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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.

College admin. refuses to release e-mails from Sullivan about McGlothlin gift

Matthew Sutton
Managing Editor

President Gene Nichol has refused to release a series of e-mails which are at the center of a growing debate over a \$12 million donation revoked last year during the Wren cross controversy.

The Virginia Informer submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to the College for all the correspondence between former President Timothy J. Sullivan and Mr. Nichol in December 2006. In a statement released on November 6, Mr. Nichol stated plainly that he is going to stand by a “long-established policy and practice of the College not to release correspondence involving specific donors.” This sentiment was echoed via

e-mail by Brian Whitson, FOIA officer for the College.

Mr. Nichol has been criticized for his handling of the donation, with some critics alleging that he misrepresented the status of the pledge when he announced that the Campaign’s goal was reached in a February 9 e-mail.

In response to these criticisms, Mr. Nichol acknowledged more responsibility for the loss of the donation. “Hindsight suggests that I should have more aggressively worked to discuss the donor’s concerns. It is also plausible, looking back, that the donor always meant to disavow both his prior pledge as well as any future giving. If so, I failed to understand that.”

In December 2006, longtime
E-MAILS NOT RELEASED
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Ian R. Whiteside

Tribe football takes it home

He... could... go... all... the... way...: William and Mary football played tough against a talented University of Massachusetts team at the Homecoming game on October 27 at Zable Stadium. Prior to and during the game, *The Virginia Informer* distributed over 30,000 green and gold feathers to students and alumni alike. The Tribe played their last home football game of the season this past weekend against James Madison University.

Alumni Association employee takes sides in Nichol debate

Facebook used as vehicle for student activism

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

Leigh Tally ('07) is the assistant director of programs for the William and Mary Alumni Association. In this capacity, Ms. Tally explained that she is responsible for “working on many...new initiatives and providing increased support to others—these include civic engagement, career services, and the Young Guard.” She also works with the William and Mary Student-Alumni Council.

Ms. Tally is also involved in the thick of the pro-Nichol movement on campus, whose student outgrowths include *IHeartNichol.com* and the “Wear Green for Gene” campaign. As an official of the College who works for an office specifically dedicated to alumni—a William and Mary demographic which has been particularly vocal in its disapproval of President Gene Nichol—*The Virginia Informer* asked Ms. Tally how it may effect her ability to carry out the full scope of her duties as an employee of the alumni association without some conflict of interest, given her strong support for Mr. Nichol.

In a Facebook message sent out to members of the “Wear Green for Gene” Facebook event, Ms. Tally solicited “15 – 20 volunteers” to pass out “I Heart Nichol” stickers before and during last weekend’s football game against James Madison University. She also encouraged members of the event to “WRITE THE BOV! They have been receiving letters & emails, but mainly from the anti-Nichol camp. They wont [sic] know how much Nichol support there is unless we make an effort and take 5 minutes to write a supportive letter... so

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WMPD officer refuses female students’ request for escort hours after mugging

Ian A. Kirkpatrick
Staff Writer

Maureen West ('09) was walking through campus late on the night of October 27 with her roommate, Hiwa Alaghebandian ('10). Ms. West’s close friend had been mugged less than 24 hours prior on Jamestown road by an unknown assailant.

Vice President Sam Sadler, shortly after the mugging, sent an e-mail to the student body which said that “one of our students was assaulted and robbed early this morning...Please be careful, especially when you must be out at night. And if you see anything suspicious or experience something that is threatening, call the police at once.”

Feeling apprehensive of walking alone, especially in such short time since her friend was mugged by a man who had yet to be apprehended, Ms. West approached a William and Mary police officer for assistance.

“We were headed to the frats, and we didn’t feel comfortable walking by ourselves down Harrison. There were two cop cars next to Zable so I went up and told one of the cops I felt unsafe and

asked if he could give us a quick ride to the units.”

“[The officer] replied with ‘Nope,’ and nothing else. I then asked if he could watch us walk down Harrison if it was too much trouble to drive us the one block or however far it is, and he said ‘Nope’ again, sarcastically, and laughed.”

This alarmed the two female students.

“We did not think this was funny or a joke, and I explained that my friend had been mugged the night before and that I genuinely felt unsafe, not to mention Steer Clear was not running so we couldn’t call someone else, to which he

replied, ‘Sorry,’ and began ignoring us.”

“[The officer] was extremely rude, and as we left my roommate said, ‘I thought your priority was our safety.’ It was obvious this

POLICE REFUSE ESCORT REQUEST
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Ian R. Whiteside

Protecting and serving?: William and Mary Police come under more criticism from a student who claims that officers ignored her concerns and request for escort late one evening following an assault the night before.

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Constitution “de-constructed” by Jay Sekulow

Chief consul for ACLJ promotes protection of religious liberty and pro-life issues

Kristin Coyner
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, October 30, Jay Alan Sekulow, chief consul for the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), spoke at the William and Mary law school and delivered a speech entitled

“De-Constructing the Constitution: Privacy, Security, and the State in the 21st Century.” The speech was sponsored by the Marshall-Wythe School of Law and the Federalist Society.

The ACLJ is a nonprofit public interest law firm which Mr. Sekulow helped to establish in 1990. The firm specializes in Constitutional law and largely acts as a counterweight to the American Civil Liberties Union. As chief consul, Mr. Sekulow has successfully argued several cases before the Supreme Court regarding the Constitutional protection of religious liberty and pro-life issues. He has been named to the *National Law Journal's* list of “100 Most Influential Lawyers” as well as to *Time* magazine’s list of “25 Most Influential Evangelicals.”

In a filled lecture hall, Mr. Sekulow addressed law students and local residents on a number of legal issues, emphasizing the relationship between the Constitution and the United States Supreme Court.

At the outset, he asserted that “over the past 24 months, the United States Supreme Court has had its most significant shift in my lifetime—a shift I think is good.” This statement referred to the replacement of Justice Sandra Day O’Conner with Samuel Alito, which has led to a change in votes on many issues.

Mr. Sekulow illustrated his take on the importance of that switch through the court’s 2007 ruling which upheld the 2003 Congressional Partial Birth Abortion Ban; in 2000, the court’s ruling on *Stenberg v. Carhart* struck a state law banning the procedure. Mr. Sekulow noted that by 2004, there was a decision made to litigate challenges to the national law in order “to win.” The ACLJ filed amicus briefs in both Supreme Court cases. Mr. Sekulow noted how this effort to win included obtaining an admission of fetal pain evidence in the state litigation.

Ultimately, *Gonzales v. Carhart* reached the Supreme Court in 2006 with Justice Alito on the bench. To Mr. Sekulow, the real question at this point was whether Justice Anthony Kennedy, who wrote the dissent in *Stenberg*, would hold to his original position. Due to the district court actions, fetal pain experts were now able to testify before the Supreme Court for the first time, likely contributing to Justice Kennedy’s decision to hold.

Mr. Sekulow used this recent example as a way of showing how “evidence and individual justices matter in de-constructing the Constitution.”

The ACLJ has also been involved in several landmark cases regarding the perseverance of religious liberties. These include the 1990s rulings on *Westside School District v. Mergens* and *Lamb’s Chapel v. Center Moriches School District*. Mr. Sekulow discussed subsequent attempts to preserve the precedent established in these cases.

Recently, the ACLJ supported the student famous for the “bong hits for Jesus” slogan in the case *Morse v. Frederick* on the basis of free speech exercise. Mr. Sekulow also discussed the 2003 *McConnell v. FEC* case where the ACLJ successfully argued against an amendment in the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. This particular amendment prohibited minors from donating to political campaigns. The counter here, Mr. Sekulow explained, was that money is a form of free speech.

He also commented on several headline legal issues, briefly touching on the role of the Constitution in the Guantanamo Bay detainees’ cases. He also spoke on the upcoming presidential elections, saying that “the next election become critical; we have an aging Supreme Court. Justices matter and as a result so do elections.”

In concluding his speech, Mr. Sekulow opened up the floor to questions which covered the topics raised in his speech. In responding, he further expounded the viewpoint of a conservative legal force which may have significance for years to come.



Kristin Coyner

Beware of the future: Sekulow says upcoming presidential election is crucial because of aging Supreme Court.

Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor

IT releases info on “response time”

The Information Technology Department released a set of figures which highlighted the ability of the department to effectively field calls from William and Mary students, as well as their ability to quickly make repairs. According to IT, the two weeks during the lead-up to the start of classes is their “busiest time,” as they help students and families get connected to the campus network and fix problems ranging from a faulty AC adapter to a fried motherboard. According to the department, in the two week period leading up to classes the Technology Support Center (TSC) received 1,947 calls, 1,902 of which were answered “live,” where callers were able to receive tech support over the phone. Over the same period, the TSC repaired 267 computers, or almost 20 computers per day. “Exceptional support for faculty, staff, and students is always an IT goal,” said Chris Ward, the director of systems and support for IT.

College student honored for service by local TV station

College student Daniel Key (’08) was presented late last month with a Jefferson Award for Public Service by WAVY-TV 10, a local NBC affiliated station. The award is part of a nationwide recognition system to “ordinary people who do extraordinary things” in service to their community, according to the Jefferson Awards’ Web site. Mr. Key works with the Office of Student Volunteer Services, who nominated him for the award due to his volunteer work on service trips as well as his help with volunteer groups such as Habitat for Humanity. “I think [looking at the world critically] leads to service of some kind,” said Mr. Key, who was surprised at receiving the award.

College ranks seventh in graduating student athletes

According to the Office of University Relations and the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), the College graduated 96 percent of all student athletes

that came to the College on an athletics scholarship—one of the highest percentages among the nation’s universities and colleges. The national graduation rate for all NCAA Division I schools is 77 percent; the College leads the Colonial Athletic Association as well all Division I schools in Virginia. In 19 programs surveyed, the College was well above the national average in 18 categories, with several sports graduating 100 percent of athletes. The most recent data released by the NCAA is from students graduating in spring 2004.

The Informer apologizes for the following errors in our Oct. 24 2007 Issue:

The photos on page 12 should have been credited to Joe Luppino-Esposito (top) and UCAB (bottom).
The photos on page 13 should have been credited to Colonial Williamsburg (top) and Jesse DelGizzi (bottom).

The *Virginia Informer* would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Please submit all corrections via e-mail to editor@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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Islamo-Facism Awareness Week speaker covers Wren cross, dhimmitude

Joe Luppino-Esposito
Editor in Chief

A small group gathered in Millington Hall on October 25 to hear from Colin Hanna, president of Let Freedom Ring, as a part of Islamo-Facism Awareness Week. It was sponsored by the campus chapter of Young Americans for Freedom.

However, Mr. Hanna began by telling his own story on how he entered the national spotlight. In 2000, as a commissioner of Chester County, PA, he received a letter from the ACLU requesting that a Ten Commandments plaque on public property be removed. After being taken to court, the county initially lost, and a judge ordered that the plaque be "shrouded," according to Mr. Hanna. The case eventually reached the US Third Circuit Court of Appeals and Mr. Hanna won, which allowed the plaque to be displayed.

"We no longer had to shield the public from the 'offensive' view of the Ten Commandments," he said.

Mr. Hanna drew parallels to the William and Mary Wren cross controversy, as many similar arguments regarding it as offensive had been used as justification for the removal of the cross from the altar.

According to his view of the First Amendment of the US Constitution, religion is not only allowed to be freely practiced but also protected, as many people are naturally not comfortable with beliefs to which they do not adhere.

"Of course religion is 'offensive' if you don't believe in it! That is why

our founders made sure it was protected as well as permitted," Mr. Hanna said.

With this, Mr. Hanna segued into outlining what other countries, specifically in the Muslim world, thought about religious freedom.

Mr. Hanna outlined the rules of dhimmitude that non-Muslims must abide by while in Muslim countries. All members of the society must follow Sharia Law, which means that, for those who do not practice Islam,

any element of a different faith must not be allowed to be practiced in the open. Any dhimmi, a citizen who is not Muslim, must allow any Muslim to stay in his home at any time and entertain and feed him for three days—and longer if he falls ill. The largest burden of all is the tax that is put on non-believers.

"Essentially, it is second-class citizenship," Mr. Hanna said. "That does not sound like equality or peaceful coexistence. That is oppression."

Mr. Hanna also said that if a non-Muslim does not accept dhimmi status, he is killed.

Opting to use "jihadist" instead of "Islamofacism," Mr. Hanna went on to explain that he did not believe Islam is the enemy. However, it does not mean that the West must simply accept the obvious connections between Islam and terrorism in today's world without standing up. "To jihadists, weakness is provocative; strength is all that they understand," he said.

Mr. Hanna's Web site TheirOwnWords.com clearly shows speeches and other selections from television programming in the Islamic world in which anti-Western and anti-Semitic sentiments are shared. The clips include a selection from a Palestinian state television children's program that glorifies martyrdom. Mr. Hanna feels the clips on his site make the western world aware of the dangerous threat of radical jihadists.

"The effort to do all of this is based on the principle that ignorance almost always leads to bad policy," Mr. Hanna said.



On the web: Hanna's website addresses Islamo-Facism among other similar issues

William & Mary law professor slams College's new "Bias Reporting"

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

The Virginia Informer has learned that William W. Van Alstyne, Lee professor of law at the Marshall-Wythe Law School, recently wrote a scathing commentary of William and Mary's new "Bias Reporting System." The controversial new system, started earlier this semester, has come under fire as being a speech code.

Writing on the Web site "The Volokh Conspiracy" in reply to a posting about the College's bias reporting system, Mr. Van Alstyne criticized the system's fairness. "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...)"

In an editorial released November 1, The Virginia Informer called for the administration to consider removing the Bias Reporting System from the William and Mary Web site, and encouraged students and faculty to speak out against it.

Reached by phone on Thursday, Mr. Van Alstyne confirmed that he was the author of the online post.

Mr. Van Alstyne is considered by many the best professor at the College's law school. In 2000, he was named among the top forty most frequently cited legal scholars in the United States of the preceding half-century, according to his biography on William and Mary's Web site. He was also labeled among the ten most qualified persons for a Supreme Court appointment.

The so-called Bias Reporting System allows anyone with a William and Mary computer ID to anonymously report others for acts of alleged "bias." A team of five administrators can elect to meet and investigate claims and contact the persons accused of inciting bias.

Dorm rooms robbed while students sleep

Mike Crump
Staff Reporter

Matt Bullion ('08) awoke two weeks ago to the sound of hiccups. At approximately 5 am on October 28, he was roused to find an intruder surveying his desk, using a cell phone as a light. "He didn't take anything and left, possibly because he saw I was awake. Thankfully my wallet was in and not on my desk so he didn't get it," said Mr. Bullion.

Mr. Bullion, however, has not been the only target. Over the past couple of weeks, students have logged into their e-mails to find a surprising number of burglary and theft reports. Beyond several reported thefts occurring earlier in the year around campus, an additional three were within the span of about a week, all occurring in the Bryan complex on old campus, and have elevated both suspicions and concerns.

Due to the necessary key-card entry for dorms, especially after midnight, the crimes are suspected to be perpetrated by students, though an outside source has not been ruled out. Within the dorms, however,

students can certainly be more cautious, says Chief of William and Mary Police Don Challis.

As members of a trusting community, said Mr. Challis, students are less inclined to take proper safety precautions because they feel much safer here than at many other schools. Because less of a need appears to exist, fewer students feel it is necessary to lock their doors. "No one here is scaling walls, or breaking down doors," said Mr. Challis. "These are all crimes of opportunity."

Of the recent crimes, three have occurred while students have been in their rooms sleeping. In response to this, residence staff and WMPD have urged students to be more cautious at night, locking their doors once they turn in for the evening. In addition, anyone who notices suspicious activity or persons are urged to seek immediate help.

Theft on campus has risen slowly over the past few years. The campus security annual crime statistics states that in 1998 there were six reported cases of burglary on campus, while in 2006 there were 17. Of last year's thefts, ten occurred within residence halls.

Tragic car accident claims life of College's fencing coach, critically injures two students

Nick Fitzgerald
Executive Editor

The coach of the William and Mary Fencing Club, Pete Conomikes, died in a car accident on November 10 while driving on Interstate 64 outside of Richmond. He was 86.

Mr. Conomikes was driving with members of the Fencing Club up to Haverford, PA, for a club event. Three William and Mary students were also injured in the single-car accident, two of whom were in critical condition at the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center by the time this issue went to print.

Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Sadler stated in a school-wide e-mail that "We are extending care, both in Richmond and here on campus, to the members of the Fencing Club and to the families of our injured students."

Mr. Sadler also commented that, "Mr. Conomikes reputation and influence extended far beyond the campus and his coaching skill was recognized by many honors and awards... one colleague referred to him as a 'giant.'"

"Because of his efforts and dedication he leaves a proud legacy of excellence in fencing at William and Mary..."

SA Exec plans distribution of condoms

Pilchen's cabinet reaches out to student groups and organizations on spring budget process

Sarah Nadler
Staff Reporter

President Zach Pilchen ('09) started his October 26 executive cabinet meeting sharing plans for a "discussion group in the senate on how they feel the year is progressing."

Mr. Pilchen hopes this "check up," which will include the seven cabinet heads along with their respective senate committees, will increase cooperation and communication between the executive and legislative branches of Student Assembly.

Health and Safety Secretary Alex Nikolov ('09) reported that Steer Clear, a service offering safe rides home on weekends, is currently being operated independently by the fraternities and sororities. Although money was not originally budgeted for this service, he feels it is necessary and has acquired money for the program. Now, the SA will take over the service and is looking to pay drivers \$10 per hour and will have the service extended by one hour to 3:00 a.m.

Mr. Nikolov also stated that 2,500 condoms have been ordered. Consisting of both the unflavored and flavored varieties, the condoms will be given to resident

assistants and fraternity presidents for distribution. The cabinet agreed that all the condoms should not be given out at once, and would like to see which methods of distribution are most effective. The SA wants to try its best to make sure that condoms will not be littered throughout the halls and prove a giant waste of its money. It stressed that these condoms were meant to be used, not tacked to bulletin boards as decorations as had been done in the past.

Workshops for organizations addressing club finances are being planned by finance secretary Andrew Blasi ('10).

Also in the works is a meeting for organizations who have never before received money from the Student Assembly. The purpose of this meeting is to break the "preference problem" Mr. Blasi feels exists, where clubs that have never received funding do



Ian R. Whiteside

Hot topics: Discussion centered on the Steer Clear program and financial issues.

not know the protocol for getting money from the Student Assembly. The purpose of such a meeting, according to Mr. Blasi, is to try to not only increase the number of clubs and student organizations at William

and Mary, but also to reinforce the idea to these groups that, no matter their size, still deserve funding from the SA.
Editor's Note: Andrew Blasi is the Business Editor of The Virginia Informer.

Senate spars with Exec.

Bryan Alphin
Staff Reporter

The Student Assembly Senate meeting of October 30 was bit more eventful than usual. Issues of the day included the passage of a bill giving condolences to the family of late Congresswoman JoAnn Davis.

Also announced was the upcoming visit of wrongfully convicted Daryl Hunt, which will occur next semester.

Senator Matt Skibiak's ('08) Syllabus Bill was debated but did not pass in its existing form. The Syllabus Bill would provide students the right to view classes' syllabi before they register.

Newly elected Senator Alex Kyrios ('09) was concerned, though President Zach Pilchen ('09) had already enacted a \$1,000 deal with an individual that was to provide a Web site for the service.

Members of the Senate agreed with Mr. Kyrios' concerns, and the Senate denied a motion to pass the bill as it stood. The bill was put through further consideration in committee.

The Student Assembly closed the October 30 meeting with a presentation from the Lambda Alliance and the Meridian Coffeehouse. Lambda and the Meridian requested to receive funds for an open mic night which would present literary works from a queer perspective. Shawn Tee, an icon in the gay community, will also be invited to give a presentation, called "Sister Spit." The event aims to project a diverse perspective to the College's community. The SA Senate opted to overrule the original decision and grant an additional \$350 for the event.

The SA Senate's subsequent meeting on November 6 resulted in an announcement that the move to share class syllabi with

students, before they register, will not go into effect until the fall of 2008. Senator Walter McClean ('09) and Mr. Kyrios further criticized the lack of dialog and debate on the bill and the money verbally pledged for the Web site.

Mr. Pilchen also gave the annual "State of the Assembly" address to the Senate. However, the speech quickly became an argument between the Senate and the executive as Pilchen was critical of the actions of the Senate. Senators shot back, pointing out shortcomings of the president.

Following the meeting, Mr. Pilchen personally spoke to many senators, apologizing for the disagreement and hoping to move on and continue working together.

The Better Blues Act was introduced by Senator Brittany Fallon ('11) with the goal of getting emergency blue lights to be more uniformly colored and to ensure proper maintenance.

The Internal Affairs Reconstruction Act passed after coming to the floor for a second time in three weeks. Matters of internal affairs will now be referred to a smaller executive committee and the larger group of senators is now charged with working with campus and local media to raise awareness about the SA.

The Freedom of Speech Act, sponsored by Senators Michael Douglass ('11) and Ben Brown ('11) was sent back to committee to debate more particulars regarding the placement of a security camera in the University Center to deter theft and vandalism of campus publications such as *The Flat Hat* and *The Virginia Informer*.

Editor's Note: Jennifer Souers also contributed to this report.

Senator Alex Kyrios is a staff member of The Virginia Informer.

Pilchen addresses, persuades City Council

Steven Nelson
Assistant News Editor

On Tuesday, November 6, Student Assembly President Zach Pilchen ('09) attended Williamsburg's City Council meeting with one objective: to convince the city to drop its planned request for the Virginia General Assembly to clarify domicile requirements, a move which could deprive students their

right to vote in college towns.

Though the city did not specify a preference as to whether students should or should not be able to vote in college towns, the General Assembly has the power to clarify domicile requirements in a manner unfavorable to students.

Mr. Pilchen had previously convinced Williamsburg Mayor Zeidler in a private

meeting not to support the push to clarify domicile regulations.

Thereafter, however, it soon became apparent that other members of the city government needed to be persuaded as well.

Mr. Pilchen's address to the city council was effective enough to persuade the other city officials to drop the domicile clarification regulations from their legislative priorities.

Selections from Pilchen's statement to the Williamsburg City Council:

"There can be no disagreement that the past four years of voter registration in Williamsburg under Registrars R. Wythe Davis and Dave Andrews—where qualifications to register to vote in Williamsburg changed ten times in four years—were an embarrassment to the city of Williamsburg and, indeed, democracy itself.

"Clarification must be pursued, but the council would be advised to go about it in a carefully prescribed fashion, not with this blanket request.

"Regardless of what any registrar believes, I consider Williamsburg to be my home. I may have been born in Arlington, but my bedroom there has been converted into an office for my father. I don't pay taxes there. I don't spend my breaks there. I'm more likely to stay in Williamsburg after I graduate than return to Arlington and live in my parents' basement...

"There also can be no disagreement that, just as the mayor says to all the incoming freshmen each year, William and Mary students are dynamic, involved members of the Williamsburg community. We work in Williamsburg. We patronize businesses and pay taxes in Williamsburg. We're counted in the US census as Williamsburg residents, and the data from that census is then used to create district maps for some of the positions many of us voted for two days ago. And we show our love of Williamsburg by volunteering in Williamsburg—contributing 323,000 hours of community service each year...

"For the council to turn its backs on those students—half the Williamsburg population—and say, 'We want domicile clarified, but we don't necessarily care if students at the College, or indeed across the state, are disenfranchised in the process.'

"The council should be...outraged if the General Assembly passes legislation that says a person who pays taxes, works, lives and volunteers in Williamsburg for nine months of the year shouldn't have a voice in this community if they're also a student.

"If this set of legislative goals is passed today, and this ironically unclear request for clarification results in the disenfranchisement of students across the Commonwealth, ignoring students' role as active, participatory members of their communities, city-student relations in Williamsburg could be set back years...

"As president of the Student Assembly, and someone who loves Williamsburg and only wants the best for it, I urge you to please, please clarify any request for the clarification of domicile by including an endorsement of students' right to vote in the place they call home, or to abandon this haphazard request for clarification altogether.

"Students are watching how you vote today, and I hope you will be able to stand with us in support of a united Williamsburg, and not for the divided community that rogue voter registrars of the past would have preferred."

Stuck on Ron Paul: Support stickers litter campus

Jacob Hill
Staff Reporter

In recent weeks, stickers supporting Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) for president have propped up all over campus. Whether they were on light posts or on the door handles of the Campus Center, the stickers were hard to miss.

Ron Paul is considered one of the “low-tier” Republican candidates for president. Mr. Paul’s supporters say he embodies the spirit of small-government conservatism and libertarianism that brought the Republican Party defining men such as Robert Taft, Barry Goldwater, and Ronald Reagan. Mr. Paul’s ability to generate enthusiasm among followers compares well with the Gipper, though Mr. Paul tends to attract a much younger crowd.

Apparently, Mr. Paul has found growing support on William and Mary’s campus.

The College administration chided Kelli Chappel ('08), head of the William and Mary chapter of Students for Ron Paul organization, for the appearance of the stickers without prior approval. Ms. Chappel referenced their Web site from which the stickers were taken, (<http://www.infiniteronpaul.com>) and plainly noted that the Web site asks that they be made removable and without risk of permanent damage.

When asked about the application of the stickers themselves, Ms. Chappel stated, “While I respect their obvious passion for raising awareness about Congressman Ron Paul, it’s possible to adhere to the College’s policies and still raise awareness. The newly formed student organization, Students for Ron Paul, was created for exactly that reason.”



Joe Luppino-Esposito

Who?: Now mostly faded, stickers for Paul can be found across campus.

Pro-life speaker, activist visits College

John Kennedy
Staff Reporter

Randall Terry, the founder of Operation Rescue, the largest civil disobedience movement in American history, was hosted by the John Locke Society on November 5.

A powerful and eloquent pro-life spokesman, Mr. Terry has appeared on 60 Minutes, Nightline, Oprah, Donahue, Hannity and Colmes, Crossfire, The 700 Club, Meet the Press, all major network news broadcasts and scores of TV shows in America and around the world.

Mr. Terry has heralded the pro-life message in newspapers and magazines on every continent except Antarctica. *The New York Times* has called him an “icon” of the pro-life movement.

He also founded the Christian Defense Coalition and Loyal Opposition, through which he has labored extensively against homosexual marriage, child pornography and abortion.

Sharing his thoughts intimately with William and Mary students, Mr. Terry expressed outrage at the lack of indignation regarding the 4,000 abortions he says occur each day in the United States. Mr. Terry made it clear that he has no opposition to showing photos of aborted fetuses, explaining that the pictures only offend because they so closely resemble babies.

Mr. Terry is currently recruiting student volunteers for internships this summer which he promises to be a life-changing experience of activism that is expected to receive much press. Upcoming plans, following an ongoing tour of the East Coast, include an occupation of Rudy Giuliani’s campaign headquarters.

Islamic feminist speaks at Wren Chapel

Ian Kirkpatrick
Staff Reporter

On October 25, Dr. Shabana Mir from the University of Indiana at Bloomington spoke at the Wren Chapel about gender and Islam. Ms. Mir is a Pakistani and British citizen and a respected Muslim woman in academia.

She describes herself as a “Muslim feminist,” and insists that this is not a contradiction in terms. For example, throughout her speech she articulated the role that Muslim women played in society in the past. In medieval Europe, she said, while most educated Christian women were cloistered, there were many women in Muslim academia.

According to Ms. Mir, “about fifteen percent” of Islamic academics were women. She said that “today there are barely any Muslim women in academia, and what I mean by ‘barely any’ is ‘none.’ What has happened?” To answer this she recalled the last words of the prophet Muhammad: “remember you are all equal.” According to Ms. Mir’s interpretation, Muhammad understood that people set up hierarchies,

and that many cannot imagine a world without them.

Ms. Mir insisted, “I read the Qur’an as a text that is willing to give more than many Muslims are,” explaining that the mainly male voices that today call for the suppression of women do so based upon the misunderstanding of traditions, insisting that the tradition is the highest good, because it is from “the time that was closest to the prophet.”

Ms. Mir explains that we are so far removed from the world of the seventh century that, in 2007, “we are not very well positioned to judge what is most authentic.” Thus many Muslims read the Qur’an and ignore what does not support their beliefs.

The Qur’an admirably “refers to female saints,” Ms. Mir explained. There were very many women of great ability, such as Ayesha, who among a myriad of attributes, once led thousands of men in the Battle of Basra in 656. Ms. Mir asserted that during the 16th century a political, academic, social and economic decline commenced that continues to define the Muslim world to this day.

Race to succeed Rep. JoAnn Davis heats up Upset in GOP convention as Chuck Davis falls short; Democrats choose W&M alumnus as candidate for December 11 special election

Nick Hoelker
Online Editor

On November 10, the Republicans and the Democrats held special conventions to determine the nominees in the upcoming special US House election to replace late Republican Representative Jo Ann Davis, who passed away on October 6.

The Republican convention, which was held at Caroline High School, was hotly contested, as there were eleven candidates running for the nomination. The rules of the convention provided for the lowest ranking candidate to be removed from the ballot after each round as well as any candidate that did not receive five percent of the vote. Once a candidate achieved 50.1% of the vote, they would be declared the winner. Prominent candidates included Ms. Davis’ widower and retired Hampton firefighter Chuck Davis, anti-tax activist Paul Jost

(’76), Delegates Rob Wittman and David Caprara, former Delegate Dick Black, Republican activist Sherwood Bowditch and former state GOP Chair Jim Bowden, who helped to spearhead the Save the Wren Cross movement.

The candidates campaigned on their individual unique backgrounds and tried to prove that they were the most conservative of the lot. Mr. Jost was the vote leader through the early balloting and the final four candidates were Mr. Jost, Del. Wittman and Messrs. Bowditch and Davis. After Mr. Davis was eliminated on the fourth ballot, he endorsed Del. Wittman, as Mr. Jost is a controversial figure within the Republican party, stemming back to his bitter 2003 primary campaign against state Senator Tommy Norment. At this point, Mr. Bowditch also dropped out of the running and endorsed Del. Wittman. Before the final results were announced between Mr. Jost and Del. Wittman, Mr. Jost conceded the race to Del. Wittman.

The Democratic convention was held at the Woodlands in Williamsburg. The process was much simpler as there were only two candidates, teacher and retired soldier Phil Forgit (’89) and United States Navy Captain Ted Hontz. By a narrow 106-91 margin, Mr. Forgit defeated Mr. Hontz and will be the Democratic nominee in the general election.

Republican convention Delegate Matt Beato (’09) described his experience at the convention by saying that “a lot of the candidates excited me and I was proud to be a Republican delegate. I was excited for the prospects to see a good congressman come out of the first district.” However, Mr. Beato was a supporter of Mr. Jost until the end of the balloting. He added that he “was disappointed Paul Jost lost—he seemed to be the strongest candidate against earmarking, a big issue for me. I’m also upset that Wittman was the eventual nominee.”

Ross Gillingham (’10) attended the

Democratic convention as a volunteer for Forgit. When Mr. Gillingham arrived at the convention he was given a Forgit t-shirt and discussed Mr. Forgit’s credentials with the Democratic delegates. Mr. Gillingham was intrigued at the atmosphere of the delegate room as it was split down the middle between supporters of Messrs. Forgit and Hontz who were yelling slogans back and forth at each other. These ranged from the simple “FOR-GET For-GIT” to “Full speed ahead for Ted.” He also found it interesting that the rowdiest delegates tended to be older, while most of the college students and younger delegates were just holding up signs for their favored candidate.

The special election will be held on December 11. Del. Wittman is favored to win as the district in question is traditionally conservative.

FEATURES

John Chesley: A classical class act

Alexa McClanahan
Staff Writer

Buried deep in Morton Hall, Classical Studies Professor John Chesley's office is a testament to the organizational advantage of being obsessive compulsive. Books completely line the walls, each spine aligned with the next. He tolerates one small stack of books on the floor, because it adds, as he puts it, "aesthetic value." These books reflect the passion that has guided his career since his freshman year of college at the University of Wisconsin.

Though far removed from his true Midwestern background (if anyone asks, he says he's from Seattle), an ancient civilizations course provided the impetus for a life devoted to a world long past. He parlayed grad school experience in Athens and Rome into a teaching career, because, he will admit, he's "always felt comfortable prattling on in front of others." He approaches teaching in an informal manner, which is reflected in a distinctive candidness that reaches beyond the classroom, to his hobbies, which include teaching himself to play an accordion he bought on eBay, and his musical taste, which "extends from classical to Missy Elliott."

It is obvious, however, that teaching is his first love. So how does he make ancient languages and societies relevant to college students more concerned with papers and parties? Well, he says, "every parent tells their children that the pet is 'sleeping,' not dead, and that's how we must approach Latin and Greek." He emphasizes the eternal issues that are "things societies have faced forever" in an effort to link the ancient and the modern without involving politics.

Despite this enthusiasm, Professor Chesley reveals a certain wistfulness for his own college years, advising his students that "now is the time" to uncover passions before the real world kicks in. "So many people on this campus seem to be overscheduled," he notices, and encourages his students to instead stop and consider what really interests them during these unique four years. "If it fires you up, you shouldn't stop thinking about it," he advises, admitting that he never even considered a future in the classics until he reached college. However, by injecting a casual modernity into an ancient subject, it seems that Mr. Chesley is on the way to opening this world to a new generation of College students.



Ian R. Whiteside

It's all Greek to me: Prof. Chesley approaches the classics from a different angle in order to interest college students. He looks instead at issues that have faced all civilizations through time.

Cause of film on Crim Dell pond unclear

Facilities management has no plans to treat water



Nicole Leger

Hopeless romantics: Contrary to popular belief, the Crim Dell was not included in Playboy Magazine's list of the most romantic spots on college campuses.

Chris Davis
Layout Editor

Recently, the Crim Dell pond has not drawn looks for its alleged beauty, but for the greenish film that rests upon its stagnant surface. According to Associate Director of Gardens and Grounds John McFarlane, its cause is unknown.

"I don't know what makes the Crim Dell pond the color that it is or what causes the film. I have been asked over the years if we dye the water and the answer is no," said Mr. McFarlane.

He does speculate, however, that the dust stirred up by the construction of the integrated science center between

Morton and Millington combined with a lack of rainfall could be the source of the problem. Currently, no plans exist to treat the water or improve its present state. Mr. McFarlane does not think it urgent to act since he is not concerned with the safety of swimming in the pond. "It is not a swimming pool and no one should be swimming in it," he said.

The Crim Dell pond consists of runoff water from the Wren building and yard, the Sunken Garden area, and the end of town along Richmond Road. Contrary to popular belief, it was never cited in Playboy's list of most romantic spots on college campuses.

Wedding bells and sweet matrimonial bliss, the Wren Chapel does it all

Michelle Ju
Staff Writer

Imagine the splendor. Walking down the aisle in the Wren Chapel situated a short distance from your old Literature class, to face your spouse, loved ones, and a hundred close friends just five years after your graduation. This ideal homecoming dream is a reality for nearly ninety couples that wed in the refined Wren Chapel of the Christopher Wren Building every year, which only opens its wedding doors for reservations to students, alumni, current faculty and staff, and the children of anyone in these groups. It is not required for both the bride and groom to have an affiliation to the College.

Louise Kale, the executive director of the historic campus, acts as supervisor to Bernard Bowman, who runs and oversees these joyful occasions. A main attraction that draws alumni to wed behind these famed chapel doors is the fact that the occasion serves as a "mini-homecoming" for many of the recent alumni who return to the College. "Without looking at files, I've noticed, the weddings are typical for fairly recent graduates in the past ten to 12 years, though they range up to couples in their fifties and sixties. We have a handful of children of students and alumni."

Ms. Kale, who works the correspondence and booking of these weddings, debriefs Mr. Bowman, who runs a tight ship in managing the actual day of the weddings. Mr. Bowman fine-tunes the event and follows its schedule, ensuring that everything is tidy and that "everyone is in and out of the Chapel on time, to avoid two brides in the building." Ms. Kale admitted, "It's a human event, and you can't expect it to be picture perfect." Most weddings take place on Saturdays, although weddings occasionally occur on Sundays of three-

day weekends. And while weddings usually run smoothly, there is a small list of restrictions and conditions that keep with the preservation and use of the historic chapel, which only allows 120 guests. There are perimeters on decoration arrangements. Fresh flowers are restricted to the altar tables to avoid any damages of the wall panels where wreaths once hung, since the Chapel's renovation in 1999. Lit candles are also limited to the altar tables, in case of fire emergencies and evacuations.

The antique organ is available for services, though couples may choose only from the Chapel's selection of organists trained to play the organs, which concerns the Chapel's preservation. In preparation for the big day, brides are in charge of arranging officiates of the weddings, their own wedding planners, music, flowers, while they are also given the choice of the placement of the Wren cross on the altar. Since no other rooms are available for reservation, brides are asked to use bathrooms as dressing rooms before their receptions. Brides and bridesmaids often wait and take photos in the Great Hall. However, a few brides choose to wait in limousines parked in Ewell Circle before they walk into their service. Nonetheless, "today, most wedding parties want to walk in and get settled."

Abundant are the uplifting experiences that Ms. Kale has witnessed in many of these weddings. "An older couple getting married [were reunited] after having met and dated at the College. They went out and married others, and they both lost their spouses. They then reunited and married again in their late sixties," said Ms. Kale. "The people with a profound devotion to the College are the ones I really enjoy working with," said Ms. Kale.

An ode to Budwieser: This is beer

Matthew Sutton
Managing Editor

Throughout my last several columns, I've explored a wide variety of brews, ranging from the exotic Canadian blends to the "value" brands that dominate most of the drinking on our campus. Today, however, I would like to explore an American classic, the King of Beers: Budwieser.

Also known as "Bud Diesel" or "Bud Heavy"—to differentiate it from its lighter cousin, Bud Light, and its red-headed stepchild, Bud Select—Budwieser is the most popular and most recognizable American lager. Now for all the microbrew snobs and foreigner lovers out there, this fact makes Budwieser a persona non grata. One complaint that I have heard these self appointed "beeristas" offer is that Budwieser, because it includes rice in its recipe, violates the Reinheitsgebot—a German purity law of 1516—which they claim as the gold standard of beer.

Now, according to my knowledge of German history and culture (which consists mostly of watching classic WWII films like *The Longest Day*, *The Great Escape* and, of course, *Das Boot*) this is not necessarily a bad thing. After the late unpleasantness of the 20th century, I find it hard to imagine why America needs to follow some silly and pretentious rule from the 16th century.

Now that I've disposed of those folks, you might ask why you should like Bud. What I like about Budwieser is its unabashed 100% American feel. From its



Matt Keck

This Bud's for you: The Anheuser-Busch Corporation has donated generously to the college, helping in the construction of Busch Field located next to the Rec Center.

commemorative Dale Earnhardt, Jr. cans to its proud Midwestern origins (brewed in St. Louis, Missouri), Budwieser is the preeminent American beer. Now in some corners of the College, America remains a dirty word—but for most of us, it is still recognized as the greatest country on the face of the earth.

The bottle itself is a study in Americana. It starts with its unique pledge reminiscent of the Contract with America, reading, "This is the famous Budwieser beer. We know of no brand produced by any other

brewer which costs so much to brew and age. Our exclusive Beechwood Aging produces a taste, a smoothness and a drinkability you will find in no other beer at any price." Flanking this statement are two proud American bald eagles on a bold red backdrop. Looking at the bottle is like reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at a NASCAR event draped in a banner that reads, "Mission Accomplished."

If this argument doesn't convince you, consider how Williamsburg and the College have benefited from the largess of the Anheuser-Busch Corporation. From the very popular theme park Busch Gardens Europe to the resort community at Kingsmill, it is safe to say that Williamsburg is a Bud town. Even the College has benefited from the corporate generosity of the deep pocketed brewer, as they provided much of the money for Anheuser Busch Field located next to the Rec Center.

In the immortal words of late Chicago Cubs broadcaster Harry Caray, I'm proud to be a Cubs fan and Bud man.

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.

Behind the Omohundro Institute Center is more than a sign next to Swem

Jennifer Sours
Staff Writer

William and Mary is renowned for its history department and related programs. The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture is one such affiliate, sponsored by both the College and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Founded in 1943 under the original title of the "Institute of Early American History and Culture," the Institute's primary activities include publications and conferences in an effort to advance the field of knowledge regarding Early American history. In 1996, after a generous donation made by Mr. and Mrs. Malvern H. Omohundro, Jr., the institute officially added "Omohundro" to its name. The main focus of the Omohundro Institute is the history of Early America as well as the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, and Africa, during the period between 1500 and 1815.

While the Institute publishes some books (in association with the University of North Carolina Press), its main publications are scholarly articles featured in *The William and Mary Quarterly* and *Uncommon Sense*. While *Uncommon Sense* highlights research of undergraduates, graduate students and historians, *The William and Mary Quarterly* maintains higher qualifications, serving as a forum for well-researched works by graduate students and already established historians. The

College has had several works written by professors and students published in *The Quarterly*, including History Professor Dr. James P. Whittenburg.

Recently, the Omohundro Institute hosted a conference in Ghana to commemorate and discuss the end of the slave trade in the early 1800s, focusing primarily on Great Britain's role in ending the trade. In an effort to concurrently increase the field of knowledge regarding the abolition movement and promote international relations through academia, the Institute hosted the conference in Ghana with The Historical Society of Ghana and the University of Cape Coast. The Institute has said that it was the "first pan-African scholarly meeting of historians to be held in Africa in more than forty years." The conference proceedings are featured on the Institute's Web site (<http://oieahc.wm.edu>) and some selected papers will be published in a future issue of *The William and Mary Quarterly*.

The Omohundro Institute also has some publications and conferences coming up. Several conferences are scheduled for 2008 – 2009, covering topics such as the Seven Years' War and "Religion and Violence in Early America." Undergraduates and those interested are invited to submit research papers for consideration of publication in *Uncommon Sense*. More information about future conferences and submission information can be found on the Institute's website.

Wes Edwards' Drink of the Week

Cisco

Taste: 5/5 Kick: 4/5

Location: Wine located off of Route 143, in the direction of Newport News. (Citgo Mart Chicken and Subs); Unavailable in the Williamsburg area.

This week I have the pleasure of introducing the College to the wonders of bum wine. It's been a passion of mine and it's only a matter of time until it is yours as well. Cisco, commonly known as "liquid crack" is nearly as potent as some hard liquor; it will wreak mental havoc on even the hardest of drinkers.



Cheap and easy: Cisco wine guarantees anyone who drinks it a classless evening.

The old marketing slogan "Takes You by Surprise" is now simply "This is not a wine cooler." Despite the cringes some of you may have, it tastes much like an alcoholic version of carbonated sweet tarts.

This weekend if you have one of those "hankering for cheap vodka, Jello and Robitussin" look no further than Cisco.

Please take note: Tales of Cisco-induced semi-psychotic fits are common; guaranteed to leave the darkest and puffiest bags under your eyes.

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

WANTED:

- Writers
- Photographers
- Podcasters
- Editors
- Web designers
- Advert. agents

Mondays, 7:30pm in Blair 223

College alum Jeff Spoeri champions Jeopardy Government major used money to pay off debts

Jon San
Features Editor

Jeff Spoeri ('87) has accomplished many things since his days as an undergraduate here at the College. In addition to a Government major and Theatre minor, Mr. Spoeri went on to earn a master's degree in education from Vanderbilt University, taught for some time and then earned a law degree from Washington University in St. Louis. After his tour de force in the realm of academia, Mr. Spoeri decided to take the TV game show arena by storm. The Informer was fortunate enough to correspond with this Jeopardy! champion regarding his fond memories of his time at the College and the inner workings of the famous game show.

Mr. Spoeri has lived in 10 states throughout his life but considers himself a Floridian since he graduated from high school there and both of his children were born there. When asked why he chose William and Mary as his post-high school destination, Spoeri responded, "My parents and I were moving to Virginia following my high school graduation, so I only applied to W&M and UVA. I chose W&M because I felt I could achieve more there since it was smaller with more opportunities, and indeed I did."

His most fond memories include singing in the WM Choir ("especially having a solo on the 1987 European Tour") as well as being involved in theatre

productions, Sinfonicon and acting as president of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia chapter.

"I remember concerts at W&M Hall, the UVA basketball game my sophomore year (1984-85) when we beat them at the buzzer, and going to UVA for their homecoming my senior year (fall 1986) and beating them there again."

Since graduating roughly 20 years ago, Mr. Spoeri has returned to Williamsburg on several occasions. The Rec, the UC, stadium lights on the football field, and newly paved paths are only a few of the changes he has noticed.

However, his role (and success) on Jeopardy! owes at least some credit to the College. During his fifth round on the show, one of the clues was: "On Dec. 5, 1776

this fraternity for students of academic distinction was founded at William & Mary." His correct response, Phi Beta Kappa, earned him an additional \$600. Mr. Spoeri went on to earn \$104,103 in winnings which places him as number 13 among all contestants.

"Mostly I paid off some outstanding debts and did some things for my kids, but I did indulge myself with LASIK eye



Courtesy Jeff Spoeri

Jeopardy victor: Jeff Spoeri expresses fond memories of the College.

surgery and a big-screen HDTV – to watch Jeopardy!, of course!" Mr. Spoeri said.

Mr. Spoeri was one of the first Jeopardy! contestants to use the new online qualification process as means of getting on the show. The test is offered once or twice a year and can be accessed at www.jeopardy.com.

Currently, Mr. Spoeri is the Director of Development for the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science at Florida Atlantic University. But starting on November 26 he will transition to being the Regional Director of Development – South Florida for Florida State University. Seeing as he will be a future Seminole, a mascot that has received much press due its alleged racism towards American Indians, Mr. Spoeri weighed in on our own mascot debacle.

"I do think it's a shame the NCAA ruled against us with regard to the feathers, especially since I'm going to be working soon at a school whose mascot is the 'Seminoles,' which seems to be fine with the NCAA," said Mr. Spoeri. "I suppose it's good to be powerful in athletics..."

Swemming off the deep end:

Walk this way

Mike LaCalamito
Guest Columnist

If you haven't noticed, students at the College are absolutely awful at upholding standard walking etiquette. There have been countless instances during my college career where I've faced walking problems. Not the least of these would deal with the "division of the path" principle. I cannot even begin to express how many times I've been walking to class on a nice brick path, only to be forced off by a passerby that apparently doesn't know I exist. This will generally happen when there are upwards of two people coming from the opposite direction. It really bothers me that they don't even try to move over even a little so I can stay on the path. This wouldn't be so bad, but the fact that it happens on raised sidewalks—like those surrounding Dupont and the Campus Parking Garage on Ukrop Way—make it extremely annoying. There's nothing worse than having to actually take a step off the sidewalk, onto the road and then back up onto the sidewalk just because some inconsiderate jerks refuse to give you an inch.

Have you ever tried to be like a bull in these situations and do the oft-avoided "shoulder brush?" The reaction is always a very sincere "I'm sorry." I'm not sure if I should take this as good or bad. Does this sincere statement just mirror the fact that these people have no idea I was there, or do they actually acknowledge the fact that they have utterly atrocious walking skills even a five-year-old would consider taboo?

Another major walking

problem at the College deals with the acknowledgment of an acquaintance. Let me ask you this—how many times have you been walking down a path and, about thirty feet away or so, you see a modest acquaintance. As soon as eye contact is made, the other person does that whole subtle "look away" strategy—which, by the way, is painfully obvious—or takes out a cell phone and pretends to be calling someone or sending a text message just so a simple hello or nod doesn't have to take place.

This, my friends, is quite the slap in the face. It takes a lot more effort to avoid a hello than to actually say it. I went to NYU my freshman year, and even there I did not experience this type of cold response. In the heart of Manhattan I always seemed to get at least a nod from a mild acquaintance. Why is it that at William and Mary, a school in the ostensibly friendly south, do people choose to ignore me? Needless to say, it really pisses me off.

In an effort to mitigate these sorts of problems, the College should begin to integrate a walking lesson in the freshman orientation process. Perhaps even a freshman seminar on walking could be started. I'm sure we could get a homeless person to teach it, since even they can follow simple walking rules. Or, alternatively, we could just encourage students to try to expand their minds outside of their own little William and Mary worlds, where they think about what pointless major they can throw their money away on, even if it has no bearing on their life. Once they see beyond this, I'm sure we will all become better and more conscious walkers.

Dollars and sense for students:

Weak dollar makes studying abroad difficult

Things are sure getting expensive out there. With domestic inflation in the United States leading to higher prices for everything from healthcare and education to food and gasoline, there is no doubt that many of us are feeling the pain in our wallets. However, if you have been considering studying abroad in the future, then these higher domestic prices are only going to be the start of your troubles. Without getting into the mechanics of currency markets, one thing you must know is that, on a nearly global scale, the US Dollar has been getting considerably weaker.

Whether you desire to study in Europe, Australia/New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea, Central/South America, or even Russia, such an experience will not come cheaply. The most desired locations for college students abroad (the United Kingdom and Western Europe) have become particularly expensive. In the UK, one pound will now easily cost you well above two US dollars. In the nations of France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Greece,



Andrew B. Blasi, Jr.
Business Editor

Belgium, and the Netherlands, one euro will easily cost you well above one dollar and fifty cents. Even before the recent fall in the value of the US dollar, these destinations were already expensive. Remember, in currency markets there is no parity between the value of a currency and the price of a good or service. Just because a pound is worth more than two dollars, don't think that a can of soda in the UK will sell for only half a pound. In fact, this disparity (in Europe especially) is such that a Coke in London can cost upwards of two to three pounds (thus over six dollars). This same scenario exists throughout the world, even in nations where the exchange rate places the US dollar at a higher value than their own, like Japan and Australia. It is also worth noting that for the first time in thirty years, the Canadian dollar now has a higher dollar-to-dollar value than the US dollar.

Now there are some choices that you can make to avoid feeling the affects of a weak dollar if you still desire to study abroad in spite of these high costs. First

and foremost, it is wise to look for study abroad programs that offer tuition exchange with William & Mary. This way you know (1) how much you will be paying in the future if the US dollar continues to fall even lower and (2) that you will not need to worry about paying more than you do now. Second, if you already know when and where you will be studying abroad, book your airline flights well in advance of your departure (especially if you are planning to study outside North America), as this can save you a lot of money. Third, make sure you have a credit card before you leave. The reason for this is because carrying around a lot of cash with you can result in significant commission fees at local banks and ATMs. Unfortunately, while in the past credit cards gave the direct exchange rate if used abroad, today they charge a marginal commission fee in comparison to foreign banks or hotels. Finally, there



File Photo

Foreign markets: The declining value of the US dollar may hinder students' spending power abroad.

is one study abroad destination where cost will not have a large impact on your wallet; in fact there is great value. This country is China due to the fact that they peg their currency to the US dollar's movements. Thus, if the US dollar gets weaker so does the Chinese Yuan.

If you have any further questions regarding the costs of studying abroad you can email Andrew Blasi at abblas@wm.edu.

College ranks in top-ten for campaign contributions

Andrew B. Blasi, Jr.
Business Editor

Over the past four national election cycles in the United States we have seen an explosion in campaign contributions. According to Opensecrets.org, one of the Web's most prominent sources of campaign finance data, total congressional campaign contributions alone amounted to an astounding \$1.05 billion in 2000, \$1.2 billion in 2004, and \$1.43 billion in 2006. In the 2000 presidential race, a combined total of over \$528 million was raised. Then in the 2004 presidential race, a combined total of over \$880 million was raised. In fact, if one calculates the overall cost of the 2004 federal election, including the primary and general election for all congressional and presidential candidates (as well as the expenditures of 527s), the amount spent totals over \$3.9 billion. To put this into perspective, \$3.9 billion is nearly equivalent to the annual output of world's ten smallest economies combined as well as the annual revenues of The Washington Post. This trend is sure to continue into the 2008 election, where already (nearly a year away from election day) both presidential candidates and vulnerable congressional incumbents in both parties are raising even further record-breaking numbers.

With all of this money being thrown at candidates left and right (both literally and figuratively), it is understandable that the amount of money typical donors are kicking into campaigns has rapidly increased as well. Surprisingly however,

according to the archives of Opensecrets.org, America's educational institutions and their employees have been among those who have significantly done so, including William and Mary. When Republicans took control of Congress for the first time since 1965 during the 1994 midterm elections, William and Mary ranked tenth amongst all of America's universities (both public and private) for institutional and employee political contributions, giving \$37,720 (the entire University of California league of colleges donated the most, at \$117,727). However William and Mary had the greatest disparity in its contributions amongst the top twenty donors, with 99 percent going to Democratic candidates, 1 percent to independent candidates, and nearly 0 percent to Republican candidates.

During the 1996 presidential elections, just two years later, William and Mary's campaign contributions grew over 103 percent to \$76,755, ranking ninth amongst all colleges and universities nationwide. It was during this election

that 99 percent of the donated funds were delivered to Democratic candidates, while 1 percent was contributed to Republican candidates. During this same election, the University of California system still remained that largest contributor, donating \$200,817. For the 1998 midterm elections, William and

Mary grew further in rank to fourth amongst all colleges and universities nationwide, contributing \$74,150, with 100 percent going to Democratic candidates.

During the 2000 Presidential elections, William and Mary dropped out of the top-tier of contributing schools as donations from peer institutions and their employees skyrocketed (the University of California still remained on top, donating \$577,271).

In the 2002 midterm election, William and Mary regained its position amongst top university contributors, ranking ninth and giving \$76,000 (with 100 percent of contributions going to Democratic candidates).

As noted earlier, the 2004 presidential race was flooded with an unprecedented

amount of contributions. William and Mary was yet again bumped out of the top-tier as some of the largest universities (which was yet again topped by the University of California, contributed a whopping \$2,083,105, a growth of over 937 percent from just eight years prior) drastically raised their contributions. William and Mary returned to the forefront of university contributors during the past midterm election in 2006. Contributing a total of \$195,650 and ranking eleventh amongst all universities, the College's contribution level grew 157 percent from the previous midterm election. Of the College's donations in 2006, 92 percent went to Democratic candidates and 8 percent went to independent candidates.

It is unclear why the college's institutional and employee federal campaign contributions seem to have leaned so much more heavily Democratic over the past seven national election cycles than its peers, even, for example, such traditionally liberal institutions as the University of California (which since the 1994 election has donated anywhere between 7-33 percent of its contributions toward Republican candidates). What is abundantly clear, however, is that the amount of money being contributed to federal election campaigns by America's colleges and universities, including William and Mary, has grown, and continues to grow, rapidly.

Editor's Note: The statistics provided in this article were used from the online campaign finance data provider, Opensecrets.org.

Yearly College Contributions

1994: \$37,720 (ranked 10th)
- 99% to Democrats, 1% to Independents

1996: \$76,755 (ranked 9th)
- 99% to Democrats, 1% to Republicans

1998: \$74,150 (ranked 4th)
- 100% to Democrats

2002: \$76,000 (ranked 9th)
- 100% to Democrats

2006: \$195,650 (ranked 11th)
- 92% to Democrats, 8% to Independents

New stops and more riders lead to new bus routes

Aimee Forsythe
Staff Writer

At the beginning of this semester, two changes were made to the green line bus route. There is now a New Town stop and the buses run in each direction.

Last fall, a new bus route ran from the college to New Town at special times Thursday through Sunday. Since ridership was low, it was decided to discontinue the service until additional venues opened at New Town that might attract more riders. After this bus service was discontinued, the only way to get to New Town from campus was by the red line, which takes longer and ends earlier than the green line. But with many more shops open at New Town and after students' comments about the bus routes last year, the New Town stop was added to the green line this fall. Beginning at 4 pm Monday through Friday and all day on the weekends, the gold line (which is what the green line 1 becomes) will make a stop at New Town. However, this stop is not included in the green line 2 route. So far this extra stop has been a success according to Leon Sisco of Williamsburg Area Transport (WAT).

The green line is now running in both directions, making the green line 1 (which becomes the gold line) and the green line 2. Last school year the college decided it wanted the buses to run consecutively every fifteen minutes in one direction. But after many student comments to WAT and




Nicole Leger

Transportation reroute: Rise in rider population and new stops such as the shops at New Town call for new bus stops.

William and Mary parking services, it was decided to switch the green line back to going in both directions this year.

Starting in October, the WAT also added a new route called the Surry Route. This new course runs twice in the morning and evening, with the idea that people from Surry working in Williamsburg can take public transportation to their jobs. The route begins in Surry County, crosses the James on the Scotland Ferry, and then makes its way to the Williamsburg Transportation Center where additional buses can be picked up for other routes. So far there has not been overwhelming turnout, but Mr. Sisco expects ridership to pick up as time goes on. He noted that the red line, which started in 2004, also began slowly, but now has many riders.

The College and WAT will meet in November to discuss ridership of the bus routes, but for now there are no new plans to modify them.



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E-MAILS NOT RELEASED: Nichol administration refuses to share Sullivan message, citing FOIA privileges

continued from page one

donor James McGlothlin's (62) informed former President Timothy J. Sullivan that he was revoking a \$12 million pledge he had previously made to the Campaign for William and Mary. *The Virginia Informer* maintains its initial report that Mr. Sullivan made clear to Mr. Nichol Mr. McGlothlin's intentions.

Furthermore, in a statement released on October 23, Mr. Sullivan noted that "since I left the College everything I have learned which might assist the College or protect her from harm has been communicated to the College administration verbally or by e-mail...and in the clearest possible terms." He went on to say that "it is more proper that these communications be revealed by the College administration than by me."

Questions and doubts continue to surround the embattled president as members of the campus community—including the editorial board of *The Flat Hat*—want to know what Mr. Nichol knew and exactly when he knew it.

Excerpts from the statement by President Nichol

There has been a good deal of discussion in the local press regarding a substantial pledge to the College of William and Mary and the decision by a longtime, valued and generous donor to revoke that commitment...

When I received this letter from the donor and after additional communication from President Sullivan, I believed the message being relayed to me was that the donor was unwilling to make future gifts to the College, including one on which President Sullivan and others were currently working. The communication spoke of making good progress toward closure on a \$12 million gift to the law school—but indicated the donor was so upset about the cross decision that he was not prepared to give more money at this time....

Hindsight suggests that I should have

more aggressively worked to discuss the donor's concerns. It is also plausible, looking back, that the donor always meant to disavow both his prior pledge as well as any future giving. If so, I failed to understand that. Every donor to the College of William and Mary is important, and it is my continued plan to reach out to all—including this donor.

Due to the long-established policy and practice of the College not to release correspondence involving specific donors, I will not release materials pertaining to emails between myself and President Sullivan. Donors, as a rule, need to have confidence that sensitive discussions involving their pledges and gifts will not be released publicly. I am unwilling to depart from this important practice simply to defend my role in a controversy.

POLICE REFUSE ESCORT REQUEST:

Only hours after attack, student claims officers displayed "rudeness and indifference" to concerns

continued from page one

guy's priority was 'catching' drunk people coming out of the delis and chatting with his cop pal."

"It would not take much effort to help us get to the units at all, or even to watch us...I was disgusted by this man's rudeness and indifference. He could have at least told us another resource or shown some sort of indication that he cared for our safety at all."

Ms. West pointed out, "I have told my parents and they were really upset; they said they were going to contact people at the school about it."

Chief of William and Mary Police Don Challis was unable to be reached for comment in time for press.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EMPLOYEE LEADS IN PRO-NICHOL CAMP: Tally justifies role with IHeartNichol.com as being part of her personal life

continued from page one

please do it! Email them to BOVevaluation@wm.edu. Spread the good word and don't [sic] forget to let Nichol know how much you appreciate him whenever you run into him..."

Ms. Tally explained that "as a Nichol supporter, I am helping out with the pro-Nichol movement where I can, which has mainly been sending out [F]acebook messages to the Wear Green for Gene group....I do not think that there is a conflict of interest because...I have a professional life and a personal life, and the two are separate. In my personal life I support Nichol and am active in the movement, but I do not let that role carry over into my professional life and have never spoken out for Nichol as an employee of the College."

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Nooks and Crannies of William & Mary

Alvin's Alley: The Jamestown Road Underpass

R.C. Rasmus

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Everyone has noticed those two flights of steps on either side of Jamestown Road. You know, the ones right in front of the Campus Center that seem to lead down to nowhere? Today, there are metal gates barring their entrances, but only a few decades ago, those stairs led down to what was used to be called Alvin's Alley. More commonly known as the Jamestown underpass, this subterranean walkway was once walked through by hundreds of undergrads. Why was the tunnel closed? And if it's still there, why aren't we using it? Well, curious reader, sit back and let us enlighten you.

The College built Alvin's Alley in September of 1960 for insurance purposes; regulations stated that students had to have a safe way to cross the street from Old Campus to the other side of Jamestown Road. To satisfy this requirement, William and Mary decided to excavate a sub-surface tunnel into which students could descend near Ewell Hall and emerge from just in front of Taliaferro. On paper, the idea seemed like a good one, but a myriad of problems came to light almost as soon as construction on the underpass was completed. Water began to seep in through the tunnel walls, flooding the underground alley and making it wholly impractical for use. Some also expressed concerns that the ill-lit Alvin's Alley would become a popular location for sexual assaults and robberies after dark. Finally, many students opted not to use the underpass at all; according to a 1981 *Flat Hat* article, several matriculates felt that it was easier to take their chances walking across Jamestown Road rather than waste their time and effort walking up and down the tunnel's two flights of stairs.

For all of these reasons, William and Mary decided to close Alvin's Alley in the early 1970s. Several attempts have been made to bring it back into active service, most

recently in 2003 by student senator Matt Wigginton, but so far the tunnel's gates have remained firmly shut. According to *Daily Press* columnist Ron Squire Steffey, the walkway was briefly in use again following the reconstruction of Jamestown Road in 1986, but plans for full-scale reopening were quickly abandoned.

Though it now stands dark and silent, Alvin's Alley was once the sight of several highly peculiar goings-on. In its first few years, the underpass

played host to a particularly raucous party put on by football players who lived in the Morris House, which, in the 60s, stood where the Undergraduate Admissions office stands today. The athletes, who were called "The Morris Gang" in the 1981 *Flat Hat*, filled the subterranean space with more than a hundred people on the night of their big below-ground bash. The tunnel was also a popular spot for freshman hazing during the since-deceased "duc week," when upperclassmen were wont to terrorize their younger schoolmates. Perhaps the strangest scene in the history of Alvin's Alley took place when a group of fraternity pledges decided to move the contents of a brother's dorm room, "wall hangings and all," into the bowels of the underpass, leaving them there for their owner, and others, to find.

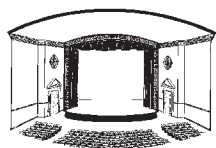
Plagued by structural and security problems and now

seemingly shut up for good, the Jamestown Road underpass continues to flood every now and then, with dead leaves and trash lapping at the brick walls where a student once spray painted an advertisement for a Rent-a-Tapir service ("I could use a nice hot tapir right about now"). Next issue, Nooks and Crannies delves into the now defunct traditions of "duc week," to which Alvin's Alley once bore witness so many years ago.



Out of order: For insurance purposes the underpass was closed in 1960.

Kristine Mosuela



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

November Schedule

Movies

In The Shadow of the Moon (PG)

Fri., Nov. 9-Sun., Nov. 18
6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 10-13, 15-17 screening room (35 seats)

The Virginia Peninsula Jewish Film Festival on Merchants Square

The Year My Parents Went on Vacation Not rated

Sat., Nov. 10 at 7 p.m.

To Die in Jerusalem Not rated

Sun., Nov. 11 at 2 p.m.

Souvenirs Not rated

Sun., Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.

Moliere (PG-13)

Sat., Nov. 17-Sat., Nov. 24
6:45 and 9 p.m.

Nov. 18-19, 22-24 screening room (35 seats)

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)

Live Performances

The College of William and Mary Jazz Ensemble presents

An Evening of Jazz

Wed., Nov. 14 at 8 p.m.

General admission \$8, Seniors/Students \$5

The Graduate Center of the College of William and Mary presents

International Music and Dance Showcase

Fri., Nov. 16 at 8 p.m.

General admission \$5, W&M ID \$3, children under 10 free

Christmas With the Coyotes: Coyote Run in Concert

Fri., Nov. 23-Sun., Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$18, Seniors/Students \$15

Virginia Premiere Theatre presents

Gift of the Magi

Preview performances: Nov. 27-28 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$12, Seniors/Students \$7

Opening Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission \$18 Seniors/Students \$15



Restaurant Review:

Buon Amici serves up gourmet pizza in style... at a price

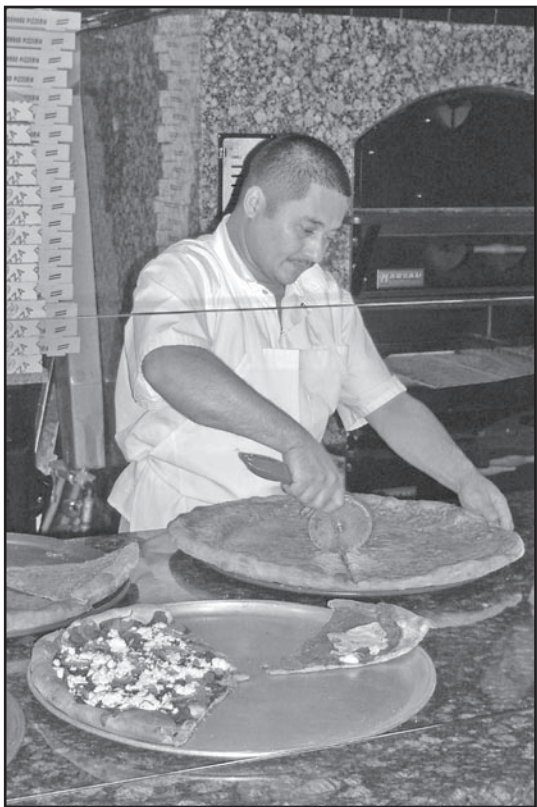
Matt Pinsker
Food Critic

Located near the back of New Town and featuring both indoor and outdoor seating is a most excellent restaurant: Buon Amici. A step inside reveals an elegant, but not stuffy, décor, setting the stage for a somewhat formal but relaxed dining environment. Outdoor seating is also available for a more casual atmosphere. The regular menu offers several traditional Italian-style dishes as well as appetizers and salads. Although the regular entrées are priced a bit too high for a casual evening with your friends, they are most appropriate considering their quality and quantity.

Not only is the food tasty, but the portions are absolutely enormous and would leave a single diner struggling to finish an entire entrée, such as chicken parmesan (\$18), by himself. They also offer smaller versions of some dishes, like chicken parmesan and marsala, for a reduced price of \$13. There is a variety of specialty pizzas (\$16-21), subs (\$6-7) and stromboli (\$7), which are better priced for college students and would be an excellent meal before catching a movie. My group of diners tried the eggplant caprese for \$8. It was composed of grilled eggplant slices, roasted peppers and tomatoes and the restaurant's own homemade mozzarella with balsamic dressing, and was absolutely loaded with flavor. We also ordered what they call a personal pizza (\$13), yet it was far too much for just one

person. It had a relatively thin crust, a fresh tasting tomato sauce and the delicious homemade mozzarella. It was cooked to perfection, and is definitely one of the best pizzas I have eaten. It was full of flavor, was served at an appropriate temperature, and was not dripping in nasty grease or too much cheese.

The service was also top notch. Our server, a William and Mary senior named Ed Myers, did a most exquisite job. He was professional, had a superb knowledge of the menu items and was most helpful in deciding what to order. All items were



Aileen Judd

Subjectively personal: The so-called "personal" pizza was way too big for just one.

brought to the table with beautiful and elegant presentation, at the right temperature and at the proper intervals. As my dining group was in a casual mood, the quick service suited us well. However, if you plan on taking a more leisurely meal, you may want to tell your server. The only real criticism is that eating outside will slightly limit your menu selection when it comes to ordering pizza.

Buon Amici does a fantastic job of being an upscale restaurant that can still cater to William and Mary students. Inside, it creates an elegant and even romantic atmosphere perfect for celebrating an occasion such as an anniversary or birthday with someone special. Outside, the atmosphere is casual enough for a quick bite with close friends. The sandwich items are priced comparably to the delis, and the pizza is perfect to split amongst friends when you have grown tired of Chanellos and Dominos.

Thanksgiving movies preview

The holiday season will soon be here. The weather is getting cooler, we're all yearning for fireplaces and winter traditions and final papers are looming. However, the beginning of the holidays also means the annual onslaught of movies coming out of Hollywood from studios desperate to take our money. So, don't get lost in the rush and allow *The Virginia Informer* to guide your movie-viewing decisions for Thanksgiving break.



Joe Pirro
Film Critic

Beowulf - Robert Zemeckis directs another creepy humans-as-animated-characters movie after the success of *The Polar Express*, but this epic starring Angelina Jolie looks nothing short of silly. Unless you're desperate, there are better movie-viewing choices. (Nov. 16)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium - There's always a great family film that you can take the younger siblings to over break, and this looks to be that movie. Starring Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman and Jason Bateman, this fantasy about a magical toy store looks like fun for all ages. (Nov. 16)

Margot at the Wedding - Noah Baumbach returns after *The Squid and the Whale* with another quirky, emotional drama with a terrific ensemble cast. The film is also being touted as Nicole Kidman's return to fine acting. If you're looking to view something a little more intelligent, this will be a great bet. (Nov. 16)

Enchanted - Another family film from Disney, the preview for this new movie has been drawing big laughs in theatres since premiering in the summer. A spoof of Disney's animated films, *Enchanted* follows an animated princess who becomes a live-action human lost in New York City, trying to find her way home. (Nov. 21)

The Mist - What says family and Thanksgiving more than a horror flick? Seriously, let's end the trend of inane thrillers and please stay away from this sub-par looking movie. We can end this together. (Nov. 21)

No Country for Old Men - If you see one movie over break, it should be this one. An action-thriller from the inimitable Coen brothers, *No Country for Old Men* tells the story of a Texan who discovers an abandoned satchel full of money, surrounded by heroin and a group of murdered men. Soon he's being tracked and chased by a ruthless killer looking for vengeance. This is sure to be nominated for many awards and should be your best bet. (Expands wide on Nov. 23)



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Fear the darkness: Pirro advises staying away from *Beowulf* at all costs. See something worth your money, such as *No Country for Old Men* or *Enchanted*.

Apocalypse looks for deeper meaning in current literature and music

Cliff Dunn
Staff Writer

Ever have to sit through a *really* bad English class? You know, one where the professor goes on and on about metaphors that the author probably never would have thought of, and then you have to write a paper on one of those inventive metaphors? If so, then *A Consumer's Guide to the Apocalypse* is a book you should probably check out.

Taking the tried-and-true rule of English professors seeking tenure everywhere to a brand new level, Eduardo Velasquez engages in a satire of their tendency to read far too deeply into things. But rather than reading too much into *Moby Dick* or *Wuthering Heights*, as most professors content themselves to

do, Mr. Velasquez over-analyzes Tom Wolfe, Dave Matthews and *Fight Club*, among other things.

Beginning with the question of why so many TV shows and movies carry a tone that is religious in some form, and why such shows are so successful, Mr. Velasquez goes through two parts in his book: science and theology. In each section, he delves into proposed deeper meanings in different works: Tom Wolfe's *I Am Charlotte Simmons*, the works of Coldplay and Dave Matthews, *Fight Club* and so forth. The works are taken apart piece by piece and analyzed to extremes. In each case, as few will be surprised to find, there is a deeper meaning to each work. Ultimately, one cannot tell whether the book is a sharp commentary on society or a mockery of the frequent over-analysis found in many academic

departments; in some ways it is both of these. Clocking in at approximately 180 rather small pages with decent-sized print, if one excludes the index, the book can be finished in a few hours. So if you want to get a satirical look at pop culture deconstructed to the point of absurdity, or see an example of just how far an English professor can really go, then *A Consumer's Guide to the Apocalypse* is for you.

A Consumer's Guide to the Apocalypse

Author: Eduardo Velásquez
Pages: 200
Publisher: ISI Books
ISBN: 1933859288
List Price: \$22.00

Paintings showcasing John Brown's life to appear at Muscarelle

Stories about the abolitionist gave artist inspiration to embark on series

Swetha Sivaram
Staff Writer

Jacob Lawrence's series of paintings on the "Legend of John Brown" will be introduced at the upcoming members' opening at the Muscarelle Museum of Art on November 16, 2007. Approximately 300 to 500 members are expected to attend the opening of the exhibition, titled "Legacy for the Generations: Jacob Lawrence's Legend of John Brown." The opening starts at 5 pm and will continue until 7:30 pm. It serves as a way to introduce a new exhibition to members who support the exhibition and the Museum.

"Jacob Lawrence's Legend of John Brown" contains a series of gouache paintings that tell a narrative of the abolitionist John Brown, whose conviction that slavery must be opposed by force led him to organize covert missions to liberate slaves from Southern plantations during the 1850s. Brown later led antislavery troops inside Kansas during the "Bleeding Kansas" crisis before the American Civil War, which met with an untimely end. John Brown was hanged for treason on December 2, 1859 by the US government in Virginia for the attack on the



Joe Luppino-Esposito

Appreciation: Beginning this month, the "Legend of John Brown" exhibit can be viewed like these students are observing the paintings in Andrews Hall.

US Armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now a part of West Virginia).

For Mr. Lawrence, the paintings of John Brown were partly inspired by the stories he heard from adults in the African American community. Museum

be on display at this same time and currently on display is "America the Beautiful," photographs of American landscape by Clyde Butcher. The Muscarelle Museum of Art is open from 10 am to 5 pm every Tuesday through Friday.

Director Dr. Aaron De Groft further states that African American history and culture is an integral part of American history and its "artistic landscape."

The members' opening itself will include a reception at which wine and light hors d'oeuvres will be served on the first floor of the museum. Despite being a members' opening, faculty, staff and students are welcome to come, said Special Projects Administrator Ursula McLaughlin. The exhibition, on loan and with its travel supported by the Jessie Ball DuPont Fund, continues the museum's year of American art by portraying African American history. The reception is sponsored partly by the Friends of the Muscarelle Museum.

Jacob Lawrence's "Legend of John Brown" exhibition will be on display from November 16 through January 6, 2008. The paintings of Effie Lee Spell Reid, an unknown Mississippi folk artist, in the exhibit "Up a Hill, Down a Hollow," will

be on display at this same time and currently on display is "America the Beautiful," photographs of American landscape by Clyde Butcher. The Muscarelle Museum of Art is open from 10 am to 5 pm every Tuesday through Friday.

This ain't no movie! Simple etiquette for a night at the theatre

Those of you who have been reading my column for a few years know that I have a couple of pet peeves when it comes to the world of arts and entertainment. One of the most annoying of these is a person who comes to a play, musical or opera and acts as if



R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

he has just stepped in to catch the late night double feature at his neighborhood multiplex. Come on, guys. Even a child understands that a movie and a live theatrical performance are two very different things. You can't just waltz into PBK Hall or the Kimball in your blue jeans clutching a Coke and a box of jujubes. It isn't proper and, more importantly, it isn't polite to the people around you. Directors, actors, musicians and technicians work incredibly hard to get their productions off the ground, so the least you can do is show a bit of respect for them and for your fellow theatre-goers by following some very simple theatre etiquette guidelines.

First, before you go out, be sure to dress appropriately. This means smart casual for guys, nice pants and a button-down shirt, and something comparable for ladies, either a thigh-length dress or classy pants and a nice top. No tie, jacket, pearls or heels are required, but you should try to dress as if you were headed to an upscale restaurant or to church. You should also try to purchase your tickets beforehand, either online or over the phone. That way, you don't burn up all of your time before the show begins just waiting in line. To be safe, show up 30-45 minutes early. This will give you time to pick up your

tickets and get seated before the house lights dim. Make sure that you visit the restroom before the show starts. Unlike at a movie theatre, getting up to go to the bathroom at any time during the performance is considered to be inappropriate.

After the entertainment begins, make sure that you don't talk, even in a whisper, to those around you. The noise is not only annoying, it has the potential to distract actors and musicians and throw them off their routine. Also, applause is a wonderful thing, but there is a time and a place for it. You should clap only when a conductor first walks to the front of the band

or orchestra, at the end of each scene or musical piece—*never* between movements of a piece, usually denoted with Roman

numerals on a concert program—and during curtain calls at the end of the show itself. Whistles and catcalls are never couth, and should be eschewed in favor of simple applause. Booing is also inappropriate. If you disliked a performer or a particular scene or song, show your disapproval by withholding your applause. Leaving during a performance is absolutely taboo. While you should absolutely feel free to leave a substandard production at the intermission, to do so while the action on the stage is still going on is the height of rudeness.

After an intermission is over, the audience is usually recalled

to the house either by a dimming of the corridor lights, a bell or a brief spoken announcement. Be sure to discard any unfinished refreshments before you return to your seat. To be slurping or crunching away at a smuggled-in snack during a show is simply not okay. After a performance has ended, a curtain call usually takes place, during which each performer comes onto the stage to take a bow before the audience. Standing ovations are often given for exceptionally good casts or cast-members, but you shouldn't be afraid to remain seated if either you disliked the show or simply prefer not to stand. If the director chooses to play an encore after the curtain call, you should remain in your seat until the number has ended. To leave the

“

Even a child understands that a movie and a live theatrical performance are two very different things.

”

theatre during the curtain call or an encore is impolite both to the cast and to your fellow theatre-goers.

A few more minutes of applause won't kill you, and if you're in that much of a hurry to get to the parking lot you need to relax a bit anyways.

Voila! A few easy-to-remember tips for the theatre that will make you look like a true connoisseur. Try to make it to as many live performances as possible here at the College, starting with the WMT's Second Season production of "Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love," which plays November 15-17, 2007, at 8:00 pm in the Studio Theatre at PBK Hall. Have fun, and remember your manners!

Miller finds unlikely relation in American history

Jon San
Features Editor

High John the Conqueror was a folk hero, a slave that inspired numerous tales because of his ability to trick his presumably more intelligent master. John Brown was a white abolitionist whose failed rebellion at Harper's Ferry helped to ignite the Civil War. On November 29, English professor John Miller will present a lecture at the Muscarelle Museum that presents both as key figures of antebellum African American resistance. You may be thinking, how can these two men possibly relate to one another?

"The tales of High John (which are called Jack Tales or John and Ol' Master Tales) are trickster tales that conveyed to their enslaved listeners the fact that the master/slave relationship was not natural nor paternalistic, as many white slave-owners believed," said Mr. Miller. "That relationship was subject to negotiation if not negation, and the trickster tales suggested ways how."

High John depicts a sense of rebellion against what many white slave owners thought was normal: the master/slave relationship. In a similar but more violent way, John Brown rebelled against the slavery norms of the South.

Mr. Miller, while giving a talk on his research in the area of antebellum African American folklore, stumbled upon this connection by accident.

"Amy Gorman from the Muscarelle asked me if I would be interested in speaking as part of the Jacob Lawrence exhibit," said Mr. Miller. "I thought about the connections between the two and the relationship emerged out of my understanding of not only High John's place in African American cultural memory, but John Brown's, too."

During his lecture, Mr. Miller will focus on the two figures and the similarities they share in African American cultural memory. The Jacob Lawrence exhibit, which depicts key events in American history such as the Great Migration, as well as antebellum heroes like John Brown and Harriet Tubman, will also be available for viewing.

Staff Editorials:

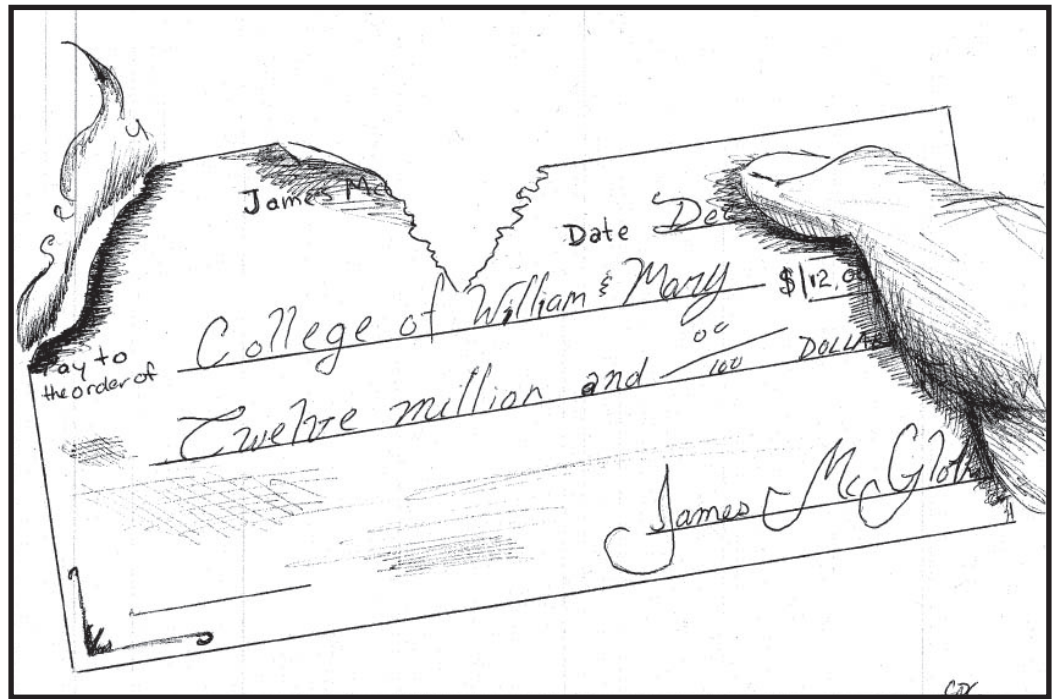
Come clean, Gene

What did President Nichol know and when did he know it? Following the College's refusal to release the e-mails between Mr. Nichol and former President Timothy J. Sullivan, it seems this question will remain unanswered.

Despite the fact that both Mr. Sullivan and donor James McGlothlin ('62) have expressed no objections to the public release of these documents, Mr. Nichol claims that he denied *The Virginia Informer's* FOIA request in order to protect the privacy of the former president and donor. Considering two of the three involved parties have no objection whatsoever to the publication of these e-mails, Mr. Nichol's justification for refusing to release the information rings hollow.

We believe that the publication of these e-mails will prove conclusively that Mr. Nichol had prior knowledge about the revocation of the \$12 million pledge and knowingly allowed the false figures to be reported. It seems clear that the only reason that Mr. Nichol would deny the FOIA request is if the e-mails contradict his public statements. If Mr. Nichol had the capacity to disprove his critics—including *The Informer's*—accusations, it seems puzzling that he would neglect to take advantage of such an opportunity.

It is high time for Mr. Nichol to stop hiding behind technicalities and come clean. Releasing the correspondence in question is the only way to put an end to the uncertainty surrounding this issue.



David Clifford

In defense of Islamofacism Awareness Week

Time to recognize the threat rather than distract with politically correct rhetoric

Nick Hoelker
Online Editor

University students around the nation marked "Islamofacism Awareness Week" from October 22 through October 26 in an effort to highlight "the threat from the Islamic jihad, and the oppression of Muslim women." The event was sponsored by the conservative Terrorism Awareness Project, founded by author David Horowitz. The project encouraged awareness of the threat of Islamic extremism by bringing speakers on this topic to 114 college campuses, including William and Mary.

The project's website states that the purpose of Islamofacism awareness week was to counter two myths about the War on Terror—"that George Bush created the war on terror and that global warming is a greater danger to Americans than the terrorist threat." Having already carried out a major terrorist attack on American soil and responsible for thousands of more attacks worldwide, Islamofacists clearly post one of the greatest threats to the United States and Western culture in the twenty-first century. All Americans can benefit by learning more about the roots of terrorism and how to better protect themselves against this enemy.

However, instead of embracing this opportunity to attempt to understand an evil ideology—a step that is crucial to defeating it—many Americans have seemingly resisted doing so. Over 20,000 students worldwide joined a Facebook event encouraging members to wear green to show their *opposition* to Islamofacism Awareness Week.

Strangely, the most vocal criticism of Islamofacism Awareness Week has come from the Muslim community. Considering that the Islamofacist movement has hijacked the Muslim religion as a way to justify their twisted actions, opposing an effort to widen

understanding of this topic seems to run counter to the American Muslim community's insistence that such extremists do not speak for all Muslims.

At the College's 9/11 Memorial last year, Fuad Bohsali, representing the Muslim Students Association, stressed that the most important lesson learned from the September 11th attacks was the need to break down the religious barriers that exist in America, as well as the need for Americans to better understand Muslim culture. Islamofacism

Awareness Week provided a perfect example to clearly show how the views and actions of the extremists are not a true reflection of Islam. Moderate Muslims could have used

this opportunity to condemn the terrorists that smear their religion's name and show Americans that just because somebody is a Muslim does not mean that they are a terrorist.

Another objection to Islamofacism Awareness Week is with the actual use of the term "Islamofacism." The complaints about this phrase stem from the fact that the term Islamofacism can be offensive to Muslims. While the term is admittedly not the most politically correct term to describe modern-day terrorism, it is generally understood that the phrase "Islamofacism" is synonymous with jihadist terrorism. In the end, however, the term used to describe this threat is not as important as ensuring that we recognize it. For such a serious subject, such semantic concerns seem rather moot.

If critics of "Islamofacism week" are claiming to be "defending Islam" against those who would spread misconceptions about it, then their stance seems completely hypocritical. There is no better way to prove that Islam is in fact a religion of peace than by spreading understanding about the ideology of hatred that drives Islamofacism and how it corrupts the true principles of Islam.

WMPD watch: Police disappoint

Our extremely disturbing front page story concerning the William and Mary Police Department's seemingly callous refusal to escort a college student after dark is a shameful testament to the warped priorities of the campus police. As our recent coverage on the WMPD this year has shown, campus police seem to value "busting" students for alcohol violations than actually serving and protecting the College community.

As *The Virginia Informer* reported last issue, statistics prove that the WMPD is far more active than police departments at other schools with similar student-to-officer ratios. Not only does the WMPD make more arrests, but a vast majority of the arrests made by campus police are for violations of the College's alcohol policy. This incident seems to reinforce the widely held perception

that the campus police are much more intent on persecuting students for petty alcohol infractions than on actually ensuring the safety of students.

One would think that especially after such a recent student mugging, campus police would and should be more than willing to accommodate a female student who felt unsafe walking after dark. Not only were the officers in question not willing to help the student, they were allegedly dismissive and indifferent to her safety concerns. Such a response certainly does not reflect well on the already questionable priorities of the WMPD.

If the WMPD wishes to begin to rehabilitate its sorry reputation on campus, it should, at the very least, start by showing some degree of concern for students' safety in the face of a clear threat to their well-being.

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Freedom of speech on campus should apply to all points of view

It has always been my understanding that one of the sacred pillars of American higher education is the defense of the principle of freedom of speech.



Alex Mayer
Opinion Editor

Colleges and universities are supposed to be America's ultimate bastions of tolerance, places where the widest array of ideas and perspectives can be exchanged and debated among this country's best and brightest minds.

Recent events, however, have led me to believe that perhaps this idealistic view of American higher education is nothing more than a myth. In fact, there is a distinct strain of intolerance

of certain forms of speech in an alarming number of top US universities.

This observation is based on the reaction of many universities to the recent "Islamofascism Awareness Week" in late October sponsored by author David Horowitz's Terrorism Awareness Project. The project brought speakers to 114 universities to educate students on "the threat from Islamic jihad and the oppression of Muslim women."

Attacked as being "Islamophobic" and even "racist," Mr. Horowitz's project is certainly controversial. Even his use of the term "Islamofascism" to describe the threat from radical Islamists has been criticized as offensive to Muslims.

The question as to whether or not these criticisms are legitimate—I believe they are not—is indeed important, as is the broader question as to the nature of the threat to the US from radical Muslims. But even more important than the substance of this particular issue is the principle—the idea that a topic of such importance deserves to be passionately

debated on college campuses and that a wide range of perspectives and viewpoints should be included in that debate. Sadly, this view—a fundamental tenant of free speech—is not universally shared.

"Islamofascism Awareness Week" was met with angry, impassioned protests on many campuses. This, of course, is no problem in itself—protesting a viewpoint one disagrees with is a perfectly legitimate form of freedom of speech—but the opposition based their protests on a disturbing phrase. They described Mr. Horowitz's attempts to raise awareness about Islamofascism not simply as wrong or misguided, but as "hate speech," a convenient little dirty word of the 21st century that disqualifies any point of view it is attached to as illegitimate and not worthy of public discussion. It is, quite simply, a politically correct form of censorship of viewpoints that are found to be inconvenient or uncomfortable.

These protesters did not just want to oppose the message of Islamofascism Awareness Week—they wanted to silence it. When Mr. Horowitz appeared at Emory University to give a speech on October 24, he was interrupted and shouted down by rowdy protesters, who become so violent that police had to be called in to escort Mr. Horowitz offstage less than 30 minutes into the event.

Unfortunately, such occurrences are all too common these days. It seems that the label of "hate

speech" is conveniently applied to any argument that induces sufficient anger from its critics—usually because they lack the capacity to formulate an intelligent response. Rather than debating the issue, they prefer the simpler solution of silencing those with whom they disagree.

Even more disturbing is the blatant double-standard applied to "hate speech." The critics who condemn the decision to invite speakers like Mr. Horowitz are, in most cases, the very same that passionately defended Columbia University's "enlightened" decision to allow Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak. For example, while the Columbia Spectator's editorial board applauded the decision to invite Ahmadinejad as "an impressive demonstration of the University's respect of free speech and open debate," they condemned the decision to allow Mr. Horowitz to speak, saying it was quite another thing "to celebrate incendiary pundits that generate fear and loathing instead of meaningful discourse." Apparently, Mr. Horowitz's fierce criticism of the violent, intolerant ideology of radical Islam is unacceptable "hate speech," but Mr. Ahmadinejad's denial of the Holocaust as a Jewish conspiracy and his calls to "wipe Israel off the map" are not.

There is certainly no more reason to label Mr. Horowitz's point of view "hate speech" than Mr. Ahmadinejad's. But the hypocrisy of these critics is simply further proof that the principle of freedom of speech is not really as widespread on college campuses as one might believe. What some people seem to have forgotten is that "free speech" applies to everyone—not just those with whom they agree. By preventing the presentation of certain points of view, critics are doing the student body at these universities—and the country at large—a great disservice.

“There is a distinct strain of intolerance of certain forms of speech in an alarming number of top US universities.”

President Nichol: No ACLU liberal

Steven Nelson
Assistant News Editor

Since President Nichol's fateful decision to remove the Wren Chapel's cross last year, William and Mary has fallen behind in national rankings while controversy after controversy envelopes the campus, from the new bias reporting system to the "\$12 million lie."

A large number of President Nichol's current supporters cling to his image as a principled "liberal." In my judgment, this rationale for supporting Mr. Nichol's presidency is unfounded. Aside from brashly removing the Wren Cross, Mr. Nichol has done relatively little in support of "liberal" causes.

This realization began to dawn near the end of last year when the Sex Workers' Art Show rolled onto campus. President Nichol publicly expressed his distaste for the show. A principal student organizer and longtime advocate for GLBT issues lashed out at Nichol, criticizing him for appeasing those who attack him while attacking those who support him. The student attacked Nichol's lack of

support for class, gender and sexuality issues expressed in the show.

President Nichol has consistently declined to support a student-led campaign asking for campus workers' right to organize, a key objective of students in the pro-worker Tidewater Labor Support Committee. Last year a group of workers, students, and faculty marched to Mr. Nichol's house to express their concerns. The workers were not given the right to organize.

Campus liberals should be appalled that Mr. Nichol has not signed the Presidents' Climate Commitment, an environmental initiative strongly pushed by the Student Environmental Action Coalition. SEAC collected hundreds of signatures and held a large rally in support of the policy change months ago. Despite a groundswell of grassroots support for the cause, Nichol has not signed the PCC.

Mr. Nichol did nothing last semester to support the College's chapter of Students for a Democratic Society when permission to hold "Freetown" in the Sunken Garden last spring was revoked. Under threat of arrest,

members disobeyed the administration and camped out for days in the Sunken Garden, continuing a tradition of opposition to the 3-person to a house rule and the lack of student voting rights.

The 3-person rule and the lack of student voting rights in Williamsburg have been poorly addressed by Mr. Nichol. No concrete action resulted from the token activism exhibited by Mr. Nichol. Students regained voting rights only after former registrar Dave Andrews was fired. A few of Nichol's critics accuse him of being an "ACLU liberal." On the contrary. If we had such a President, he would have utilized the fullest extent of his powers to address these issues that deprived his own students of their rights.

Three years into Mr. Nichol's presidency, the College still sees 10% of the student body charged with a judicial violation each year, many of whom experience the College's harsh alcohol and drug policies. Each William and Mary police officer continues to arrest around 10 times as many students on alcohol charges as

their counterparts at VCU and UVA even though there are identical student to police ratios. If Nichol had been the "ACLU liberal" some allege, he would have acted as an intermediary on behalf of students.

Despite these failings, President Nichol has made some notable progress for students. He signed into effect an alcohol amnesty policy last year for those who seek medical attention in an emergency, although the results of that initiative have been mixed. He signed into effect this year a change in policy allowing Graduate students to represent undergrads in judicial hearings.

This is not intended as a slam piece on the President but is rather meant to engage Nichol's supporters who find this a partisan battle in honest dialogue. The controversy surrounding President Nichol is no partisan struggle. Rather, it is a debate about good leadership versus bad leadership, and Nichol's supporters should not defend his poor record on the mistaken belief that he is a consistent patron of "liberal" causes.

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Cops say legalize drugs?

Law enforcement officer Weiland deems War on Drugs a failure

Steven Nelson
Assistant News Editor

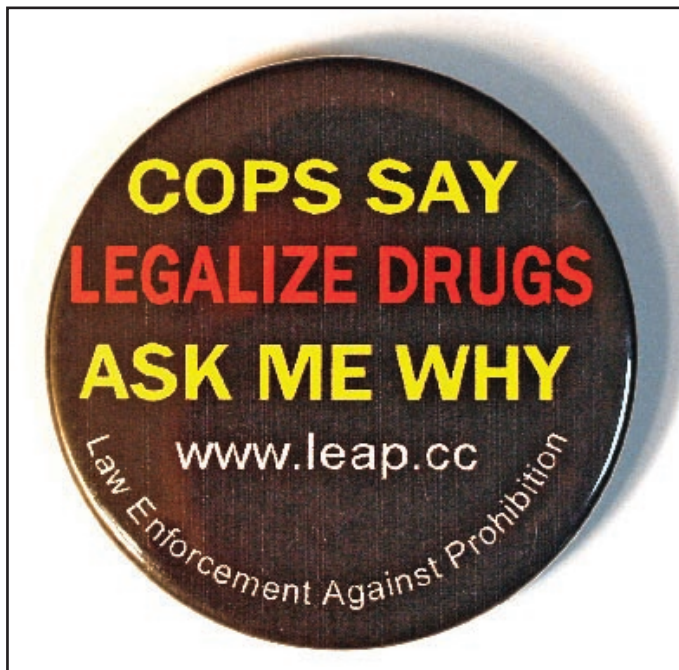
Bill Weiland is not the man people would expect to be campaigning for the legalization of drugs. Mr. Weiland served as a police officer in Pennsylvania until retirement and, with graying hair and a neatly timed, no-nonsense look, would seem to want anything but.

Mr. Weiland, however, is a member of a group of law enforcement officers campaigning for the legalization of the substances which, throughout his employment, occupied much time, effort and expense.

Student group SSDP (Students for a Sensible Drug Policy) hosted Mr. Weiland on October 23 to discuss why he and other members of LEAP (Law Enforcement Against Prohibition) believe that the War on Drugs should be ended.

According to LEAP, the War on Drugs is a failure. Since its inception during the 1970s, state and federal authorities have arrested 37 million citizens on non-violent drug charges, and have spent \$42.2 trillion. Despite these figures, the group asserts, the drug problem has only worsened.

Why has it worsened? According to Mr. Weiland, it is because prohibition fuels demand. He illustrated his point by comparing the drinking habits of under-21 year olds to those of legal drinking age. Drinking is less often and less dangerous for those over 21, says



Ian R. Whiteside

Reefer madness?: Students for Sensible Drug Policy and some police officers want to legalize marijuana.

Mr. Weiland, because there is no urge to break what many deem an unjust law.

Evidence that the American drug problem has worsened, or at least that more citizens are being prosecuted, was the arrest figure from last year alone.

1,839,000 citizens were arrested on non-violent drug charges last year, an all-time high.

Mr. Weiland is strongly opposed to arresting most drug users, and especially opposed to imprisoning drug addicts, saying, "Let's not say addiction is a crime, it's a medical condition which is often caused by depression and loneliness."

Under current law enforcement policies, the prison population of the United States has grown to 2.2 million. This number is higher than in any other country on earth and is the highest figure per capita of any country, also.

Many American prisons are now owned privately, a practice which Mr. Weiland alleges has led to the development of the "prison-industrial complex." Private prisons, he points out, make the most profit when at full capacity, and therefore have a vested interest in tough drug policies.

LEAP argues that should the War on Drugs be ended, and drugs legalized, use would decrease, dangerous drug cartels would cease to exist, and American taxpayers would save \$69 billion a year.

Mr. Weiland cites other countries' experiences in legalizing drugs to support LEAP's position. Switzerland and the Netherlands have relaxed drug laws in the past 10 years. Drug use and addiction rates have gone down, HIV and hepatitis infections have been reduced, overdoses leading to death have nearly ceased to exist, and violent crime has decreased 60 percent.

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editor@vainformer.com

Red Flags campaign for change on campus

Chris Davis
Layout Editor

In its inaugural year, the Red Flag Campaign will not demand your free time, should you decide to participate in it. It could, though, have a significant effect on your or your friends' behavior.

"The most important way that people can become involved is to take the message to heart," said Trisha Hunsaker, the Sexual Assault Educator at the College. "Speak up when you notice 'red flag' behaviors in a person's behavior or in a relationship."

Through a plethora of fliers, table tents in the dining halls and red flags, as well as through the campaign's Web site, theredflagcampaign.org, the effort aims to inform students about the signs of an unhealthy relationship and calls on students to help themselves and friends to identify issues in their own relationships.

"It can help students that are dating or thinking about becoming serious with a partner examine patterns in their relationships to ensure that they are healthy," said Ms. Hunsaker.

When one of the red flags for dating violence, emotional abuse, coercion, excessive jealousy, isolation, sexual or physical assault and victim-blaming has been identified, Ms. Hunsaker advises students to intervene so that the behavior does not become dangerous.

"The key is helping college

students harness their power to change the cultural tolerance of violence in relationships," she said.

The program started this year on 16 Virginia college campuses due to the high percentage of college students who report dating violence by a previous partner.

Peers are specially targeted by the program as interventionists because they "have the ability to provide safety and support and can also dictate what behaviors are unacceptable."



Joe Luppino-Esposito

Red Flags: The campaign outlines six signs of a healthy relationship.

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