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THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

An independent
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the College of
William and Mary.

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The common sense paper of record on campus

What you missed in '06-'07



Ian R. Whiteside (1 and bottom r[edited]), Joe Luppino-Exposito

Addition and subtraction: While the College lost the cross from the altar and the feathers from the logo, it gained an honorary graduate in Queen Elizabeth II.

New to William and Mary? Here are all of last year's big stories that you need to know

Stephanie Long
News Editor

NCAA bans William and Mary's feathers

William and Mary was pulled into the midst of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's efforts to make the world of college sports more politically correct. Initially the school's nickname, Tribe, was called into question, but was dismissed since the term was deemed one of respect for the American Indians peoples and their ability to work together for a common goal. In the fall of 2006, however, the NCAA ordered the College to remove the feathers from the school's logo, which otherwise consisted of the letters W and M, because unlike the name Tribe, they were ruled "hostile and abusive" American Indians. To this day, the school's athletic organizations are not represented by any mascot or symbol.

The Wren cross controversy

William and Mary made national news this past year due to a unilateral decision made by President Nichol in the fall of 2006 to remove the cross from the school's historic Wren Chapel. Originally the chapel was

affiliated with the Anglican Church but now is nondenominational, which is why Nichol claimed he believed it was unfair to allow the cross to remain on the chapel's altar. He single-handedly decided to remove the cross and alerted the campus of his decision several days later after an e-mail about the change was leaked. Many students and alumni were offended by, and opposed to, the president's actions, and formed an organization known as Save the Wren Cross, against Nichol's decision. A debate hosted by *The Informer* about the issue made national headlines. After awakening to the displeasure among so many in the William and Mary community, most notably the removal of a \$12 million pledge, Nichol hand-selected a panel of students and alumni to address the proper role of a chapel and other religious elements at a state university. After several meetings with religious organizations on campus, the cross was put back in the chapel on permanent display, with a new plaque denoting the chapel's Christian history.

Royal visit

Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom visited William and Mary on May 4, 2007 during her trip to

Virginia to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. Her Majesty entered the Wren Building, rang the bell, and waved to the William and Mary students and community members who showed up for the event. The Class of 2007 also made Queen Elizabeth II an honorary member. This was the second trip Her Majesty made to William and Mary; the previous visit was 50 years ago.

\$500M campaign achieves its goal

As of June 30, 2007, the school surpassed the \$500 million fundraising goal it has been working towards for the past seven years. Thanks to contributions from 60,496 alumni, parents, and friends, the school received \$517.55 million. This final year only about \$24 million was raised, indicating that the majority of contributions came from previous years, but a \$12 million gift from the Class of 1957 as well as two recent commitments totaling \$2 million pushed the school past the half-billion-dollar mark. The majority of the money has been allotted for academic, athletic, and research student scholarships.



John R. Kennedy

Packed houses: Parties like this one at Lambda Chi Alpha in 2006 will be more frequent with more frats returning to campus in the fall.

The changing face of Frat Row

Greek leadership hopeful with return of fraternities

John R. Kennedy
Staff Writer

Three Greek organizations will be new to Frat Row this school year. Two of those fraternities, Pi Kappa Alpha and Kappa Alpha, will be returning after suspensions. Beta Theta Pi will be new to the row but not to the College. A previous incarnation of Beta Theta Pi had a row unit some years ago. The move-ins come after a troubling year for fraternities in general.

Beta Theta Pi will be moving into Unit M in the back row. Nick Faulkner ('08), a Beta Theta Pi brother, stated that the fraternity requested to live in Unit M. As for Pi Kappa Alpha and Kappa Alpha, they will be returning to their old houses; Kappa Alpha will once again be living in Unit G and Pi Kappa Alpha will be returning to Unit H.

Last year, the two fraternities were removed from the row for penalties and fines. Kappa Alpha was denied housing for broken bottles in their basement, among other fines. Kappa Alpha contends that they were not responsible for the broken bottles. The administration contended that regardless of who did it, the fact that the bottles were found in Kappa Alpha's house was enough to remove the fraternity from campus housing. This decision was made despite the fact that entrances to fraternity row remained unsecured even at the end of the school year, allowing anyone to enter and vandalize the buildings.

Pi Kappa Alpha lost its housing when an insufficient number of brothers turned in their completed housing contracts to Residence Life on time.

With more fraternities filling the row, Greek students remain optimistic that rush and other activities may return to normal. Lambda Chi Alpha treasurer Andrew James ('08) said about the upcoming year's changes: "I think it is definitely a plus to have fraternities come back to live on the row. In general, our lifestyles are more comparable than to a non-Greek WM student, and they are less likely to have a problem with the daily occurrences in the row."

Optimism may begin the school year; however, it remains to be seen what the Nichol Administration has in store for fraternities during the upcoming year.

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It isn't *what* you know,
it's *who* you know
Page 12



Fact and fiction about the Student Assembly

Stephen Dause
Staff Writer

Just a few weeks from now, after all your belongings are unpacked, you've signed your roommate agreement, and you're enjoying your new-found freedom away from home, they will start to appear. Everywhere. Hundreds upon hundreds of signs, all asking you to do the same thing: vote one of your fellow freshmen into the Student Assembly, William and Mary's student government, more commonly known as the SA.

Along with such simple, pleading requests will come promises of solutions to problems that you probably won't have encountered yet, or perhaps pledges of a social scene the likes of which the College has never seen if only you vote for so-and-so. Read them with a wary eye: Many such promises may suggest fixing a system that actually isn't broken or else hold the promise-maker to something he or she will not be able to keep.

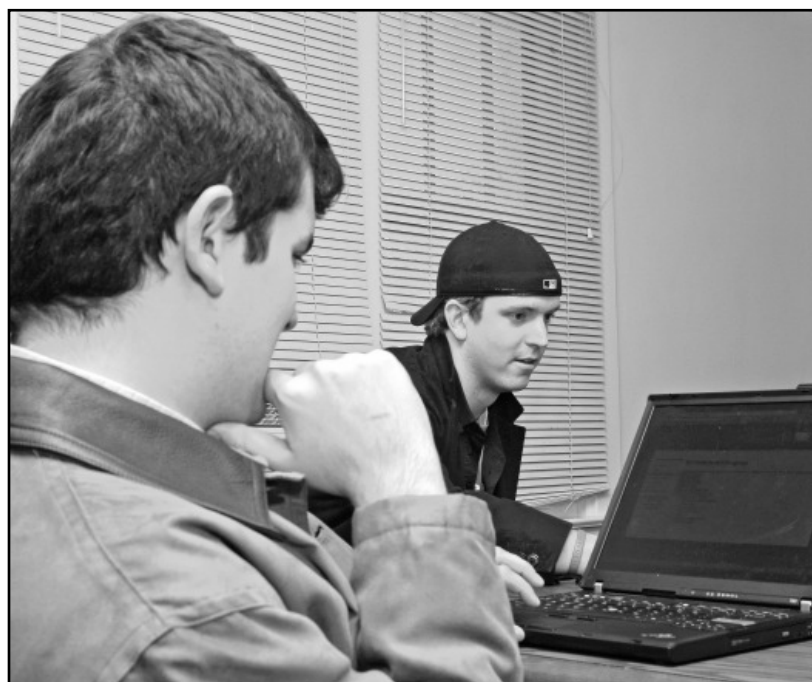
The SA is an organization dedicated to encouraging school spirit and class cohesion as well as bringing grievances to the college administration. Furthermore, one of the most important things the SA does is allocate money to various student clubs, organizations, and activities. It is still a young body, as evidenced by the ongoing internal debate over its constitution and the many internal affairs bills seen in the Senate, which is composed of four members from each social class

and six graduate students from the various graduate schools.

The Undergraduate Council is similar to the student government that you were probably familiar with in high school, as it organizes class events such as fundraisers and social gatherings. In addition to the four senators, the freshmen class this fall will be voting for a class president, a vice president for advocacy (an important, if ambiguous, position), a vice resident for social affairs, a treasurer, and a secretary.

Finally, there is the executive branch, composed of the President, Zach Pilchen ('09), the Vice-President, Valerie Hopkins ('09), and their appointed cabinet. Pilchen and Hopkins portrayed themselves as outsiders to the SA last year, and ran on a campaign of diversity of thought and a reinvigorated, more accessible SA.

So when you're reading or listening to the promises made by senatorial and Undergraduate Council candidates, remember: the SA isn't *really* a government. They can't change college policy, but they can ask the administration



Ian R. Whiteside

Working for you: Student Assembly members, such as these class senators, can distribute money and suggest policy changes, but be wary of pie-in-the-sky promises.

to enact policy change, and are sometimes successful at persuading them.

You can learn more about the SA at <http://sa.wm.edu>.

A revealing look at the class of 2011

Steven Nelson
Staff Writer

William and Mary prides itself on its diversity, most especially that of each incoming class, and the class of 2011 is no exception.

Preliminary statistics for the class of 2011 indicate a class of around 1,367 students. Of the class, 23% are "students of color" according to Earl T. Granger III, associate provost for enrollment.

The figure of 23% is virtually unchanged from the record of 24% in the class of 2010. Both classes, however, are markedly more diverse racially than prior years, with minorities comprising only 20% of the class of 2009.

A record 12% of 2011 students are first-generation college students, meaning that neither parent attended college. This is evidence of some success of the Admissions Office's effort to diversify student backgrounds.

The class of 2011 also scored slightly better on the SATs. The middle 50% range is 1270-1430 compared to 1260-1420 for the class of 2010. Both lower end scores are less than 1280 in 2009.

WM Class of 2009	WM Class of 2010	WM Class of 2011 (preliminary data)
20% "of color"	24% "of color"	23% "of color"
1280-1420 middle 50% SAT range	1260-1420 middle 50% SAT range	1270-1430 middle 50% SAT range
10610 applicants (up 10%) 31% acceptance rate	10722 applicants (up 1%) 32% acceptance rate	10845 applicants (up 1%) 33% acceptance rate

	Acceptance rate Class of 2009	Acceptance rate Class of 2010	Acceptance rate Class of 2011
University of Virginia	38%	36%	28.2%
William and Mary	31%	32%	33%

Preliminary statistics indicate that that 54% of the incoming students will be female. This is an increase from recent years. Recently, many reports in the national media have discussed schools such as William and Mary that have tried to level their male-female ratio.

Another figure cited by Granger is that 3% of the class will be international students, far above the .3% represented in the class of 2010. Virginians will be slightly less prevalent at 65%. State law mandates that two-thirds of the College's students be Virginia residents.

Though many statistical indicators reflect well on the College, a glaring detractor from the proud records and the solid academics of the incoming class is the sluggish growth in applications received.

According to Granger, the rate of growth in applications has been 12% over the course of the past three years. However, the growth rate for the past two years has been only 1%, resulting in a slight increase in William and Mary's acceptance rate.

Meanwhile, the University of

Virginia, as well as other schools, have had much higher single-year growth in applications, with UVA up 11% from last year, prompting its acceptance rate to fall below William and Mary's for the first time in years.

Granger suggests that this often-cited indicator of school prestige reflects that the College is not as interested in "just adding volume to our pool," and that "we are much better served to have a strong applicant pool with students who are good matches for William and Mary."

Associate Provost Granger asserted that, "this year's class is one of the brightest and most diverse to enter the College," as well as "quite accomplished and poised to contribute in very meaningful ways."

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

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

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Surviving Williamsburg under 21: alternatives to drinking and Wawa

But if you want to drink...
Best brew for your buck
Page 5

Stephanie Long
News Editor

Williamsburg, at first glance, is not exactly *the* quintessential college town. With students being discouraged from renting houses in the area and prohibited from voting in the town, Williamsburg is not openly hospitable. Luckily, the demanding academic schedule at William and Mary keeps students busy, but, in their spare time, most students find themselves desiring alternatives to drinking or frequent late-night trips to Wawa in order to prevent them from being driven to insanity by their course loads. While most students don't know it, there are plenty of fun activities that can help make the school months in Williamsburg more enjoyable.

Group Games

If you're bored in Williamsburg, odds are you're not the only one. Get a group of friends together for a mass game of capture the flag, midnight ultimate frisbee, manhunt, poker, or even a pillow fight. Oftentimes these activities result in closer friendships among hallmates as well as the opportunity to meet other students.

Dance Off the Pounds

Between the Freshman 15 and the weight put on from excessive consumption of Natural Light and Wawa hoagies, staying in shape is a must, and it certainly helps if you can have fun while doing it. Contra dancing lends itself perfectly to the William and Mary community as an alternative to the beautifully updated, yet still dreaded, Rec Center. Contra is an energetic dance which is a cross between square-dancing and 18th century country dancing. Not only is it fun, but really anyone can do it. Previous experience is not necessary,

as a caller explains the moves in each dance as it comes. Numerous William and Mary students go contra dancing regularly, driving ten minutes down Richmond Road to Norge, where local community members meet on the first Saturday of every month. And occasionally the event is held at William and Mary's University Center, so keep an eye out for those special occasions.

Do Your Duty

The duty offices for each of the residential areas are filled with a wealth of activities to keep you entertained on rainy days. While some duty offices are better stocked than others, most contain movies that you can borrow, board games, cooking utensils and video game consoles. If you're out of ideas, a trip to the duty office may help inspire you. RAs are on duty from 7PM to 11PM every night.

Nearby Entertainment

As nice as it is to have so many musically adept students on campus, it can definitely get tiring hearing the same people perform. Aroma's usually has good bands playing on Friday and Saturday nights, so grab a group of friends and treat yourselves to dessert, or just take some alone time and listen to the music all night. The Kimball Theatre also has a wide variety of



File Photo

Is this really it?: Despite popular belief, there are some other places to go other than the Wawa, which is open 24 hours a day.

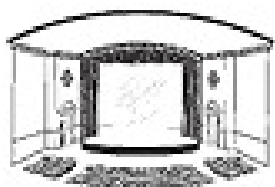
interesting films that they show, and occasionally they will drop their prices to encourage students to come to a specific event. Look at the ad below for shows the theater will be featuring soon.

The Norva, a concert venue in Norfolk, regularly hosts some big name bands and offers decent ticket prices. If you have access to a vehicle, spending a night at this unique venue is a definite must.

New Town, which has many shopping opportunities as well as a movie theater, and Busch Gardens are other sources of entertainment for those who are able to find rides. These areas are about a ten to 15 minute drive away.

The Simple Joys of Colonial Williamsburg

During the day, Colonial Williamsburg is accessible to all William and Mary students for free, just by showing their student IDs. It is enjoyable to wander the town visiting the shops and other areas of interest to learn more about the town's history. By night, Colonial Williamsburg is just as beautiful to stroll around with friends, but you can also have fun spooking one another with thoughts ghosts in the area. For those who are interested, student-lead ghost tours are far superior and cheaper than the official Colonial Williamsburg tours.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

August Schedule

Movies

La Vie En Rose (PG-13)

Sat., Aug. 4-Sun., Aug. 12
6:30 and 9 p.m.
Aug. 4-6,8-10, 12 screening room (35 seats)

The Valet (PG-13)

Sat., Aug. 11-Sat., Aug. 18
6:45 and 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 11, 13, 15-18 screening room (35 seats)

Once (R)

Fri., Aug. 17-Fri., Aug. 24
7 and 8:45 p.m.
Aug. 19, 20, 22, 23 screening room (35 seats)

Ten Canoes (Not rated)

Fri., Aug. 24-Tues., Aug. 28
6:45 and 8:30 p.m.
Aug. 24, 25, 27 screening room (35 seats)

Crazy Love (PG-13)

Tues., Aug. 28-Mon., Sept. 3
7 and 8:45 p.m.
Aug. 28-31, Sept. 3 screening room (35 seats)

Live Performances

The Kimball Theatre and Virginia Premiere Theatre present

Smith! Being the Life and Death of Cap'n John

By Ivor Noel Hume
Aug. 9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30 at 5 p.m.
General admission \$15, Seniors/Students \$12

The Kimball Theatre presents

Second Flyte in Concert

Fri., Aug. 10 at 7:30 p.m.
General admission \$12, Seniors/Students \$10

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation presents

Ear to Ear: The Passage of African Music Through American Slavery

Wed., Aug. 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Colonial Performance Ticket \$12

WTYD-Tide Radio's Skookum Music Series presents

Martin Sexton in Concert

Sun., Aug. 19 at 8 p.m.
All seats \$20

Laughing Redhead presents

Clean Comedy Night

Featuring **Tim Hawkins**

Sat., Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
General admission \$15, Seniors/Students \$12

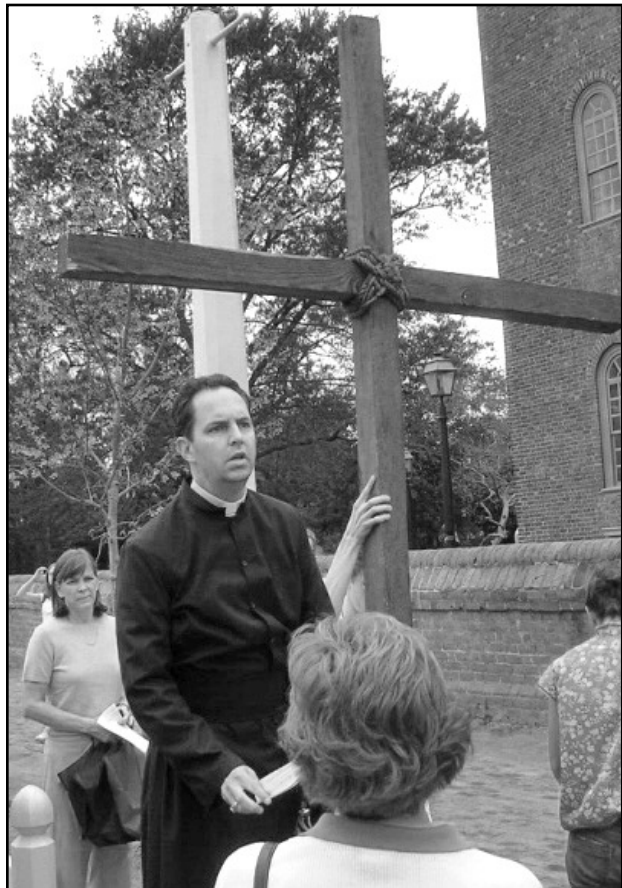
Anthony Lee Wood and Friends present

Up and Away to the Hits of Yesterday

Fri., Aug. 31 at 8 p.m.
All seats \$20

Come to Williamsburg's original theatre

Places of Worship: Locate yours in Williamsburg



Stephanie Long

Sharing faith: Many campus groups get together for services, including Stations of the cross.

Catholic Campus Ministries Chapel

500 Richmond Road
Mass: 11 am and 5 pm Sunday
<http://www.wm.edu/so/ccm>

St. Bede Catholic Church

3686 Ironbound Road
Mass: 5:00 pm Saturday, 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm Sunday
757-229-3631
<http://www.bedeva.org/>

Bruton Parish Episcopal Church

331 Duke of Gloucester Street
Services: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 11:15 am Sunday
757-229-2891
<http://www.brutonparish.org/>

Christian Life Center

4451 Longhill Road
Services: 7:00 pm Wednesday, and 10:00 am Sunday
757-220-2100
<http://www.w-clc.com/default.asp>

Williamsburg Church of Christ

227 Merrimac Trail
Services: 9:30 am and 6:30 pm Sunday
757-253-5662
<http://www.williamsburgchurchofchrist.org/>

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

2017 Newman Road
Services: 9 am and 1 pm Sunday
757-564-1933

Colonial Baptist Church

100 Carrs Hill Road
Services: 10:30 am Sunday and 7 pm Wednesday
757-229-4744

Faith Baptist Church

4107 Rochambeau Drive
Services: 11 am and 6:30 pm Sunday
757-566-0456
<http://www.churchpages.org/fbc/>

First Church of Christian Science

620 Jamestown Road
Services: 11 am Sunday, 7:30 pm Wednesday
757-229-3820

King of Glory Lutheran Church

4897 Longhill Road
Services: 8 am, 9:30 am, and 10:45 am Sunday
757-258-9701

Liberty Worship Center

113 Palace Lane Suite J
Services: 10 am Sunday, and 7 pm Wednesday
757-565-7597
<http://www.libertyworship.net/>

Temple Beth El

600 Jamestown Road
Service: 7:30 pm Friday, 10 am Saturday
757-220-1205
<http://www.temple-bethel.org/>

Walnut Hills Baptist Church

1014 Jamestown Road
Service: 10:30 am Sunday
757-220-5900
<http://www.walnuthillsbaptist.com/>

Williamsburg Baptist Church

227 Richmond Road
Services: 8:30 am and 11 am Sunday
757-229-1217
<http://www.williamsburgbaptist.com/>

Williamsburg Community Chapel

3899 John Tyler Highway
Services: 8 am, 9:30 am and 11 am Sunday
757-229-7152
<http://www.wcchapel.org/>

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

215 Richmond Road
Services: 5:30 pm Saturday, 8 am, 9:30 am and 11 am Sunday
757-229-4235
<http://williamsburgpresbyterianchurch.org/>

Williamsburg United Methodist

500 Jamestown Road
Services: 8:15 am and 11 am Sunday
757-229-1771
<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/williamsburgumc/>

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Catholic Campus Ministry

**One Body:
Freshman Retreat 2007!**

Be welcomed into the CCM community at William and Mary with a weekend getaway.

September 14-15

Registration is only \$15. The registration form is available online at www.wm.edu/so/ccm or e-mail Karen Hahn at kahahn@wm.edu.

Make an impact on campus...

JOIN

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

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

FIRST MEETING:

Monday, Sep. 3
7:30pm in Blair 223

The summer “Field Guide to William and Mary”

At long last, and after countless hours of study—during which Avril Lavigne’s hit “Girlfriend” was playing on repeat—the intrepid brains behind William and Mary’s humor column return.

We know that summer vacation brings opportunities for personal growth and self-reflection, but, knowing our fellow students, we developed this handy chart. By making sweeping and often inaccurate generalizations, it categorizes your friends and their summer experiences and makes it far easier for you to judge them.

1. The Do-Gooder

Profile: You’ll recognize members of this crowd by the sudden appearance of a foreign country in their Facebook Maps app, in addition to the sudden uploading of nearly 400 photos documenting their adventures with incompetent UN employees and, lest we forget, 136 of their closest likeminded friends. At the first party, you’ll be cornered—and possibly suffocated—by a cloud of smugness that trails these morally “superior” people. You can hear them at the Daily Grind earnestly telling others about exotic slum dwellers in countries like Bosnia, Ecuador, and Africa who taught them the true meaning of Christmas, as well as the emptiness of a capitalistic and consumer driven life.

What to do if cornered: Puncture their bubble of smugness by reminding them that their foreign travels—along with Al Gore III’s 100-mph *gran turismo* in his Prius last month—produced approximately 18 million tons of CO₂ emissions and the burning of 15,000 acres of virgin rainforest. Once one-upped, most Do-Gooders will fall silent and even begin to weep as they



Nick Fitzgerald & Matthew Sutton
Humor Columnists

realize the enormity of their crime. If this doesn’t work, simply recount that *your* summer service was teaching mute AIDS orphans of Zanzibar to sing the feel-good showstoppers of Andrew Lloyd Weber—this should shock them momentarily and provide enough time for you to jump out the nearest window.

2. The Summer School Student

Profile: What better way to spend five weeks of your summer than in a spacious tenement on Griffin Street! Complete with a lavish porch overlooking your neighbor’s filthy beer pong table, these dwellings are what the SSS calls home. The Williamsburg summer crowd comprises an interesting mix of student researchers, transfers trying to catch up on some credits, but, mostly, of people who pretty much hate their parents just enough to continue “going to class” over the summer. While some are truly dedicated, others just pass the hours by drinking heavily, regardless of the day of the week or time of day. The SSS will dazzle you at the beginning of the fall semester with tales of untold inebriation and delinquency, in an attempt to make you jealous of a summer filled with no responsibility and lots of beer. It will probably work.

What to do if cornered: Grab a brew and help set up the nearest pong table.

3. The Worker

Profile: A member of this crowd could be easily identified by the fact that he is, for some strange reason, still wearing his Chili’s uniform to class, complete with no less than eleven pieces of flair and several ranch stains. These people submit themselves to a summer of

servitude, the likes of which can only be rivaled by the conditions of an 18th century English debtors’ prison. You try constantly to spend time with members of this group over the summer for normal festivities, but unfortunately they are already on their way to the dinner shift at the Sizzler. Their nights are marked by serving Shirley Temples to bratty eight year olds, and being yelled at by equally bratty women who demand free meals because they showed up one hour late for their reservation and are shocked that their table is no longer available. They do this day-in and day-out, but walking out at the end of the night with that old, wrinkled \$20 makes it all worthwhile. Our advice is to avoid asking members of this group how their summer went, but...

What to do if cornered: Tip no more than exactly 15% (less tax) and avoid all eye contact.

4. The Idle Rich

Profile: Members of this group can be easily marked by Facebook albums filled with pictures of their private jet and new summer home in Nantucket. Their most strenuous summer activity is traveling between the tennis court and the yacht club. Members of this group have never had a job—other than casually dealing coke to their prep school classmates—and would never fraternize with members of the working crowd. If you find yourself at a party at which these people are present, they will probably ask you to either go fill up their Beamer or to shine their golf shoes.

What to do if cornered: In this situation, one has two options: A) Acquiesce to all of their demands, because you will probably be working for them at some point in life, or B) buy as many lotto tickets as humanly possible.

“Value,” not “class,” defines beer in Williamsburg



Matthew Sutton

Refreshing: A cold glass of Ribbon may be the cure to the summertime blues or to 15 first semester credits.

Matthew Sutton
Managing Editor

In keeping with the theme of offering helpful advice to the class of 2011, the next column is for freshman of legal drinking age, although the information might be interesting for curious underage students as well.

Despite the rarified and cultured atmosphere that the College tries to present, when it comes to imbibing, the watchword of the day in Williamsburg is “value” and, most assuredly, not “class.” While Jefferson and his contemporaries may have dined with the royal governor and the cream of colonial society, developing tastes for fine ports and wines, most modern students prefer to quaff a mind-boggling amount of Natty Light in dilapidated off campus housing. But don’t despair, freshmen, the world of “value” brews is an integral part of higher education.

The Green Leaf may have the best beer selection of any of the student bars near campus, but for most freshmen, the Leaf remains light-years away. The majority of freshmen will instead settle for the next best option, the Food Lion closest to campus. This fine store thrives due

to a steady stream of customers, purchasing multiple cases of fine microbrews like Pabst Blue Ribbon and Natural Ice. The following guide is intended as an introduction to the brands that will become familiar to the class of 2011.

The Natural Family

Brewed by the Anheuser-Busch brewery conveniently located in Williamsburg,

the Natural family of beers, Light and Ice, has the advantage of being probably the freshest beers available for purchase on campus. Unfortunately, that may be the only positive attribute.

According to the history provided by the Budweiser corporate office, Natural Light was developed during the rollicking days of the late 1970s, and, as the rumor goes, it was allegedly the drink of choice of the Carter Administration. Of course, it would be foolish to blame Natural Light or Natural Ice for stagflation and a muddled foreign policy, but this fact alone should raise red flags for casual drinkers.

The taste profile for Natural Light which Anheuser-Busch maintains on its Web site reads that this beer is, “wonderfully blended, balanced and brewed for a consistently clean flavor, light body and satisfying refreshment.”

Surely the fine folks at the brewery must be exaggerating a tad bit. Natty, which goes flat in about ten minutes, has a taste reminiscent of water-downed corn syrup followed by an awful chemical aftertaste. Still it is the best value on campus; soon Zable Stadium’s parking lot will be decorated by the silver and blue cans.

Pabst Blue Ribbon

PBR or, “the Ribbon” as it is affectionately known is a staple of the value beer aisle. The famous blue ribbon commemorates Pabst’s victory in the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition, which should alert savvy freshman to the possibility that Pabst may be coasting on its record.

Still, PBR is a step up from the traditional bottom tier and its appearance at a party suggests that the host may have recently won the lottery or genuinely enjoys and appreciates the horde of people invading his domicile in search of a cold one.

The Pabst brewers have developed a beer that is remarkably smooth although the volume of PBR consumed in a single sitting is usually enough to mitigate any unpleasant aftertastes. If you’re lucky enough to behold a can of the Ribbon, know that you have reached the pinnacle of value beer at the College.

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



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First Meeting:

September 6

7:00pm

Tucker Hall 215

Welcome to William and Mary

From the storied traditions of the College to tips and tales of mischief, *The Informer* staff put down some words of wisdom to incoming students.



Ian R. Whiteside

Find a good place to study in the great outdoors: William and Mary students study so much that Swem Library has become a social hub and not a great place to study. The campus is big and beautiful, so go out and explore to find your own spot. These two have permanently claimed their space in the Crim Dell Meadow.

What your OAs won't tell you

Tips from upperclassmen on how to make life easier and more fulfilling at W&M

Academics

- Don't print your schedule off of Banner. Instead, make your own handwritten schedule with the class name, room number and time. It makes getting organized much simpler.
- If you don't have one already, buy a day planner. It simplifies your life.
- Use the bathrooms next to the labs in Millington. They're less crowded between classes.
- Always check your major's requirements with your advisor or department, especially transfer credits. The course catalog can sometimes be vague.

Living in the 'Burg

- Take a day during your first weekend to just wander around Williamsburg. Getting out and seeing the city for a day helps to orient you much better than any map could.
- Be prepared to spend at least two full hours if you're going to take the city bus anywhere.
- The bus does not run on Sundays.
- Wawa is the name of your new best friend.
- Be prepared for rain, lots of rain.

Social Life

- Going to the frats and rushing/partying is not a bad idea. You're here to have fun.
- It is NOT cool to stay in on weekends and brag about how much work you have to do.
- It is also NOT cool to brag about your lack of sleep. It shows, trust us.
- Not sure if Greek life is for you? Wait a semester or two, you can always join later.
- Only be seen by cops during the daytime.
- Don't go to the frats in gigantic herds unless you want everyone to know you're freshmen.

The College administration

- Gene Nichol's catch phrase is not an original: "Hark upon the gale" used to be "Hark upon the sound" when he was at UNC.
- While Sam Sadler may write amusing folksy emails, remember he is not your best friend but a school administrator.
- Stand up for student rights and question everything—don't be afraid to challenge the status quo.
- It's not the president's school—it belongs to the students, alumni, and the taxpayers of Virginia.

Campus life

- You can actually pay your IT Bills online through the IT website.
- Use your Flex Points! If you don't you'll be guaranteed a shopping spree at the end of every semester and may find it difficult to spend \$150 of flex in just one week.
- Even though orientation leads you believe the UC is a fun place to be, it's not – don't hang out there... except the UC Terrace, which is a great place.
- Read the table tents at the dining halls and flyers posted around campus – it's the best way to find out what's going on.
- Be warned: the Dupont suite bathrooms can only be locked and unlocked from the outside.
- If you live off campus, always leave home after early in order to get a parking spot.
- Treasure the traditions of the school, from the Triathlon to our now banned athletic logo.

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All the news that's fit to go online.

The transfer experience

How to be a new student a second time around

Kristen Schaub
Assistant Copy Editor

Entering college is an exciting and somewhat scary process, but what about the second time around? For hundreds of students entering the College this fall, it will be their second college orientation. For some of you transfer students, it will be an opportunity to start over and make new friends. For others, orientation will be frustrating as you sit through all of the same college discourse on rules and regulations. As a transfer student, I found myself a part of this latter group.

I transferred to William and Mary as a sophomore during the fall 2005, dissatisfied with my last college experience and searching for something different. I was looking forward to a fresh start, and yet annoyed that I couldn't just enter as a returning student and avoid going through orientation a second time. I'd gone through it once, so why did I need to do it again? At the time, I was skeptical of the orientation program at William and Mary and didn't put forth the effort I should have. However, looking back, orientation really could have helped me more if I had let it. Even though orientation may feel like "the freshman experience" all over again, it's different. You will be a part of the incoming student body, attending some of the same College and community programs as the freshmen; yet there are activities tailored specifically to, and solely for, transfer students. It may take a while to warm up to the experience, but really it *will* help adjust to William and Mary and to your new life in Williamsburg.

Here is my advice for Fall 2007 Transfers: **To begin with, stick with the incoming ceremonies.** They may seem tedious and repetitive, but you will have fantastic memories and an opportunity to bond with the people in your transfer group. Look forward to the non-school related activities like Frisbee in the Sunken Garden and evening trips to Coldstone Creamery.

And while you're at it, **make friends with the people in your transfer group.** You'll be surprised how much you have in common with such a seemingly random group of people. After going through three or four days of orientation, you will know each other well and once school starts, you'll see the people from your transfer group all over campus. They'll help you feel comfortable in new classes and meet new friends. I found one of the hardest parts about entering the College as a sophomore or junior is that all of the other members of your graduating class

have already had a college experience. Each person in your transfer group will expand the number of people you know at William and Mary. Another great way to get involved is to be a transfer student. It's a great brainier, right? While it's inevitable that you'll be surrounded by new friends and a transfer student,

“Have some fun, make new friends, and enjoy yourself. It may be a pain while you're going through orientation, but if you put a little effort into it you'll reap the benefits.”

in school life. Believe it or not, it also helps to learn from the experience of dorm life. If you're not surrounded by other transfer students, you'll already be the type of person who looks for the cracks and give dorm life another chance.

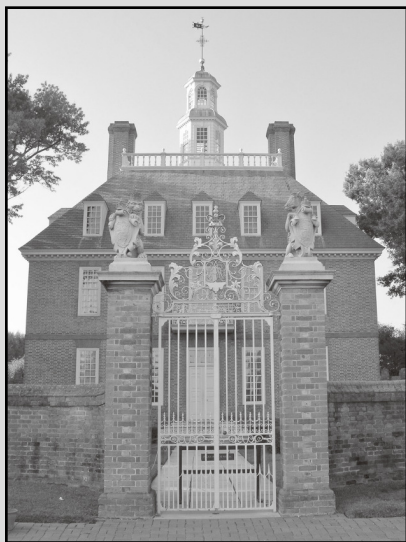
Most important, make friends. It's very easy to be a friendless transfer student. In your transfer group, you'll have a roommate or advisor there to help you through some down time during orientation. You'll be glad to meet a friend from your transfer group for a nice cup of raspberry chai at the D. Grind.

In sum, remember to go with the flow. Have some fun, make new friends, and enjoy yourself. It may be a pain while you're going through orientation, but if you put a little effort into it you'll reap the benefits well throughout the end of your time at William and Mary and long afterward.

Editor's Note: original edition of article was printed in of 2006.

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chance to form friendships. Your transfer group helps a number of friendly faces at the College. It's a good way to make new friends on campus. It's a no-brainer when you're a freshman, it's going to be surrounded by new activities. As a student, you can choose to opt out—don't. When you listen to your orientation aides tell you about the groups they're involved in, you will be amazed. There is an organization for everything on this campus. Check out the Activities Fair, join some new groups and immerse yourself in it. I help. I'm guilty of this one. After my first year in life, I was through. But I have more friends when you're a freshman. You may be a person who goes out in a crowd, but if not, definitely not. Importantly, stay in touch. It's easy to lose contact with the friends that you make in your future when you need advice about classes, they'll be there. Or even if you just need a hand during the middle of exams, meet with your group. For a happy ending, it's a daily reminder. It's a while ago, but I remember it. It's a while ago, but I remember it. It's a while ago, but I remember it.



Ian R. Whiteside



File Photo



Ian R. Whiteside

This is definitely better than anything in the Olympics: Students have found that jumping the Governor's Palace wall (l) may be the easiest task. The Crim Dell (r) may look picturesque until one really gets wet and personal with it. Yet the streak across the Sunken Gardens is the boldest of all, and even more so if done during a wedding reception (c).

Know your traditions:

Jump, swim and streak

In order to take part in the traditional "Triathlon," students must be prepared to face police, snakes and nosy onlookers

Jon San
Features Editor

Between forced mixers and required lectures on alcohol policy, it is likely that you have been saturated with the word "tradition" here at the College. Whether it is your OAs recounting the Yule Log ceremony or a fellow classmate gushing about the haunted areas of Colonial Williamsburg, tradition is a word no one can escape.

The most popular of all traditions is the completion of the Triathlon. The Triathlon consists of three legs: streaking the Sunken Garden; jumping the Governor's Palace Wall in Colonial Williamsburg; and swimming through the Crim Dell. Many students are adamant that one must complete the three stages of the Triathlon before graduation, as though it were a GER. And true hardliners maintain that the event must be completed fully in a single night.

Upon first glance, the stages of the Triathlon are fairly straightforward. Streaking the Sunken Garden seems easy enough, right? While some students are all too willing to strip down and sprint the distance, others, perhaps appropriately, are more cautious. In fact, I know several people who planned their nude run in advance. As if robbing a bank, some streakers have friends serve as look-out posts – to discourage any prying eyes. Of course, the more adventurous souls pride themselves on spontaneous streaking sessions. Upon returning, they often find their clothes to be stolen or hidden.

Jumping over the Governor's Palace Wall is considered the easiest of the three tasks. That is, until one realizes that Williamsburg police frequently patrol the area, eyes peeled for any law-breaking wall-hoppers. In addition to this obstacle lies the more physical barrier: the varying height of the wall. The Governor's Palace Wall ranges from almost fence-like to a

towering fortification built to resist invasion. So when jumping, always remember that a safe landing is just as important as avoiding the cops. A broken ankle and cuffed hands would undoubtedly ruin your night.

The last portion of the College Triathlon is swimming in the Crim Dell. Like the Sunken Garden stage, this element is contentious among seasoned Triathletes. Some attest to diving off the bridge into the murky waters and others believe that simply wading into the Crim Dell warrants completion. The danger factor is elevated by the rumor that many water snakes call the Crim Dell home. If you think you may have felt some old rope brush against your thigh, it was most likely of the reptile variety.

There you have it, the esteemed College Triathlon: revered by students, looked down upon by the administration, and often ended by local police.

Are you a "Triathlete" with a story to share?

Send your tales and photos to editor@VAInformer.com and we may print it in an upcoming issue!

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Film Review:

Comedies score big in the summer of sequels
Studios begin gearing up for fall films and Oscar season



Joe Pirro
Film Critic

Another summer has come and gone. Hollywood has dishd out its biggest blockbusters along with some smaller fare for the film elitist in all of us. Pretty soon, autumn will be in full swing and studios will be releasing films and whispering of the Oscars to come in the winter. Before then, though, *The Virginia Informer* looks back at summer 2007 and grades some of its offerings.

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End: As always, it was fun



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Drink up me hearties yo ho: "World's End" rescued the "Pirates" series after the disappointment of the second film.

watching Johnny Depp take on the role of Captain Jack Sparrow. While the movie was muddled by its attempts to take on multiple plots, it was still an improvement over the second film. **B**

Waitress: It's hard to mention this gem of a movie without speaking of writer-director Adrienne Shelley's tragic death, but her legacy will be untarnished by her final film. The story of a woman looking for life's answers, the film launched Keri Russell into the hearts of America and showed that not all summer movies have to be big and filled with stunts. **A-**

Knocked Up: Judd Apatow continues to show that he is the brightest of all comedic directors and producers in Hollywood. With a stellar cast, he took an unusual plot for a movie and turned it into the funniest, yet most poignant movie of the summer and possibly the year. **A**

Ocean's Thirteen: A vast difference between the humorless muck of the second film. Returning to Las Vegas and dropping Julia Roberts and Catherine Zeta-Jones, the third



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"Rats" off to you: According to Pirro, Disney-Pixar's "Ratatouille" was the best movie of 2007 to date.

segment in the Ocean's franchise injected some life and humor into an enjoyable movie. **B+**

Evening: Touted as a film starring the greatest actresses of our time, *Evening* floundered every opportunity it had to be a good movie. It had a poor script and a pretentious direction. **C-**

Ratatouille: As of publication, this is easily the best film of 2007 to date. Funny, touching, and with a crossover appeal to all ages, this Disney-Pixar masterpiece latched on to the fancy food craze, but showed that a classic story with interesting characters and witty dialogue still conquers all. **A**

Transformers: Start sending in the

hate mail, but this was nothing short of a despicable attempt at a movie. Michael Bay must have assumed that watching totally awesome robots fight each other makes up for a terrible script and a paper thin plot. **C**

Hairspray: This was everything a summer movie should be, as it was silly and almost meaningless, but still enjoyable and fun. John Travolta is way too believable as a fat woman, though. **B+**

So, there it is: a summer of hits and misses along with some true classics. We here at *The VA Informer* hope you enjoyed a movie-filled summer and have a great fall semester!

Chick Lit comes to college with Secret Society Girl

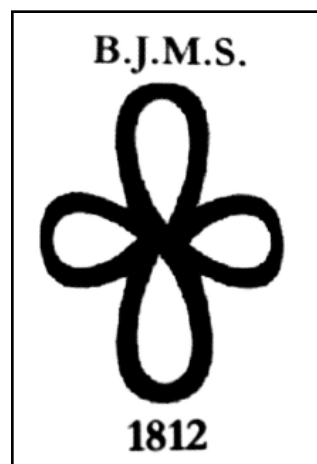
R.C. Rasmus
A&E Editor

The College of William and Mary is no stranger to secret societies. The Members 13's mysterious messages, the Crown and Dagger 7's pumpkins on Halloween, and the countless quatrefoils of the Bishop James Madison Society speckling the campus let students at the College know loud and clear that a whole world of clandestine organizations is alive and well at our ancient institution. However, while William and Mary can boast some of the oldest secret societies in America, the claim to the most famous must be ceded to a certain group at Yale University: the infamous Skull & Bones. In her first novel *Secret Society Girl*, Yale gradate Diana Peterfreund takes the reader on an expedition across the landscape of her thinly veiled alma mater, called Eli University in her book, and into the dark inner world of its most elite underground club: Rose & Grave.

The narrator of Peterfreund's novel is Amy Haskel, a spunky, sympathetic English major in her junior year at Eli University. As the spring semester draws to a close, everyone at the school is eagerly anticipating

"tap night," when the numerous clubs at Eli choose their new members from among the ranks of the junior class. Amy isn't too caught up in the pre-tap hubbub, confident that her position as editor of the campus literary magazine guarantees her a spot in Quill and Ink, a B-grade secret society for literary types like her. However, as the big day draws nearer and nearer, the narrator is shocked to find that she is being courted not by Quill and Ink, but by the most prestigious and mysterious secret society at the school. Her acceptance into Rose & Grave catapults Amy into a social whirlwind, where romance, danger, and secrets lurk in every shadow. She soon comes to find that membership in Rose & Grave isn't the simple pleasure cruise that she expected, and that her decisions may have the power either to save the club from collapse or bring it down from the inside.

Even with its Dan Brown-esque plot, *Secret Society Girl* is decidedly a piece of Chick Lit. Peterfreund's book is replete with make-out sessions, discussions of the main character's conflicted romantic feelings, and cattiness that at times puts "Mean Girls" to shame. Her writing, like that of most Chick Lit authors, is firmly female-



No big secret: The campus is no stranger to secret societies such as the Bishop James Madison Society.

development and clever wordplay, but begins to suffer when resolution of the turbulent plot becomes more important to Peterfreund than the finer points of her story. Minor characters quickly get lost in the mix as Amy's airy narration yields midway through the novel to clunky self-righteous prose more reminiscent of a Clive Cussler finale.

Flawed though it may be, *Secret Society Girl* is a promising debut novel. The author's writing is often just plain

fun, strewn as it is with an equal mix of pop culture references ("Brandon was cute, in a kind of sidekick-on-a-WB-show way"), world-weary college student maxims ("Beware of classes bearing colons"), and old-fashioned wry humor ("Book & Key, Sword & Mace, Quill & Ink...nothing gives a proposed clandestine organization the Eli air like an ampersand"). As Janet Evanovich has done in her Stephanie Plum mysteries, Peterfreund has astutely left her story and her characters lots of room to grow, making way for a slew of sequels and, perhaps, Peterfreund's own maturation as a writer. If she can learn not to get caught up in the momentum of her forward-charging plots, judge her male characters a little less harshly, and flesh out her secondary cast to its full potential, Peterfreund may one day end up penning a modern classic that follows in the footsteps of Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones' Diary*.

R.C. rates this book ★★ 1/2 out of 5

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centric. Unfortunately, unlike the successful work of authors like Laurell K. Hamilton and Lauren Weisberger, the author's feminism at times causes her prose to take on an almost anti-masculine slant, with her cache of male characters, even those that are meant to come across as sympathetic, consistently being portrayed as shallow, reactionary, and manipulative. The novel itself starts out strong, with good character

Stand up and look around



R.C. Rasmus
Arts & Entertainment
Editor

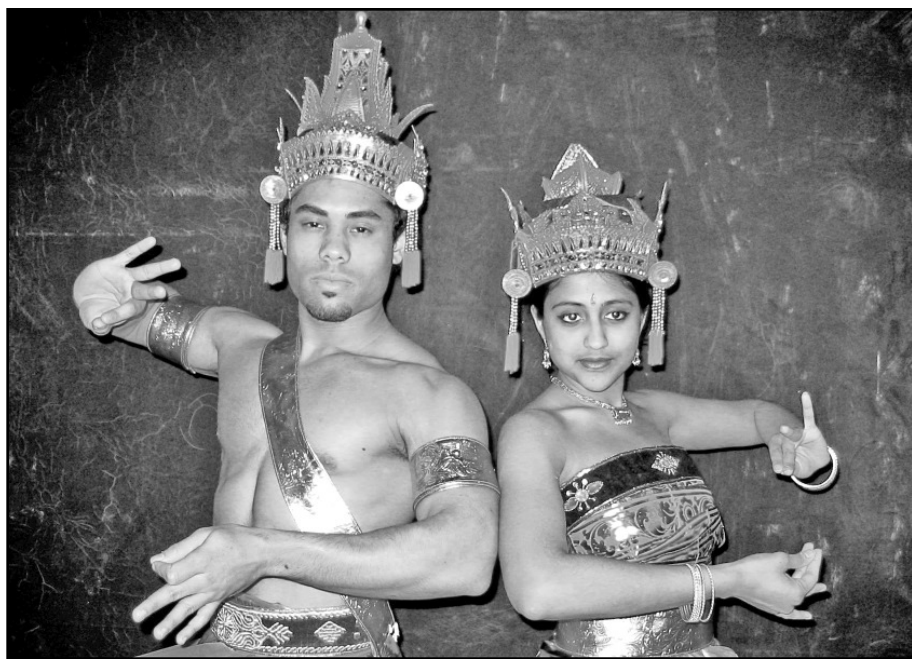
It pisses me off to no end whenever I hear a William and Mary student tell me that they're bored. The longer you're here, the more people you'll hear complaining that we have a dead campus. "There's no nightlife," they say, or, "William and Mary is useless on the weekends." BS. Ladies and gentlemen, let me be the first to inform you that anyone you hear talking like this is either misinformed or sickeningly lazy. While it may be true that Williamsburg's three delis hardly present a hip club scene, there is a whole world of untapped entertainment resources here at the College. And when I say entertainment, I mean the kind that doesn't involve you drinking until you can't see and waking up behind Madame Monica's in the morning with no memory of how you got there. I'm talking about the kind of entertainment that stimulates your mind, makes you laugh, and touches your sense of wonder. Think I'm being melodramatic? I'm not. There are hundreds of entertainment opportunities out there waiting for you, and you don't even need a car to get to them. You just have to open your eyes and get off your ass.

If you're looking for something to do after dark and you don't have a car or the patience to trek through the woods to New Town, your first stop should be the UCAB Web site, www.wm.edu/UCAB. This is a portal to a whole slew of activities to stir even the most stubborn Doubting Thomas.

Like live music? UCAB presents two events that are just right for you: Homebrew, which showcases musical talent on campus, and Fridays@5, a weekly concert series that brings in the best club bands in the area to perform on the UC terrace. Just failed that first Rocks for Jocks test that you could have sworn would be so easy a month ago? How about a laugh from one of the big-name comedians that UCAB brings to campus once a month, or a magic show, or a hypnotist that'll make your fellow matriculates believe they're Spider Man. Annoyed that no one will give you a ride to the movie theatre? Screw 'em. Come see one of UCAB's monthly "Blockbuster Movie Nights," which show films so recent you can't even get them on DVD or bring a few friends and a bag of popcorn to one of their movie marathons featuring Disney flicks, M. Night Shyamalan thrillers, or Indiana Jones adventures. Even better, buy a blanket and keep an eye out for the tri-annual "Screen on the Green," where the Sunken Gardens become the scene of a drive-in style outdoor movie experience. Even if you like the wacky and unexpected, UCAB has you covered. Paint some pottery, get your fortune told, or jump around with your nearest and dearest in a giant moon bounce. The point is, almost every night, especially around the weekends, UCAB has something going on to entertain you.

Perhaps your tastes run more to the classy and upscale. Never fear. William and Mary has scores of things to make you want to break out your opera glasses and gloves and head out. If Brahms and Fischer Tull dance through your dreams, have a look at the Web site for the William and Mary

Music Department. The Ewell Concert Series brings recognized masters to the campus to perform everything from 18th-Century religious pieces to Jazz and Gamelan. If you go more for vocal performances, I don't even have room here to mention the horde of *a capella* and choral groups that perform weekly at several College events, including the always exciting Wren at 10 series on the historic building's rear portico. If your heart belongs to the stage, you'll never get an opportunity to see excellent live theatre performances more often than at the College. The William and Mary Theatre Department offers plays, musicals, and monologues on three different stages all year long, as well as sponsoring the breathtaking Performing Arts Series, which offers the likes of the Hungarian State Opera, China's most respected acrobats, and the premier boys' choir in Great Britain to students at the College. Meanwhile, smaller independent companies like Shakespeare in the Dark, Improvisational Theatre, Sinfonicron, and The Collective perform night in and night out at the UC Commonwealth and elsewhere. If you long for the galleries of New York and Paris, pay a



Courtesy of Pinoyarts

No excuses: In March of this past year, Professor Francis Tanglao-Aguas of the theatre department presented *Ramayana La'ar*, an adaptation of the centuries-old Hindu epic. Theatre is just one of the many entertainment opportunities available at William and Mary.

visit to this University's most overlooked treasure: the Muscarelle Museum, which boasts one of the greatest portrait collections in America, rotating exhibits year-round, and even a work by Georgia O'Keefe. Finally, if you're a sucker for Anna Pavlova, the William and Mary Dance Department boasts two world-class companies as well as guest performances by artists from around the world.

I could go on and on, mentioning every outlet for entertainment here at William and Mary, but I think you get the idea. There is a whole vista of options available to students at this College. You just have to get off your ass and look for them. Do some online searching. Jot down an event's info on the back of your hand as you pass through the UC on your way to class. Make notes on your calendar. Whatever you do, don't waste your precious time here at William and Mary huddled in your dorm room watching vapid TV reruns or waiting for the next envelope from Netflix like a junkie waiting for a fix. Don't make a fool of yourself by constantly begging for rides to New Town or Busch Gardens or the beach. Just take a little time to look around you. You might find that the College of William and Mary in Virginia isn't the entertainment desert you've been lead to believe it is, but rather an oasis of creativity, sound, and color just waiting to be explored. Still don't believe me after all this? I'll prove it to you. Just watch the Arts and Entertainment section of *The Virginia Informer* this year as we bring you hints, tips, reviews, and more about the campus entertainment scene.

Party like Jack Bauer

The phenomenon of television parties

Alex Mayer
Opinion Editor

There are myriad ways to spend your time at William and Mary. Athletics, clubs, political organizations, Greek life, and the considerable academic load tend to rule students' lives. After time, most students at WM even come to prefer the hectic pace of a full schedule to a more relaxed, easy-going life philosophy.

In the midst of such frenetic activity, one notices a very odd, yet pervasive, hobby among students at the College: the phenomenon of the weekly TV-show-watching party.

Every week, students gather in groups—ranging in size from just three or four to over a dozen—to get a fix of their favorite prime-time addiction. Friends huddle together on couches, desk chairs, and futons around a TV. Pizza, drinks, popcorn, and other snack foods

are whipped out, and the party begins.

According to Facebook.com, the top ten most popular TV shows among WM students include *Grey's Anatomy*, *House*, *Family Guy* and *24*.

Most—if not all—of the above shows are the objects of weekly screening events. Students who come to college die-hard fans of such shows often end up bonding with others over their mutual love for Jack Bauer, Gregory House, or Jim and Pam. Similarly, students frequently end up "converting" friends who previously had little interest in shows like *Grey's Anatomy* or *24* by coaxing them into watching an episode or two—and end up getting them hopelessly hooked on these addictive dramas.

A strange aspect of this TV-show cult phenomenon is the broad range of shows it encompasses. Drama, action, comedy—the diversity of the shows that inspire weekly followings is impressive. Whether it be the intense edge-of-your-seat suspense of shows like *24* and *Lost*, or the brilliant humor of shows like *Scrubs*, *Family Guy* and *The Office*, each series brings it's own unique appeal to the weekly TV-party craze. Even the new NBC sci-fi drama *Heroes* attained a wide cult viewing audience among William and Mary students this past year.

That said, the atmosphere of such gatherings varies greatly. Some addicts of hard-hitting dramas have strict rules when it comes time for their weekly dosage. Lights must be turned off. Talking outside of commercial breaks is forbidden. Every eye stays intently focused on the screen for the duration of the hour, and a collective exhale released when the episode comes to a close. (Though the cliffhanger endings of such shows generally induce screams of shock and frustration just as regularly.)

On the other hand, friends may gather to watch a comedy as a mere excuse for general relaxing and hanging out. In other words, attention to the screen may not exactly be paramount.

Whether you choose to participate in one or many weekly TV-show gatherings—or none at all—you are sure to meet plenty of folks who will go to great pains to schedule the rest of their lives around these addictive entertainment narcotics and the parties they inspire.

Top 10 TV Programs at WM

1. Grey's Anatomy
2. Scrubs
3. House
4. Lost
5. Family Guy
6. The Office
7. 24
8. South Park
9. Friends
10. Gilmore Girls

Source: Facebook.com: William and Mary Network Statistics

Staff Editorial:

A commitment to independence

An introduction to *The Virginia Informer*

As we begin another year at *The Virginia Informer*, we remain the only independent student newspaper on campus. Independent means that we do not take even one cent of funding from the school. Beholden to neither the Student Assembly nor college administration, we pride ourselves on providing the college community with a real choice concerning the news that affects us all.

This coming year will present both challenges and opportunities for the campus community here at William and Mary unlike ever before.

Last year, William and Mary became a major battleground in the culture war, from the NCAA banning the

“offensive” two feathers in our logo to the Wren cross controversy. Both issues became important on the national stage, and both severely threatened the reputation of the College, and the debate hit very close to home.

The Informer was there on both issues: our reporters turned up old, long forgotten memos from current administrators who once backed the old “Indians” team name and logo but who now refuse to step up and fight for our feathers. And on the Wren cross, *The Informer* hosted a historic debate in the Wren Chapel with Professor David Holmes and author Dinesh D’Souza, and we covered the issue more in depth than any other campus publication, providing information to national and international news sources looking for the unbiased, full story on the issue.

There also remain many issues exclusive to Williamsburg in which *The Informer* has led the way. The City Council of Williamsburg has continued to be hostile towards students, and each attack on students’ rights has been documented in our paper. *The Virginia Informer’s* investigation into

the housing evictions in the spring semester led to a significant change in college policy regarding privacy and information provided to the school.

Most importantly, President Gene Nichol’s contract runs out in June 2008, and, for the first time in recent memory, the contract will not simply be rubber-stamped. In light of Mr. Nichol’s thus-far controversial tenure and consequential damage he has brought to the College, *The Informer* called on the Board of Visitors, William and Mary’s governing body, to exercise its

“Independent means that we do not take even one cent of funding from the school... [W]e pride ourselves on providing the college community with a real choice concerning the news that affects us all.”

authority and not renew the president’s contract. Instead, we believed then, as now, that the board’s time would be better spent

searching for a new president who could heal the divisions that Mr. Nichol created.

In years past, *The Informer* has been a vocal forum for debates and discussions on important campus issues, such as the sexual assault crisis in 2005. Creating an open dialogue for important campus issues is something that we intend to continue into this year as more compelling stories arise; stories that will need to be confronted, not just written about.

Our commitment to campus journalism and debate can only thrive when we have involvement and feedback from the campus community. We are always looking for more staff members. But we also want to know what our readers think – if you have a compliment or a complaint, send a letter to the editor! We at *The Informer* hope to foster a dialogue on campus issues and concerns. A dialogue goes both ways – we want to hear from you.

We strive to hold *The Virginia Informer* to these high standards and we promise to always be the common sense paper of record for this campus.



A selection from...

William and Mary Orientation Guide for 2007

William and Mary VIPs



**St. Nichol,
President**



**His Holiness,
Sam Sadler**

Even the staunchest supporters of the administration may think that the OAs’ obsession has gone too far

Joe Luppino-Esposito

A thank you from all of us at *The Virginia Informer*

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Your task: spark a revival



Alex Mayer
Opinion Editor

As you enter the realm of college life, no doubt you have been inundated by advice from every possible angle; your parents tell you to make sure to keep focused on studies, your high school counselor tells you to make sure you do not overload on classes, and your doctor tells you to stay away from drugs, smoking, and alcohol. All are valid points, to be sure.

But my advice is going to be much simpler, and easier to follow, than other sage counsel you have probably already received.

As the sun rises on the 2007-2008 academic year at William and Mary, the College finds itself in what can best be described as a “slump” of sorts. Shaken by the divisive controversy of the Wren Cross debacle, the loss of millions of dollars in donor contributions, and a decline in the College’s reputation and ranking among its peers, William and Mary is in need of a revival.

The easiest way to accomplish this revival is simple: get involved. That is my advice to you starry-eyed freshmen, because you hold the greatest potential for kick-starting this much-needed renewal. Arriving on campus full of hope, excitement, and dreams, you are untouched by the disillusionment that infects so many upperclassmen. Their aptitude for action and enthusiasm for the College, while real enough, is calloused and dulled by the years of experience, the grind of the daily college routine, and long hours at Swem. It is the unfortunate truth that college stops being “exciting” for most students around the second semester of their sophomore year.

Unfortunately, the loss of that sense of “newness” leads to two of the most damaging forces on a college campus: apathy and laziness. This campus is all too often a prime example of both. I, therefore, propose three simple ways to get involved on campus.

By far the most tell-tale symptom of apathy at William and Mary is attendance of athletic events. William and Mary is an NCAA Division I school, but to describe WM students’ attendance of athletic events as “disappointing” is generous. Tribe football struggled this year, but I was disgusted to frequently see the student section at home games barely half full—even at our Homecoming game (which we ended up losing).

While some athletic department incentives like the “6th Man” program helped improve the previously abysmal attendance at Tribe basketball games this spring, it remains far below what it should be.

This lack of Tribe pride extends beyond just our generally lackluster football and basketball programs. Tribe Men’s Gymnastics in 2007 won their seventh consecutive Collegiate Gymnastics Championship. Men’s Cross Country captured eighth in the 2007 NCAA Championships, the second-highest finish in College history. Tribe Women’s Tennis frequently ranks among the top 20 teams in the nation (currently no. 13).

No, we are not a Duke, or a UNC, or an Ohio State. But we *are* an NCAA Division I school with several nationally-ranked programs, and it is about time we started acting like it.

Consequently, it is up to you, freshman, to lead the way in breathing life back into the WM campus.

1. Show up to football and basketball games, maybe a few tennis matches and even cross country meets.
2. Wear green and gold, and show your Tribe pride. It is an easy way to get involved and requires a very small time commitment.
3. And cheer. *Loudly.*

Sullivan v. Nichol

What’s changed since Timmy J?

John R. Kennedy
Staff Writer

I was Facebooking over the summer and came across a poll on my home page. The poll asked, in relative terms, “Do you approve of Gene Nichol’s performance as President?” To my chagrin, quite a large number of people *did* approve of his performance—roughly sixty percent. Twenty percent did not approve, and the rest “did not know.”

While a majority of those who answered approved of Nichol’s performance, the most important information that this poll shows is that a full 20 percent of William and Mary students who answered did not approve of the president’s performance. That is substantial in comparison to the immense popularity of former president, Timothy J. Sullivan, however anecdotal that Facebook poll information might be.

I was a freshman when former president “Timmy J,” as he was affectionately called, presided over the College. He was extremely well liked. Admittedly, Sullivan carried a more humble demeanor than the rather imposing Nichol. Perhaps his unassuming, grandfatherly posture created friends more easily, or perhaps Sullivan’s likeability had nothing to do with his height or size but his deference to the College.

President Sullivan respected the traditions of William and Mary. He knew well the history and traditions of this college and never did anything as president to attempt to stifle their importance. During his long tenure—from 1992 to 2005—Sullivan never saw fit to remove the cross from the Wren Chapel. Nichol could not wait to do just that after just a year and a half as president.

You see, President Sullivan put students first. If you polled William and Mary students during his tenure, I have no doubt that Timmy J would have received at least a 98% approval rating. That large percentage of uncertain “I don’t know” responses to the approval of Nichol would have been automatic to support Sullivan. There is no doubt in my mind. This is not because Sullivan never caused a stir or had to make important decisions for the College; it was because he put what is best for the College before what is best for his personal politics.

On the contrary, Nichol immensely disturbed the unity of the college by taking the most sacred symbol of Christianity and censoring it. Even while his presidency was still in its infancy, Nichol could not resist acting on his most liberal ideological tendencies. I suppose his actions came as no surprise given his checkered history as President of University of North Carolina’s law school, though.

Regardless of past mistakes, we must return to being a unified college community after a divisive year and negative national media attention. Whether you opposed the decision to remove the cross or not, what did we gain from removing it? In the end, the question is not what we gained, but what we lost: innocence.

One can only hope that Nichol’s future political gyrations will earn our college more

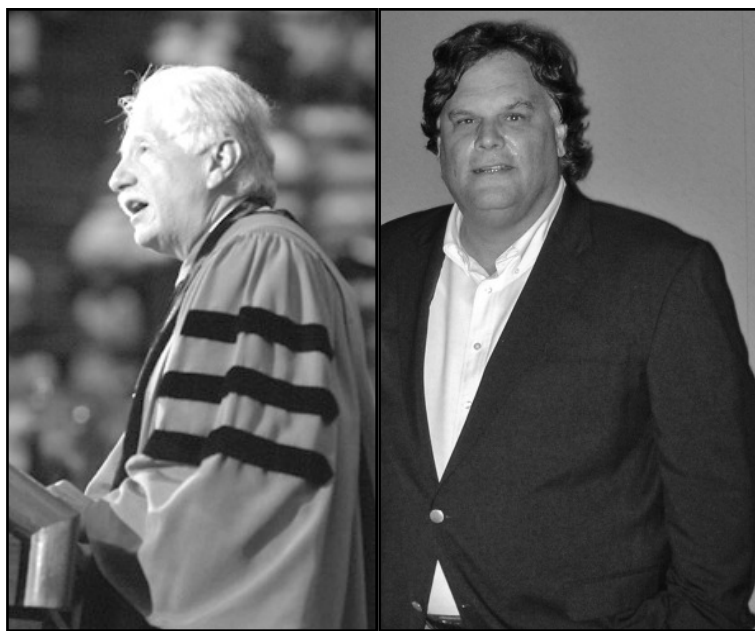
in respect and funding. After all, the sorry state of William and Mary’s fundraising situation could, in fact, be improved by the massive number of dollars that will surely come when sympathetic “progressive” donors learn that our president puts “tolerance” before tradition.

Of course, I doubt that Nichol was thinking about the financial advantages or disadvantages of removing the cross. As he wrote in a *Flat Hat* editorial in March: “These heady goals are essential to the College’s future. They’re more important than the wishes of a donor, or a pundit, or a political hatchet man. They’re also more important than a single president.” The president clearly believes his ideological beliefs are more important than the desperately needed funding for our College.

That famed Mel Gibson movie *Braveheart* aptly states what Nichol’s presiding style exudes. Robert the Bruce speaks to his father about the great leadership and resoluteness of William Wallace. His father responds, “Uncompromising men are easy to admire.” Likewise, many students might argue that Nichol’s decision was resolute and forthright—undeniably brave in its application of the (mystifyingly vague) idea of “tolerance.”

But there comes a point when you must put the greater good before your own political ideology.

One can only hope that our president has learned that lesson.



Courtesy of University Relations

Joe Luppino-Esposito

Battle of the “titans”: Sullivan and Nichol brought very different administrative styles. Sullivan found himself more in line with College presidents of the past.

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Joe Luppino-Esposito

GENE NICHOL

Gene Nichol is the president of the College. He was formerly the dean of the law school at the University of Colorado and the University of North Carolina. He also ran unsuccessfully in the Democratic primary for US senator from Colorado in 1996. As president, he is responsible for fundraising and is a figurehead for the school. In his two years, Nichol has created controversy by failing to challenge the NCAA for removing feathers from the college's logo and by removing a historic cross that was located on the altar of the Wren Chapel, causing a donor to revoke his \$12 million gift to the College.



Ian R. Whiteside

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

Sandra Day O'Connor is the current chancellor of the College. Nichol appointed O'Connor as the chancellor in April 2006 because he admired her as an independent minded justice while she served as the first woman on the Supreme Court. She replaced former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. As chancellor, O'Connor had made frequent visits to the school and has tried to meet as many students as possible. Her position is largely ceremonial.



Courtesy of University Relations

SAM SADLER

Sam Sadler is the vice president of Student Affairs at the College. Sadler serves as the liaison between the administration and students. He sends out several e-mails informing students about events going on around campus as well as predicting the weather based on his famous knee. Sadler has been with the school for over forty years as a student and an administrator, including a stint as a cheerleader for the football team.



Courtesy of University Relations

GEOFFREY FEISS

Geoffrey Feiss is the provost of the College. As provost, Feiss is responsible for "all academic and research programs, academic budgets, institutional planning, space allocation, and faculty development." Feiss is also interested in geology and serves on the board of the American Geological Institute's Education and Environmental Committees. Feiss led the committee on the review of the College's athletic nickname and logo. Feiss maintains one of the most powerful offices at the College but is not as visible as Nichol and Sadler.



Courtesy of University Relations

MICHAEL POWELL

Michael Powell is the rector of the College, serving as the leader of the Board of Visitors. The board members are appointed by the governor and are the official leadership of the College. William and Mary is Powell's alma mater. Powell formerly served as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission where he fought for decency standards on radio and television. He is the first African-American elected as rector in school history.



Courtesy of University Relations

MARK CONSTANTINE

Mark Constantine is the assistant vice president of Student Affairs, directly below Sam Sadler. After a sexual assault incident at a fraternity in 2003, Constantine created the controversial Alcohol and Substance Abuse Task Force to examine how the school can better enforce the alcohol policy and underage drinking. He is the head of all student groups and is responsible for their creation and administration.



Courtesy of City of Williamsburg

CLYDE HAULMAN

Clyde Haulman is the vice mayor of Williamsburg and the chairman of the Economics Department. He sits on the Williamsburg City Council, where in the spring of 2006 he proposed and helped adopt a controversial piece of legislation that would allow the city to buy rental properties and resell them to permanent homeowners, severely limiting student rentals off-campus. Haulman has often been criticized for choosing the side against students on many issues.

PAUL DAVIES, GEORGE HARRIS, NOAH LEMOS

Paul Davies, George Harris and Noah Lemos are philosophy professors at William and Mary who have been some of the most outspoken critics of President Nichol and the college administration. Harris has advocated against the current rules on sexual assault on campus, urging reform. Lemos was one of two department heads to oppose a vote supporting Nichol over the Wren cross controversy. Lemos was soon removed as the head of the department, being replaced by an English professor with the school claiming performance issues with junior professors as the reason for the firing. Davies and Harris subsequently wrote editorials to local papers criticizing the school's decision.



Courtesy of Zach Pilchen

ZACH PILCHEN, '09

Zach Pilchen is the president of the Student Assembly. Pilchen was elected with Valerie Hopkins ('09) in April 2006. As president, Pilchen serves as a student representative to the Board of Visitors, sets the SA budget, has the power to veto Senate legislation, and appoints students to executive positions and independent agencies. His goals include making students more knowledgeable about their rights, reforming parking, increasing energy efficiency, creating a better dialogue between students and the city of Williamsburg and improving nightlife around campus.



Courtesy of Matt Beato

MATT BEATO, '09

Matt Beato ('09) is the chairman of the Student Assembly Senate. Beato has served in the Senate since his freshman year and consistently is the top vote-getter among Senate candidates from the class of 2009. Chairman Beato is responsible for setting the Senate agenda and casts the final vote during Senate meetings. In the Senate, Beato has focused on student rights and voting, financial reform, and internal affairs.