshmen found guilty of offenses were subjected to various amusing punishments, which included mock-execution, temporary imprisonment, fines, cross-dressing, "cooling" (whereby a student was forced to ride around at night in the back of a pickup truck) and campusing. According to *The Flat Hat*, one Yankee freshman who insulted the Confederate Flag in 1923 was made to sing "Dixie" before being "consigned to jail to die."

As time went on, the Duc Rules were challenged by unhappy first-year students. In 1927 they were officially removed from the student handbook after a group of Ducs staged a revolt just before their Duc Rally. Between 1930 and 1960 there were a few attempts to strengthen enforcement of the rules, with even the 13 Society promising at one point to aid in the reporting of Gross Ducs, but the efforts were largely for naught.

The length of the rules' enforcement began to shrink, first to the end of the fall semester, then to the month of September and finally to a single week towards the start of the year: Duc Week, which culminated with the Freshman Tribunal. The year 1962 saw the last mention of this last tradition in *The Flat Hat*, and today memories of Ducs and Ducesses has almost entirely faded from campus memory. At a College with a long, proud history of clinging to its traditions, this particular ritual has been allowed to die quietly here at William and Mary.

## Forget the outlets



R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment  
Editor

One of the major artistic areas that I've consistently stayed away from in this column is the world of fashion. Why? Well, it's complicated. It's not that I don't like or respect fashion. In fact, I think it's one of the most relentlessly innovative and creative industries in existence. By necessity, the fashion world has to make every collection that it releases totally new and different—otherwise, who would even bother to look at the six-figure price tags on this season's new Marc Jacobs? Yet, interesting and cutting-edge though it may be, haute couture and I have never really gotten along. The way I see it, clothing should be a conversation piece, something unique and interesting that is as fun to talk about as it is to look at or wear, and you just don't get that from a new Armani sweater. "Oh," your friend might say, "is that sweater new?" "Yep, it's Armani. I paid \$500 for this puppy." Awkward silence. "Oh, that's cool." Not your ideal social interaction. No, I'm much more in favor of clothing with personality, shirts and socks that have a story you can recount over lunch or talk about while waiting in line at the grocery store.

So what exactly qualifies as clothing with personality? First off, but sorry kids, you won't find it at the outlets in Williamsburg. Nothing bought brand new from a retail store—even at outlet prices—can have the kind

of character I'm talking about. No matter how edgy or (in)expensive it was, it will take a little time before your new jean jacket from Calvin Klein gets a personality. Wait a few months, or maybe even a few years. Your coat will get torn up a little. Maybe you'll sew up the holes with some orange thread or fishing line. Your coat will get stained. Maybe you'll accidentally spill a few drops of bleach or ink onto it. Your coat will get worn. Maybe you'll iron a patch over one of the elbows. Each of these imperfections will add to your coat's personality as something a friend can look at and say, "How did *that* happen?" Each visible spot and tear will point to a story. Your coat will be more than just something to keep the wind off your back; it will be a conversation piece, a piece of accidental art that you can carry around with you and use on a day-to-day basis.

However, character doesn't just come from wear, tear and time. You can also find things just lying around that are positively bursting with personality. When you travel, keep your eyes peeled for things you'd never be able to find at home: hemp pullovers, hand-woven belts or maybe just something like a touristy t-shirt ("I Visited Area 51"). If you don't happen to be a globe-trekker, pop down to the thrift store or into your attic and see what's lying around. After a couple of minimal alterations, you might end up with something that will have everyone around you asking to hear its story. Kids' clothes are especially fun. Remember that Jurassic Park or Power Rangers t-shirt you had when you were four? Go see if it's still around. Cut off the design and hand-stitch it to the front of a \$5 long sleeve shirt from Wal-Mart. Voila. See? It's not that hard.

Even the high-class world of fashion recognizes and tries to satisfy the public desire for clothes that tell a story. Witness the hideous overuse in the past years of what the designers call the "distressed" look—leather bags that come pre-scratched, jeans that come pre-ripped or pre-stained and tops with hems that are left purposely unfinished. Take my advice, people: don't fall for this crap. Imbue your clothes with their own personality. Tear them if you want to, bleach them, slash them, add sleeves, cut sleeves off, dye them, write on them, stud them, stitch things onto them. Or, even better, just wear them and let them accrue their own stories. In a culture that encourages us to throw things away as soon as they start to show their age, celebrate the worn and stained. It's always more fun to wear something that will make the little old lady behind you in Ukrops say, "Excuse me, young person, but I just have to know...."

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# JOIN THE INFORMER

*The Informer* is the only paper at William and Mary that is entirely independent of the College, meaning we report the truth and go in-depth to publish what others dare not print!



Food Review:

# Emerald Thai Cuisine offers superb food and service

**Matt Pinkser**  
Food Critic

A few miles down Route 60 while approaching Busch Gardens, one will find the delightful restaurant Emerald Thai Cuisine. It certainly lives up to its name in that, upon entering, one cannot help but notice the interior decked out in shades of green. The inside was very clean and well kept, and the staff always immediately took care of dirty tables when diners exited. The staff and service were very polite and well-mannered. They were exceptionally attentive to my needs as a diner, and my water glass was never less than half-filled, a task most impressive considering the spiciness of the food.

Everything I ordered had a slight spicy kick to it, but not so much that it prevented me from enjoying the food. The menu offered the typical Thai dishes one will find on the East coast of America (for the unfamiliar, Thai food on the east coast uses much less coconut in its cooking than west coast Thai). For an appetizer I ordered the spring roll (\$4.95). With very little waiting, three tightly-wrapped rolls full of the usual ingredients came out, as well as homemade sweet and

sour sauce with some hot peppers mixed in. The spring rolls were some of the best I've ever had, and lacked that greasy feel you often get. They made an excellent appetizer to share with others.

For the entrée I ordered the chicken cashew (\$7.95 lunch, \$9.95 dinner), which came with hot and sour soup. The hot and sour soup is similar to eggdrop found in Chinese restaurants, except dark, loaded with vegetables and with an entirely new and pleasurable flavor. The chicken cashew was very well-presented. On a rectangular dish there was a mound of white rice on the right, and to the left was a mixture of chicken, cashew nuts, scallions, peppers and grilled pineapple, all covered by a thin pool of a delicious sauce. Everything in the dish blended together perfectly but never lost its distinctiveness. This dish was exceptionally tasty, and I highly recommend it. Although the chicken cashew was not listed as spicy, it had a subtle undertone of hotness which only enhanced the flavor. It was served at the perfect temperature, and remained hot for the duration of the meal. The portions sizes did not allow for leftovers, but were sufficient.

Emerald Thai makes an excellent location for a date or outing with friends. The restaurant also has a very large bar with an extensive drink menu you may want to consider. If you are pressed for time, they also do a carryout business. Also, be sure to take advantage of their 15% discount on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



Matt Pinkser

**Food and drink:** The restaurant features an extensive bar, which makes it a great stop to make with friends.

## Across the Universe takes risks but fails to impress

If there were a modern director able to take the music of The Beatles and turn it into a story representing the youthful turmoil of the 1960s, it would be Julie Taymor. However,

her new film, *Across the Universe*, suffers from several problems that Ms. Taymor is simply unable to overcome.

*Across the Universe* tells the story of Jude, a dock worker who travels to America at the beginning of the 1960s in a search of his biological father, an American who had been a soldier during World War II. He finds him, but realizes that he is a janitor at Princeton University. There, at Princeton, Jude meets the young Max Carrigan, who is beginning to understand that there may be more to life than graduating from college, finding a job and starting a family. Jude also meets (and instantly falls in love with) Max's sister, Lucy, played by Evan Rachel Wood. The movie follows these three as they live through the turbulent 1960s, encountering war, protests, sex, drugs and rock and roll along the way.



**Joe Pirro**  
Film Critic

Throughout the film, The Beatles' music is performed by different characters, and many of the songs have been rearranged to represent different musical styles. For instance, in an excellent scene in a bowling alley, Jude sings "I've Just Seen a Face" as a rockabilly anthem for Lucy. However, not all of the music works: Bono's performance of "I am the Walrus" is an interruptive, strange scene that slows the pace of the film and seems like little more than an excuse to insert Bono into the film.

*Across the Universe* attempts to construct an epic story of the tumultuous 1960s. Ms. Taymor uses her signature stunning visuals to show the psychological (and occasionally psychedelic) mindset of the youth of the time. However, the difficulty of making a film like this lies both in the music of the Beatles itself and the attempt to cram all of the social problems of the hippie generation into a 131 minute film. It is refreshing to see a director taking such risks, but the film devolves into postmodern pastiche that shovels all of the turmoil of the 1960s into a string of three-minute long pop music videos. *The Virginia Informer* gives *Across the Universe* a **C+**.

## Indie Films: Why less is more

**Michelle Ju**  
Staff Writer

Indie films are called films, not movies, for a reason. In an age where films recycle car combustions, dull plots and an endless supply of "go-to" A-list actors, many movie-goers are tired of the hackneyed "Hollywood"-ization we know as the exploitation of big picture films. It is no surprise that in the past decade a selective crop of independent films, best known as "indie" films, have caused a stir in both the film industry and movie seats. Call them elitist, campy or blasé – all indie films have something in common, aside, of course, from being produced by low-budget studios. To make up for the lack of "production" value that big picture films have, indie films center around the smaller things, including clever, substantial scripts, unique and provocative plots and distinctive aesthetics that encompass different film angles and cinematic techniques. Although many indie films pack the cynicism and antiheroes of film noir, a handful of them still maintain lighthearted humor and absurdity.

Tired of the tried and true Hollywood versions on love, gore and humor? Curious about films that flirt around darker, provoking matters? Try *Hard Candy* (2005), a smart and disturbing thriller about a pedophile who lures a seemingly-harmless adolescent girl he met in an Internet chat room to his house, or *Wristcutters: A Love Story*

(2007), a dark romantic comedy about people who commit suicide and land themselves in "suicide" limbo, a hell no different from their past lives. *Manic* (2001) features a compelling look into the lives of troubled teens in a mental institution being treated for depression, anger issues, and self-mutilation, who must deal with rage, the vague uncertainty of youth and the pent up walls of a clinical enclosure.

The most popular but unrecognizable " sleeper hits" among today's indie films include hits such as *Pulp Fiction*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Donnie Darko*, *Lost in Translation*, *Napoleon Dynamite* and *Little Miss Sunshine* – ironic tales of unlikely heroes with plot twists that make for laughable or tragic entertainment. As most of these films seem to imply, low film production does not necessarily translate into low publicity – Quentin Tarantino and Sophia Coppola are two of the most talked-about indie filmmakers of the decade. These sleeper hits continue to raise revenue out of the box office and into the realm of pop culture phenomena.

Daring in their quest to cover uncharted territory, indie films promise a script full of laughs or uncomfortable silences. Indie flicks attract a wide range of audiences, including hard critics, who all share a love for up-and-coming actors, gritty plots and effectual cinematic experiences that leave a greater impression than just a hole burned in their wallets.

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**Meetings on Mondays, 7:30pm in Blair 223**



# William and Mary Theatre questions authority in *Antigone*

Stephanie Long

News Editor

This season, William and Mary Theatre chose to stage Jean Anouilh's version of the classic tragedy *Antigone*, originally performed in 1944 in Paris under German occupation. Interestingly, though, the theater department chose to put the audience in the place of this 1944 Parisian audience, making it unclear at what point the play had actually ended. This caused me to wonder if the production's aim was to imply that our community is in a similar situation to that of the Parisians under Nazi control.

Before the play even began, the stage was set. Students playing Nazi guards were posted at the entrance of the theater, checking those who came to see the play for guns. Those who then read the "Note from the Director" in the playbill saw that they had apparently walked back in time to the opening night of Ms. Anouilh's *Antigone*. I personally noticed that the College President Gene Nichol showed up to see the message that the theater department was trying to get across in their presentation.

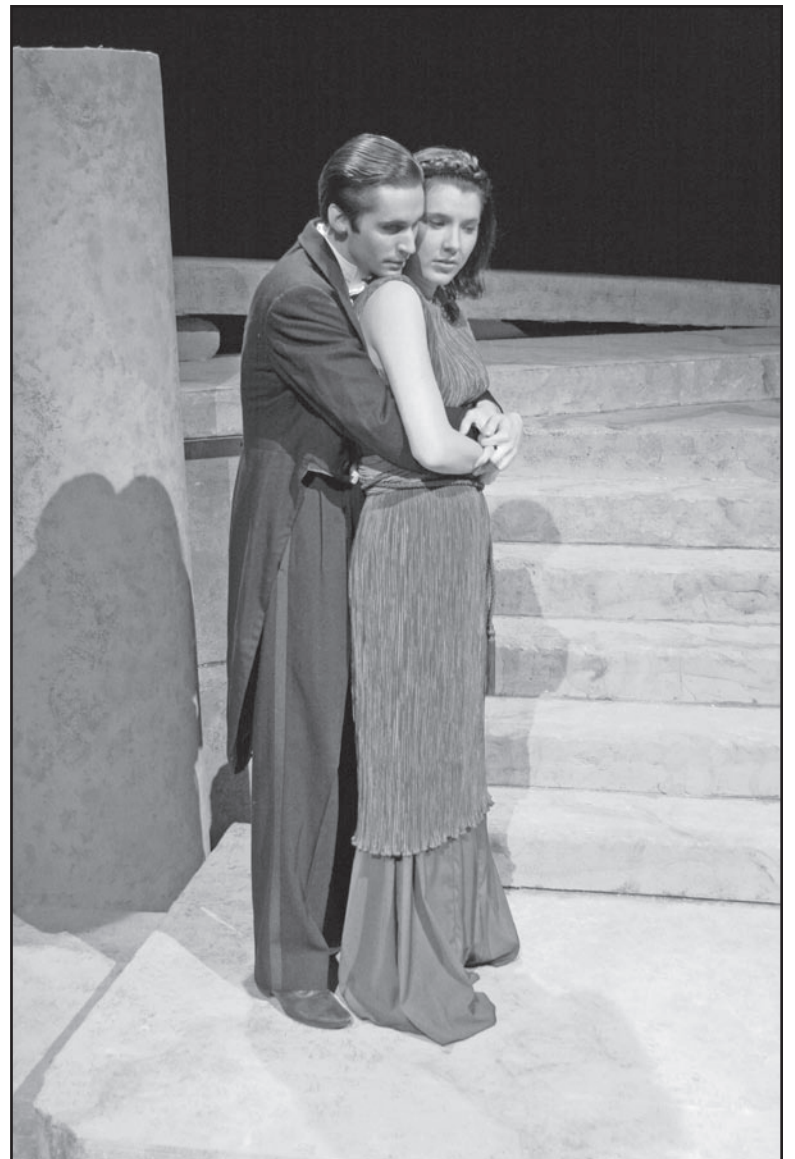
Ms. Anouilh's play highlights several aspects of the classic tale, presumably in order to encourage the Parisians to rebel against the Nazis. This includes such things as Antigone's strong sense of self and refusal to let others make up her mind for her, as well as the true ignorance of the dictatorial king, Creon, and his overall indecency against human kind.

The way William and Mary Theatre staged the production spoke even more to me of the true aim of the play—both Ms. Anouilh's original purpose as well as that of the theater department. Aside from casting actors to play Nazis who applauded after a pompous speech made by Creon, indicating

the blind power behind driving his political machine, one character in particular was able to take over the stage and reemphasize the themes of the play: the Greek Chorus, played by Anna Lien. Although she took on the role by herself, Ms. Lien's presence on the stage was so strong that it was as if a large chorus of people had actually been there. But in one, unified voice she explained the backstory of the play, proclaimed Creon's kingship as a "reign of terror" and concluded that, "like all tyrants, [Creon] refused to distinguish between what is Caesar's and what is God's." Furthermore, many of her lines were directed at the actors playing the head of the German General Staff in Paris, infusing both her character and the play that she led with an even greater nature of rebellion.

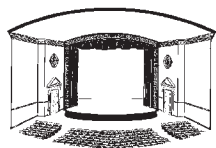
But when the play "ended," I do not believe we were supposed to feel as if it had truly ended. We were supposed to "catch the disease" of rebellion from Antigone, as other characters throughout the course of the play do, and we were supposed to ask the same questions that she and the Chorus were not afraid to ask about their oppressive situations.

In the "Note from the Director," addressed to the 1944 Parisian audience, *Antigone* is described as "very noble: a classic tale by Sophocles that has been updated for our modern times." With Gene Nichol in the audience, I couldn't help but wonder how he would react to the notion within the play that divine law is higher than natural law or that Creon is trapped by his own poor decisions and refuses to reverse them and admit that he had acted wrongly, in order to prevent further wrongs from occurring. From the emphasis on questioning authority, especially in the play's staging, I think the William and Mary theatre department deemed *Antigone* just as worthy for modern times as it was for the Parisians in 1944.



Courtesy William and Mary Theatre

**Encore performance of French play:** Jean Anouilh's version of the Greek tragedy *Antigone*, as it was performed in Vichy France, was an anti-Nazi production, questioning the moral authority of government.



*Kimball Theatre*

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

## Movies

### Rocket Science (R)

Sun., Nov. 25-Tues., Dec. 4  
6:45 and 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 25-Dec. 2, Dec. 4 screening room (35 seats)

### Film Movement Series

#### The Way I Spent the End of the World (Not rated)

Mon., Dec. 3  
7 and 9 p.m.

#### This is England (Not rated)

Wed., Dec. 5-Wed., Dec. 12  
7 and 9 p.m.

Dec. 5-11 screening room (35 seats)

#### The Jane Austen Book Club (PG-13)

Wed., Dec. 12-Wed., Dec. 19  
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.

Dec. 12-15, 17-18 screening room (35 seats)

#### Two Days in Paris (R)

Tues., Dec. 18-Sun., Dec. 23  
7 and 9 p.m.

Dec. 19-23 screening room (35 seats)

#### The King of California (PG-13)

Mon., Dec. 24-Mon., Dec. 31  
Dec. 24 and 31 shows at 3:30 p.m. only  
Dec. 25-30 shows at 6:45 and 8:30 p.m.  
Dec. 25-30 screening room (35 seats)

## December Schedule

### Live Performances

#### Williamsburg Symphonia presents Holiday Concert

Sat., Dec. 1 and Sun., Dec. 2 at 1:30 and 3 p.m.  
All seats \$20

#### Virginia Premiere Theatre presents The Gift of the Magi

Dec. 4, 11, 18 at 3 p.m.; Dec. 5, 12, 19 at 5 p.m.  
Dec. 21-23 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$18, Seniors/Students \$15, Children 12 and under \$7

#### Robert Hodge in Concert

Fri., Dec. 7 and Sat., Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m.  
All seats \$20

#### Laughing Redhead Studios presents Clean Comedy Night

Featuring Joby Saad  
Fri., Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$15, Seniors/Students \$12

#### Celebrate the Season: Don Irwin in Concert

Sat., Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m.  
All seats \$20

#### The Kimball Theatre presents

#### Victorian Christmas Magic-Lantern Show

Thurs., Dec. 20 at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$12, Seniors/Students \$10

#### Broken Up

#### A Comedy by Nick Hall

Wed., Dec. 26, Fri., Dec. 28, and Sun., Dec. 30 at 8 p.m.  
All seats \$18



Staff Editorials:

## Salaries provide disappointing, revealing look at College's priorities

Our frontpage story reveals the sad state of affairs at our College. Despite our well-deserved reputation as a small, liberal arts school with an attention to undergraduate teaching, it appears that the financial priorities of our College are for enriching administrators, not paying our hard-working professors.

The faculty comprises the College's backbone. A committed and accomplished group of scholars and researchers, these men and women are a crucial part of the College's past success and future goals. What sense is there, then, in spending exorbitant amounts of money, not on maintaining and expanding this college's academic reputation and legacy, but instead on inefficient administrators and even more levels of needless campus bureaucracy?

At a time where the College is facing pressure from state lawmakers in Richmond and the possibility of more cuts in state funding, they only way that the College will be able to ensure a sensible spending policy is to maximize private donations. Unfortunately, President Gene Nichol seems uninterested or unwilling to acknowledge and pursue this vital task.

With all due respect to Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler—whose folksy e-mails endear him to many students at the College—is a salary that exceeds \$200,000 really appropriate?

For another example of overpaid administration, contrast the \$83,800 salary of Dr. Fanchon Glover, the head of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, with the amount made by distinguished and well-liked Government Professor Michael Tierney, who makes \$69,500 by comparison.

As Associate Professor of Economics David Jaeger wrote in his letter to the editor of *The Flat Hat*, "To my knowledge, Nichol and other members of the administration have made no public statements regarding how we are to achieve the stated goal of 60<sup>th</sup> percentile of our peer group with regards to salaries in the current budget environment." Touching on the problems of low faculty salaries and high teaching loads, Mr. Jaeger offered an ominous prediction: "It is certain that the best and most productive scholar-teachers will leave the College in search of greener and more stimulating pastures if nothing is done to address these issues."

If William and Mary wishes to maintain its reputation for stellar academics and scholarship, we must take a hard look at how we are allocating funds for the salaries of our professors and administrators. Instead of wasting precious funds on a bloated bureaucracy, it is crucial that the College act quickly in order to ensure that we retain the best and brightest minds in the public system today.

## BOV must act, now

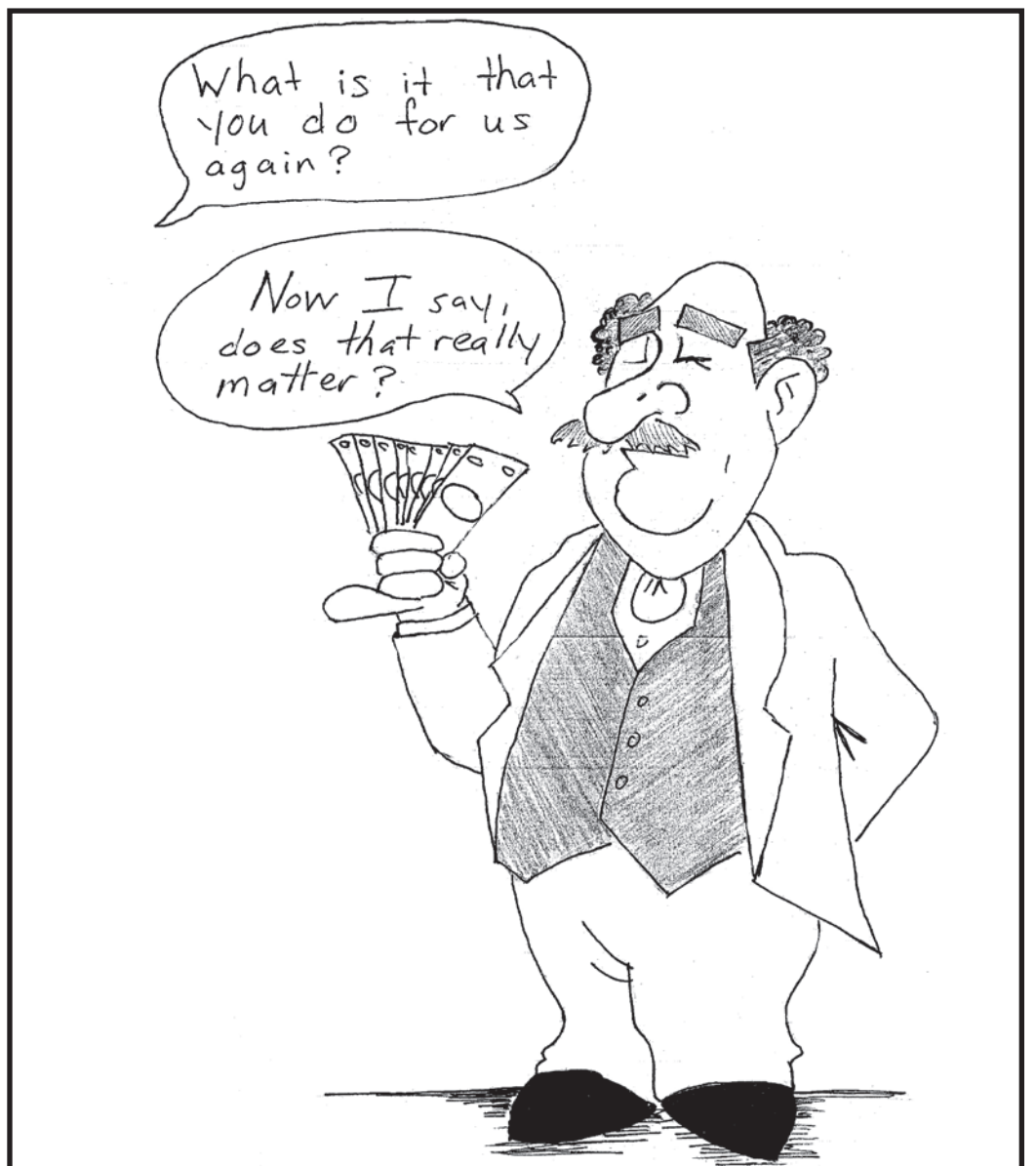
It is time for the Board of Visitors to make their decision on President Gene Nichol's future at the College. While we applauded their decision to thoroughly review his tenure here, using proven metrics of success, it is clear that the fallout from the e-mail controversy requires a swift decision regarding Mr. Nichol.

We at the *Informer* feel that his actions in this incident illustrate a casual and shocking disregard for the truth, and that his conduct in this situation alone – not including the rest of his disappointing tenure – are reason enough to let his contract expire.

When placed in the larger context of his repeated failures, including but not limited to the Wren cross debacle, the failure to fight the

NCAA's decision about the feathers, the bad publicity surrounding the Sex Workers Art Show, and the College's drop in national rankings during his presidency, the evidence against Mr. Nichol is overwhelming. With President Nichol's support dwindling rapidly in the wake of the recent revelation of the e-mail scandal, even Mr. Nichol's few remaining supporters would be hard-pressed to find legitimate reasons for him to continue to lead the College based on his record thus far.

Therefore, we call on the Board of Visitors to spare the College the long and drawn-out spectacle of debating the future of Mr. Nichol's tenure until May. It is clear that Nichol needs to go – and sooner rather than later.



David Clifford

## End alcohol crackdown or risk losing future donations

Nick Hoelker  
Online Editor

So far this year, there has been a notable increase in William and Mary police department activity with respect to breaking up parties. With the help of the Alcohol Task Force, which imposed strict regulations on on-campus drinking, there has been an apparent surge in the WMPD ending parties early, and, furthermore, of students being arrested and brought to court for alcohol infractions. Additionally, WMPD seems to have little else on their mind besides writing up drunk students, since, as reported in the last issue of *The Virginia Informer*, WMPD officers refused to provide an escort to a female student walking alone late at night after her friend had been mugged, opting, instead, to spend their time watching for drunk students leaving the delis.

While the problems with the increased police activity may seem to be limited to a burden only to those who get in trouble, the ramifications for the school go much further. A recent study showed that William and Mary trailed only Duke University among comparable universities in the growth rate of the applicant pool. The Alcohol Task Force plays a role in this, as potential applicants may rule out William and Mary from consideration after hearing stories from their friends who already go

here complain about the omnipresence of police at parties and the lack of late-night social options.

This is also a significant problem in the long-run, as we current students will be in a position to donate to the school in the future. When considering making a contribution to the College, we will inevitably reflect upon our experience at William and Mary. Our reflections will not depend on great professors or what we learned in class, but, rather, we will remember whether or not we enjoyed our time at the school. If our college memories mainly involve running from the police and having to socialize under fear of arrest, we may choose to donate elsewhere.

Therefore, it would behoove the William and Mary administration and WMPD to reform the Alcohol Task Force and stop the police crackdown—not only to allow students to “have more fun,” but for the long term health of the College in general. With a well-implemented and well-designed medical amnesty program, the police crackdown should not lead to an increase in student safety, as people who legitimately need medical help will be able to get it if their friends do not have to worry about being arrested for having an illicit party. Additionally, if the crackdown diverts the WMPD's attention away from other work—such as providing escort to a frightened female student—ending it will make William and Mary a safer and better place.

*Please look at our thank you's on page 16!*

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**Love us? Hate us?**

**Please send letters to the editor.**

**editor@vainformer.com**



Letter from the editor

# My open letter to the Board of Visitors

Joe Luppino-Esposito

Editor in Chief

It may be that, of all people here at William and Mary, it is abundantly clear where I stand on the issue of President Gene Nichol's renewal. Perhaps not surprisingly, I have opted to send a note to the Board of Visitors, as I feel it is important to make the reasons for my opposition to Mr. Nichol's failed presidency abundantly clear to those who have been charged with deciding his future.

At the onset, I, like many others, had real hope that Mr. Nichol would usher in change for the better. The bizarre obsession that students had with then-President Tim Sullivan seemed strange to me, and it was clear that some of his actions—including his impeding the free speech of those who opposed affirmative action—were clearly wrong, but, for some reason, being glossed over. I thought that perhaps Mr. Sullivan was just too entrenched, and having a new, outside face in his seat would serve the College well. As a member of the Student Assembly, I was encouraged that Mr. Nichol was looking to actively pursue student voting rights. As a conservative, I knew I had to grin and bear his very vocal leftist ideology, as it is what I have come to expect in public academia. My only hope was that Mr. Nichol's ideology would not translate into an agenda.

Though I hate to admit it, I was wrong on all accounts. First, I have learned that William and Mary, as an institution, breeds an attitude of deference to authority; that is not something I can blame on Mr. Nichol, but it is a fact this Board of Visitors must understand when considering who should lead the College in the future. It did not matter that Mr. Sullivan had been president for 13 years—it only mattered that he was the one in charge. The concept of teaching students to question everything, as a liberal arts education should, has been lost when it comes to college administration. Do I mean that we must all be as confrontational and controversial as I am? Of course not. However, the deification of our leadership—from Vice President Sam Sadler to Chancellor Sandra Day O'Connor—is odd at best, frightening at worst.

Secondly, what Mr. Nichol could have done to help students gain the right to vote, what he stated was to be one of the next great civil rights battles, is an issue he can no longer realistically fight for. Thanks to his alienation of everyone *but* students on campus, there are few issues which he can now seriously and effectively champion as a catalyst for change because of the fact he has squandered all of his remaining political capital. The issue of student voting has been so important to the Student Assembly for so many years, and now—because of the actions of a president who put himself and his divisive agenda before the best interests of the school,

the students and the community—we are left on our own without strong, effective support from a College executive who could help us achieve a common goal.

In these respects, Mr. Nichol has failed my personal expectations. Yet even if I cast aside my personal beliefs on what a president should be, these problems lead to many worse consequences. Mr. Nichol's unpopularity is reflected in the hallways of Richmond's General Assembly, where his name is associated more closely with a punchline than an esteemed university president—and, not to mention, where he nearly had his salary removed from the state budget by a vote of 36 legislators. What goes on in the state capitol is more important now than ever before as we face possible base cuts for the next fiscal year. Putting forward Mr. Nichol to fight for the College is clearly not putting our best foot forward.

The recent episode regarding the president's handling of the revocation of a \$12 million pledge to the College is, in a word, appalling. Even if you were to believe the president's tall tale that he was unaware as to the nature of the \$12 million gift from James McGlothlin referred to in the e-mail from Mr. Sullivan, there is still no reasonable explanation as to why the concerns of Mr. McGlothlin were never even addressed by this president.

On a professional level in my capacity as editor in chief of *The Virginia Informer*, Mr. Nichol has been lacking as well. He has consistently refused to conduct an interview with us, while he went on and on interviewing with every other publication on campus and in the community. He also consistently evaded answering our invitation for the debate on the Wren cross last year, to the point where he had his staffers lying to our editors that he was not in the office when we had photographic evidence that he was. Mr. Nichol then even had the audacity to delay responding to our debate invitation until an alternate debater was named in the local media, and then to claim that he was sorry he waited too long to respond. To me, this is simply a matter of pettiness and intellectual cowardice.

And even if one is able to look beyond what has occurred in the past, there is not a very promising future in store. I particularly question the president's conception for what the direction of the College ought to be. His re-branding of the College as “great and public,” rather than the traditional “public ivy,” is a serious problem, and not simply semantics. Mr. Nichol sums up this “charge” in his “five pillars,” first mentioned in his State of the College address last year: retain a small size; academic excellence is essential; student-faculty relationships are our foundation; retain high teaching standards by

research; and that the College be open and welcoming to all. Though they seem like admirable goals, they are barely being accomplished and are not even the most pressing that face the College. With the exception of the first, these are not concrete goals that could ever be objectively measured; rather, they are just more platitudes from the president and contain little substance.

Finally, something does need to be said about the removal of the Millington cross from the Wren Chapel's altar. For me, it is not so much a religious issue, though it deeply offends that part of me as well. What is perhaps even more important to consider is the mentality behind the decision. If Mr. Nichol truly believes in a liberal arts

education, the proper response to the issue of the cross would have been to analyze it as a community—and no, not by a hand-picked committee. How can Mr. Nichol claim that he believes in diversity if his idea of tolerance means eliminating a religious symbol that some disagree with? If feminists on campus oppose the oppression of Muslim women under Sharia law, should

headresses be banned? Avoiding an important and open discussion of issues that both face and shape the William and Mary community as a whole—and instead making a unilateral, surprisingly undemocratic decision regarding this matter—exemplifies the fact that Mr. Nichol cannot handle the position he was granted by the board in 2005.

Mr. Nichol's twisting of “great and public” and his thought process on the cross removal proves to me that he is not here to be a college president, but to be an ideologue pushing his own personal agenda. This was my biggest fear, and it has been realized.

For all of these reasons, Mr. Nichol must not be renewed as president if this College is to avoid sinking deeper into the hole of becoming a typical state college, a bureaucratic laughingstock of ineffective governance, which is the case now. In fact, the president must be, as his contract allows, “terminated with cause” based on all of his consistent failures throughout his term.

I have dedicated much of my life to this College in the last three and a half years. I am serving out my forth and final term as a Student Assembly senator; I spent two years as a resident assistant, stopped from a third not by my own choice; and I started *The Virginia Informer* in order to help students better understand what was going on at the College. I feel that after seven semesters, for all that I have put in to this once-beloved place, I have received little back, largely because of what Mr. Nichol has done and has failed to do.

## Living in a gray world

Nick Fitzgerald

Executive Editor

As a conservative student at William and Mary—a place which, as I have discovered in these past two and a half years, is distinctly liberal—I have had the sincere pleasure of meeting an unbelievably diverse group of individuals with whom I share absolutely no philosophical, ideological or political ground. Many of these people I have kept at a respectful distance—or have just met and conversed with in passing—but others, however, I have actively engaged, and they also have engaged me. I can also call many of these people my friends.

Conservatives, especially at a place like William and Mary, are often labeled as inflexible reactionaries with no concept of degree or nuance—oh, wait, maybe that's just me. In any case, while there are certainly conservatives in existence, including at the College, that fit this description, those who paint with this broad brush are, ironically, lacking a level of degree and nuance themselves.

For those who don't already know,

I am a person who likes things neat, orderly, properly labeled, predictable and generally as not spontaneous as humanly possible. While some may call that boring or uninteresting, I contend that I am not, and, simply, have different, perhaps more rigorous standards for ordering my life—people who know me can come to their own conclusions on that issue. I enact and execute these “more rigorous” standards in my own life on a regular basis and would consider myself, generally, a predictable individual whose attitudes and perceptions all fit together in a fairly stereotypical way. I have been of the opinion that everything has—and ought to have—its proper place and proper label. And, if I ever were to encounter someone or something that exhibited one or even a few characteristics of a certain pre-labeled group, idea or platform, then, clearly, the only logical course of action would be to deem said someone or something as a member of one of these larger groups, ideas or platforms with all the characteristics, associations and preconceptions thereto.

It has taken me two and a half years, but,

finally, I have come to a very important life realization. Not only does this way of thinking do a great disservice to the dignity of all human beings in general, it severely limits *my* growth as a human being in particular. And, to all the liberals who are hopefully reading this, I apologize if this newfound realization of mine comes as something that, from your perspective, should have been more than obvious to me; of course, this realization does not change anything that I currently believe in terms of my personal politics, but I am now able to reapproach the concept of differences in individual ideology with a refreshed, more open, more humanistic view.

The old cliché about a black and white world immediately comes to mind. And, admittedly, it is nearly always the conservatives to whom this concept is attached. I am of the opinion that stereotypes are actually based in truth and do exist for a reason, and this one is no different. I am the poster child for that—it's true, in fact, I am a newly named officer (“yuppie conservative Bach-lover”) in the Facebook group

entitled “I am a stereotype of myself.”

And as someone who has a comfort zone about as small and unworkable as next year's William and Mary operating budget, I find myself, particularly recently, having those bounds—or, as some might call them, bonds—expanded and loosed in ways I previously never thought would be possible. It is my friends and intellectual peers at William and Mary who have assisted me with this realization—an idea that has taken 30 months to compound itself—to whom I am forever indebted. And whether these friends and peers are aware of it or not, I thank them.

It is my sincere hope that other conservative students at William and Mary will also be able to have this experience, something that I was not expecting, seeking or, originally, wanting. And to those who paint with a broad brush on both the Right and the Left—don't. Our deviations, our inconsistencies and, ultimately, our faults—i.e., the realities of living in a gray world—are not only what make us human, but what make life worth living at all.



# BOV set to meet this week

## Will President Nichol's fate be decided sooner than expected?

Jon San  
Features Editor

The Board of Visitors will meet this Wednesday to discuss several topics, the most important of which may concern the future of President Gene Nichol. Originally, this decision was to be made in the spring of next year. But now, some have called for a decision to come sooner.

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* has said that "the dismaying situation calls for decisive action by the Board of Visitors." College Rector Michael K. Powell said in response to the Sullivan email, "the Board... will consider whether anything in this episode bears on the performance of College leadership." This will be the last BOV meeting until they reconvene in the spring of 2008.

Speculation has come about with the release of the e-mail correspondence between Mr. Nichol and President Emeritus Timothy Sullivan. The e-mail revealed that Mr. Nichol may have had previous knowledge of the rescinded \$12 million donation from donor James McGlothlin. College alum Jim McGlothlin.

**Merry  
Christmas,  
Happy  
Hanukkah  
and  
Happy  
New Year!**

**See you  
next  
semester!**



# 'Tis the season



Ian R. Whiteside

**Huzzah!** Colonial Williamsburg celebrates its annual Grand Illumination with fireworks and the fife and drum corps. The three simultaneous shows went off without a hitch despite the inclement weather.

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

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