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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.

# NICHOL'S LAST STAND?

## Rector Powell calls for full and public review of president's performance



File Photos

Under siege: The BOV will determine Nichol's future.

**Matthew Sutton**  
Executive Editor

Following the Board of Visitors meeting of September 27-28, Rector Michael Powell announced a comprehensive review of President Gene Nichol's contract which is currently set to expire in June 2008. In an unprecedented move, a special e-mail address, BOVevaluation@wm.edu, was established to solicit comments from "alumni, faculty students and friends of the College" about Mr. Nichol's future with the College.

In an e-mail sent to faculty, staff

and students, Mr. Powell laid out the process that the Board will use in evaluating the possible extension of Mr. Nichol's contract. "Pursuant to the terms of the President's contract, the review will examine achievements as measured against goals and objectives presented by the President to the Board as well as other metrics. Additionally, our appraisal will include a 360 degree review, which is a feature of the best appraisal systems."

Mr. Powell also obliquely

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## WMPD faces budget crunch

**Cliff Dunn and Steven Nelson**  
Staff Writer and Assistant News Editor

The William and Mary police department (WMPD), which, of late, has become increasingly unpopular among the student body, may be forced to economize in light of expected state budget cuts of approximately 7 percent.

The Virginia Informer has obtained a copy of a Freedom of Information Act request that revealed the full WMPD budget for the 2006-2007 academic year and a projected 2007-2008 budget.

Campus police were, for the 2006-2007 academic year, given a budget of \$1,647,441.

Total expenditures amounted to \$1,715,987, a difference of more than \$65,000.

The majority of the expenses, some \$1,489,798, were classified as personnel costs. Personnel expenses include salaries, benefits and overtime pay.

A significant amount, \$226,189, was spent on non-personnel items. The Informer acquired an itemized listing of non-personnel expenditures for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Major non-personnel costs included \$85,000 spent on "airtime usage fees," which Chief Donald Challis explains are fees that the police department pays to the County of York for a campus-wide radio system. Much of the money is reimbursed to the police department and spent on other items, causing the actual itemized list of expenditures to top \$330,000.

A total of \$1,216.80 was spent on ammunition from The Gun Shop in a single purchase last December, which Mr. Challis explained was so that officers could practice at a shooting range.

\$10,897.26 was spent throughout the year by the department on "law enforcement supplies" paid to Century Uniforms. According to Mr. Challis, this includes pants, shirts and other items.

Some of the most interesting items, however, were purchases that had no apparent relation to law enforcement. In October

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Nicole Leger

Protect and spend: WMPD budget draws scrutiny.



Courtesy of Levinson family

**Missing:** Former FBI agent and W&M dad, Robert Levinson (r), has gone missing in Iran.

## W&M alum's father missing in Iran

**Alex Mayer**  
Opinion Editor

In March 2008, Robert Levinson, an ex-FBI agent working as a private investigator and father to a recent alumnus, traveled to Kish Island off Iran's southern coast. His trip was reportedly related to his investigation into an international counterfeit cigarette smuggling ring. After taking a flight from Dubai to Kish, Mr. Levinson checked into the Maryam Hotel on the island on March 8, 2007. He has not been heard from since, and six months later, his whereabouts are still unknown.

Since his disappearance, Mr. Levinson's family, in an effort headed by his wife Christine, has been working tirelessly to find him. Working through every available official channel, including the US State Department, letters to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and contact with the Iranian mission to the United Nations, the Levinson family has found few answers as to his fate. On September 7, the Iranian government

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# Behind the scenes of the Marketplace accident

## Was it a dangerous chemical spill or simple household cleaner?

**Steven Nelson**  
Assistant News Editor

On the morning of Tuesday, September 18, students received text messages, e-mails and phone calls for the first time via the College's new emergency alert system.

The campus-wide alert read: "There has been a chemical spill in the Marketplace. The building has been evacuated. The Marketplace will not be able to serve food until further notice." Police responding to the scene believed there to be a chemical spill on the Marketplace's loading dock. Unsure of what chemical reaction had occurred, the building was temporarily evacuated.

Marketplace employees present at the time of the "chemical spill" allege, however, that the cause of the alert was no more than Limeaway, which had been poured from a small container into a bucket on the loading dock. Limeaway is commonly used as a dishwasher-cleaning agent because of

its ability to remove calcium and hard water minerals.

*The Informer* contacted Marketplace Director Sharmyce Davis to discuss what exactly occurred. Asked about the chemical spill, Davis adamantly stated, "there was no chemical spill." Ms. Davis confirmed that the chemical involved was Limeaway, which was being used to clean the loading dock's concrete slab.

Apparently, fumes from the Limeaway drifted back into the Marketplace from the loading dock, causing some employees to feel nauseous and complain of respiratory difficulty.

The Office of University Relations gave *The Informer* a different account of events. *The Informer* was told that employees working at the Marketplace inadvertently mixed a cleaning agent—possibly Limeaway—with another chemical—possibly bleach—resulting in the possible creation of chlorine gas.

When asked whether a chemical spill had actually occurred, the College's

public relations contact responded that "there is no information to suggest otherwise."

Due to the vapor inhalation, whether the result of Limeaway or a combination of chemicals, four employees were transported to the hospital. All complained of respiratory issues and nausea. The four were released the same day.

According to a material safety data sheet for Limeaway, if it is inhaled, its vapors cause "irritation, including a burning taste, sneezing, coughing, and difficulty breathing." This is especially true in people with asthma.

Limeaway contains no ammonia, therefore it is impossible to mix it with bleach to create chlorine gas. According to some Chemistry department members, however, it is possible for there to be hazardous vapors emitted through the combination of any phosphoric acid—Limeaway is 30% phosphoric acid—and bleach.

The Office of University Relations has been unable to pinpoint the ingredients combined on the loading

dock, but speculate that bleach and a cleaner were involved, resulting in toxic fumes.

Taliaferro Hall was not officially evacuated during the course of the "chemical spill." Housing 51 residents, Taliaferro is just feet from the Marketplace's loading dock. Open windows and air conditioning units in Taliaferro face the Marketplace's loading dock, where the College asserts the possible creation of chlorine gas occurred.

According to freshman Sarah Peyton, who lives in Taliaferro, "our cleaning lady and one of the transfers started feeling bad... so we all left because they told us it would be a good idea."

The College's public relations office was not aware that Taliaferro was evacuated, despite their concern that chlorine gas was created. The Office of University Relations denied that this first run of the emergency alert system—less than a week before the scheduled tests—was, in fact, an unnecessary occasion to test out the new system.

## Briefly...

Compiled by Adam Boltik, Briefs Editor

### "William and Mary Night" at New Town a "success"

New Town's first "William and Mary Night," held on September 20, was hailed as a success, as many undergraduate students made their way to the shopping center to take advantage of special events and sales. The owners of the stores in New Town planned the night with the goal of showing students what the outdoor shopping center has to offer. Establishments such as the new Green Leaf stayed open later to accommodate students, and Williamsburg Area Transit ran bus routes between campus and New Town to help students without cars attend the event. Live entertainment was provided throughout the evening.

### Williamsburg to host 53<sup>rd</sup> annual tax conference

For the 53<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, the College's law school and Mason School of Business are working together to host a tax conference in Williamsburg. This year's conference will be held at Kingsmill Resort in November. Business and legal experts will be running the conference, entitled "Tax Free Planning in a Taxable World," and will cover such topics as philanthropic giving by entrepreneurs, changes in the federal income tax and "creative

instructions" for the disposition of real estate. While the cost for the conference is nearly \$500, students and faculty are invited to attend at a greatly reduced rate.

### Law and terrorism collide in visit from national security expert

The Human Rights and National Security Law program is sponsoring the visit of law professor Robert Chesney, who will be visiting the College in mid-October. Dr. Chesney has been invited to deliver a talk entitled "Terrorism and the Convergence of Criminal and Military Detention Models," where he will discuss how civilian and military legal frameworks seem to have converged to deal with the issue of modern terrorism. According to Dr. Chesney, neither military nor civilian legal systems seem adequate to deal with the issue of terrorism on their own, and both systems are under pressure to change in order to effectively combat terrorism. The talk will be free for the public.

### Ewell Concert Series opens with grammy-nominated duo

Duo46, a guitar and violin duo that has been nominated for a Grammy, opened this year's Ewell Concert Series, a compilation of free concerts held throughout the academic year to promote interest in music. Duo46 has played in venues around the world, including Greece, Italy and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., playing music by American composers. The duo played the song "Seastone" which was written by William and

Mary composition professor Brian Hulse when he first met the group on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Dr. Hulse spoke highly of the event and of the Ewell Concert Series in general, saying "high-level performing arts bring an absolutely necessary ingredient to the intellectual life of a great college like William and Mary." Other concerts are planned throughout the academic year; they will take place in the Ewell recital hall and are free and open to the public.

### Jena 6 support rally held

On September 18, a march and demonstration were held in support of the so-called "Jena 6" out of Jena, Louisiana. The Jena 6 are six black students who garnered national media attention once they were charged with attempted murder after assaulting a white student. The assault was purportedly the culmination of a series of racially-charged incidents in the town, which began after several black students sat under a tree traditionally reserved for white students. Several white students responded to this by hanging nooses on the branch of the tree. Charges have since been dropped to second-degree battery.

The march was orderly, and several speakers addressed the roughly 200 marchers once they assembled in the Wren courtyard. The rally was organized by Ashley Shuler and by leaders of the local NAACP. Ms. Shuler, the primary organizer, called the event a success, said the school administration was "very supportive" and stated that the rally was not the last event they had planned.

*Cliff Dunn contributed to this report.*

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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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# Alarming silence

## New alert system now fully operational following several glitches in tests

**Kristin Coyner**  
Staff Writer

After numerous tests during the week of September 24, the Emergency Management Team has confirmed that the school's new emergency alert system is now fully operational.

"The world changed after the Virginia Tech shootings, so that what people want is instantaneous communication," said Sam Sadler, chair of the Emergency Management Team, in an interview with *The Virginia Informer*. Mr. Sadler's remark reflects the extent to which last spring's events continue to influence emergency response procedures at the College.

Over the past few months, universities and colleges across the Commonwealth have increased their efforts to install comprehensive emergency alert systems. This past week marked the formal attempt of the school to test its newly installed Emergency Notification System. Beginning on Monday, September 24, William and Mary was to test a newly-installed synchronized alarm system for a period of one minute. But at 10:30 am, the appointed time of the test, the sirens across campus uniformly failed to sound. Sirens located in the Marshall-Wythe School of Law were able to be manually overridden and activated. Those located on top of the Integrated Science Center, which is presently under construction, were incapable of being overridden.

This was the first attempt to test the sirens. Prior to this attempt, the system appeared to be functioning normally. SimplexGrinnell, the company responsible for installing the sirens, had utilized a mode in the system which allowed for testing without sound, which gave officials a false impression that the sirens were functioning properly. In reality, Monday's test revealed that wiring and relay controls of the alarm system were not working properly. Frank Kleczewski, a Norfolk-area building sales engineer for Simplex, explained the failure was due solely to "technical difficulties."

When working correctly, the sirens will emit the alarm for 3 minutes, serving as an alert to students, faculty and staff of an imminent emergency situation. Text messages, phone calls and e-mails will also be utilized to inform the campus of the specific nature of the emergency.

The message component of the school's emergency notification was successful, unlike the alarm system. In an e-mail sent to students after the attempt on September 24, Mr. Sadler noted that, "slightly over 98% of 9,549 individuals registered in the system were reached." This feature had been implemented a week prior due to an alleged chemical spill in the Marketplace.

Mr. Sadler pointed out this success in Monday's test by saying, "We learned a lot about how to use the telecommunications system from the Marketplace spill...

and succeeded in reducing the time of message response from 3 hours to 15 minutes." This accomplishment is bolstered by the College's participation rate, with approximately 98% of undergraduates, 85% of graduate students and 50% of faculty and staff registered for emergency notification messages.

Additionally, officials were able to replace the William and Mary web page with a "static web page," which displayed the same information sent in the messages to the campus community.

On Tuesday, September 25, Mr. Sadler rescheduled a smaller scale diagnostic test to review the sirens and alarm, which led to the rescheduling of another full one minute siren test. Several short bursts of the alarms were successfully sounded at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, prompting a scheduling of a full test for 11:55 a.m. on Wednesday, September 26. This test, as expected, resulted in the sounding of the alarm siren for a full minute.

In review of all the week's events, Mr. Sadler indicated that every test and system utilization will reveal further changes and improvements that need to be made. A full three minute test, which is the actual length of the alarm sounding in an emergency, will likely occur in

October over fall break and once more later in the fall semester. Mr. Sadler expressed concern over certain "dead spots" that exist in the messaging system, preventing a small number of individuals from receiving messages. Mr. Sadler proposed talking with cell phone carriers to rectify this problem.

Mr. Sadler stated that "students do not know enough about what to do in response to an alarm...the faculty

need to learn how to help students." To that end, a team has been created which will work to train faculty on the emergency system. In a Wednesday morning conference meeting between Mr. Sadler and other college leaders, however, there was concern about faculty actually attending these sessions. The possibility of making such sessions mandatory was one projected solution to this problem.

In response to the suggestion that Monday's failure could have occurred during a real emergency, Mr. Sadler claimed that the system is filled with, "backups for backups." The sirens are able to be manually overridden as a first backup. Furthermore, building managers in residence halls across campus, and eventually in the academic halls as well, are equipped with mobile devices which would enable word to be spread. "Word of mouth will help, though it is not the sole reliance in this situation," he said. Ultimately, Mr. Sadler hopes to create greater consistency in the entire emergency notification system so that in every situation information will still be available to students.



Ian R. Whiteside

**This is not a test:** New sirens should provide early warning.

# PRES. NICHOL UNDER REVIEW:

## Rector Powell asks for public input in full review of Nichol's presidency as contract expires

continued from page one

acknowledged the controversy surrounding President Nichol's rocky three years at the College, saying that "the Board of Visitors has received inquiries and expressions of interest regarding the expiration of President Nichol's employment contract on June 30, 2008."

Mr. Nichol issued the following

statement in response to the Board's decision: "I think the formal review the Board will undertake is a good idea and I fully embrace this process. I believe that it will be a positive one for both me and the greater William and Mary community....I look forward to the review and I hope to be president of this wonderful institution for a long time."

## Details on Nichol's contract emerge

**Nick Hoelker**  
Online Editor

In the midst of the fight over contract renewal for William and Mary President Gene Nichol, one aspect of Mr. Nichol's contract has been largely ignored. According to the Web site [www.ShouldNicholBeRenewed.org](http://www.ShouldNicholBeRenewed.org), Mr. Nichol's contract requires him to "submit to the Board of Visitors a written statement of his goals and objectives for the upcoming academic year." This excerpt is factually correct according to Director of University

Relations Michael Connolly. Mr. Connolly added that Mr. Nichol has indeed submitted his list of "goals and objectives" to the Board of Visitors. Mr. Connolly stated that, according to Rector Michael Powell, the report contained information about personnel matters which is not available for public record according to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Inquiries to Mr. Connolly regarding the availability of the rest of the contract as public record were not immediately returned.



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# Student Assembly leads voter registration drive

Ian A. Kirkpatrick  
Staff Writer

Due to recent changes in Williamsburg city politics, students now have the opportunity to vote in town, and the Student Assembly is encouraging them to do so.

The Student Assembly is now making a substantial effort to register William and Mary students. Representatives have been campaigning through freshman dorms and Greek organizations and have operated tables at many events this year, including the freshman activities fair and Fall Fest.

As a result of these efforts, several hundred students have been registered since the last week of August. *The Flat Hat* quoted the official numbers from the new registrar, Winifred Sowder, but according to Mr. Beato, "We did not want *The Flat Hat* to release that information because [it] could antagonize the community; [townspeople could] get the impression that they are being inundated." Such sentiment is understandable; 6,000 Williamsburg community members are registered to vote, and the student body of William and Mary includes 5,700 undergraduates. About 1,000 voters participate in each local election, thus, with enough effort, students could overwhelm the community members at the polls.

Local politics have a profound influence over student lives, and the Student Assembly feels that it is of tantamount

importance that everyone has the opportunity to register.

In many college towns across the country, the question of student participation in local politics has been very contentious. Recently, Williamsburg has experienced its own political drama. In 2006, about half way through his four year term, Williamsburg Registrar Dave Andrews was removed from office. William and Mary students could easily register to vote before Mr. Andrews took office, but upon his ascension to the post, he changed the city's interpretation of Virginia's voter registration law. Any registrar is legally allowed to do this, but he did so ten times during his tenure. According to President of the Student Assembly Zach Pilchen ('09), student voting in Williamsburg really "depended on when you tried to register." Mr. Andrews also allegedly violated a host of laws in the Code of Virginia by refusing to receive registration applications and refusing to tell applicants why their applications had been rejected. According to the Code of Virginia 24.2-114, these are some of the duties of a registrar.

Chairman of the Student Assembly



Ian R. Whiteside

**Rocking the vote:** The SA has taken advantage of having a more lenient voter registrar.

Senate Matthew Beato ('09) had his application denied because his phone number had a New York area code. Mr. Pilchen was allowed to register after a 45-minute barrage of what he considered irrelevant questions. When Mr. Pilchen told Mr. Andrews that he was a dependent, Mr. Andrews said that he should register in Arlington, where his parents live. "My grandparents are dependent as well, but they live in Florida, should they register to vote in Arlington?" Mr. Pilchen

responded.

Mr. Pilchen said that this summer he had testified on these events at a Congressional hearing on youth voter suppression "before a panel of members of Congress, the ACLU, Lawyer's Committee on Civil Rights, [and the] NAACP." He described the shock of the congressmen, who were amazed that the town "where American democracy began, and the World Forum on Democracy was held, was literally cherry picking voters."

## Senate debates WMPD tactics, responds with resolution

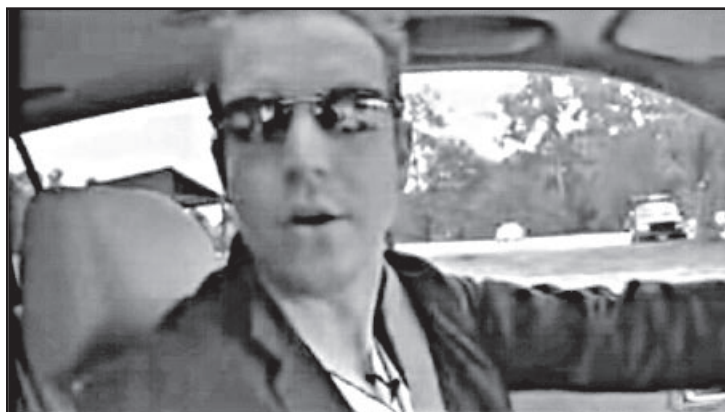
Bryan Alphin  
Staff Writer

The Student Assembly Senate commenced their September 25 meeting with the Baha Men hit, "Who Let the Dogs Out." Though the song quickly lost its appeal—just as it had when the song was released in 2001—the topic of the Insurance of Student Safety and Freedom of Assembly Act (ISSFA) did not lose its luster, as it resulted in heated debate on the Senate floor on Tuesday.

Senators Orlando Watson ('10) and Matt Skibiak ('08), co-sponsors of ISSFA, staunchly defended their proposal. The bill, which responds to the seemingly evident cases of the William and Mary police unjustifiably breaking up parties on campus (specifically at the Units), state that the student body is not pleased with these arbitrary intrusions and are protesting the actions as unfair and unreasonable to the law abiding students who do attend the parties.

The bill received criticism from Senators Walter McClean ('09) and Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08) over the facts behind the bill. The bill states that judicial referrals and interruption of campus parties are on the rise, and these facts were contested by Messrs. McClean and Luppino-Esposito. The judicial referral records do not take into account the occasional referrals made by RAs across campus, which, when added into the total number, inflate the numbers of referrals made by police. The other evidence-related issue with the bill included the complete lack of recording of how many parties on campus were shut down or interrupted, and for what purpose. Eventually Messrs. McClean and Luppino-Esposito forced the ISSFA sponsors into a corner by attacking the legitimacy of the bill. "I am concerned that when we present this bill before [the administration], we will not have enough evidence behind our words," Mr. McClean pronounced.

Behind all the rhetoric, the bill passed 9-2 with three senators abstaining. Now the bill



Courtesy of Senior Class Gift

**Movie star:** Senator Matt Skibiak enjoys his YouTube fame.

will likely be supported and signed by President Zach Pilchen ('09). Mr. Skibiak ensures that after ISSFA's passage he and Mr. Watson will call on the administration to change the policy of police interruption of campus parties.

The Senate is also planning to consider some new bills and issues relating to student life. Mr. Skibiak wants to change the exam schedule policy by moving the first exam from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Another issue that has concerned the SA is the quality of food on campus. The recent news that Aramark, the food distributor that serves the Caf and the UC, make the same food for the national-ranked dining services at James Madison University (JMU) has raised eyebrows for several senators. The Senate is investigating why JMU's food is seemingly better than William and Mary's.

At the week prior, the Senior Class Gift committee premiered its video for the Date Auction. The film stars Mr. Skibiak and Blair Ashley and can be seen at [www.seniorclassgift.org](http://www.seniorclassgift.org). Mr. Skibiak has also told *The Informer* that the video is slated to run on the television program *Online Nation* that airs on the CW Network.

The Senate meets on Tuesdays in Tyler 102 at 7:00 p.m.

*Editor's Note: Joe Luppino-Esposito is the editor in chief of The Virginia Informer.*

## New Student Assembly executive appointees impress

Sarah Nadler  
Staff Writer

President Zach Pilchen's weekly cabinet meeting was an exhibition of efficient and energized dedication from his appointees. Hearing reports from the new cabinet secretaries and undersecretaries it appears that each department seems to be making progress in their respective domains with many new programs.

After fall break there will be red posters around campus to promote healthy relationships. The cabinet was informed that testing for sexually transmitted infections is available at the Student Health Center, but each STI test costs a different amount, so more information is needed in order to find out the cost for a student to be tested for every STI simultaneously.

Changes about Busch Gardens day were discussed by the Student Life department. On October 5, students can only obtain one ticket with an ID card.

Public Affairs reported that the voter registration drive has been making progress, and Vice President Valerie Hopkins commented that "the RA of Lambda Chi asked her to do a registration hall program." On the College Policy front, it was noted there was a meeting with the police chief and Dean Gilbert to confirm that everyone on the police force understands the Medical Amnesty Act, a facet of campus policy that allows students to pursue medical attention for themselves or a friend without judicial sanctions. It was also made known that money for the police cards identifying student rights was received. Religious affairs were also discussed, along with a possibility for an interfaith meditation room on campus; however, leaders of the Diversity Department have not yet talked to the administration about this. Also in the works are diversity activities, such as a program about Asian American identity, and a show about sexuality called "I Heart Female Orgasms."

Finances were also discussed. The cabinet was happy to hear that the budget ended up being higher than originally anticipated, including budgeting for unforeseen or unplanned events. Also, the Senate has reauthorized executive authority over the off-campus account, meaning the executive branch will be able to provide organizations with money.

# CCM speaker Thorn sticks to biochemical facts about sex

John R. Kennedy  
Staff Writer

Vicki Thorn, a post-abortion healing and reconciliation coordinator from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, came to William and Mary on September 19<sup>th</sup> to tell students what they didn't learn in sex ed.

Throughout the course of her talk, Ms. Thorn offered insights to the group of roughly 85 students about male and female interaction. Although Catholic Campus Ministry brought her to campus, Ms. Thorn's talk involved purely scientific facts about the biochemistry of falling in love.

Ms. Thorn spoke about the evolutionary reasons for many gendered processes, including why women grow up with cooperative personality traits and men grow up with a more hierarchical perspective.

She discussed biochemical processes ranging from female monthly cycling similarities to the release of pheromones—which she described as “scent molecules of affiliation”—and how this release affects how and why specific men and women are drawn to one another and decide to have sex. She explained “human microchimerism,” that is, why certain people are chemical matches or complements for one another, and others are not. According to Ms. Thorn, reproduction is more likely between two chemical matches than those who are not chemically matched.

Ms. Thorn stated that current research indicates taking birth control pills decreases a woman's ability to perceive matching pheromones from a man, causing her to be more likely to make a poorly informed choice about a sexual partner. Furthermore,



Courtesy of Stephanie Long

**Sex scientifically:** Vicki Thorn hopes to remedy students' lack of biological knowledge about sex.

she explained that men are, by nature, more attracted to women who are physically capable of reproducing, and the use of chemical birth control may prevent men from biologically perceiving this in women.

She also stated that, recently, large quantities of estrogen have entered the water supply as a result of the increasing use of birth control and other chemicals. Early exposure to these chemicals, Ms. Thorn claimed, can affect young people's physical growth.

She also touched on how sexual intercourse brings about conception, and how women can be affected by their first sexual partner and the resulting decisions they make. During ovulation, Ms. Thorn explained, women have a greater desire to have

sex, which also puts them at a higher risk of getting pregnant.

She went on to discuss the pregnancy process, as well as the effect pregnancy has on the male in the relationship. Frequently, according to Ms. Thorn, men experience empathy symptoms during their partner's pregnancy.

Her message regarding the strong connection sex has on human beings was made clear by the scientific explanations she gave, asserting firmly that “both of us are changed—male and female—in this relationship.”

Ms. Thorn quoted extensive amounts of research during the talk, and opened the floor to questions at the end. One question was posed

about the pheromone perceptions of homosexuals; Ms. Thorn responded that research supports the claim that some homosexual men can perceive one another's pheromones, but no significant research has been done on homosexual women.

Ms. Thorn's talk was wholly information-based, consistent with her assertion that “it's about awareness; it's about knowing enough to make good lifestyle choices.”

At the end of the night, Ms. Thorn provided information about her Web site, [www.noparh.org](http://www.noparh.org), and contact information, and encouraged the audience to contact her if they know or suspect any of their friends are pregnant and are in danger of aborting the pregnancy.

## Campus Kitchens Project comes to the College

Mike Crump  
Staff Writer

The Campus Kitchens Project (CKP), an anti-hunger program operating from within the dining halls of colleges from across the nation, recently expanded to include the William and Mary community.

Campus Kitchens Project, now operating under its fifth year, seeks to help out impoverished members of each school communities. They do this by recycling surplus food from member kitchens and donators into healthy, prepackaged meals to be given out by students. Currently 11 other schools from around the country operate chapters of Campus Kitchens, including Northwestern University, Washington and Lee University and Wake Forest University, among others. All of these schools produce nearly 2,500 meals each month. To date, the CKP has provided more than 360,000 meals.

Robert Egger, founder of CKP and the DC Central Kitchen, came to the College last October to speak with students, catching the interest of Julie Price ('07) and Jessica Kim ('10). The two students spent months drawing up the paperwork, and the organization was able to launch its William and Mary chapter this year.

Though the program is set up on a loose “come when you can” policy, officially the CKP spends about eight hours per week in food preparation and delivery. After a dining hall's open hours, students are able to come in for two hour shifts to prepare meals with the donated food. In addition to the College, which allows use of the Commons for cooking Mondays and Thursdays, local food donators include Trader Joe's in Newport News, Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula and A Gift from Ben, a local food pantry. The first official “meeting” took place Monday, September 24. Students were able to make 69 meals.

Currently the group is scheduled to deliver 86 meals per week to Avalon, the battered women and children's shelter, the Blayton building, a senior citizens' residence and other low-income housing.

Assistance for low-income families is surprisingly hard to come by in the area. The 2004 census states that Williamsburg's population below the poverty line sits at 17.3 percent, nearly double the state average. Ms. Kim maintains that the problem is that not enough people know a need for aid exists. She said that “since Williamsburg is a tourist town, these problems are very much glossed over sometimes, so the more people know about the problems the faster it can be resolved.”

So far, student support and interest in CKP has been great. Any interested students are encouraged to get involved by e-mailing [kitchens@wm.edu](mailto:kitchens@wm.edu), or simply showing up. Cooking shifts last from 8-10 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and deliveries go from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 3-5 p.m. Fridays.

Despite its early stages, Ms. Kim remains confident in the program. “I can't see anything but good coming out of residents and students working side by side to fight hunger in the area,” she said. “It will let the community know that we college students are passionate about helping others and giving back to the community that has given us so much.”

## Professor promotes reexamination of College's connection to slavery

Matthew Sutton  
Managing Editor

Professor Alfred Brophy delivered a lecture entitled “Considering a University Apology for Slavery” at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law on September 20. In this lecture, he discussed the College's historical ties to slavery through the presidency of Thomas R. Dew and the merits of an official apology for this connection.

Dew, the 13<sup>th</sup> president of the College from 1836-1846 whose portrait still hangs in the Wren Building, is listed on the College's Web site as “Graduate of William and Mary. Political economist; educator; author; professor of history and political law.” To this limited and seemingly benign description, Mr. Brophy argued that the College should add that Dew was “the leading pro-slavery theorist in antebellum America.”

In the aftermath of the destruction of Nat Turner's 1831 slave rebellion, the Virginia state legislature considered several proposals for the gradual abolition of slavery. According to Mr. Brophy, Dew was instrumental in blocking any liberalization and his works provided the scholarly basis for the continuation of the slave system.

Dew believed that slavery was the first step toward civilization; in his writings he catalogued what he saw as the significant benefits that bondage brought to the enslaved population. He also argued that any discussion of abolition would lead to more slave rebellions. His legitimization of slavery, Mr. Brophy detailed, made these arguments “accessible for the general public at the time

and were republished up till the start of the Civil War.”

Brophy did include in his speech the College's connection to the antislavery movement. He singled out one prominent example, St. George Tucker, an alum and professor of William and Mary's law school who argued for the gradual abolition of slavery.

In addition to his deliberation on President Dew, Mr. Brophy explored some issues relating to the pros and cons of an official College apology for its connection to slavery. He argued that even a discussion on this history could provide “a point of reconciliation” in an attempt to “rebalance our historical narrative.” Mr. Brophy was careful to acknowledge that he was not suggesting the College should apologize, but merely that the College should begin to examine its connection to slavery through people like Thomas Dew and St. George Tucker.

Professor Brophy received his A.B. from the University of Pennsylvania, his J.D. from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. from Harvard. He is a professor of law at the University of Alabama law school and his scholarly interests include such topics as the history of race and property in colonial, antebellum and 20<sup>th</sup>-century America. He has written two books, one entitled *Reconstructing the Dreamland*, an exploration of the 1921 Tulsa race riot, and, more recently, *Reparations: Pro and Con*, an examination of the debate surrounding reparations for slavery.

The lecture was sponsored by the student division of the Institute of Bill of Rights Law, the Bill of Rights Journal and the Black Law Students Association.

# Unique sleep schedules could lead to extra ZZZs

Alex Mayer  
Opinion Editor

What would you do with an extra six hours every day?

The possibility of such an opportunity no doubt seems tantalizing to most students at William and Mary. A few weeks ago, complaining about the outrageous amount of reading I had to get done, I repeated the oft-heard comment that “there just aren’t enough hours in the day.” Turning to my roommate, Stephen Dunford, I ordered him to “find a way for us to not have to sleep” so that I would have enough time to get all my work done.

At first he laughed at my request. But just in case, he decided to do a quick perusal of the Internet to see if he could find any useful information about the subject.

He soon stumbled across a remarkable find: polyphasic sleep, an alternative sleep pattern that reduces sleep time to 2-6 hours daily in order to achieve a “better quality of sleep.” The specific variant he was interested in is known as Uberman’s sleep schedule, viewed to be the “most extreme” form of polyphasic sleep.

In essence, the idea is to take 20-minute naps every four hours throughout the day. If successful, this would result in a person being awake for six extra hours every day, and a total of 42 extra hours of consciousness per week—nearly two extra days.

But how does it work? Ordinary “monophasic” sleep consists of multiple stages, many of which theorists believe may not necessarily need to be as long as they normally are. The theory holds that after undergoing systematic sleep deprivation, the brain will eventually begin entering the more essential phases of sleep (such as REM, or rapid eye movement) more quickly as a survival strategy.

REM is the period of sleep in which you experience dreams, and is the most important phase of sleep. When deprived of REM for too long, a person suffers serious negative consequences. Polyphasic sleep conditions your body to learn to enter REM sleep immediately when you begin sleeping instead of much later in the sleep cycle, as is the case with monophasic sleep. After an initial difficult adjustment period, one should theoretically be able to settle into a “comfortable and sustainable equilibrium” with no negative impact on cognitive function.

The Uberman sleep schedule has been successfully tested in several cases. The most successful and well-documented of these was Steve Pavlina, who in 2005 successfully adapted to polyphasic sleep and continued to use the Uberman schedule for five and a half months.

The possibilities of something like this working were obviously exciting. With my encouragement, Stephen decided that the benefits of such a system working were worth trying it out. He carefully planned out his naps for the week, scheduling them around classes and activities.

He expected to be tired for the first few days, but hoped to adjust to the new schedule in about a week. By then he hoped to be left feeling refreshed, energized, and with lots of extra time to get things done.

Well, it was true—for the first two days he was exhausted. He told me that he felt constantly tired, and he seemed “out of it.”

The problem was that it became hard to schedule the naps correctly—other activities seemed to always get in the way. He would find himself dozing off at non-nap times, and when he did take scheduled naps he frequently slept through his 20-minute alarm.

He realized after a few days that he simply did not have the time to devote to adjusting to this schedule. To adjust to the transition period, he would need a free week that he could spend getting his body used to it. Lacking that free time, he had to abandon the experiment.

If successful, this method could become wildly popular at the College, where students are always trying to cram more activities, meetings, and schoolwork into an already packed schedule.

However, the inherent flaw in William and Mary students using this method to gain extra time is that they, in fact, need a week of no commitments in order to acclimate—a nearly impossible condition once the school year has begun. A more intelligent strategy would be to adjust during (or at the end of) an extended break, either in the winter or summer. This way, students could come back to school already adjusted to the schedule. Stephen promises that he is going to try just that strategy.

He hasn’t given up on the Uberman sleep schedule yet, nor should other students of the College. The benefits are just too tempting to pass up.



Alex Mayer

**Counting sheep:** Sleep deprivation and lack of time may be history according to this unique sleep schedule which requires you to sleep for 20 minutes every four hours.

## Study abroad safe from budget cuts, administration says

Michelle Ju  
Staff Writer

Although the spectre of harsh budget cuts continues to loom ahead in the upcoming fiscal year, it appears that the study abroad programs will remain financially untouched. Shirley Aceto, assistant to Provost Geoffrey Feiss, expressed the indefinite nature of the upcoming budget cuts, saying that “we really do not know what the state will impose upon us—seven percent or four percent.” Regardless of the percentage, the budget cuts are predicted to affect every other account on the campus. According to Ms. Aceto, “the study abroad program account is a separate account. [The budget cut] has not had any and will not affect the study abroad programs.”

Any students interested in braving a foreign land that encompasses sand dunes, deserts and the forefront of civil war reconstruction are in for a wild, eye-opening opportunity. The College’s Global Education Office is in preparation to launch two study abroad programs at different ends of Africa. The first one is a faculty-led program headed to Cape Town, South Africa.

Although the plan remains in its early stages and has yet to be approved by the faculty committee, Guru Ghosh, director and overseer of Global Education, projects the program’s launch in the upcoming summer of 2008.

The program will be taught by both College faculty and native, local faculty from the University of Cape Town. During the mornings, students will attend classes, while in the afternoons, students will volunteer in townships of Cape Town, aiding schools and town clinics. Students interested in this program are required to be in good academic standing.

The second program, projected for next fall, will establish a student-exchange program in Meknes, Morocco. The program held in this North African city and former Moroccan capital is designed for students who speak Arabic on an intermediate to advanced level.

The programs are anticipated to enhance the African curriculum markedly through the dual incorporation of academic learning and heightened service. Mr. Ghosh said, “We’re trying to expand our offerings for

our students studying Morocco and Arabic. This will give our students experience with a sector that has been disenfranchised for years. It’s absolutely remarkable to see the level of care being provided, and the support that these people need.”

Students will embark on a journey that will expose and immerse them in a continent whose history, ravaged by strife, has led to segregation between blacks and whites. “It’s only been in the last ten to 12 years that the process of healing has actually begun. There’s one thing where you sit in a classroom. But this program brings the curriculum to the forefront of a student’s life,” commented Mr. Ghosh.

Students fascinated by the prospect of traveling to destinations and cultures far different than those at home have much to look forward to this year. These potential travelers can rest at ease knowing budget cuts are out of the story and will not affect the school’s Global Education department. Additionally, spending a semester in a third-world country is sure to spark drive, passion and humanitarian efforts that will prove to be both educating and life-altering.

**WANTED: Students who want to make an IMPACT on campus**

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

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

Swemming off the deep end:

## The secret life of Sam Sadler

### “Jack Bauer ain’t got nothin’ on me!”



**Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton**  
Humor Columnists

It has come to our attention that in our last column there were some baffling typographical errors. Much to the dismay of *The Flat Hat* and much to the delight of our readers, these errors were *not*, in fact, a display of gross incompetence, but, instead, the result of the work of a mischievous sprite who fouled up our printing press.

Press? Press, you might ask? Yes, you read that correctly. Imagine this: the year is 1450, and Johannes Gutenberg has just finished his masterpiece, arguably the most influential invention of the last 1,000 years. Fast forward to today: strangely, not much has changed. The year is 2007, and here we are working countless hours setting moveable type for all 16 glorious pages of *The Virginia Informer*. Our hands covered in ink, sweat dripping off our brow, all in the noble quest to bring a smile to the faces of the bedraggled students of William and Mary. So, rather than taking our fleeting, inconsequential mistakes too seriously you should be thanking us for all of the toil and trouble it takes to produce this majestic *oeuvre* we call *The Virginia Informer*.

So, on to business. This week, we have in store for you an epic tale of romance, danger, jealousy and betrayal—all involving an extremely unlikable—

oh, there’s another typo—*unlikely* hero, W. Samuel Sadler:

*“I’m federal agent Sam Sadler, chair, Emergency Management Team...and today is the longest day of my life...”*

*“The following takes place between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.”*

**9:15:35**

- Larry Smith, alias “The Caf Man,” plants chemical weapons—supplied by Chang, an operative of the Chinese government-backed Aramark Corporation—in the Marketplace ventilation system, in a desperate attempt to increase Caf popularity.

- They are set to release at precisely 9:30.

**9:24:47**

- Text message intercepted from the Office of Multicultural Affairs. With our taxpayer dollars hard at work, the message is diverted directly to Sam Sadler...’s first secretary, who then processes the message and diverts it to Sam Sadler...’s second secretary, who then processes the message and diverts it to Sam Sadler.

- Senior EMT analyst Deb Boykin traces and decrypts the text back to the Chinese embassy located in the Randolph Complex. It reads: “Steamed dumplings have been delivered.”

- Sadler is immediately dispatched to OMC office with a full tactical team.

**9:27:14**

- Sadler, with backup from the crack Bias

Response Team, busts down the doors of the OMC office.

- Sadler draws weapon, kneeling uninjured student in the face.

- After kicking down the office door of Dr. Chon Glover, taking her completely by surprise, Sadler threatens her: “*You’re going to tell me what I want to know, it’s just a question of how much you want it to hurt.*”

- After several attempts to extract the truth using means only SDS would approve of, Glover gives up Caf Man’s plot. Sadler cautions: “*If you are lying to me, I’m going to make this the worst day of your life.*”

**9:29:42**

- Sadler runs into the Marketplace dining facility, only to see Caf Man dive behind the Capiche station in an effort to escape.

**9:30:00**

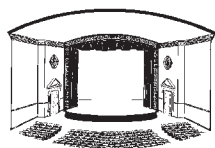
- Chemical weapons discharged.

**9:30:11**

- Sadler’s two secretaries rouse him from his daydreaming slumber underneath his desk and inform him that the emergency alarm failed to go off.

- “Well,” Sadler says to himself, “at least I’m still chair of the Emergency Management Team.”

*Editor’s Note: A special thanks goes out to James Thurber for all of his support for this issue.*



## Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

### Live Performances

**The College of William and Mary Sinfonicron Light Opera Company presents: An Onward Spectacle: Gala 2007**

Sat., Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m.  
All seats \$15

**Preservation & Exploration in the Shadow of John Smith  
2007 Jamestown Lecture Series**

All lectures begin at 7 p.m.  
Tues., Oct. 9 – Jamestown, More Buried Truth  
Tues., Oct. 30 – From Goats to Griffins: Animals, Real and Imaginary, at Jamestown  
Tues., Nov. 13 – A Special Lecture presented by Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz, NASA Astronaut  
Tickets for individual lectures are \$10

**Laughing Redhead presents  
Clean Comedy Night**

Featuring Bone Hampton and Donna East  
Sat., Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m.  
General admission \$15, Seniors/Students \$12

**The Williamsburg Symphonia presents  
Subscription Concert #1**

Tues., Oct. 16 and Wed., Oct. 17 at 8 p.m.  
Tickets: \$42, \$30. Advance tickets are available through the Williamsburg Symphonia; please call (757) 229-9857

**New Kent High School and Astor College present  
West Side Story**

Book by Arthur Laurents  
Music by Leonard Bernstein, Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Tues., Oct. 23 and Wed., Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.  
Adults \$7, Students \$5

## October Schedule

### Movies

**Manufacturing Dissent (Not rated)**

Fri., Sept. 28-Wed., Oct. 3, 7 and 9 p.m.  
Sept. 29, Oct. 1-2 screening room (35 seats)

**Casi Casi (PG-13)**

Tues., Oct. 2-Sun., Oct. 7, 6:45 and 8:30 p.m.  
Oct. 3-4, 6 screening room (35 seats)

**The Devil Came on Horseback (Not rated)**

Sun., Oct. 7-Sun., Oct. 14, 7 and 8:45 p.m.  
Oct. 7-9, 11, 13 screening room (35 seats)

**Film Movement: 2007 Independent  
and International Film Series:**

**The Bothersome Man (Not rated)**

Wed., Oct. 10 at 7 p.m.

**Mother of Mine (Not rated)**

Wed., Oct. 31 at 7 p.m.  
Tickets: \$3, William and Mary ID \$1

**Lady Chatterley (Not rated)**

Sun., Oct. 14-Sun., Oct. 21  
6 and 9 p.m.  
Oct. 14-19 screening room (35 seats)

**Rescue Dawn (PG-13)**

Fri., Oct. 19-Sun., Oct. 28  
6:30 and 8:50 p.m.  
Oct. 20-26 screening room (35 seats)

**My Best Friend (PG-13)**

Fri., Oct. 26-Thurs., Nov. 1  
7 and 8:45 p.m.  
Oct. 27-30, Nov. 1 screening room (35 seats)

# The World Forum on the

## Exclusive *Informer* coverage of the World Forum

**Jennifer Souers**  
Staff Writer

On September 16-18, 2007, the World Forum on the Future of Democracy—events of which were held in both Colonial Williamsburg and at the College—represented the signature event of Jamestown 400 Commemoration. With a focus on the threats and opportunities facing the future of democracy worldwide, the forum consisted of eight panel discussions centered on everything from the founding fathers’ original ideas to the most pressing threats of terrorism. In addition to 85 official delegates from 16 nations, thousands of individuals attended the event’s many different components.

The opening ceremony of the World Forum was first marked by the reading of America’s Declaration of Independence by interpreters from Colonial Williamsburg. It was then followed by remarks from President Gene Nichol and President Emeritus Timothy Sullivan, both of whom introduced the many members of the forum’s conference committee who made the

event possible. Other speakers at the opening ceremony included Virginia’s senior Senator John Warner, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and video remarks by former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former President George H.W. Bush.

The two days of main events following the opening ceremony were made up of eight different panels, featuring world renowned scholars and policy experts. Discussions on September 17 were centered on the topic of the “Architecture of Liberty” and focused on issues such as the framers’ original intent of the Constitution, the founding fathers’ faith, and the American founding principles relevant in today’s global age. In the first panel discussion, “Developing a Structure for a Deliberative Democracy – The Framers’ Debate,” historians Dr. Joseph Ellis, Dr. Gordon Wood and Dr. Hunter Rawlings discussed a number of issues presented at the framing of the Constitution, such as the merits of a strong central government, individual rights, the economy and religion. Dr. Ellis (’65) joined a student

exercised in independent student publications, such as *The Virginia Informer*, is important to preserve.

That evening, the World Forum hosted its premier event at William and Mary Hall, entitled “The Future of Democracy: Why does it matter?” Moderated by Jim Lehrer of PBS, the seminar panel was comprised of Mrs. O’Connor, Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and the Director of Iranian Studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, Dr. Ali Ansari. Questions asked of the panelists comprised the many themes being discussed throughout the forum and were asked by international delegates and William and Mary students alike.

The discussions on Sept. 18 focused around the theme of “Global Issues and Challenges to Democracy.” Topics presented included terrorism and security, religious freedom and minority rights, world markets and sustainable development. In the session entitled “Terrorism and Security,” panelists Dr. Ansari, Dr. Martha Crenshaw, Vice-Provost for the College of William and Mary Mitchell Reiss, and former US Senator and Governor of Virginia Charles Robb debated the current issues related to terrorist movements and American security. Each of the panelists gave their opinion of the role of democracy in fighting terror and discussed their positions with regards to the main threats to American and international security. In Dr. Crenshaw’s personal seminar session with William and Mary student delegates, she further discussed the current threats to the stability and spread of democracy worldwide.

At day’s end, the forum concluded with speeches by its organizers entitled, “The Journey that Changed the World.” It also featured video remarks by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.



both photos by Andrew Blasi

**Roll out the red carpet:** Local and international dignitaries including Governor Tim Kaine and Chancellor Sandra Day O’Connor gather in Williamsburg for World Forum on the Future of Democracy. (top)

**Welcome back, Mr. Secretary:** Defense Secretary Robert Gates returns to his alma mater to give keynote address on American foreign policy during lunch for the delegates. (right)



## Secretary Gates tackles realism v. idealism in American foreign policy

**Andrew Blasi**  
Business Editor

On September 17, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (’65) delivered a major address to delegates of the World Forum on the Future of Democracy at the Williamsburg Lodge. The speech was a groundbreaking look into the future of US foreign policy. Entitled “Promoting Democracy Abroad: A Realist’s View,” Mr. Gates spoke of America’s historic and present struggle between idealistic and realistic goals in foreign policy.

In what was perhaps the most striking remark of his address, Mr. Gates admitted that the United States has “allied with tyrants to defeat other tyrants...sustained diplomatic relations with governments even as we supported those attempting their overthrow...made human rights the centerpiece of our national strategy even

as we did business with some of the worst violators of human rights [and] we have worked with authoritarian governments to advance our own security interests even while urging them to reform.” Furthermore, Mr. Gates stated that the United States has used its military in the past “to eliminate governments seen as a threat to our national security, to undo aggression, to end ethnic slaughter, and to prevent chaos. In recent times, we have done this in Grenada, Panama, Kuwait, the Balkans, Haiti, Afghanistan and Iraq. In the process, we have brought the possibility of democracy and freedom to tens of millions more who had been oppressed or were suffering.”

Mr. Gates’ devotion towards realist philosophy was made more evident when he declared that “to win and protect our own freedom, the United States has made common cause with countries that were far from free—from Louis XVI, to one

of history’s true monsters, Joseph Stalin. Without the one there is no American independence. Without the other, no end to the Third Reich. It is neither hypocrisy nor cynicism to believe fervently in freedom while adopting different approaches to advancing freedom at different times along the way—including temporarily making common cause with despots to defeat greater or more urgent threats to our freedom or interests.”

In addition, Mr. Gates also took a swipe at current US allies now pondering their withdrawal from Afghanistan, saying “Afghanistan is, in a very real sense, a litmus test of whether an alliance of advanced democracies can still make sacrifices and meet commitments to advance democracy. It would be a mark of shame on all of us if an alliance built on the foundation of democratic values were to falter at the very moment that it tries to lay that foundation for democracy

elsewhere—especially in a mission that is crucial to our own security.”

Mr. Gates also offered what was perhaps a mild warning to other nations. “Americans have never been a patient people,” he said. “Today, we look at Russia, China, Afghanistan, Iraq, and others—and wonder at their excruciatingly slow progress toward democratic institutions and the rule of law.”

Mr. Gates served within the Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Council from the 1960s to 1993. In that time, he rose from an entry-level position to eventually become deputy national security advisor from 1989 to 1991, as well as director of Central Intelligence from 1991 to 1993. He has a Ph.D. in Russian and Soviet history from Georgetown University.



# The Future of Democracy

## Delegates the world over attend events in Williamsburg

**Jennifer Souers**  
Staff Writer

The World Forum on the Future of Democracy was truly a global event, boasting 85 official delegates from 16 nations with emerging or threatened democratic governments, or in some cases, both.

Nominated by the US Embassy in their respective nations, each delegate was recruited based on four criteria: (1) his or her commitment to democratic reform and participation; (2) geographic diversity; (3) who would find the conference most beneficial; and (4) who would be able to best contribute in a positive and constructive manner.

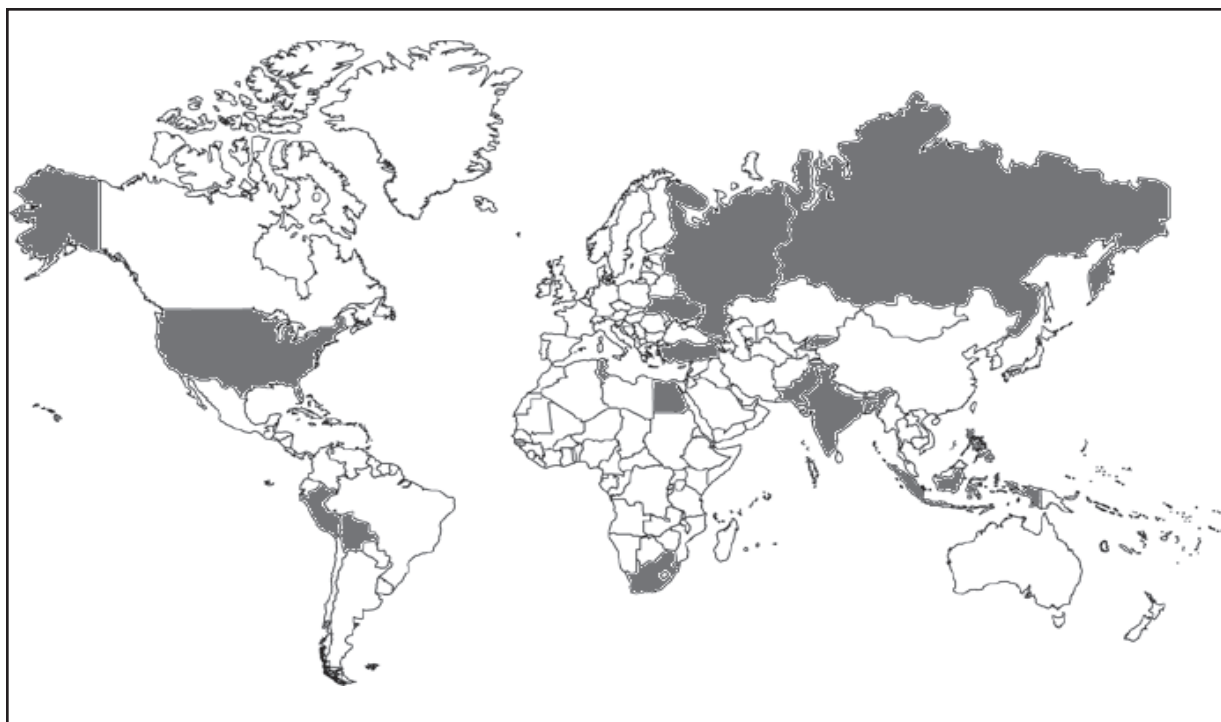
The nations with delegates in attendance included Russia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ukraine, India, Egypt, Indonesia, Peru, Turkey, Georgia, South Africa, Kyrgyzstan, Bolivia, Philippines, Tunisia and Bahrain. These delegates represented a diverse mix of national and local government leaders, journalists, non-governmental organization leaders, educators and other noteworthy and influential leaders.

In addition to these 85 delegates, the forum also hosted many other leaders from around the world who participated in many of the event's seminars. Some of these individuals included: Kumi Naidoo,

a noted anti-apartheid activist from South Africa who currently serves as the Secretary-General of CIVICUS (The World Alliance for Citizen Participation); Y.J. Choi, former assistant secretary general for peacekeeping operations at the United Nations, and current permanent minister of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations; Ali Ansari, director of the Institute for Iranian Studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and author of *Iran, Islam, and Democracy: The Politics of Managing Change*; Mokhtar Lamani, former ambassador to the United Nations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and officer in charge of the Iraq-Kuwait dispute, now currently serving as a special

representative of the Arab League and senior visiting fellow at the Center for International Governance Innovation; John Hewko, former executive secretary to the International Advisory Council to the Ukrainian parliament, and current vice president of operations for the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

and Chan Heng Chee, former executive director of the Singapore International Foundation, and director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, now currently serving as the ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the United States.



**Global impact of forum:** The delegates of the forum came from all of the countries highlighted above.

## What does the World Forum mean for students? Much can be learned from wide range of speakers at event

**Andrew Blasi**  
Business Editor

For students, the World Forum on the Future of Democracy was an occasion that will pale in comparison to such events as Queen Elizabeth's visit to the College. The vast majority of its proceedings were either closed to the general public or held mid-day during class. Furthermore, the main event of the forum held in the Kaplan Arena and hosted by Jim Lehrer was described by many as lacking the in-depth substance many of those in attendance demanded.

In spite of this, the forum delivered a number of powerful messages that are sure to impact the future of global democracy and our country's future. Whether these messages will be attributed to this forum in the many textbooks, journals and academic pieces yet to be written, one thing is certain: our world is headed down a new and uncertain path.

In synthesizing the many arguments presented by some of the world's and this country's most notable public figures and scholars, one witnesses the divisions and similarities defining the policies of the past, present and future. During the forum's September 18 seminar entitled "Terrorism and Security," the panel of leading scholars was unified behind the idea that our nation must go to greater lengths in educating itself on the world's many cultures and ideologies in an effort to truly understand the motivations of terrorist organizations. Furthermore, during the forum's September 17 seminar entitled "Developing a Structure for Deliberative Democracy - The Framers' Debate," the panelists commented that the vagueness of the American Constitution's wording stems from, perhaps, the framers' true desire to encourage continual debate over the structure and powers of the government.

On September 16, Governor Tim Kaine highlighted new challenges, the very essence of democracy. During the forum's opening ceremony he asked the audience to envision a world without democracy, where a minority of people make decisions, and how anachronistic this idea is compared with what we currently enjoy. In addition,

Mr. Kaine also asked the audience to envision a world where dissent, once encouraged in free and democratic societies, is now labeled as unpatriotic.

Finally, in what was perhaps the most striking clash of ideas, Defense Secretary and William and Mary alumnus Robert Gates and former Supreme Court Justice and current William and Mary Chancellor Sandra Day O'Connor delivered entirely contradictory messages in their attempt to define America's current and future role in foreign affairs. The speeches were given separately. In his address to the forum's delegates, Mr. Gates spoke of the Bush Doctrine and the need to encourage democratic movements across the globe with American support. During the cornerstone event of the forum, highlighted by the chancellor's speech, Mrs. O'Connor's statements

could not have been more contradictory to Gates'.

In response to Mr. Lehrer's question of "Do you believe all people desire democracy?" Mrs. O'Connor responded with a resounding "No." She asserted that not all people would be content under democratic governance.

Ali Ansari, director of the Institute for Iranian Studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, provided an alternative view. Dr. Ansari contended that democracy is not an end, but, instead, a means to an end. He described democracy as not a specific or holistic means of governance shared by free nations, but, rather, is a process by which those that yearn to be free and desire happiness shall see the greatest success.



Ian R. Whiteside

**Finger pointing?:** Former Secretary of State and Board of Visitors member Lawrence Eagleburger won over the crowd at William and Mary Hall with his humor and bold pronouncements.

# WMPD BUDGET: force faces criticism over expenses

continued from page one

2006, three purchases of business cards were made; additional card purchases occurred in November 2006, March 2007 and April 2007. The purchases came to a total of \$167.69.

Additionally, there was also \$3,581.02 that the police recorded under catering expenses.

Over \$1,690 in catering was purchased on January 23, 2007 for "random actor January," a training session that featured a guest speaker, who, according to Mr. Challis, was paid for with student tuition.

Another \$1,880 was spent on refreshments in June.

Throughout the year, officers received around \$12,000 in unitemized credit card reimbursements. No explanation was given as to what was purchased on the credit cards.

Mr. Challis confirmed, however, that gasoline is not purchased using these credit cards but through a different account that he could not recall at the time. *The Informer* could not locate any line items clearly identified as "gas" for police cars on the itemized list of expenditures, begging the obvious question: how is such a high-costing, essential commodity paid for?

Mr. Challis grew somewhat agitated during the interview, demanding to know "what are you trying to accomplish by this? Do you feel we are paid too much or too little?" *The Informer* asked the chief for his opinion, but he ultimately did not indicate which he felt was the case.

The projected 2007-2008 budget for the WMPD indicates that personnel costs will rise \$41,000 over the actual costs from last year. The actual personnel pay for last year was more than \$70,000 over that year's projected figure.

Non-personnel expenses are projected to drop dramatically from the 2006-2007 fiscal year to 2007-2008, falling from \$226,289 to \$122,567.

# MISSING IN IRAN:

## Ahmadinejad's government claims to not know whereabouts of former FBI agent Levinson

continued from page one

announced that it had made every effort to find Mr. Levinson, but that they could not locate him anywhere on Iranian soil.

Mr. Levinson is the father of seven children, including Dan, who graduated from the College in 2006. Jon DeLong ('09), a longtime friend of Dan, recently began a campaign to both raise awareness about the disappearance of Mr. Levinson and to get students involved in efforts to locate him. After receiving a letter in the mail from the Levinson family which they requested be sent on to the United Nations, Mr. DeLong had the idea to start the Facebook group "My Dad Is Missing In Iran, You Can Help Find Him" as a way to inform students about the issue.

The group encourages members to send the Levinson family's letter via e-mail to members of the UN General Assembly. According to Mr. DeLong, his hope, as well as the hope of the Levinson family, was that the members of the General Assembly "will receive enough letters that this issue will come to their attention" and be discussed during the United Nations summit being held this week.

As current president of the Delta Chi fraternity chapter on campus, Mr. DeLong said he created the Facebook group because of the close friendship the two shared during their time together at the College. "Dan was a terrific mentor to me when I first came to William and Mary...he was eager to help and supportive of me when I had some trouble freshman year, so I jumped at [this] chance to provide some sort of help for him. It is really the least I could do."

He was also inspired to create the Facebook group because of the courage and dedication with which he saw the Levinson family deal with such a difficult crisis. "They hold my most sincere admiration. This is something that few people will ever go through, and it would be easy to feel overwhelmed with fear and sadness...the family has persevered and is making a tremendous effort to do something and [are] in many ways inventing their techniques

as they go."

Mr. DeLong's Facebook group now has more than 1,800 members. Mr. DeLong told *The Informer* that he felt that Facebook was the easiest way to get the message out about the Levinson family's crisis. "Facebook is an excellent social networking tool. I thought if I made the name of the group shocking enough, it would grab people's attention, and maybe even spread outside the William and Mary community," he said.

A quick perusal of the group's membership proves that Mr. DeLong's wish has indeed been realized—people have joined not just from William and Mary, but also from universities and high schools across the country.

"I'm not surprised at the group's popularity. I'm happy, but I'm not shocked," he said. He believed that once people found out about this issue, they would be enthusiastic in their support of the Levinson family. "Dan was a part of the William and Mary community. It's natural for us to rally around one of our own."

Mr. DeLong also hopes that as many as people as possible continue to send e-mails and letters to the

United Nations and especially the Iranian mission. He asks that anyone interested in this issue or the Levinson family's crisis visit the Web site the family has set up at <http://www.helpboblevinson.com>.

On September 23, the Iranian mission to the United Nations announced that Tehran had granted visas to members of the Levinson family to visit Iran in order to search for him, and promised the Iranian government's full cooperation in helping the family find clues as to his fate. Mr. DeLong says he hopes to support the Levinson family in their trip, though he's not sure what form that support will take as of yet.

Although he is glad to have so many positive responses to his Facebook group, Mr. DeLong is humble. "I want this to be about [the Levinson family], about the movement to get their father back. He is the story. I'm not the story," he said. "I just want to help a friend."



Courtesy of Levinson family

Devoted father and grandfather: Levinson is the father of seven, including Dan ('06).

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# Tallest Highest: A new sound for a very old campus

**Jon San**  
Features Editor

"If you set Popeye's chicken on fire."  
"What does that even mean, Andy?"  
"Exactly, it means nothing. What would you say, Dave?"  
"If Radiohead and My Bloody Valentine punched New Order in the face."

The sound of Tallest Highest, one of the better known student bands here at the College, was only one of the many jokingly disputed responses I received during a recent interview. The band agrees that this varying, sometimes conflicting, range of opinions and musical tastes remains their greatest asset.

"None of us have exactly the same [musical tastes]," said bassist and sometimes vocalist Eddie Charlton. "Oftentimes two of us will like certain groups and the other two will listen to other groups but I feel like this range of interests works to the advantage of the band."

Nowhere is this divergence more evident than in the case of drummer Ryan McQueeney, who, guitarist Andy Beers kiddingly remarked, "we rescued from the clutches of classic rock."

Mr. McQueeney, who transferred here from the University of Virginia after his freshman year, played the Keith Moon role in a Who cover band. The other members of Tallest Highest—fans of indie bands such as Pavement, Radiohead and New Order—introduced Mr. McQueeney to more contemporary groups.

"The transition [for Ryan] was not difficult at all," said Mr. Charlton. "I mean, he is such an incredible drummer that he can literally play anything. In fact,

we've been thinking he may be bionic, because, seriously, can any human play like that?"

And so, in the fall of 2005, Tallest Highest (being three parts indie rock and one part classic) was conceived. But how did they meet? How did such a cosmic occurrence happen?

Guitarist and singer David McClendon begins by saying that he and Mr. Beers met "at a club where a local Poison cover-band was playing." The story continues, reaching increasingly questionable degrees of fact—"we noticed each other due to our matching Abba t-shirts"—until Mr. Beers interrupts the tall tale:

"Dave, this is stupid, we met freshman year; we both lived in Gooch."

While the senior quartet may have met under more realistic circumstances—Mr. Charlton, a high-school band-mate of Mr. McClendon's, transferred from VCU—the naming of Tallest Highest does, in fact, prove to be an interesting story.

"We were playing 'Taboo,'" said Mr. Beers. "So we're going through all these cards that contain similar adjectives that you are not allowed to say. And at one point, one card had the adjectives 'tallest' and 'highest' on it. I really wanted the band to be called Ancient Old, but Tallest Highest was the only name that everyone didn't completely hate."

Just as the band was named collectively, songwriting is also a group effort. Messrs. McClendon, Beers and Charlton all contribute to the process, a routine that falls under scrutiny from all members.

"I think we pay a lot of attention to detail when we're writing new stuff," said Mr. Charlton. "We're very picky when it comes to that. We only have

about ten to 12 songs that we play...but we would have many times that amount if we didn't throw out so many [songs]."

And unlike other student bands, Tallest Highest rarely plays covers—their set consists almost entirely of original material. The group plans to devote most of their time and energy during their senior year to expanding their catalogue.

"That's our primary goal for the semester—to write more songs," said Mr. McClendon. "And practice more often, of course."

The group, thanks to the Baptist College Ministries student organization which allowed them to practice in their house free of charge, practiced a good amount last school year.

"I think we had a golden age last semester where we would consistently practice about three times a week," said Mr. Beers. "Unfortunately, we've only practiced once this semester."

This lack of free-time, as any student at the College knows, is due to the rigorous curriculum.

"It's difficult being in a band and also being a student," said Mr. Charlton. "I mean, we would all rather devote our time to [Tallest Highest], but that's not really a viable possibility. And especially during the summer, it's impossible to practice due to geographical constraints. Dave and I are both from Richmond, but Andy lives in Pennsylvania and Ryan now lives in New York."

So what does the future hold for Tallest Highest?



Courtesy of Tallest Highest

**Rock out:** Tallest Highest tries to find time to practice amidst typically busy William and Mary schedule.

The group agreed that this will likely be the last year together as a band.

"Unfortunately, I think that after school we'll all go our separate ways," said Mr. Charlton.

But take heart, Tallest Highest fans: you can relive all of your favorite songs on their soon-to-be-released compilation CD. In addition to the songs available on the band's MySpace Web site and the free demos given out at shows, this compilation will feature several Tallest Highest songs, solo performances from side projects involving Messrs. McClendon, Beers and Charlton, and recordings from their friends' bands.

Tallest Highest will be performing at the Red Ribbon Rock concert on October 5. All proceeds will be donated to further AIDS research.



Courtesy of Tallest Highest

**Guitar hero:** This could be the last year for the band.

## Fall movies ready for awards attention

Now that fall is here, Hollywood has begun releasing its more serious fare. Gone are the days of *Transformers* and *The Simpsons Movie*. It is time for the studios to show their prestigious pictures and hope that critics and audiences alike will approve. All of this is in preparation for the Academy Awards, which will be handed out in February.

For a studio getting ready for the awards season, there is no better place than the Toronto International Film Festival to premiere a film. This year was no exception. Some films already seem destined to make

it all the way to the "best picture" race next year. Coming off of terrific buzz at the Cannes Film Festival was *No Country for Old Men*, a new film from the Coen Brothers. Starring Javier Bardem and Tommy Lee Jones, the film is an adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's novel of the same name. Another talked-about movie was David Cronenberg's *Eastern*

*Promises* about the Russian mob. Viggo Mortensen is already being mentioned as a candidate for best actor for the violent film, which is already playing at New Town Cinemas. Finally, there's the one film that no one can stop talking about: *Atonement*. Spanning multiple generations, the film is an adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel, and it stars Keira Knightley and James McAvoy. If there's already a lock for a "best picture" nomination, this is it.



**Joe Pirro**  
Film Critic

Film festivals aren't the only way to premiere a film, however.

Over the next couple of months, releases include Wes Anderson's *The Darjeeling Limited*, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* starring Cate Blanchett and Paul Thomas Anderson's first movie in five years: *There Will Be Blood*. These high profile pictures from acclaimed directors really show that fall has arrived and Hollywood has begun catering to a more intelligent, adult audience.

## Upcoming HBO miniseries finds ideal set in Colonial Williamsburg

**Nick Hoelker**  
Online Editor

Hollywood has once again chosen Williamsburg as a site for a film production. Scenes for "John Adams," an HBO miniseries executive-produced by Tom Hanks and Gary Goetzman, were filmed in Colonial Williamsburg from February through May. The miniseries is based on Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough's biography on the Founding Father and former president. "John Adams" will air in March 2008 and stars Paul Giamatti as John Adams, Laura Linney as Abigail Adams and David Morse as George Washington.

Several William and Mary students

had an opportunity to be part of the filming that took place last spring. The production staff contacted members of the Revolutionary War College Company to serve as extras in the miniseries. One of those students, Jack Cohen ('10) explained that the actual shooting lasted for four hours, although the students had to be on site for almost twelve hours for costume and makeup preparation. Cohen said that the extras earned \$200 for their work, which consisted of sitting "by a campfire, [looking] pathetic, and [pretending to be] cold" to re-enact scenes set at Valley Forge. Cohen added that the extras were able to meet Giamatti and Morse, but Hanks was not present for that particular day of filming.

## Book Review:

**Falsely accused: The story behind the Duke lacrosse case****Matthew Sutton**

Managing Editor

Stuart Taylor and KC Johnson's new book, *Until Proven Innocent: Political Correctness and the Shameful Injustices of the Duke Lacrosse Rape Case*, is a gripping account documenting the unraveling of the notorious case against three wrongfully accused Duke lacrosse players. Exposing a shocking level of police and prosecutorial misconduct, media bias and an out-of-control and demagogic faculty, Messrs. Taylor and Johnson have produced a comprehensive and must-read account of the entire scandal.

Most observers know the rough outlines of the case as it began on March 13, 2006, after Crystal Mangum, an exotic dancer, accused members of the Duke men's lacrosse team of raping her at a party held at an off-campus house. Durham District Attorney Mike Nifong ultimately indicted three members of the team—Dave Evans, Collin Finnerty and Reade Seligmann—on charges of rape, sexual offense and kidnapping. After Mr. Nifong stepped aside from the case in January, the North Carolina attorney general took over, and, on April 11, 2007, dropped all charges against the students and declared them innocent. Messrs. Taylor and Johnson painstakingly detail everything that happens in between, focusing not only on the legal developments but also on the politically motivated rush to judgment by the media and a vocal number of Duke professors.

The book contains a number of bombshell revelations about the case. Ms. Mangum, the accuser, had a history of documented mental health problems and a proclivity for alcohol and drug abuse. She first claimed she had been raped only when confronted with the possibility of being involuntary committed to a mental health institution. Her medical examination that night revealed no evidence that she had been brutally attacked, as she claimed. Tara Levicy, the trainee sexual assault nurse examiner, who later told a defense attorney that she had never encountered a woman who lied about rape, told police officers that the medical exam showed signs consistent with sexual assault, although the records said nothing of the kind.

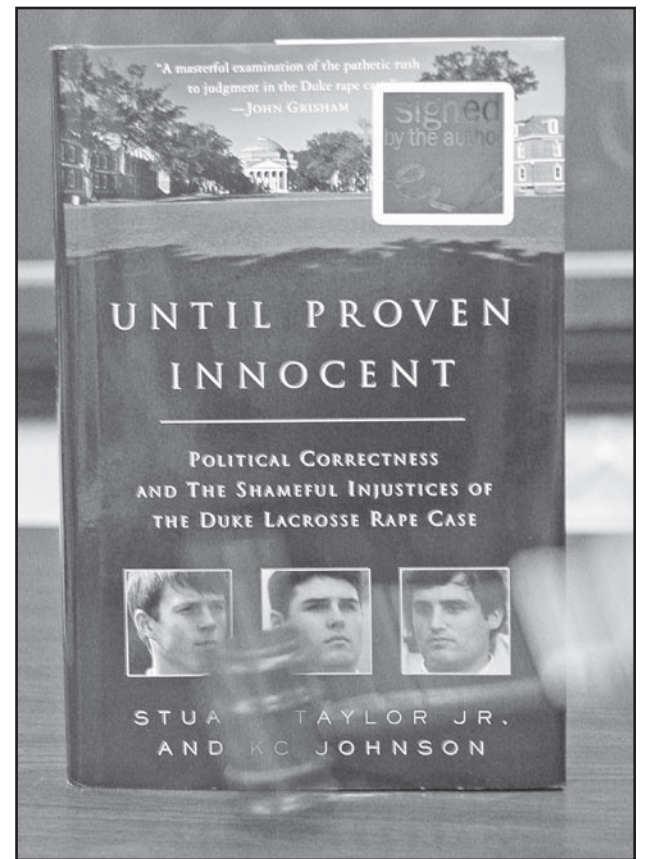
When interviewed at the hospital and then separately on March 14, March 16 and April 6, Ms. Mangum

repeatedly changed not only the number of alleged assailants and their identities but also the timeline of the incident, and what trauma she had allegedly suffered. After she could not identify any of her attackers during two photo lineups, an unprecedented third lineup was held. In this highly irregular "third try," Ms. Mangum was told that only pictures of the 46 white lacrosse players who attended the party were contained in the lineup. Described by one of the defense attorneys as a "multiple choice test without any wrong answers," the rigged lineup violated federal, state and local guidelines for identifications.

Mr. Nifong, who had taken direct control of the police investigation on March 24, an unusual breach of standard procedure, began to publicly vilify the lacrosse team in dozens of national and local interviews. These inflammatory statements, which were later found to violate ethics rules, saw Mr. Nifong play off the racial tensions in Durham to assist his flagging re-election campaign.

Even worse, Mr. Nifong conspired to hide exculpatory DNA evidence from the defense, a serious breach of prosecutorial ethics and the law. After publicly and repeatedly claiming that the DNA tests on the samples from the rape kit would identify the guilty players and exonerate the innocent ones, Mr. Nifong ignored the results of the tests, which showed no link to any player and also revealed DNA from four other men, none of whom were lacrosse players or even Duke students. This evidence contradicted Ms. Mangum's claim that she had no sexual contact with anyone for a week before the alleged rape.

Messrs. Taylor and Johnson also highlight the shameful coverage that the media provided in this case, singling out talking heads like Nancy Grace and *The New York Times* who ignored the growing number of holes in the prosecution's case to vilify the defendants and their teammates. The Duke faculty and administration do not escape censure, especially the so called Group of 88. These 88 faculty members signed a full page ad on April 6 in the student daily newspaper, asserting that something "happened to this young woman" and thanking protestors who had carried banners, reading "Castrate" and put up "wanted" posters that had photos of the lacrosse players. Duke President Richard Brodhead refused to criticize the group or its members,



Lan R. Whiteside

**Reporting from all perspectives:** *Until Proven Innocent* is a must read chronicle of the explosive scandal that rocked Duke University.

who, for months, lobbed false accusations at the team and the defendants while also refusing to meet with the defense attorneys to hear evidence about their clients' innocence.

The book is an impeccably researched, four hundred page tour de force that should raise important questions for the criminal justice system, the media and academia. It is a must read.

Mr. Taylor is a columnist for *The National Journal* and contributing editor to *Newsweek*. He co-wrote the book with Mr. Johnson, a Brooklyn College professor who published a blog entitled "Durham in Wonderland," which chronicled the unfolding of the case.

**The power of the pen**

People ask me all the time why I still bother sending handwritten notes and letters. "Hey, it was nice to get that thing from you in the mail," they say, "but why didn't you just e-mail me?" Why? Because we live in a world where information and communication are taken for granted. Because at any given time of the day, I could pull up my buddy list and send a bland, impersonal message off



**R.C. Rasmus**  
Arts & Entertainment  
Editor

to anyone that I know, whether they be my roommate sitting ten feet away from me or my homestay four thousand miles away in Spyker, France; because letters, postcards and even the odd scribbled message convey so much more than the sentiments that we set down on them. Some of you may be slothful members of the Instant Generation, content to let your eyes glaze over in front of a computer screen as the era of handwritten communication wanes into nothingness, but I, for one, intend to keep it alive as long as I can.

First, I'm going to open up the closet and dust off the oldest argument in the book for you all: handwritten notes simply have an intrinsic charm that e-mails, IMs and wall posts cannot and will not ever have. There's something nostalgic and romantic about getting a letter in the mail from a mentor, an old friend or a lover. Everything from the stamp, the postmark, the slant of the sender's script, the feel of

the languid pace of snail mail makes every piece that we receive a joy and a treasure.

Secondly, there's the fact that a handwritten note is simply more thoughtful and meaningful than a hasty e-mail dashed off in one's free time. It requires the sender to hunt down some classier paper and a good pen, write down their thoughts, seal the envelope, place the stamp and write out the address of the receiver. The process takes time, and the extra thought that goes into the creation of each piece of mail shines through when it reaches its destination. A written letter, by its very nature, says: "I took the time to construct something special just for you. I care enough about you to have taken precious time out of my day to go the extra mile to send you something unique and beautiful." Even if your words aren't profound, just a simple "thank you" or "I love you," they are magnified a hundredfold when they arrive through the mail in your own

script, bearing the invisible mark of your care for the receiver.

Finally, electronic correspondence is fleeting, temporal, quickly sent and even more quickly discarded. Even the tenderest sentiment, if it arrives on a computer screen, is depersonalized and disposable. A handwritten note, on the other hand, can be kept and cherished forever. I got my first love letter almost a dozen years ago, and I can still pull it out and feel the very same thrill that I did on the day that I got it in sixth grade. Could I say the same thing if the message had been e-mailed to me? Almost certainly not. It would be deleted, zapped into nothingness as soon as my inbox filled or my computer crashed, especially if you're trying to say something important—and even if you're not, a written note will last longer than some ephemeral piece of electronic junk, and will mean so much more.

If you haven't ever considered sending handwritten notes before, it's not too late to start. All it takes is a quick trip to a stationary shop, like Parlett's or Hallmark, and a bit of time. Before long, you'll be brightening days and forging memories that those close to you will never forget. Try it out, even if you're skeptical. I guarantee that the reaction you get from your correspondents will swiftly make you a devoted acolyte to what one writer has very astutely called the brilliant and ancient "art of the handwritten note."

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## Food Review:

**Sal's by Victor offers reasonably priced Italian fare****Standard local Italian eatery near campus specializes in pizza, pasta****Matt Poms**  
Food Critic

One month into the school year, the monotony of the culinary options at the College begins to become evident. After spending four weeks eating at the Caf,

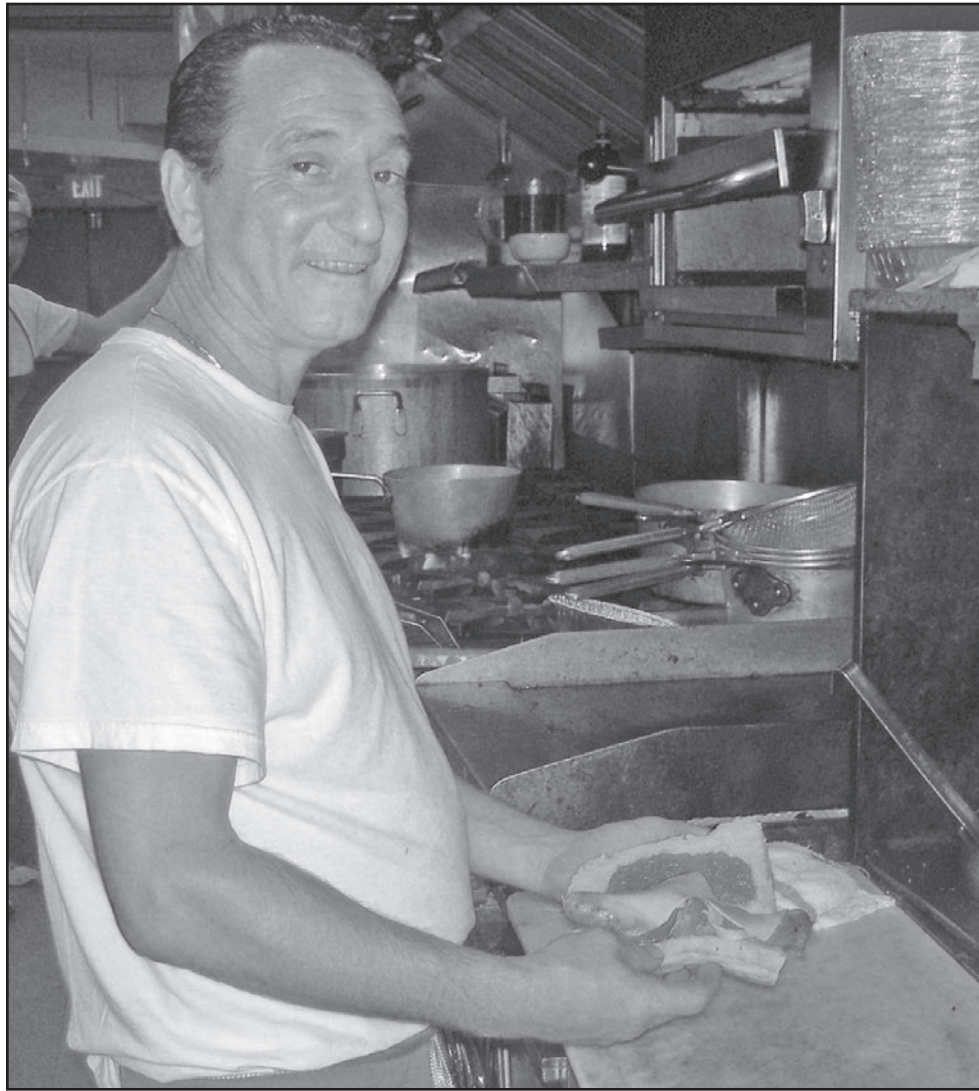
one can only ingest so many more under-sized bowls of pasta and unimaginative salads. So, with this in mind, I made a Friday evening trip up Richmond Road to the Williamsburg Shopping Center. There, tucked into a corner behind the Food Lion, sits a longtime Williamsburg staple: Sal's by Victor.

bypassing the generic Italian appetizers and instead head straight for the entrees.

After a suitable wait, our meals arrived, still steaming from the kitchen. First to the table was the cheese pizza (\$7.99 for a small). Nicely-sized and well-priced, the pizza was the unquestioned highlight of the meal, living up to its billing as the best in the area. While the dish would not be as highly regarded in New York or Chicago, it had the perfect amount of cheese and a properly subtle sauce, each factor agreeable enough to make up for the mediocre crust. In addition to the pizza, our table received orders of the chicken in lemon and butter (\$10.95), cheese ravioli (\$8.95) and the Victor's sampler (\$11.95). The chicken, well-cooked in an adequate lemon-butter sauce and arriving with a side portion of spaghetti marinara, was decent, but otherwise failed to inspire. The remaining dishes, however, were devoured with markedly better results. The Victor's sampler included portions of the lasagna, ravioli, manicotti and veal parmigiana, all layered with the house marinara sauce and topped with melted cheese. All four segments were very good, even holding up to the raised expectations of the Northern New Jersey native who comes from an area rife with excellent Italian food. The cheese ravioli was similarly well-received.

Each entrée included ample portions of food, leaving us with well-filled stomachs. This fact—coupled with the arrival at our table of an earnest, but perhaps too eager, accordion player—convinced us to skip dessert and head back to campus.

Overall, Sal's serves quality Italian food with good prices. With its convenient location just down Richmond Road, it provides a welcome break from College food, and is perfect for a reasonably-priced dinner out.



Kristine Mosuela

**Lucky Number Seven:** Readers of *The Virginia Gazette* have voted Sal's New York style pizza to be Williamsburg's best pizza seven years in a row.

Arriving at roughly 6:30 after a crisp, 15-minute walk from New Campus, we entered a cheery, welcoming restaurant with the familiar décor of so many Italian establishments across the country. After a short wait, our party of four was seated at a table in the middle of the spacious restaurant. A glance at the menu revealed a wide selection of dishes ranging from chicken and veal to fish and pasta; it was the New York style pizza, however, which came recommended by the attentive server. I immediately decided to make this dish part of my meal, especially after I heard it had been voted Williamsburg's best pizza by the readers of *The Virginia Gazette* for an impressive seven years running. After a few more moments of review, my dining companions made their selections, each

**Sal's by Victor**

Williamsburg  
Shopping Center  
1242 Richmond Rd.  
(757) 220-2641

**New podcast provides free insight into campus creativity****Megan Locke**  
Assistant A&E Editor

A new addition to campus life has come to William and Mary. Created and hosted by Andy DeSoto ('09), the William and Mary Powwow is the first independent student podcast at the College. It provides students with a mixture of news, entertainment and insights into college life.

The impetus behind the creation of the Powwow lies in Mr. DeSoto's love of social media, video and audio production and psychology. "To me, a podcast is a perfect synthesis of these things, allowing me to combine my technical experience with my enormous drive to meet, know and understand people," Mr. DeSoto says. Mr. DeSoto also felt motivated to fill a void on campus, since there has never before been a regularly-produced podcast at the College. "I feel that the average college student deserves as many media formats as possible available to him or her," he said.

According to Mr. DeSoto, the main appeal of the Powwow for students is convenience. Podcasts are an on-demand form of entertainment and easily accessible. They can put podcasts on their iPods for the walk between classes, listen to them while browsing the Web or burn the shows to CDs. Mr. DeSoto also stresses the Powwow's unique approach in comparison to other campus news outlets. "We work hard to

make sure episodes blend information and entertainment so that listening to the Powwow might feel much like reading a newspaper and listening to a sitcom at the same time. At the Powwow, we like to take a more down-to-earth, unpretentious approach that involves the listener community and speaks with them rather than *at* them."

Topics covered at the Powwow usually concern recent world and campus events, and often vary based on the particular guest who co-hosts the episode with Mr. DeSoto. Some issues Mr. DeSoto and his co-hosts have already discussed include developments at New Town, construction on campus and getting involved in campus life. For future episode themes, "emphasis will be placed on showcasing creativity and involvement on campus, on people and events that really break the mold and help make William and Mary a fantastic place," Mr. DeSoto says.

The Powwow already has a full schedule of co-hosts through November, and Mr. DeSoto is looking forward to talking with a variety of people at the College, including students, faculty, staff and administrators. "There are so many students on campus involved in so many fascinating activities, and I really enjoy spotlighting the phenomenal things my classmates are up to." Mr. DeSoto invites anyone interested in co-hosting with him to contact him at [andy@wmpowwow.com](mailto:andy@wmpowwow.com).

For Mr. DeSoto, the most difficult aspects of producing a Powwow episode are the technical components of the netcast. "A lot of time goes into making sure volume levels are optimal, transitions are smooth and file information is configured correctly." Recording a show is fairly straightforward, however. Mr. DeSoto and his guest usually do one practice take as a warm-up, and then move on to the official recording. The episodes are designed to have a relaxed, conversational format and so no script is needed.

Feedback for the first three episodes of the Powwow has been quite favorable. "I've already received a number of positive comments praising the audio quality of the show, entertainment value resulting from the casual, natural interactions on air and accessibility and applicability of the podcast in general," Mr. DeSoto says. The third installment was downloaded over a hundred times from the Web site in only a

few days.

Go to <http://www.wmpowwow.com> to download or listen to Powwow episodes. Students can even subscribe to the show via iTunes or check out updates on the William and Mary Powwow's Facebook group. Be sure not to miss out on the latest media experience on campus.



Courtesy of Andy DeSoto

**Easily accessible:** The Powwow podcast is free and ready for download at anytime from <http://www.wmpowwow.com>.

Staff Editorials:

# Facts, not feelings, on Nichol decision

The recent e-mail from Rector Michael Powell concerning President Gene Nichol's future with the College should signal the beginning of the end of the Nichol era. Last issue, *The Informer* broke the story of Mr. Nichol's decision to cede control of day-to-day operations of the school to Provost P. Geoffrey Feiss. This week's news only adds to that picture of an out-of-touch and divisive leader, whose future at the College seems increasingly uncertain.

The Board of Visitors announced that it will measure Mr. Nichol's performance using several metrics and a "360 degree" appraisal. Relevant statistics include the *US News and World Report* yearly rankings of colleges and universities, applications growth and relationships with alumni and state legislators in Richmond. Measured against all of these standards, Mr. Nichol falls well short.

Thirty-six members of the General Assembly voted to cut Mr. Nichol's salary in half last year during the Wren cross controversy—hardly a ringing endorsement from the same people who determine a meaningful portion of the College's budget. Similarly, Mr. Nichol alienated one of the College's largest donors, James McGlothlin, into revoking a \$12 million planned gift to the College due to his botched handling of the same.

The objective metrics tell the same story. The College fell from 31<sup>st</sup> to 33<sup>rd</sup> place in the *US News* rankings of

the best national universities, a drop likely related to the decline in our peer assessment score. Application growth continues to lag substantially behind both our peer institutions in the *US News* rankings and the other universities in Virginia.

It is increasingly clear to those who care about the future of this historic college that Mr. Nichol's tenure at the school has resulted in unnecessary divisions, a loss of forward momentum and squandered opportunities. The Board of Visitors has made the right decision to solicit the opinions of the College community, particularly of the alumni, and it is our hope that this process will examine and weigh all of these damning facts.

We urge students, faculty, staff and alumni alike to look back at the past three years, especially these last several months, and make an honest, objective assessment of Mr. Nichol's performance. The facts speak for themselves.

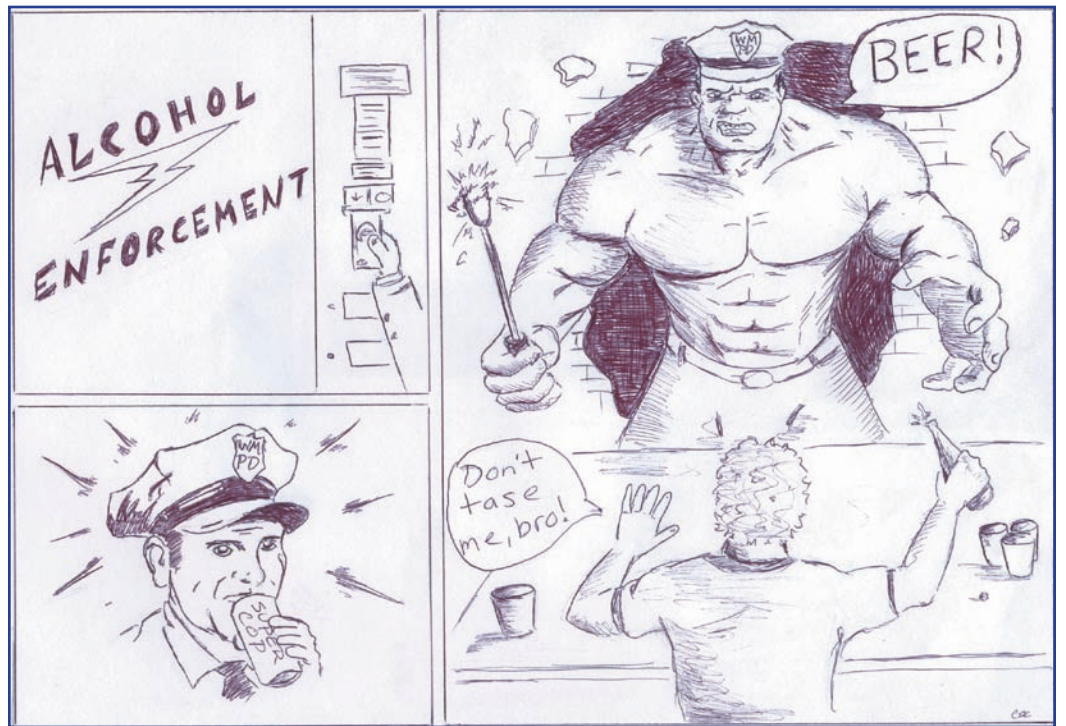
Unfortunately, the mentality of Mr. Nichol and many of his supporters is not only that mediocrity is sufficient, but should be rewarded through the renewal of his contract. Additionally, these people believe that an objective appraisal of the facts is unnecessary, and that emotions trump rational, reasoned appraisal.

Mr. Nichol has utterly failed us as our college president and as a leader. We urge members of the community to tell the Board the same.

“

Mr. Nichol has utterly failed us as our college president and as a leader. We urge members of the community to tell the Board the same.

”



David Clifford

## WMPD needs to trim fat, protect and serve

The College will soon become even more pinched for money as it is hit with a 7 percent reduction in state funding this year. There is an essential need for frivolous spending to be reduced.

The campus police department, for one, certainly has some fat to trim. Tuition and state funding cannot be thrown around to purchase over \$10,000 in uniforms. Our related article on the police budget, which appears in the news section of this issue, does not even discuss the hundreds of dollars spent on dry cleaning.

More transparency is essential to finding areas where the College can save money.

Thousands of dollars can no longer be spent on outside catering for the police force, either. It is one thing for campus police to eat for free in the dining halls, incurring costs to students, but a line must be drawn at catering.

The College has, depending on the year, between two and six times the number of arrests as James Madison University, according to numbers compiled by a Student Assembly senator. James Madison University has 17,000 students. The statistic provided by the senator provoked Student Assembly officials, already agitated over the seemingly Draconian use of force exhibited by the WMPD, to exclaim: "ridiculous!"; "unbelievable!"; "atrocious!"

On Tuesday, September 25, the Student Assembly Senate passed a resolution condemning the way WMPD and the administration operate, alleging that overzealous implementation of alcohol policy results in unsafe student practices and generates ill-will towards police.

The William and Mary police force should react to this criticism not as a slap in the face, but as a legitimate concern of students. The

vast majority of William and Mary students are not anti-police, but the vast majority also does not wait until they are 21 to drink alcohol.

By targeting students who drink alcohol and imposing stiff punishment, the campus police may be making the campus less safe. If a student's friend is vomiting blood, is it really in the best interests of the community for this individual to refrain from calling for help because he is afraid of judicial repercussions? Furthermore, if a healthy sense of defiance and disdain for the police is fostered and reinforced among the student body, trust in the institution of the police force will be eroded.

Such erosion has already taken place this year. Within weeks, hundreds of students joined a Facebook group alleging parallels between the William and Mary police and the Gestapo. There is another Facebook group, "Cut the campus police budget," which has maintained a steady membership of around 200.

In light of last spring's massacre at Virginia Tech, the William and Mary police should focus efforts on keeping students safe over busting parties on the weekends.

In no way are we advocating that police should not do their jobs: drinking under 21, even if we disagree with it, is still illegal. But if William and Mary—a school hardly known for its raucous parties—has more arrests than JMU, a huge school with a reputation for partying hard, then there is a high probability of overzealous law enforcement. The police budget on alcohol enforcement needs to be reexamined.

*The Informer* calls on the WMPD to recommit itself to truly protecting and serving the campus community—not harassing and disturbing it.

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

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### *The Informer* apologizes for the following errors in our Sep. 19 2007 Issue:

The news brief on page two regarding CCM and VOX confused two separate events on different dates into one. VOX did not plan, nor did it partake in, any protest of the CCM event.

The correct Web site for Doug Bunch's Global Playground is [www.theglobalplayground.org](http://www.theglobalplayground.org).

On page nine, the article on President Nichol's religious beliefs incorrectly stated that campus ministers received an offer via letter for Mr. Nichol to speak. Mr. Nichol relayed this offer in a meeting in April 2006. The Communion candles were incorrectly identified as dinner candles.

*The Virginia Informer* would like to correct any facts printed incorrectly. Please submit all corrections via e-mail to [editor@vainformer.com](mailto:editor@vainformer.com).

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## Is democracy better than other forms of government?

The centerpiece of the recent World Forum on the Future of Democracy held in Williamsburg was a public panel discussion in Kaplan Arena entitled “The Future of Democracy: Why Does It Matter?” The panel, which was moderated by renowned journalist



**Alex Mayer**  
Opinion Editor

Jim Lehrer, included Sandra Day O'Connor, former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Dr. Ali Ansari, director of the Institute for Iranian Studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

While the discussion of the various topics was relevant and even occasionally entertaining—the sharp wit of Ms. O'Connor and Mr. Eagleburger can be credited for that—for the most part, the questions selected for the panel were relatively tame. Perhaps not surprisingly, none of the questions—or answers—was especially intellectually provocative or groundbreaking.

That said, I noticed a subtle undertone during the discussion that I found quite curious. For all the talk about the possibilities of democracy in new regions of the world and the importance of having “organic growth” of democratic principles in each culture, there was a central question that the panel seemed to be avoiding: *Why* should democracy be spread around the world?

At the heart of this question—and ostensibly the issue the panel was supposed to be addressing—is the deeper question of whether or not the democratic system of government has any inherent value.

The emphasis on moral relativism in today's society makes such a question rather taboo. It seems politically incorrect to suggest that democracy is *objectively* a better form of government than, say, monarchy or theocracy. The accepted view seems to be that democracy is better “for us,” but not necessarily for “other cultures.”

Although saying that cases such as Indonesia and India prove that democracy is not “incompatible” with Islamic culture, Ms. Day O'Connor answered Mr. Lehrer's question “Do all people around the world have an innate desire for democracy?” with a simple “No.”

Dr. Ansari qualified his answer by saying that although people might not have a desire for democracy *per se*, all people do have an innate desire to live in a “just society,” and that he believed democracy is the best method humans have yet invented to achieve that end.

His answer was a good one, yet the lingering implication was that while perhaps other cultures *could* adapt democracy as a form of government, it was not at all clear that they *should*. In other words, it was not necessarily true that another culture should see democracy as preferable to any other political system.

Edward Said, the renowned anthropologist, famously condemned the white European nations' cultural arrogance in believing they could “civilize” the “primitive Other” in the Middle East through colonial occupation. Today, it seems that a majority of Europe and the United States have swung to the exact opposite policy but have done so with an equally arrogant mindset. “Who are we to ‘force’ democracy on other cultures?” the popular refrain goes. The idea that “democracy is universal” is shunned as a naïve fantasy.

Ms. O'Connor's blunt refutation of that proposition—met with enthusiastic applause from the audience—is a perfect illustration of this mindset. The conclusion one must draw is that the Arab world is dominated by dictatorships because such governments are more compatible with Arab “culture.” Following this logic, one must assume that Arab people “prefer”

authoritarian governments simply because they're Arab. Though the Assad regime in Syria or Mubarak's de-facto dictatorship in Egypt may seem “repressive” to Americans, by using this logic, it follows that the people in those countries actually “prefer” to live under such regimes—after all, it's their “culture.”

This view is not only demeaning and outrageously condescending; it has tragic implications. We could argue endlessly on the wisdom of promoting democracy abroad and whether or not such a policy is in the best interests of the United States. After all, it is entirely possible that if democracy takes root in the Middle East we could wind up, at least in the short term, with governments that are much less friendly to American interests. As Mr. Eagleburger noted, America would have “ended up a second-rate power” if we had always chosen idealism over realism throughout our history.

At the same time, it would be unforgivable if America—the birthplace of modern democratic government—condemned an entire region of the world to suffer indefinitely under authoritarian oppression, haughtily justifying our continued inaction with the excuse that “it's just their culture.” Rather, we should use our historically unparalleled power and influence to help promote there the most just and free system of government ever devised by man.

That is not to say that democracy is without serious flaws. As Winston Churchill said, “No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried.” As the most powerful nation on earth, advancing the benefits of this “least flawed” system of governance to as many corners of this planet as possible seems a worthy objective.

“**There was a central question that the panel seemed to be avoiding: Why should democracy be spread around the world?**”

## Support the Little Rock Nine or the Newark Four, but forget the Jena Six

**Joe Luppino-Esposito**  
Editor in Chief

The hottest cause around is now fighting to “free” the Jena Six, a gang of thugs from Jena, Louisiana, who are being charged with aggravated battery or have been sent to juvenile courts. Just this past week, the final batterer, Mychal Bell, was released on bail, as he is now set to be charged as a juvenile rather than an adult.

Our campus has been one of the places in which this shameful movement has reared its ugly head. “William and Mary Supports the Jena 6” Facebook groups and t-shirts have sprung up all over campus. Maybe if these Jena 6 supporters knew the facts, they would not be so anxious to rush to the side of these criminals.

Some would wish you only hear the Hollywood-style version of this incident: A “horrifying” set of events began in August of 2006 with the hanging of three nooses from a tree in a Jena schoolyard. The nooses were placed there by three white students, apparently as a reminder that it was only acceptable for white students to sit under this tree; a black student had wanted to sit underneath it the day before. The three white students were only suspended for three days. After a series of other incidents, racial tensions grew, leading, finally, to a white student using racial slurs against the Jena 6, which was the immediate catalyst for the beating of the white student. The six were charged with attempted murder. And Mr. Bell, with a “spotless” record, was convicted by an all-white jury—obviously, a great injustice.

If one prefers to hear the actual facts, he may not be so anxious to rush to the Jena 6's defense. In reality, after the noose incident, the white students were isolated at an alternative school for a month and served a two week in-school suspension. Additionally, US attorneys investigating the case point out that in no statements made by the Jena 6 did a single one of them reference the “white tree” incident as the original reason for the violence—thus nullifying the effect of the t-shirts seen around campus with the tree on them. Mr. Bell, on probation for two other, unrelated counts of battery, was convicted fairly by a jury, only having his sentence thrown out because he was tried as an adult instead of a juvenile. The jury was all-white because no black citizens solicited for jury selection even showed up to court to be officially selected. Justin Barker, the *actual* victim, suffered a concussion and had little use of one of his eyes for several weeks. All of these facts, cited in an AP story, make it hard to defend a group of people who beat someone unconscious over name-calling. The reality is, people cannot be arrested for the thoughts that they have, no matter how horrible they may seem. On the other hand, it *is* illegal to violently attack someone without physical provocation.

But, nonetheless, I got to watch my fellow classmates assemble for a disappointing display of idiotic hand wringing.

The unprovoked beating of Mr. Barker is the only injustice in the entirety of this Jena 6 debacle. It is sad that the actual facts of the case still need to be discussed *after* a protest has already been held.

Was it wrong to charge the Jena 6 with second degree attempted murder? Certainly. Should the students who hung the nooses have been expelled? Absolutely. But now that we are past that, and the Jena 6 have received a much more appropriate second-degree battery charge, there is no reason why these criminals should be freed.

While a very strong argument can be made for the fact that the racial tensions in Jena boiled over and, ultimately, lead directly to the beating of Mr. Barker—which thus garners sympathy for the racism-plagued town and its citizens—it is still not right to support those who willingly and knowingly perpetrate violence and, more generally, violate the law.

So essentially, William and Mary students and administrators put together the rally two weeks ago to show support for a band of criminals. The reason? Evidently, the hanging of the nooses—which, from a legal standpoint, could not realistically be deemed a threat—is the same as assault. So much for the schoolyard limerick about sticks and stones.

It disgusts me that people from the College and the community feel like it is

necessary to defend such scum. And what does this ordeal say for the state of the civil rights movement in the nation, as well as on campus?

This past summer, in Newark, NJ, three black college students were murdered, execution style, in an elementary school playground. A fourth victim was severely wounded. This, in a city where the teacher's union has posted a billboard “STOP THE KILLINGS IN NEWARK” as the problem has reached epidemic proportions.

September 25 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Little Rock Nine, the brave students who, under National Guard protection, entered Little Rock Central High School, our nation's first legitimate attempt at desegregation.

I have yet to see a rally, celebration or remembrance for either one of those events. Instead, students are encouraged to support criminals who got upset over some racist symbolism. It is a sad commentary on our society in general, and our college campuses in particular, when a rally for six criminals garners as many, if not more, attendees than a remembrance of the terrorist attacks of September 11.

**Love us? Hate us?**

**Please send letters to the editor.**

**We will print them... probably.**

# Class of '11 elects reps to Student Assembly

## Kyrios defeats Dunn in special election for vacant 2009 Senate seat

**Jon San**  
Features Editor

On Thursday, September 27, the new Student Assembly representatives for the class of 2011 were announced. The class officers include President Jazmine Piña, Vice President for Advocacy Sarah Owerhohle, Vice President for Social Affairs Hannah Armentrout, Secretary Chrissy Scott and Treasurer Yael Gilboa. The newly elected senators for the class of 2011 are Ronnie Wang, Michael Douglass, Brittany Fallon and

Ben Brown. Alex Kyrios ('09) defeated Cliff Dunn for a vacant senate seat for the Class of 2009.

Following the election results, the winners were secretly kidnapped by current SA members and driven to the Library Tavern for an after-hours celebration. The newly elected representatives consist of four senators, the vice president for Advocacy, the vice president for Social Affairs, the treasurer, and the president.

As in previous SA elections, the representatives ran on several different platforms. Each representative did manage, however, to bring something unique to the table.

Freshman Senator Ben Brown ran on, perhaps, the simplest platform of all.

"I didn't really have a platform in the traditional sense," said Mr. Brown. "I ran primarily on the hope of bringing more honesty to the [student assembly]. And whatever the freshman class wants to get done, I'm here to do it."

The idea of honestly pursuing what their class desires was echoed by nearly every representative.

Sarah Owerhohle, the freshman vice president for Advocacy, believes her role is "defined by what class wants."

"I really hope to raise more awareness between the students and the Williamsburg community and also how the community affects student life," said Ms. Owerhohle.

Freshman Senator-elect Brittany Fallon had a much more specific platform than her elected counter-



Joe Luppino-Esposito

**Surprise:** President Zach Pilchen welcomes the new class of 2011 president, Jazmine Piña at traditional SA victory spot, The Library Tavern on Richmond Rd. Pilchen and VP Valerie Hopkins had blindfolded Piña for the surprise.

parts. "I promised to install more emergency lights around campus, as well as clean up the retention ponds around campus, which are real eyesores," she said.

Ms. Fallon also hopes to take an active role in raising environmental awareness around campus. Among other plans, she desires to expand the Wetland Reclamation Act.

The last to arrive at the Library Tavern was newly elected freshman President

Jazmine Piña, who was blindfolded and accompanied by current SA President Zach Pilchen and VicePresident Valerie Hopkins.

"I really want to unite our class," said Ms. Piña. "And another priority of mine is to try and make the meal plans more flexible for students. Many students end up wasting meals due to their busy schedules and I hope to find a way to avoid that."



Joe Luppino-Esposito

**Thrill of victory:** New senators were anxious to talk about their platforms with the media.

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### Wes Edwards' Drink of the Week



## The "Will Knight" Drink

Taste: 0 / 5      Kick: 5 / 5

- 1/2 liquor of your choice, preferably Svedka Vodka
- 1/2 carbonated soda of your choice, preferably Mountain Dew
- Desired Ratio: 1:1. The size of the cup or glass doesn't matter-trust me on this.

I wanted to kick off the drink of the week with a very special cocktail. It's unlike anything you'll ever have. If it doesn't give you the "buzz" so many of us seek between Thursday at around 4:30 p.m. and Saturday at 3:30 a.m., then nothing else will. It is a drink I continually return to that gets me feeling good; and for that reason alone, it's one of my all time favorites. One of these drinks will leave you in what I like to call the "pleasure zone." What exactly is the "pleasure zone," you may ask? Drink one Will Knight and you'll surely find out.

Disclaimer: While drinking this, please use extreme caution. Three of these babies are plenty potent.